

RESEARCH ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION OF AGROTURISTIC POTENTIAL OF TERRITORY BETWEEN JIU AND OLT RIVER

CĂLINA AUREL, CĂLINA JENICA, CROITORU CONSTANTIN ALIN
University of Craiova, Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture

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ABSTRACT

The idea of undertaking this research emerged in 1993, when was taking in study for doctoral thesis region between Jiu and Olt River. Starting this year, for over 20 years, I studied very thoroughly this area and concluded that it has a rich and diverse natural and anthropic tourism potential that is not exploited to its true value. Also scientific researches have shown that the area benefits of an environment with particular beauty and purity, of an ethnographic and folklore thesaurus of great originality and attractiveness represented by: specific architecture, traditional crafts, folk techniques, ancestral habits, religion, holidays, filled with historical and art monuments, archeological sites, museums etc.. All these natural and human tourism resources constitute a very favorable and stimulating factor in the implementation and sustained development of agritourism and rural tourism activities in the great and the unique land between Jiu and Olt River.

INTRODUCTION

Agritourism and rural tourism as economic and socio-cultural activities are part of protection rules for built and natural environment, namely tourism based on ecological principles, became parts of ecotourism, which as definition and content goes beyond protected areas (Grolleau H., 1988 and Annick Deshons, 2006).

During its, the study is restricted to the geographical area between Jiu River and Olt River, north of the 45⁰ parallel. Studied land is deep in the heart of the Southern Carpathians, being preserver of history, legend and tradition, swing and secret place for rulers, refuge and shelter in the turbulent periods of history, that today reveals its gems.

This study is also useful for those who want to get into the hidden mysteries of the mountain because it made a special presentation of that area, which is represented in the two-thirds of the mountain and foothill. From the beginning we should pay attention that for many debut of hiking, mountain can sometimes be a trap, sometimes fatal (after Francois Moinet 2006, Călina Jenica 2008).

THE METHOD AND PURPOSE OF THE WORK

Purpose of this paper is to define as precisely the area between Olt and Jiu and show which are the main factors favorably in agritourism activity in the picturesque "North Oltenia."

It also envisages the scientific research on agritourism potential of this area, benefiting from a natural beauty and particular purity, of an ethnographic and folklore thesaurus of great originality and attractiveness represented by: specific architecture, traditional crafts, popular techniques, ancestral customs, religion, holidays, filled with historical monuments and art, archeological sites, museums and so on, (after Glăvan V., 2002, Stanley C. Plog, 2003). Agritourism activity involves biological agriculture as a core activity after Grolleau H., 1988, Annick Deshons, 2006 and Todd Comen 2006, cure of fruits, fresh vegetables and organic food consumption blending harmoniously with rest, fresh air and occupational therapy in the villages across Oltenia.

For the conservation of cultural variety, beauty, harmony, purity and order in the Oltenia villages it is necessary that tourism providers to comply with a series of environmental standards imposed by the national authority and European Union (after Călina Jenica, Călina A., 2011).

The ultimate goal of the study consists of monitoring and highlighting agritourism potential, identify and classify some areas and localities suitable to these forms of tourism, to popularize the economic, cultural, ecological advantages obtained from practicing agritourism activity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Geographical demarcation of the area

The studied area is on the route of the great European road E 81/DN 7 main traffic artery linking the capital (Bucharest) with principal civilized countries of Central and Western Europe. To east region between OLT and JIU is bounded by Topolog basin, to the west by the Gilort basin, the upper basin of Lotru and Frumoasa, to the south the parallel of 45° and to north the basin of Sadu and Frumoasa.

Geographically it occupies south-central part of Romania, including all forms of relief, being crossed by tempestuous watercourses: Bistrita, Romani, Luncavat, Cerna, Oltet, Galbenu, Lotru, Latorita, Sadu, Frumoasa, all arising from the heart of the Southern Carpathians (after Sporis Gh. - 2000).

Area between Olt and Jiu is defined by geographical coordinates of parallel 45°36' north latitude and meridians of 24°37' and 24° 30' east longitude. Extreme settlements are: to the south Babeni commune (DN/64), to the north Boita village, Talmaciu commune (E 81/DN 7), to the east Boisoara village (DJ 703 H) and to the west crossroads Novaci DN 67 and DN 67 C and commune Voineasa (DN 7 A).

