**The Impact of Governmental Policies and Multinational Tobacco Company Practices on Tobacco Farming in Romania**

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**BACKGROUND**

- Since integration with the European Union (EU) in 2007, Romania’s role as an agricultural producer of tobacco has declined precipitously.
- This declining trend continues while the EU offers all Romanian farmers an annual subvention of 139 EUR/ha, and the Romanian state provides subsidies of 1,280 EUR/ha for growing tobacco.
- From 1990 to 2013 land area dedicated to tobacco farming dropped by 94% to 916 hectares (ha), and annual tobacco production declined by more than 90% to 1,357 tons.
- Since 2007 the multinationals invested in the most up-to-date technology and began manufacturing and exporting their products from Romania.

**STUDY AIM**

We conducted a qualitative study of current tobacco farming and production policies and practices to evaluate the impact of these policies and practices on tobacco farming and tobacco farmers in Romania.

**METHODS**

We reviewed economic surveillance documents and interviewed a sample of 17 Romanian farmers, tobacco leaf buyers and national policy makers to understand the changing landscape of tobacco farming and production in the country.

**RESULTS**

**Tobacco Farming**

- Tobacco farming is labor-intensive and economically risky.
  - In addition to the EU subvention for all farmers, the Romanian state offers some specific aids to stimulate farmers for harvesting some specific crops, tobacco being one of those with 1,280 EUR/ha.
  - To receive the subvention from the state, farmers must harvest tobacco on >1 hectare, but the smallest parcel may not be smaller than 0.3 ha. On such small lands all work is done manually.
  - This leads to high risk for the farmers.

**Raw Material for Tobacco Processing**

- Tobacco processors in Romania can get raw material from 37 countries, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Portugal, and China.
- Imports of tobacco from 37 countries to Romania’s accession to the EU in 2007 the multinationals invested in the most up-to-date technology.
- Raw material for tobacco processing is controlled by multinational tobacco manufacturers.
  - Tobacco processors in Romania can get raw material from 37 countries, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Portugal, and China.
  - Imports of tobacco from 37 countries to Romania’s accession to the EU in 2007 the multinationals invested in the most up-to-date technology.
  - Tobacco manufacturers control the most up-to-date technology.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- As an EU member state, Romania has applied all general EU tobacco control policies.
- Romania has adopted stricter policies, such as banning smoking in all public areas.
- With minimal tobacco farming in the country, and most tobacco production destined for export, the argument that strong tobacco control policies will have a negative economic impact on Romanian farmers is not valid.
- Trends in tobacco farming policies and practices in LMICs can help inform the international community where they must focus their tobacco control activities, including provision of technical assistance and support for implementation of effective policies.

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**Figures and Tables**

1. **Figure 1**: Graph showing the evolution of foreign trade with tobacco and tobacco products in millions USD.
2. **Figure 2**: Graph showing the evolution of tobacco farming and production in hectares.
3. **Figure 3**: Graph showing the decrease in tobacco farming from 1989 to 2014.
4. **Figure 4**: Graph showing the impact of government policies and multinational tobacco company practices on tobacco farming.

**Tables**

- **Table 1**: Summary of the impact of government policies and multinational tobacco company practices on tobacco farming.
- **Table 2**: Comparison of tobacco farming in Romania and other EU countries.
- **Table 3**: Comparison of tobacco production in Romania and other EU countries.

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**Note**

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