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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems: Best Practices and Experience in the Eastern Partnership



Riga, 15 – 16 April 2015



Ltd "Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre"



Latvian Rural Network



National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA)



RURAL EXTENSION SERVICES in Moldova

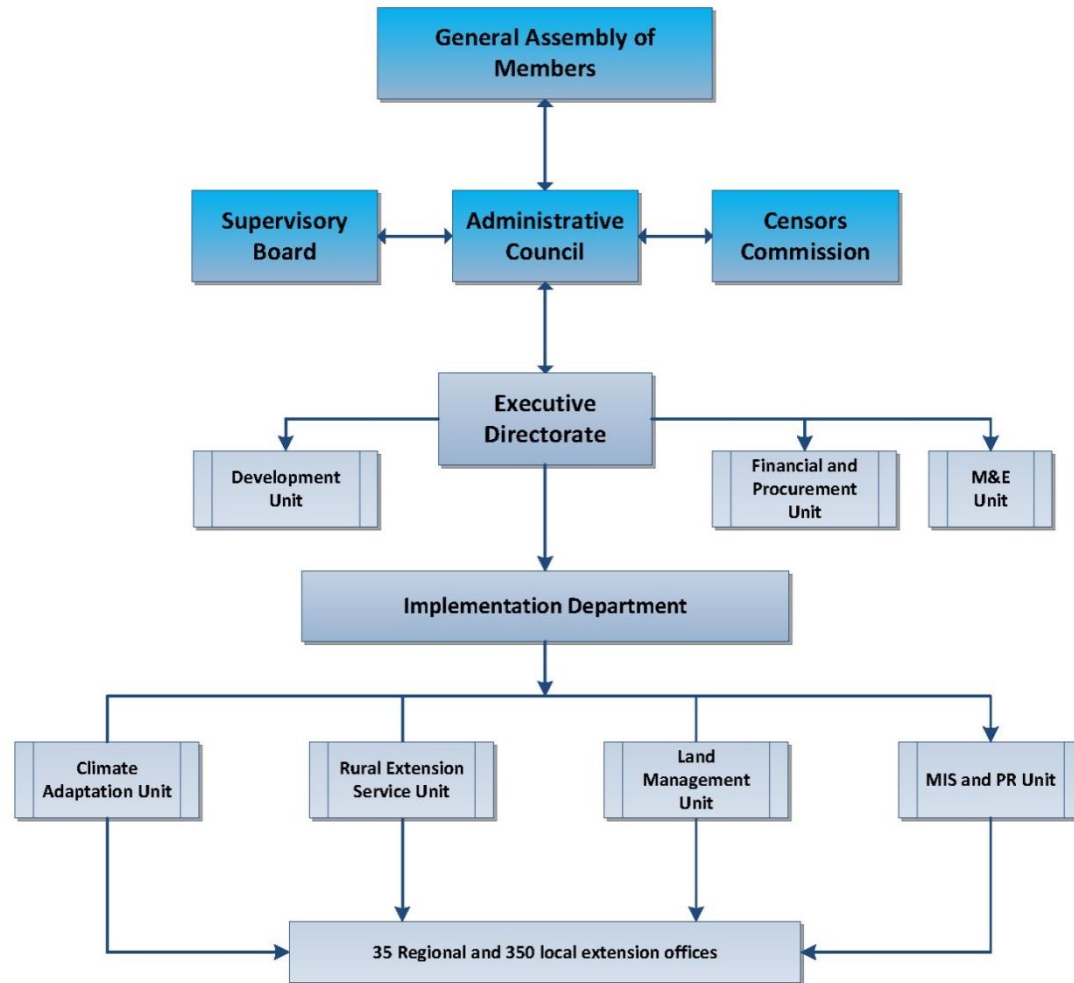
Gheorghe Cainarean
Deputy Director, **ACSA**



National Agency for Rural Development

- ✓ ACSA is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organization that carries out its activities throughout the entire country.
- ✓ The mission of ACSA is sustainable development of rural communities through setting up and developing a professional network of information, consultancy and training service providers for agricultural producers and rural entrepreneurs.
- ✓ ACSA ensures the access of rural population to knowledge, experience and abilities related to a wide range of fields oriented to economical development of villages.

