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The State and Trends of Agricultural Development in the Structure of the National Economy of Ukraine

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Abstract. In the conditions of active socio-economic changes and reintegration of the economic development of Ukraine, determining the place of agriculture in this process is relevant. Based on this, the purpose of this study is to establish the current state and role of agriculture in the national economy of Ukraine. Various scientific and methodological tools were used to fulfil this purpose. The concepts of "agriculture" and "national economy" were distinguished by the method of analysis and their features were established; connections between these concepts were investigated by the method of synthesis; the dependence of the development of the agrarian sector on the national economy was found by the method of comparison; the method of generalization was used for detailed analysis of results and drawing conclusions. In the conditions of the dynamic development of the national economy, the existing state, and promising vectors of the development of the agricultural sector were found. Priority was given to the approach that lies in the implementation of bio- and nanotechnologies and diverse types of genetic developments. The essence of the structural changes implemented in the national economy was found. It was established that the main structural changes are related to the increase of Ukraine's investment potential. The priority vectors for the further development of agriculture were investigated. The authors found that such vectors are the introduction of European principles of regulation and organization of the agrarian sector into the Ukrainian environment. The practical value of this study lies in the fact that it can be used as a source in the creation of appropriate plans and programs aimed at the development of the national economy

Keywords: agricultural sector, forms of management, land market, economic potential



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INTRODUCTION

An analysis of current socio-economic conditions of Ukraine's national economy shows that they are extremely dynamic, which in turn requires constant changes in the approaches used for economic development. Therewith, the state, as an institution of power, governs this issue and implements proper structuring of the national economy (Lindholm-Dahlstrand *et al.*, 2019; Parsons *et al.*, 2019). This is conditioned upon the fact that this entity is empowered to implement operational, and most importantly, structural reforms, which should be aimed at increasing the economic growth, greening of the state and socio-economic improvement (Garibaldi & Pérez-Méndez, 2019). All these aspects are necessary to establish and ensure an appropriate level of economic development that meets the interests and needs of all citizens (Onegina & Vitkovskiy, 2020; Pryshchepa *et al.*, 2020).

Based on this, the targeted area of the system's structural changes of the national economy of the country is to increase the level of economic development in the long term. C. Elleby *et al.* (2020) interpreted this concept as a systemic process consisting of several quantitative and qualitative changes introduced into the structure of the national economy. According to O. Kravchenko *et al.* (2020), the result of such process is expected to be a transition to a better form of organisation and control of economic relations, and the implementation of established economic growth rates, which should be accompanied by an increase in production potential. J.E. Amorós *et al.* (2019) believed that this procedure is closely related to economic growth, since the latter implies the material wealth of citizens. As a result of such changes, both the current and future needs of society in the context of goods and services are expected to be met (Szafranska *et al.*, 2020; Yaky-mchuk *et al.*, 2021). Thus, the changes currently taking place in the system of the national economy pursuing the idea of the correlation in their structure of both macro-level economic elements and stable structural ties, for the proper establishment and implementation of favourable conditions under which all subjects of socio-economic relations can develop effectively. This condition is mandatory since the quality and success of the national economic system depend on the possibility of endowing its citizens with the most profitable and necessary socio-economic means (Farooq *et al.*, 2020; Nicola *et al.*, 2020; Dema *et al.*, 2019).

As for the agricultural sector, it certainly occupies one of the leading places in the structural changes that are actively being introduced in Ukraine's national economy. This factor is absolutely justified since Ukraine is one of the most developed agricultural countries. According to P. Gai & S. Kapadia (2019), this property is determined by such economic characteristics as a share of agricultural sector in the structure of exports, share in employment, investment attractiveness, gross value

added, and the share in taxes paid to the state budget. These parameters in the context of agriculture are certainly positive since this sector of the economy has the largest share in the system of Ukrainian exports, in particular – almost 42% (Attri *et al.*, 2020). Furthermore, about 33% of foreign exchange earnings were obtained through agriculture (Berezyuk *et al.*, 2019). Therewith, approximately 12% of GDP is concentrated in this sector of the economy (Kaletnik *et al.*, 2020). Moreover, the agricultural sector is the only sphere that has never been characterised by a negative foreign economic balance of payments (Lemishko, 2018; Reznik *et al.*, 2018).

