



EVOLUTION OF FRUIT GROWING SECTOR IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: This article aims to present the evolution of the fruit growing sector in Romania in the period 1990-2018. The research methodology used consisted in the analysis and interpretation of data collected from official sites and publications and from the literature. In Romania, fruit species can be successfully cultivated throughout the territory, except for the alpine area and part of the coniferous area. Following the research, it was found that over the last decades, in Romania, the area occupied by fruit species has decreased by over 38%, and over 70% of existing fruit plantations are aged, older than 25 years. Given the current situation of the fruit growing sector in Romania, the authors of the article consider that measures are needed to lead both to the replacement of aged fruit plantations and to increase the fruit area.

• Introduction

Romania is located in the northern hemisphere, at 45 ° North latitude and 25 ° East longitude. The fact that our country is located at the border between the Mediterranean and the temperate climates makes possible the cultivation of many fruit species (apple, pear, plum, apricot, peach, cherry, walnut, hazelnut, chestnut, almond, fruit bushes, strawberry, etc.), including some subtropical species (fig, persimmon, and kiwi). Practically, in our country, fruit trees are successfully cultivated on the entire territory, except for the alpine area and a part of the coniferous area

• Material and method

In order to carry out this article, we used as a research method the analysis and interpretation of data collected from official statistical sites such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the National Institute of Statistics, and data from studies and articles in the literature.

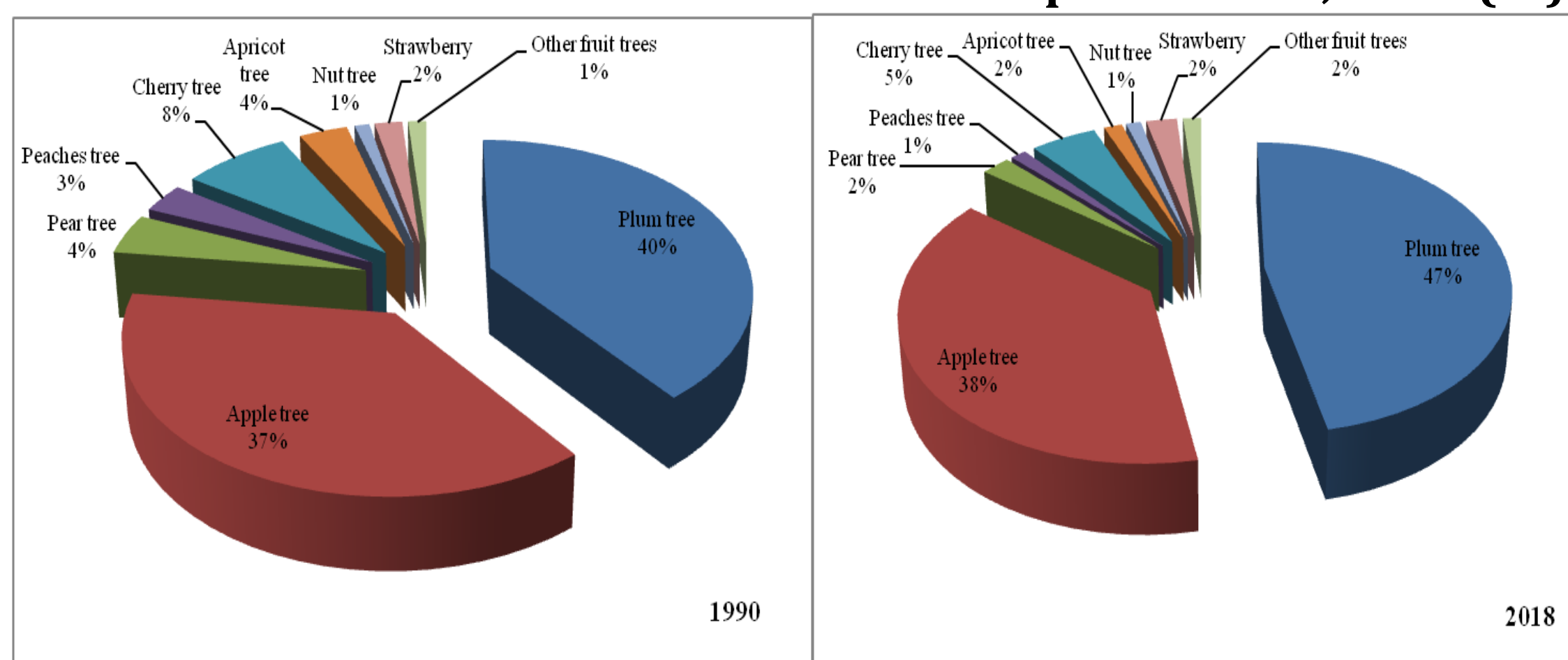
• Results and discussions

In 2014, over 70% of the orchards were aged, older than 25 years, with low productive potential, declining or abandoned. Only 7% of the total area was young plantations. Orchards on fruit occupied 67110 hectares representing 42% of the total area.