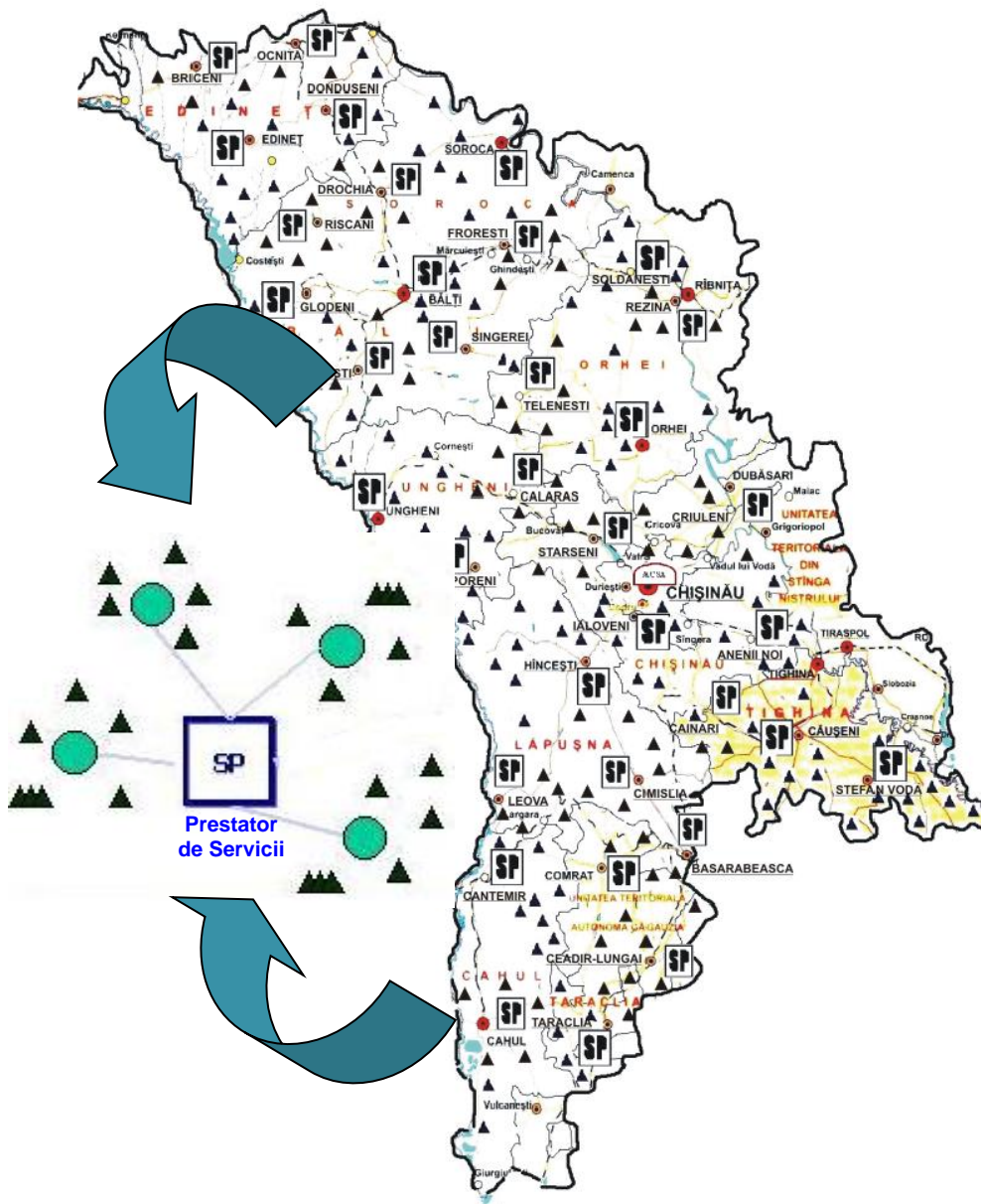
ACSA organizational structure



Historical background

- ✓ Agriculture and rural sector play a central role in the economy.
- ✓ The process of farm restructuring and privatization resulted in more than 1.7 million ha of land distributed to over 1.3 million owners.
- ✓ During 2001-2012, ACSA was a unit of the Rural Investments and Services Project (RISP I and RISP II), funded by the Government and the World Bank.
- ✓ Starting with 2013, Rural Extension Service (managed by ACSA) is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry based on the contract "Rural Extension Services" (no.29 of April 22, 2013)
- ✓ **RES Main Objective: to establish, develop and fortify a network of RES providers as a national system of professionals in agricultural consultancy and rural development.**
- ✓

Rural extension service network



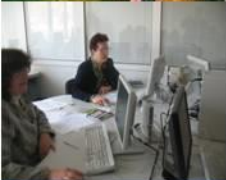
- ✓ 35 service providers
- ✓ 425 Consultants
 - 350 local
 - 75 regional
- ✓ ACSA cover all districts or more than of 45% rural communities

Rural extension service network

- ✓ Offices of service providers and local consultants are placed within the premises of Local Public Authorities.
- ✓ Consultants within each regional team are specialised in different sectors of agricultural and rural development, including:
 - Fruit growing; Grape growing; Vegetable growing; Animal husbandry; Plant protection; Agricultural economy; Rural entrepreneurship and development; Agri-tourism; Disasters' risk management; Agricultural marketing; Agricultural legislation; Agricultural ecology.
- ✓ All consultants attended mandatory training, specialized and refresher programs, and most of them got professional training at the Excellence Centres from Romania, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Israel and Poland.