Based on this, the prospects for investigating and developing latest trends for improving and increasing efficiency of agricultural sector are, admittedly, extremely high. For that reason, in the current programmes for implementation of national economy of Ukraine, the issue of modernisation of the above-mentioned sector, increasing its adaptability and flexibility to dynamic climatic and socio-economic conditions in society, is actively raised. To a greater extent, this development concerns technologies and innovations, which is a well-founded aspect, since currently one of the main areas of national policy in all sectors is their digitalisation.

Therefore, *the purpose of this study* is to investigate the current state and promising areas of agriculture in the national economy of Ukraine.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To analyse the essence of the issue under study, it should be established that the said issue is quite broad, which indicates the complexity of its investigation. Moreover, it includes several elements that require individual consideration to acquire a reading object of this study based on the properties and foundations obtained. It is important to pay attention to functional and systematic methodological approaches. Their role is extremely important since they are used during the study of the structural part. Based on the functional approach, a plan for conducting the analysis was defined, and the purpose and tasks of the study were established. For the study to have an integral structure and the elements under consideration to be interrelated, a systematic approach was applied. It ensured unity in the use of all other methodological tools.

Moreover, the study used analysis and synthesis, which to a greater extent played the role of theoretical elements. Thus, based on the analysis method, several concepts were identified that should be considered separately, while their specific features should be established. Such concepts include agriculture, and national economy. The synthesis method allowed combining the separated concepts into a single general question, investigating the connections between them, and analysing the relationship between these categories. A prominent place in this study is occupied by the comparison method

since it allowed qualitatively finding the dependence of the agricultural sector on the national economy. In addition, on its basis, various trends in this process were compared and their priority for the future economic development of Ukraine was proved.

The method of deduction was used so that the study has a perfect logical structure. The study developed in the following area: from general to specific. In the theoretical part of the study, the essence and properties of the main general concepts related to the issue under study were found. In the practical part, this analysis was narrowed down to particular concepts and a certain context in which they need to be considered. Further, a generalisation method was used to examine the results in detail and draw conclusions based on them. Furthermore, on its basis, a priority area was established for the continuation of the investigation of this issue. The study was conducted in three stages:

1) at the first stage, the basic organisational foundations that concern this study were established. A theoretical analysis of the issue under study was also initiated;

2) at the second stage, the specific features and areas in which agriculture is developing in Ukraine during the implementation of the national economy were investigated;

3) at the third stage, the essence of the main results obtained was found and conclusions were drawn on their basis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presently, the characteristic factors for the development of the world economy are deep structural and integration reforms, which provoke a change in the areas of the national economy of different states, including Ukraine. Consideration of such global conditions is a mandatory factor in determining and consolidating the national foundations of the functioning of the economy. During the development of a full-fledged algorithm for improving various sectors of the national economy, it is important to consider the features caused by both the social and economic needs of a particular society. Admittedly, for the qualitative and rapid economic growth of the state, it is necessary to find its starting economic sectors characterised by high profitability and academic performance, since this approach allows implementing an effective national policy characterised by high results, particularly in the sphere of the national economy.

When investigating the features of the agricultural sector, it should be agreed that they are formed based on the dynamics of evolutionary changes, including the qualitative parameters of resource elements, i.e., land, specific species of plants or animals. Their development and order of priority were established according to the level of implementation of the country's innovative path, which consists in mastering production technologies, tools, and mechanisms necessary for the organisation of labour in the agriculture. Admittedly, Ukraine

adheres to this approach in its development. Thus, currently, an innovative development model prevails in the field of agriculture, which allows it to effectively affect the overall system of the national economy. For current programmes and plans, it is inherent to attract modernised approaches based on the use of digital tools, which allows increasing the level of attractiveness of this sector of the national economy.

As for statistical data, respectively, in 2021, the share of the agricultural sector in Ukraine's GDP amounted to more than 12%, which, admittedly, is the highest among other developed sectors of the national economy. Therewith, agriculture is characterised by the highest increase in production over the past year, which amounts to 15.4%. Furthermore, this trend is growing, since the results of last year show that production at agricultural enterprises increased by 19.2%. The agriculture sector is extremely important for the national economy of Ukraine in the context of exports as well, since it accounts for the largest share of it, almost 42% per year (Ukrinform, 2022). Therewith, the data on the success of indicators of the agricultural sector showed that in 2021 the largest crop of early grains and legumes was obtained – 46.4 million tonnes. This indicates that Ukraine is developing effectively in the agriculture, in particular, this is reflected in revenues to the state budget.