Evolution of cultivated areas with the main fruit species 1990-2018 (hectares)

FRUIT SPECIES	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2010	2014	2018	± compared to 1990
Plum tree	90000	102280	95661	93866	76225	69288	66552	65910	-24090
Apple tree	84864	85625	71016	81672	59017	56373	56130	53939	-30925
Pear tree	9800	7549	6069	6067	4619	5096	3463	3102	-6698
Peach tree and nectarine tree	7200	6388	3590	2689	1785	1964	1797	1699	-5501
Cherry tree	17400	13375	10446	8702	7688	6930	6446	7058	-10342
Apricot tree	7900	6464	4389	4151	3314	2618	2984	1971	-5929
Nut tree	2412	2506	2122	2063	2119	1490	1598	1591	-821
Strawberry	4500	1318	2000	2167	2826	2664	2422	3295	-1205
Other fruit tree species	2986	2857	1977	1882	1412	1321	1781	1950	-1036
TOTAL	227062	228362	197270	203259	159005	147744	143173	140515	-86547

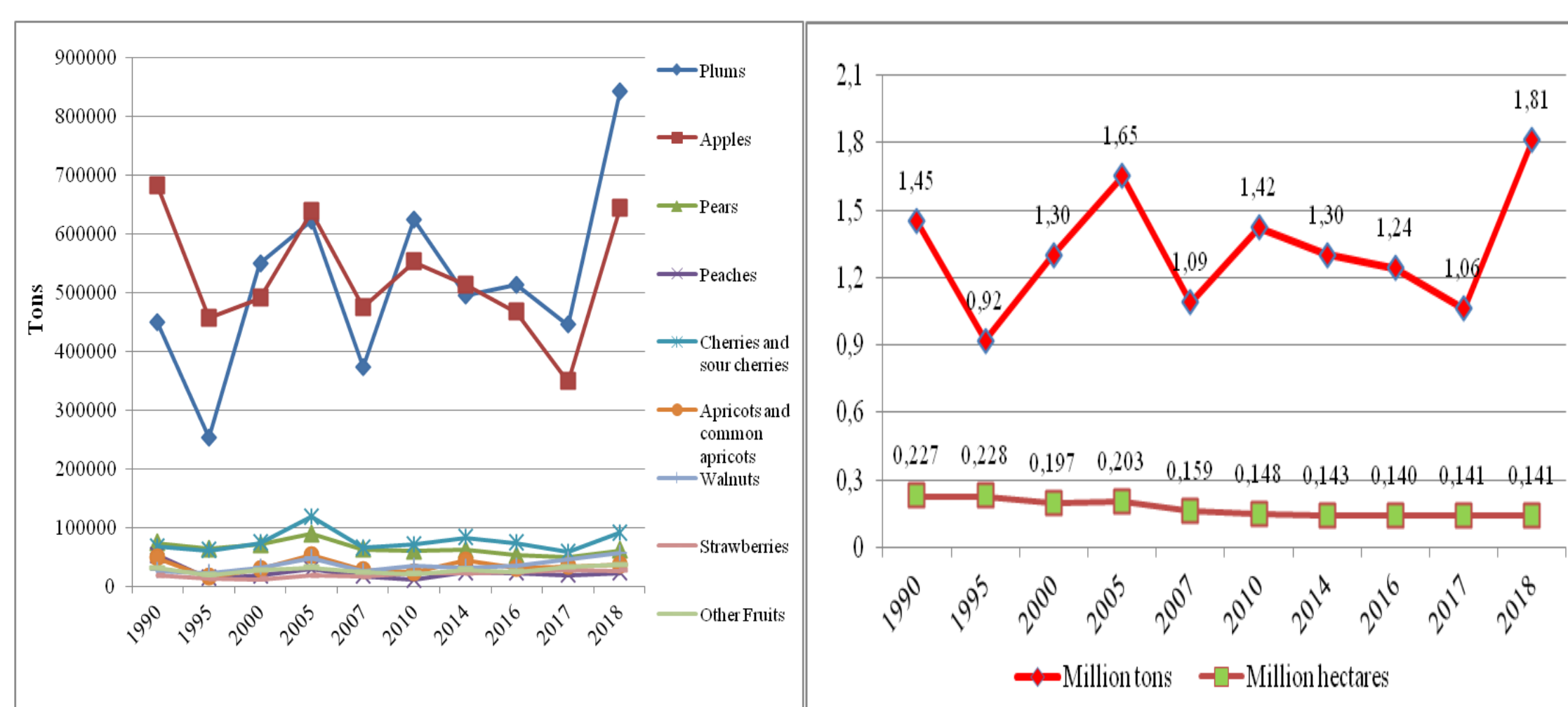
The surface cultivated with the main fruit species 1980; 2018 (%)



Compared to 1990, the orchard area decreased by over 38% (-86547 hectares).

The most widespread fruit species in Romania are the plum tree, apple tree and cherry tree, the first two occupying in 2018 over 85% of the fruit area. In 1990 the fruit species were more diversified, the cherry tree, pear tree and apricot tree had in the share of the structure of the fruit area about 50% more than in 2018.

Evolution of fruit production 1990-2018



As can be seen in the figure above, fruit production in Romania fluctuates quite a lot, this fluctuation being caused mainly by climatic conditions and secondarily by the evolution of the fruit area.

In 2018, at an orchard area of 140515 ha, by 38.1% lower than in 1990, was obtained a production with 24.83% higher, and in 2017 at an orchard area of 141182 ha, by 37.8% lower than in 1990, a 27% lower production was obtained.

Of the total fruit production of 1.81 million tons in 2018, over 82% was provided by plum trees and apple trees.

• Conclusions

- In the last decades, the fruit sector in Romania has been in a continuous decline. Compared to 1990, the orchard area decreased by over 38% (-86547 hectares), and the trend will most likely continue to be negative given that most existing plantations are over 25 years old and the rate at which young plantations are established is quite low.
- Compared to 1990, there is a lower diversification of fruit species, currently over 85% of the fruit area is occupied by plum trees and apple trees.
- Considering the current situation of the fruit sector in Romania, we consider that measures are needed to lead both to the replacement of aged fruit plantations and to the increase of the total fruit area. There is also a need for better diversification of the assortment of fruit species.