Activities: main areas

- ✓ Modern technologies in agricultural crops and animal production;
- ✓ Agricultural economics (business planning, bookkeeping, fees and taxes, etc);
- ✓ Agricultural legislation (support at land transactions).
- ✓ Agricultural marketing (mediation of agricultural inputs purchasing and marketing of the final product through Agricultural Marketing Informational System www.acsa.md), facilitating the establishment of formal and informal groups of marketing and other farmers associations);



ANNUALLY:

✓ more than 200 thousand consulting services:

- 158 thousands individual consultations,
- 35 thousands field visits,
- 3500 training seminars,
- 3500 round tables,

✓ more than 300 thousand beneficiaries;

Training programs



✓ For ACSA consultants:

- mandatory training,
- specialized training,
- refresher programs,
- training programs abroad.

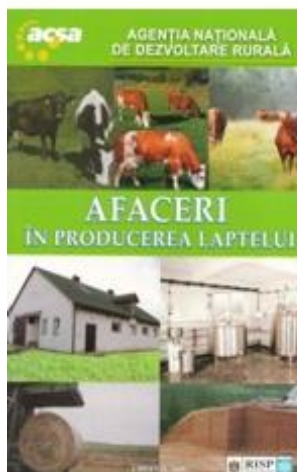
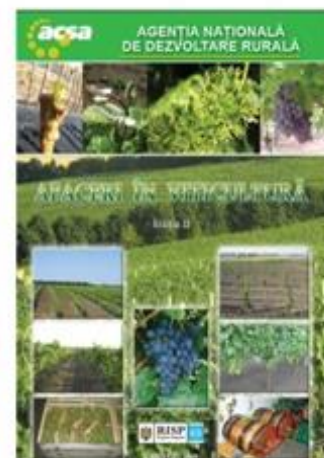
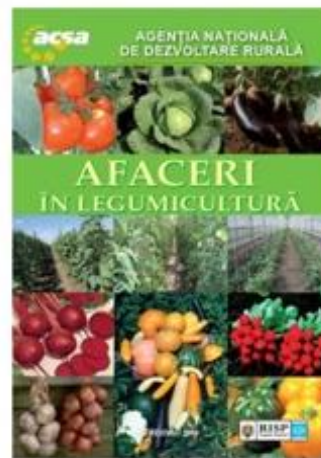
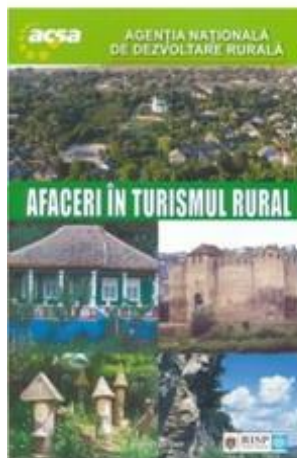
✓ over 100 programs / training modules for farmers and rural entrepreneurs;

✓ 15 training programs for capacity building of Local Public Administration;

✓ training programs for members and the governing bodies of associations and non commercial products, including abroad.

Specialised publications and informative materials

- over 180 titles (guides, brochures, posters, flyers, etc.)
- total circulation of over 800,000 copies of publication



Demonstrative activities



✓ founded 1300 demonstration plots:

- 820 in the crop sector;
- 380 livestock and fisheries;
- 140 non agriculture sector;

✓ over 35 thousand agricultural producers and rural entrepreneurs benefited from training;

✓ created 3600 new jobs.



Early Warning and Communication Platform and Agricultural Marketing Information System PACT-SIMA



PACT – SIMA: www.acsa.md

Services provided by PACT-SIMA:

- ✓ **Acces WEB:** 5 specialized interfaces;
- ✓ **SMS – alerts,** through mobile phone;
- ✓ **Services News letter** - through e-mail;
- ✓ **IVR service** - through mobile phone;
- ✓ **Advertising.**

ANNUALLY:

- ✓ **annual visits** - about 350 000
- ✓ **unique users** - 60 600
- ✓ **subscribers** - 1100 (sms)
- ✓ **offers placed** - about 1000
- ✓ **demands placed** - about 230
- ✓ **market studies** - 94
- ✓ **alerts / forecasts weather** - 400
- ✓ **Total annual turnover of offers and demands** 120 million MDL



ACSA contribution to agricultural and rural development

- ✓ ACSA has implemented more than 100 assistance and rural development programs with institutional development and training elements funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, World Moldova, USAID, SIDA, DFID, Soros Moldova Foundation, FAO, USDA, UNICEF Moldova, GEF, UE and International Development Agencies from Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, France, Israel, Greece.
- ✓ Within these projects, ACSA developed and implemented various training programs for the following target groups: RES consultants, PLA and farmers.





Thank you

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