Ukraine is on the way to obtaining the status of one of the largest guarantors of world food security, which also confirms the effectiveness of the chosen state innovation area for the development of this industry. To confirm this statement, there is an example that during the 2000s Ukraine supplied grain resources to 40 million people around the world. Therewith, Ukraine currently sells its agricultural resources to about 400 million people, excluding the share of Ukrainian citizens (Kanmani et al., 2020).

Furthermore, attention should be paid to such factor as a sharp increase in the investment attractiveness of this industry. Admittedly, this is conditioned by introduction of and market in the context of agrarian reform on July 1, 2021. Thus, by the end of 2021, 27.3 thousand contracts for the purchase and sale of agricultural land were implemented on the territory of Ukraine (Shkola et al., 2021). Attention should be focused on the fact that all these buyers are private individuals, that is, citizens of Ukraine. Presently, the legislation makes provision for the operation of the land market without the involvement of both commercial organisations and foreigners in it. Therewith, the maximum limit for the purchase of agricultural land by one person is 100 hectares. Nevertheless, starting from January 1, 2024, it is expected to expand the boundaries of this limit up to 10 thousand hectares for one person and grant the right to buy land to legal entities with the condition that foreign citizens do not belong to the list of its owners (Kharchenko, 2021).

The land market is one of the characteristic advantages, which testifies to the successful process of European integration of Ukraine. Due to its functioning, it becomes possible to introduce European principles of regulation and organisation of the agrarian sector into the Ukrainian environment. In addition, because of such actions, an even greater increase in Ukraine's investment potential is expected, including in the international arena. These changes can have a positive impact on ordinary citizens, including those who own shares, since the cost of land is projected to increase, which is proportional to the increase in rent.

This fact is confirmed by the successful involvement of the latest mechanisms and approaches to this sector, which usually occurs in the context of general digitalisation. Thus, it is important to continue to analyse social conditions and, accordingly, consider all factors that affect the results of agricultural activities of entities of Ukraine. This condition is necessary because the socio-economic parameters of society are quite dynamic, which obliges business entities to consider all possible external and internal factors.

The destruction of the economic system occurred because of the collapse of the USSR and, accordingly, the collapse of the planned economy. Similar processes took place in all post-Soviet countries, as showed by inflation in Ukraine in 1993-1995, which exceeded 10,000%. Based on this, it can be established that as a result of choosing the wrong approaches and areas for economic development, there was a deep and sharp decline, which was certainly reflected in a number of other social relations. Nevertheless, the number of obstacles and problems created in economic development of Ukraine shows that more time is needed for the development of high-quality market, non-market institutions, and other tools to accelerate this process. In 2000, the first wave of economic revival became visible in Ukraine, characterised by an increase in potential and volume of the business climate. In addition, incomes of citizens increased along with incomes of various organisations, activities of which concerned the

leading sectors of the national economy, including agriculture, which to a certain extent allowed Ukraine to consistently enter the international market. Nevertheless, the global budgetary crisis of 2008-2009 played a significant role in the national economy. Thus, the indicators of GDP growth rates typical for this period were 7.5% (Pronko *et al.*, 2020).

A considerable role in the development of the national economy of Ukraine was played by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in 2014, which continues to this day. Precisely because of the dramatic change in socio-political conditions, both the humanitarian and economic potential of the country was considerably reduced. Based on this, over the next seven years, this factor continues to be clearly reflected in the state of economic development and programmes for its improvement. The coronavirus crisis caused a sharp drop in entire economic system of the world and certainly affected the state of Ukraine. Economic processes in Ukraine in 2019-2021 were to a certain extent more positive in contrast to several European countries, including Great Britain, Germany, and France. Therewith, one of the main drawbacks in this process was that, due to the establishment of quarantine restrictions by the state authorities, there were no effective mechanisms in Ukraine that would allow continuously providing citizens with wages, controlling the incomes of the population, and implementing measures to support business.

