



THE IMPACT OF APIA MEASURES ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS: FARMERS' PERCEPTION IN BUZĂU COUNTY

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INTRODUCTION

Analysing farmers' experiences in Buzău County offers relevant insights into how national support mechanisms operate on the ground and how policy design can be more effectively aligned with regional agricultural realities.

MATERIALS

The study employed a mixed-methods design combining theoretical inquiry with empirical investigation to examine how farmers in Buzău County perceive and use the support measures administered by APIA. This approach enabled connecting the institutional framework of agricultural policy with the experiences of its direct beneficiaries.



KEY WORDS:

Agricultural policies, sustainability, farmers, financial support, rural development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Farmers' perceptions of the role of APIA support in daily operations and productivity offer a consolidated picture of how public subsidies influence the sustainability of agricultural holdings in Buzău County

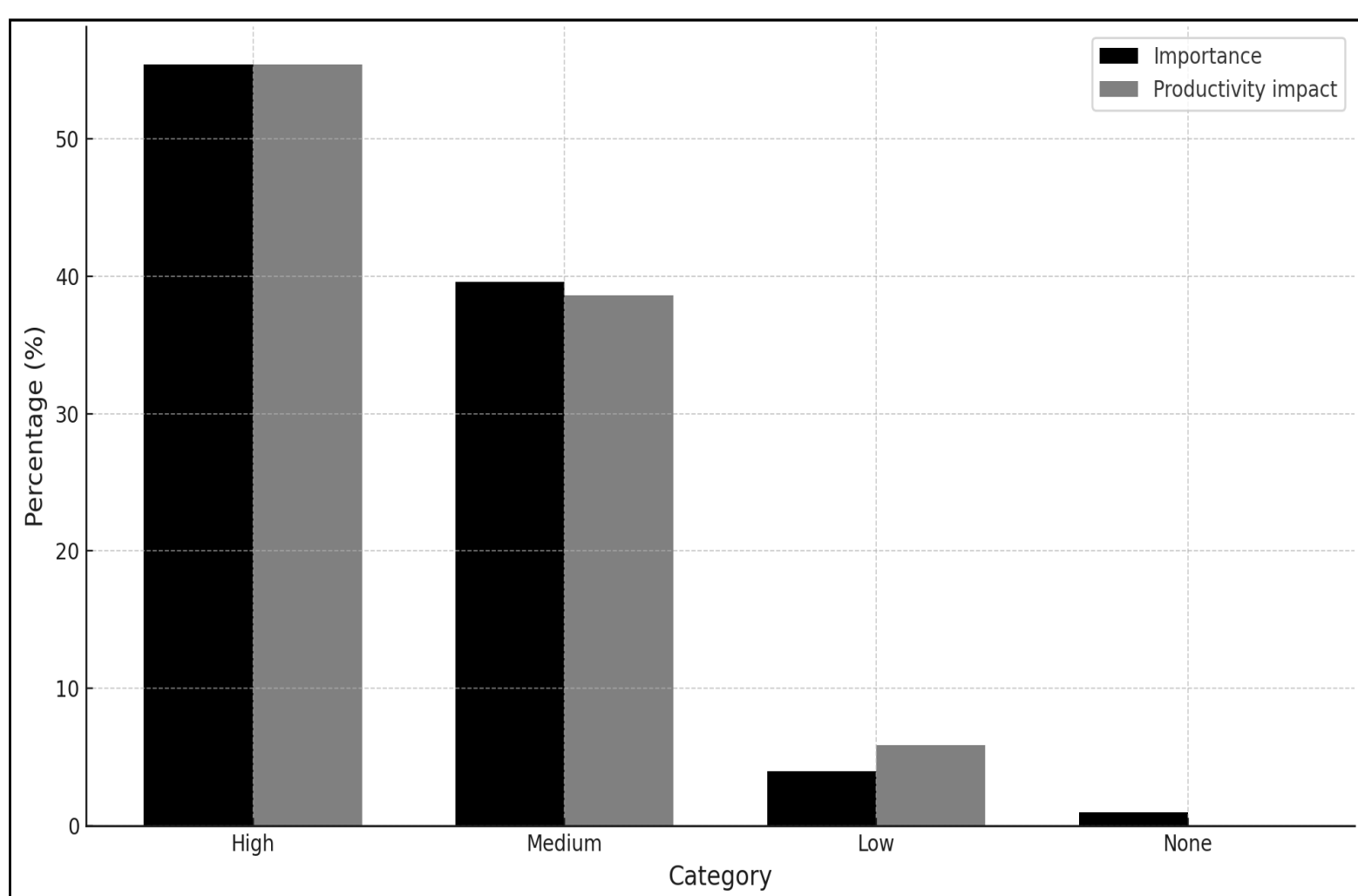


Figure 1. Importance and productivity impact of APIA support
Source: Authors' processing, based on survey data (2025).