Favorable factors for agritourism activity

The main access routes of the tourists

Access to the land between Olt and Jiu is made easy due to numerous road and rail crossing area from end to end (after Pospai M. – 1987).

Rail traffic is carried on the Olt Valley on the route Sibiu - Ramnicu Valcea - Piatra Olt, but railway stations of interest in the area are: Valea Mărului, Ramnicu Valcea and Babeni. From the station C.F.R. Babeni branch out railway Babeni - Sirineasa - Popesti - Ulmetul - Berbesti - Alurul.

Roads which plays an important role in tourist flow in the area are: road - E 81/DN linking Raul Vadului- Caineni- Brezoi- Calimanesti- Caciulata- Ramnicu Valcea- Goranu- Milcoiu, after which the route continues towards Pitesti -Bucharest;

- DN 64 connecting Ramnicu Valcea to Babeni and whose route continues to Dragasani - Craiova. To gain access to the area can use the national roads:

- DN-67, Ramnicu Valcea – Bengesti;

- DN 64 A, Ramnicu Valcea – Olanești with ramifications;

- DN 67 G, Bengesti – Obarsia Lotrului – Curmatura Tartaroiu and continue to Sugag – Sebes;

- DN 67 A, Gura Lotrului - Lacul Vidra – Groapa Seaca and continue to Petrosani;

- DC 175, Gura Latoritei - Cheile Oltetului – Polovragi.

Relief

The area between the Jiu and Olt River is characterized by a relief in steps on the north-south direction, at altitudes above 2200 m (Suru peak of the massive Fagaras, 2282m, Șteflești peak of Lotrului Mountains, 2242 m) to 150 m near Dragasani, and for the most part it is hilly (from Calina A. et al., 2000).

It has an altitude of 400-800 m, forming piedmont plateau step and Carpathian hills step and it is extremely varied due to the existence of sectors from large relief units:

Carpathians, Carpathian hills and Getic Plateau, with a complex geological structure of the rock-older crystalline to the youngest, pliocene and quaternary.

The climate

With a great impact on climate, the relief consists mostly of hills and mountains, north of 45° parallel, that which causes it to differentiate itself significantly from the southern area of Oltenia. The average annual temperature values are between 4.5 to 8 °C and rainfall around 650-800 l / m². Over the Olt Valley in the Depression of Lovișteța, the climate is milder than in the rest of the territory, encouraging the practice of agritourism activity and the cultivation of fruit (Calina A. et al., 2000).

In mountainous massifs found a significant difference from a massive to another, the climate from Fagaras is not the same as in the mountains Lotru Latoritei, Capatanii or Cozia even if on the whole it is temperate - continental. The climate in the mountains is influenced by air currents, altitude, exposition, and at altitudes above 2000 m, the average annual temperature is 0° C and even -20° C, winds being stronger and rainfall greater than 1200 l / m² annually.

Flora from the area

The flora is diverse with over 900 species, from which 300 are rare plants. Pedo-climatic conditions and variety of landforms favoring the development of a rich vegetation. At high altitude of 2000 – 2200 m the vegetation is alpine, predominant are species of herbaceous plants, dwarf perennial (rhododendron and mountain peony – monument of nature, dwarf willows and other fruit shrubs).

In the subalpine zone where altitude is 1600-1800 m vegetation includes juniper, mountain alder, dwarf juniper, bilberry, cranberry, and herbs such as wind grass, meadowgrass. In lower areas meet most species of trees and plants known (after Vlahuță A., 1998). Also nearby you can find the largest forest of edible chestnut (Tismana) and lilac forest (Ponoare) with an area of 20 ha, its perfume attract nature lovers every year to "Lilac Festival" at Baia de Arama.

Fauna

Fauna of the region is well known to hunters, has many areas that hunting is permitted only with recognized hunting license in Europe, both in the plains and in the hills and mountains. Sportive fishing can take place in exceptional circumstances across the region from the Danube and up the mountain, aquatic fauna is represented by many species of fish as: trout, loach, minnow, grayling, and in Olt water: broad snout, barbel, chub, carp, pike, tench, rudd.