Thus, it is necessary to consider the ability to fulfil relative economic advantages in international markets to implement qualitative and effective economic changes. In this context, attention should be paid to the agricultural sector, which in turn is intricately linked to the food production industry. The share of agricultural products in Ukrainian exports is growing dynamically. In 2000, it was up to 20.1%, and in 2021 – 42% (DLF Attorneys-at-Law Ukraine, 2020). Notably, structurally this indicator is divided between such agricultural products as sunflower oil (5.5 tonnes), corn (21.5 tonnes), barley (3.6 tonnes), wheat (16.4 tonnes), soya beans (2.2 tonnes), sunflower meal (4.5 tonnes) (Fig. 1).

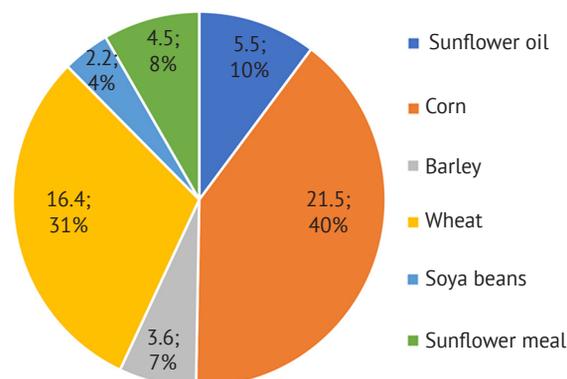


Figure 1. Agricultural exports from Ukraine

Source: DLF Attorneys-at-Law Ukraine (2020)

In current structural changes in the national economy, particularly the development of new mechanisms in the agricultural sector, more and more attention is paid to two areas, namely increasing the investment potential for this industry and increasing the share of extracted resources for their implementation on international market. It is necessary to support and improve agriculture to continue ensuring a rational and effective national policy in the sphere of economy. Such choice not only develops a certain industry but, admittedly, improves the quality and accelerates overall economic growth of Ukraine.

Currently, the free trade zone between Ukraine and the European Union plays an essential part since such condition causes an increase in the orientation of producers towards European markets. This approach allows stabilising both internal and external production, which affects quality and efficiency of the development of Ukraine's export capacity. This is evidenced by statistical data, namely the fact that in 2020 export of agricultural resources to 28 EU countries amounted to \$21.7 billion, which exceeded the data for 2013 by 25% (Hryhoruk *et al.*, 2020). In general, the percentage of exports of goods to European countries increased from 24.5% in 2013 to 53.5% in 2021. However, one of the key roles in these indicators is played by agricultural raw materials, which indicates the prospects for their further development and improvement.

Presently, society is undergoing dynamic information changes. They are caused by digitalisation, which is global since it concerns each of the developed countries. Thus, to implement the structure of the national economy, it is necessary to involve several information and digital means. As for the current state of digital development of agriculture in Ukraine, it is at the initial stage and is characterised by a slow pace and low prospects. This is conditioned upon the discrepancy between the approaches and mechanisms used to implement this process. Computers and software are used to perform tasks such as economic management, collection of analytical information, and provision of financial and statistical reporting, which certainly does not correspond to the practical foundations of the activity of this sector. Moreover, for current information support, presence of the necessary set of structural technical functions needed for its prompt updating is not inherent. Nevertheless, one of the most acute problems is the low level of provision of agricultural sector with modern computing equipment of various classes. This factor plays vital role since the functioning and qualitative improvement of agricultural enterprises take place on its basis, including their management. Moreover, possession of reliable and updated information allows business entities to quickly establish contact and track changes that occur during production. In this context, the digitalisation of the agricultural sector is a mechanism through which it is possible not only to monitor

the management process but also to manage risks and other features that arise during the interaction of producers and consumers.

In this way, it is possible to simplify several processes that are quite important and complex for the sale of agricultural resources and to influence their economic growth. For that reason, digitalisation takes a prominent place in programmes and plans aimed at national economy, since modern technologies on its basis are used to obtain effective and operational results due to the introduction of specific changes. As a result, a dynamic increase in the competitiveness of a particular industry is expected not only at the national but also at the international level. Nevertheless, without the introduction and development of digital tools and innovative programmes, it is impossible to integrate the agricultural sector into the high-tech industry.