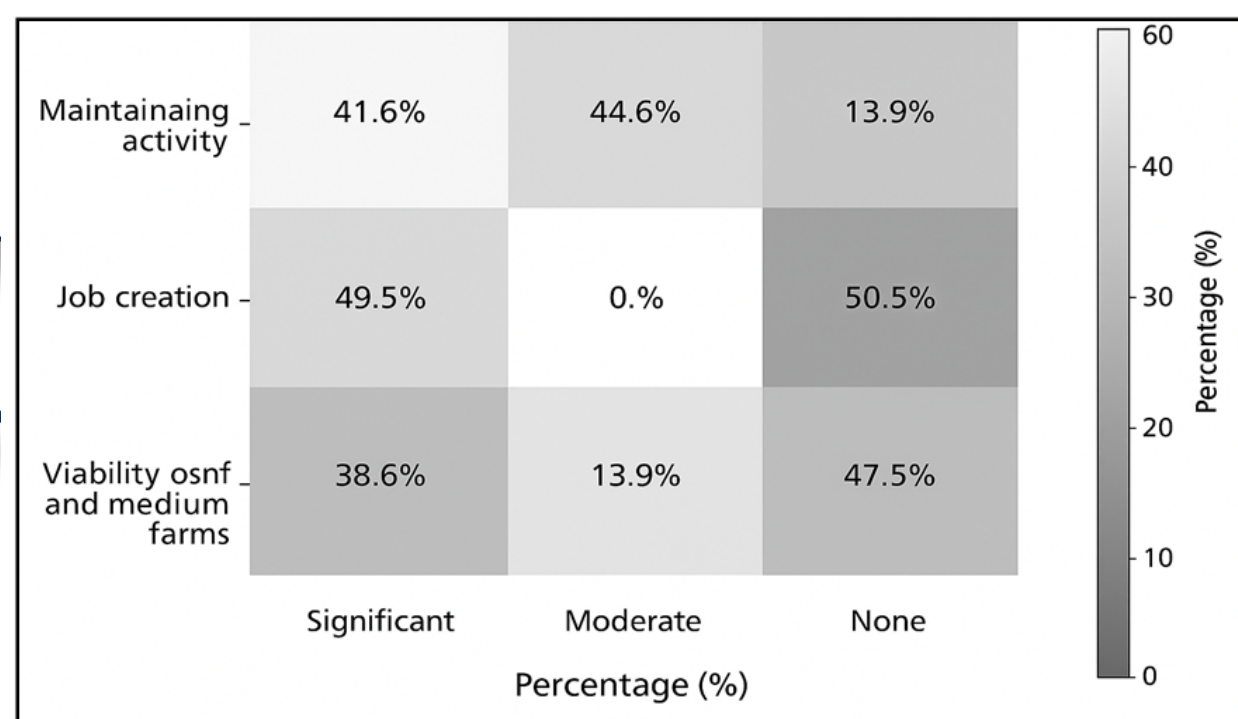


Figure 3. Socio-economic effects of APIA support
Source: Authors' processing, based on survey data (2025).

The benefits derived from public support depend not only on the amount received but also on the strategic orientation of resource use within the farm.

When funds are directed towards productive investments, improvements in income become more visible; when they are used mainly for routine expenses, the effect on profitability is more limited.

Correlating the support schemes with farm characteristics shows a clear relationship between holding size, legal form, and the range of measures accessed. Small farms remain concentrated in direct payments, while medium- and large-scale holdings tend to draw on a more varied set of instruments.

Table 1. Structure of APIA support types accessed by farmers

Combination of APIA Support	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Direct payments	45	44.6%
Direct payments, agri-environment and climate subsidies, other forms of support	27	26.7%
Other forms of support	13	12.9%
Rural development aid	9	8.9%
Agri-environment and climate subsidies	7	6.9%

Source: Authors' processing, based on survey data (2025).

