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Assessment of the Impact of the Activities of Agricultural Enterprises on the Economic Development of the Regions of Ukraine in the Period from 1990 to 2020

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Abstract. The relevance of the subject under study is due to the disquietude of the society, because currently the term "land market" is actively introduced in Ukraine; because of this, monopoly rent is appropriated and redistributed to the enrichment of several heavy duty plot landlords and land users, who already control more than half of the agricultural lands of Ukraine. This paper is aimed at realization of objective analysis of economic processes and covering the regional development of the territories of Ukraine, where agricultural enterprises and farms operate. The leading methods of the study were a dialectical method of cognition of economic phenomena with the review in the historical and economic aspect, and an abstract-logical method, based on the formation of proposals and conclusions. The has showed that agricultural holdings not only support the social sphere formed in the economy but also can implement programs focused on the development of employees and the growth of their social protection. The practical value of this study is also conditioned upon the fact that the progressive principles of governance, management, and transfer of a part of the social benefits available to the population of the cities to the village, which contribute to the economic development of the communities, are involved in the innovative technologies in agricultural sector. The results of this study prove that there are preconditions for development of agribusiness in Ukraine. Specifically, sufficiency of land resources; the necessary production infrastructure and social sphere have been formed; production of highly efficient agricultural machinery and equipment for target production in different edaphoclimatic conditions has been organized, which is evidenced by growth of the number of agricultural holdings annually in most regions of Ukraine. The functioning of farming is an alternative opportunity to share agricultural lands that helped create an economic basis for the system of agricultural enterprises

Keywords: land, farm, regional development, holding, economic relations



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INTRODUCTION

A corporate system in the agricultural sector was created based on the former communal farms and state farms under the influence of the processes of denationalization and privatization in the village in the 1990s (Chernenko *et al.*, 2021). A deep crisis on the territory of village communities – the loss of fullness of agricultural production, unemployment, lack of sustainable sources of income, as well as degradation of soils and the rise of ecological problems – was the result of Soviet heritage (Voznyak *et al.*, 2021). The Soviet system of organization of agricultural production in the form of communal farms showed low efficiency in Ukraine (Zelinska *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, after Ukraine gained independence, it was allowed to organize various kinds of economy management in the villages, among which national support was directed towards agricultural holdings (Marunyak *et al.*, 2020). Many Ukrainian scientists (Reznik *et al.*, 2020; Alekseieva *et al.*, 2020; Rushchyshyn *et al.*, 2021) have conducted research on the formation of agricultural holdings. For example, according to F. Götzmark & M. Andersson (2020), successful agricultural enterprises provide working places for community residents, pay taxes to local budgets, support and sometimes develop the infrastructure sector of the rural territory.

According to F. Cappellano & A. Rizzo (2019), under current conditions, agricultural holdings reflect not only a new structure of production organization, but also a new type of production relations, new connections within the framework of the agricultural sector with industry. However, agricultural holdings are usually business-oriented projects aimed at raising the capital of their beneficiaries and supporting and developing rural infrastructure is not their function (Hudáková, 2020; Fyliuk *et al.*, 2019). The founders of agricultural enterprises and agricultural holdings can live in a completely different place and do not use agricultural infrastructure. In the view of the conflicting opinions, I. Arakelova (2018) is confident that a development and mechanisms of creation of agricultural institutions in the state, methods of influence of the government on their activity, and arguments of the foundation of creation of effective coexistence of the corporate sector and the state need the follow-up study and generalizations.

For historical reasons, the main part of natural and resource potential in Ukraine is land resources, and the concentration of many lands in the ownership of proprietors can have an impact on socio-economic development and environmental conditions. As of 2020, about 4 mln ha that are recommended for agricultural cultivation are concentrated by investors. According to the website “Latifundist” (2022), 117 agricultural holdings of Ukraine process 16% (or 6.45 mln ha) of agricultural land of the country. Among them are more than 10 agricultural holdings from other countries, which hold control of about 3-4 mln ha of agricultural land. Because the economic development of the agricultural

sector should be intricately connected with the development of rural regions, it should be noted that the development of agricultural holdings is an effective tool for attracting investments into agriculture (Lemishko, 2020; Bei, 2018). In this case, farmers and enterprises are now making a significant contribution to its production unlike the period of the communal farms’ existence (Carus & Dammer, 2018).

Due to the above-mentioned issues, the range of the given subject research is relevant. However, despite the lively discussions on land relations, land degradation and land problems, as well as rural development, the interest of researchers was not directed at large, regional, and local agricultural holdings, as well as at results of their functioning. This aspect becomes even more important in the context of decentralization, in the view of the influence of communities on the activities of large agricultural enterprises or farms.

The main purpose of this scientific research is the fundamental analysis of data concerning objective consideration of economic processes of regional development of Ukrainian territories, where agricultural enterprises and agricultural holdings operate.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The theoretical framework of this study included the conceptual issues and results of the research conducted by some scientists, who investigated problems of organizational and economic substantiation, origin, occurrence and development of agricultural holdings, and their influence on the development of economy in the regional aspect. The dialectical method of cognition of economic phenomena and the economic theory regulations with consideration of problems in the historical and economic aspects formed the methodological framework of this study. The method of scientific abstraction was used to substantiate the specific features of the agricultural sector from post-Soviet approaches to present conditions. The development under the influence of modern trends of economic globalization was investigated according to the method of induction and deduction.