Alpine meadows are generally composed of bird fauna as: collar blackbird, golden eagle and rodents as: white mouse, is also a favorite of chamois. Lower lands where forests of beech and conifers predominate, fauna is more diverse, meeting the bear, deer, lynx, hollow marten and stone marten, wild boar, deer, squirrel, rabbit, collared mouse, the birds are: mountain rooster, partridge, and of reptiles: common viper, mountain lizard, brown frog.

Deciduous forests are populated mostly with: foxes, badgers, hares, wild boars, deer, squirrels.

Natural conservation areas and caves

In counties of area (after Zatti L., 1985) – Valcea - are found: Goranu earth pyramids, valley Stancioi geological reserve where they created massive pyramid-shaped earth giant towers of 80 m height, in mountain area – Calcescu reserve – Parang Mountains, near the Voineasa commune; -Hanesu - Cristesti – Lotrului Mountains reserve, Voineasa commune;

- Stricatu –Lotrului Mountains reserve (Steflesti), Voineasa commune; - Sterpu-Dealul Negru – Lotrului Mountains reserve, Voineasa commune; - Latorita reserve – Latoritei Mountains, Malaia commune; - Iezerul Latoritei reserve – Latoritei Mountains, Malaia commune; - Betel-Valea Calinestilor reserve – Lotrului Mountains, Brezoi; - National park

Cozia (Cozia Mountains and Naratul-Capașana Mountains); - geological reserve Valea Stancioiului, Golesti commune.

Caves: Laptelui Cave. – Latoritei Mountains; Munteanu-Murgoci Cave; the cave with Lake; Cave with pearls; Goats Cave; Cancer Cave; Bell Cave; Arnautilor Cave; Bat Cave – Capatanii Mountains; Savage Cave; Outlaw Cave; Bears Cave; Cave from Cala – Cozia Mountains.

Olt is characterized by: Reserve bustards "Boianu" near the town Titulescu, Valeni Seaca-in this reserve bustard being protected by hunting;

- Topana Forest - forest reserve near the village Topana with trees of impressive size;

-Geaca Forest - Opașani at 48 km from Pitesti.

Dolj County includes the following reserves: Forest Ciumela from Poiana Mare which is an old forest of acacia;

- Ornithological reserve Ciuperceni - an important nesting place for birds;

- Paleontological conservation area Bucovăț - near Craiova;

- wild peonies reserve from Plenița - unique in the country;

-Romanescu Park in Craiova, made between 1900 - 1903 by French architect E.

Redont.

The main tourist attractions

North of latitude 45⁰, between Olt and Jiu sector, due to natural factors and landscape, balneary tourism has seen a significant development, especially in resorts like Govora, Olanesti, Calimanesti-Caciulata, Ocele Mari, Voineasa, Ranca and Vidra. Also, there are numerous chalets: Suru, Gura Raului, Gatu Berbecului, Valea Oltului, Cheile Cheii, Tudor – Petrimanu, Obarsia Lotrului, Romanii de Sus, Plaiul Poenii; Pestera Muierilor, Polovragi and inns: Raul Vadului, Gura Latoritei, Lotrisor, Cozia, Stejari, Horezu, Novaci, Baia de Fier, Polovragi, Topolog.

The area knows a great development terms of religious - cultural - historical and artistic, being crammed with places of worship more than 25 monasteries, sketes and churches, true architectural and art monuments, museums (after Vlahuță A. - 1998).

Valcea includes the following edifices:

- Horezu Monastery - Romanii de Jos, 6 km away from Horezu;

- Cozia Monastery - on 2 km from Calimanesti and 20 km from Valcea, one of the most important architectural monuments of XIVth century;

- Govora Monastery - mentioned in a document from 1488;

- Bistrita Monastery - 6 km away from Costesti, built between 1491-1492 by the Craiovesti boyars;

- Aronta Monastery - 15 km from Horezu - founded by Matei Basarab in 1633-1636;

- Monastery "From a tree" - Frâncești - 10 km from Govora, founded at the end of the sixteenth century;

- Turnu hermitage at 3 km away from Calimanesti - built in 1676, sanctums was excavated in mountain sandstone;

- Wooden church from Baile Olanesti;

- Monastery Cornetu-Racoviță - 9 km away from Brezoi, dates from 1666;

- Nicolae Balcescu Memorial Museum in common Milcoiu;

- Anton Pan Memorial House in Valcea;

- Museum of Vine and Wine Dragasani;

- Valcea village museum - Bijoreni 6 km north of Valcea.