According to O. Grishnova *et al.* (2019), one of the most successful sectors of Ukrainian national economy is agriculture. A.J. Abdulloev (2020) emphasised that it is a source capable of providing food resources, namely raw materials, to society and other sectors of the economy. Moreover, agriculture can ensure the development of such category as food security systems (Ostrovskaya *et al.*, 2020). Based on this, agriculture is being improved during the development of the national economy since it is a priority area for Ukraine. The active development of this branch of the economy in recent years allows clearly determining its state and trends. As a result, there is a full-fledged understanding of the specific processes and mechanisms operating in its structure. Thus, the analysis of such structural elements enables qualitative influence and development in the necessary areas (Latinin & Kharchenko, 2021; Cioffi *et al.*, 2022).

O. Khodakivska & O. Mohylnyi (2018) believed that the agricultural sector certainly occupies a key place in the national economy. In this context, it directly concerns the land issue, namely the category of private ownership of land, the purchase and sale of agricultural land (Onegina *et al.*, 2020). Admittedly, according to T. Shtets *et al.* (2020), this is conditioned upon the fact that this area is one of the most relevant and promising for the development of the economy at the expense of agriculture. The above refers to the land market built in 2021, which has been mentioned in the study by H. Zelinska *et al.* (2020). Currently, most experts state that this tool can quite quickly and, most importantly, qualitatively change some processes in economic relations concerning the agricultural sector, namely agriculture (Yang *et al.*, 2021; Shpak *et al.*, 2020; Bardash & Osadcha, 2020; Saher *et al.*, 2020).

Furthermore, special attention is focused on these sectors of the national economy because a considerable part of the country's labour resources is concentrated in them (Gadzalo *et al.*, 2021). Thus, the major structural changes are related to increasing the investment potential of Ukraine. This is conditioned upon the fact that this approach enables a considerable development of

production volumes, which affects the export indicators of agricultural resources. Moreover, it is expected that the wages and incomes of citizens working in this sector of the national economy will increase.

CONCLUSIONS

This study determined the priority of the agricultural sector for the entire economy of the state and its development in the international arena. The main stages that contributed to both the economic development and the decline of Ukraine were considered. It was found that the current state of digital development of agriculture in Ukraine is at the initial stage and is characterized by a slow pace. Main structural changes that were introduced in the system of the national economy of Ukraine were found, and their effectiveness was analysed. The study established that the increase in investment potential enables a considerable development of production

volumes, which affects the export performance of agricultural resources.

The study examined the priority areas of development of the agricultural sector. It was found that currently Ukraine is on the path towards European integration, which positively changes the approaches and tools chosen by the state authorities for the national economic development. It was found that agricultural activity is more oriented towards the international market, which is also an advantage for Ukraine, as this factor affects its competitiveness among other states. It was also found that the development of agriculture in the context of the national economy takes place in three vectors: increasing the investment potential, digitalization, and entering the international market. Future studies should expand research of the impact of digitalization on the development of the national economic system of Ukraine.

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Стан і тенденції розвитку сільського господарства в структурі національної економіки України

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Анотація. В умовах активних соціально-економічних змін та реінтеграції економічного розвитку України актуальним є визначення місця сільського господарства в цьому процесі. Виходячи з цього, метою даного дослідження є встановлення сучасного стану та ролі сільського господарства в національній економіці України. Для досягнення поставленої мети було використано різноманітний науково-методичний інструментарій. Методом аналізу розмежовано поняття «сільське господарство» і «національна економіка» та встановлено їх ознаки; методом синтезу досліджено зв'язки між цими поняттями; методом порівняння виявлено залежність розвитку аграрного сектору від національної економіки; метод узагальнення використано для детального аналізу результатів і формулювання висновків. В умовах динамічного розвитку національної економіки виявлено існуючий стан та перспективні вектори розвитку аграрного сектору. Пріоритет надано підходу, який полягає у впровадженні біо- і нанотехнологій та різноманітних видів генетичних розробок. Розкрито сутність структурних зрушень, що здійснюються в національній економіці. Встановлено, що основні структурні зрушення пов'язані з підвищенням інвестиційного потенціалу України. Досліджено пріоритетні вектори подальшого розвитку сільського господарства. Встановлено, що такими векторами є впровадження в українське середовище європейських принципів регулювання та організації аграрного сектору. Практична цінність даного дослідження полягає в тому, що воно може бути використане як джерело при створенні відповідних планів і програм, спрямованих на розвиток національної економіки

Ключові слова: аграрний сектор, форми господарювання, ринок землі, економічний потенціал