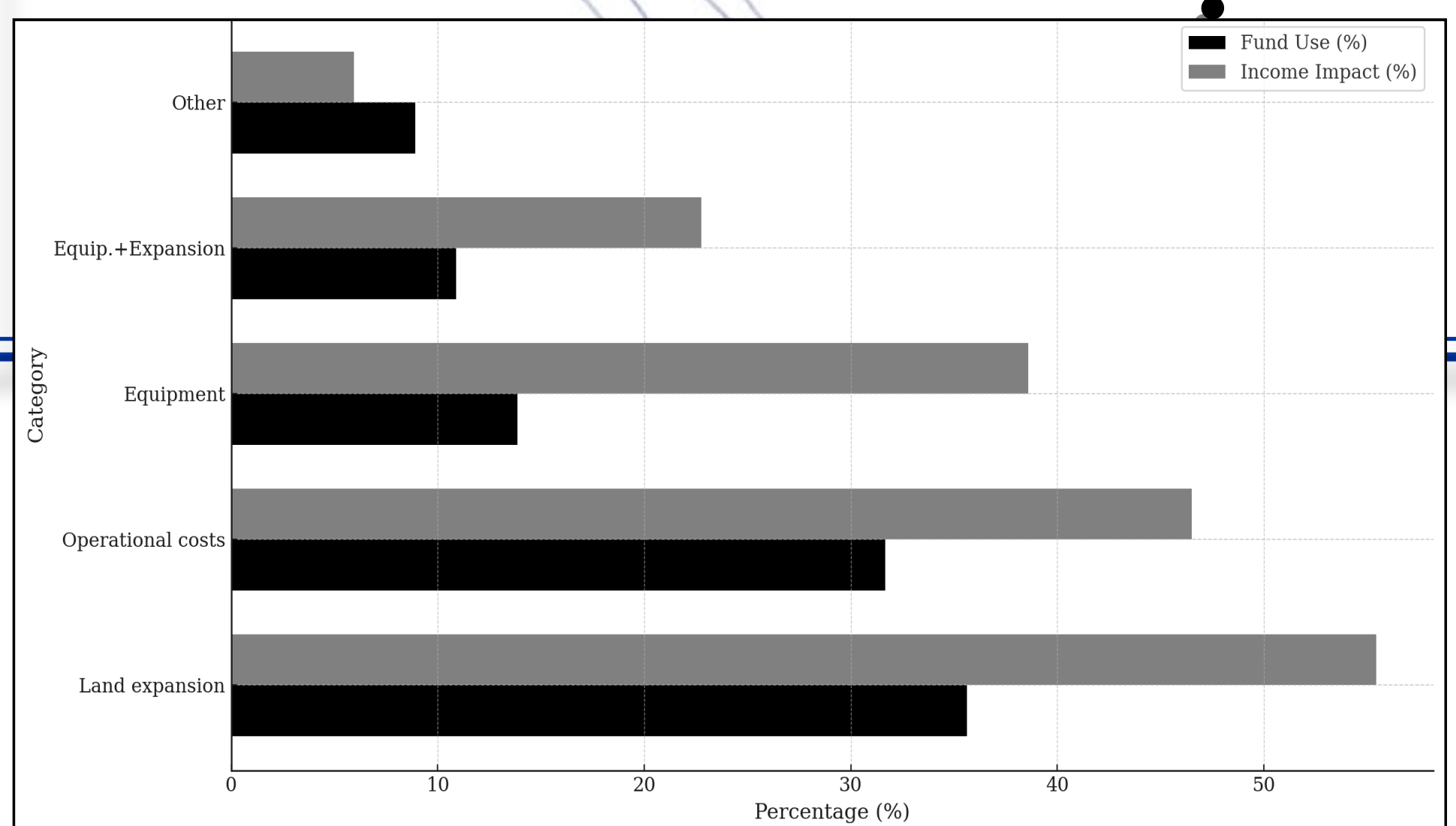


Figure 2. Correlation between fund use and income impact
Source: Authors' processing, based on survey data (2025).

CONCLUSIONS

APIA support remains essential for the functioning of agricultural holdings. To evolve from a basic stabilisation instrument into a stronger catalyst for sustainable rural development, further progress is needed in procedural simplification, the consolidation of advisory structures, the promotion of investment-oriented fund allocation, and the adaptation of support schemes to the operational realities of small and medium-sized farms.

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