Olt County main edifices are:

- Brancoveni Monastery 5 km from Piatra Olt, built between 1582-1583;

- Caluiu Monastery - village Oboga - begun in 1516 by Craiovesti boyars and finished by Buzești brothers in 1588;

- Hatarani Monastery in the village Fărcașele - founded in 1588 by boyar Mitrea;
- Clocociov Monastery -built in 1594 by Mihai Viteazul;
- Monastery Strehareț - arthitectural representative monument of the seventeenth century;
- Holy Trinity Church of Caracal (1646);
- Iancu Jianu memorial house from Caracal;
- Nicolae Titulescu memorial house.

Dolj includes a significant number of edifices:

- Bucovat Monastery - 5 km away from Craiova, built between 1506 - 1512;
- Princely Church "St. Demetrius" in Craiova, built by Matei Basarab between 1651-1652;-Mănăstirea Sadova;
- Jitianu Monastery from Podari, monument of the fifteenth century;
- Segarcea Monastery from XVI century;
- "St. Elijah ", " St Kings, "" Madona Dudu " churches from Craiova;
- Art Museum of Craiova, operating in the Dinu Mihail Palace, built in 1867;
- Oltenia Museum founded in 1915.

Gorj county owns edifices that:

- Tismana monastery at 10 km from Hobița, was built by Vlaicu Voda Basarab on the advice of monk Nicodim 1375-1378;
- Polovragi monastery 60 km from Tg. Jiu a famous foundation from 1505;
- Lainici monastery 35 km away from Tg. Jiu, built in the fifteenth century;
- Crasna monastery from 1636;
- Cathedral of St. Voivodes from Tg. Jiu.

Due to these attractions, a number of farms have passed in recent years, to agritourism. The activity of agritourism expanded in localities: Voineasa, Malaia, Calimanesti – Caciulata, Cozia, Pausa, Jiblea, Olanesti, Ocele Mari, Govora and also in Pietrari, Barbatesti, Tomsani, Costesti, Slatioara, Vaideeni, Polovragi, Baia de Fier, Novaci who are nearby tourist attractions such as: Cheile Bistritei Valcene, Grigorie Decapolitul Cave, Bistritei Valley, Baile Costesti, Viei Hill with Stogu peak, Oltetului Gorges. To all this is added historical and religious interest objectives set out above, are frequently filled with places by special picturesque (Călina A. et al, 2009, Călina Jenica et al, 2010).

CONCLUSIONS

1. Rural area of the region between Jiu and Olt River has a complex agritourism and silvoturistic potential, comprising natural, cultural and historical components of great variety and tourist attractivity, with places of unique beauty, being preferred and searched by many internal tourists.
2. The relief, climate, flora and fauna are important reasons for the initiation and development of tourism activities based on sports hunting and images hunting with wild animals in their natural environment. Hunting area is destroyed mainly by cutting abusive forest where they were returned to the owners. In this sense, an important role has forestry staff who must pursue this work to be done rationally, in accordance with the forest management plan.
3. The traditional architecture of the area with picturesque attractions places are an magnet for visitors and those passing through the area, constituting a dynamic factor in the development of agritourism and forest tourism, which generates income and jobs for local people.
4. Few tourist reception services, poor quality and the prices of hotel units in the area, make agritourism and forest tourism activity to be a factor of balance and comfort for the tourists coming to area.

5. Setting a fair price policy that is not prohibitive, but to constantly attract as many tourists from the great blanket of middle-income people and construction of solid, reliable and representative building within reasonable amounts, is a path to a healthy rural tourism.
6. The services provided by agrotouristic structures should be up to the standards required of a flawless quality and traditional cuisine with hunting specific and organic products served, to help establish the brand identity of the area, with a special, unique note.

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