The following methods were used in the study: systematic – for comprehensive review of the stages of formation and development of agricultural enterprises and agricultural holdings; historical – used for analysis of practices of agricultural holdings formation and functioning and their chronology; statistical and economic – based on analysis of the current state of agricultural holdings development, processes of property transformation; monographic – for observation of economic activity of agricultural holdings; abstract-logical – for theoretical generalizations and conclusions. The regulations and proposals formulated and substantiated in this paper form the basis for the solution of research-to-practice base on organizational and economic

substantiation of agricultural holdings formation. The obtained conclusions can also be applied to finding the predicted indicators regarding economic development and the wealth of local territories.

This study was conducted in three main stages. At the first stage, theoretical analysis of existing methodological approaches was performed, namely the study of scientific publications, articles, monographs covering the issue of the agricultural enterprises' origin in territories of communal farms; the problem, the purpose, and the methods of the study were identified; the plan of the scientific research was drawn up. At the second stage, the issue of gradual development of agricultural enterprises and farms was discussed, their formation and economic impact on adjacent regional territories was analysed, the economic and production activities of agricultural holdings were monitored. At the third stage, based on the results obtained at earlier stages, final conclusions of the study were formulated, which formed the final reflection of the results and determined the main trends of further research on the influence of large agricultural holdings on economic development of territories and communities. Theoretical and practical conclusions were clarified, the results were summarized and systematized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The communities in rural regions were met with reorganizing of the Soviet communal farms after Ukraine gained independence. The farming was an alternative to the possibility of agricultural land sharing, and an economic foundation was created for the formation of a system of agricultural enterprises. The privatization and the transfer of land to the citizens of Ukraine in free cost were the first step in the transformation of the agricultural sector. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has adopted several documents aimed at solving this issue (Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada..., 1992; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers..., 1992; Decree of the President of Ukraine..., 1995). The transfer of land to collective ownership of agricultural enterprises has become an intermediate stage of land reform in Ukraine (Khodakivska & Mohylny, 2017a; 2017b). This ensured a gradual, nonconfrontational transfer of land intended for agricultural usage from state ownership to private ownership (Shulga, 2019).

In general, the reform processes at this stage were terribly slow, incomplete, and inconsistent, which was highlighted by most scientists and researchers (Khodakivska & Mohylny, 2020; Nicholls *et al.*, 2020). Adoption of the Law of Ukraine No. 400-XII "On the Priority of Social Development of Rural and Agro-Industrial Complex in the National Economy" (1990) did not supply the progress in the development. In the middle of this stage, the structure of the rural population of Ukraine saw significant positive changes. A positive migration balance was seen due to the increase of living expenses,

the decline of employment problems and the closure of housing programs in 1992-1993. However, the potential for return migration was exhausted in 1994, and the balance has been negative since 1998 (Dankevych *et al.*, 2022). In the 1990s, a private farm has taken a leading role in rural regions and has begun to provide about 50% of the total resources of the rural population (Babenko *et al.*, 2020). The second stage, which took place in 2000-2004, was characterized by the completion of the restructuring of agricultural enterprises by the transfer of land and property into private ownership. The regulatory environment was gradually formed. Several legal acts were adopted (Land Code of Ukraine (2001); the Law of Ukraine No. 962-IV "On Land Protection" (2003); the Law of Ukraine No. 858-IV "On Land Management" (2003); the Law of Ukraine No. 1378-IV "On Land Valuation" (2003)) regarding the formation of the land market and its impact on the development of land relations.

The aims of the agrarian reform period were mainly achieved: new legal forms of enterprises were created, especially agricultural holdings, limited liability companies, agricultural cooperatives and private farms, while collective enterprises were liquidated. The main objectives of this stage were the factual establishment of a private land owner and the formation of an independent agrarian business entity, and there was no adequate support in rural regions since there was no integral system aimed at the development of rural regions, and the pressing methods of introducing reforms limited the interest of rural people in the business in agriculture. After the adoption of the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 1529/99 "On Urgent Measures to Accelerate the Reform of the Agricultural Sector" (1999) was a certain breakout in attitudes towards farming, as well as reforms in general, since the process of encouraging citizens to register private ownership of land started.

The third stage of the transformation of the agricultural sector began in 2004 and is still going. It is focused on reducing the influence of state barriers on agribusiness and intensification of agricultural production. This period is characterized by several positive changes: 1) increase in agricultural production; 2) improvement of the institute of land lease; 3) formation of the sphere of labour motivation; 4) the stimulating value of tax introduction; 5) creation of opportunities to attract investments in agricultural sector. Introduction of the Land Cadastre (the Law of Ukraine No. 3613-VI..., 2011) became the basis of these changes. Every proprietor had the right to freely leave the agricultural enterprise and freely dispose of his or her own land. In the conditions of decentralization of resources and powers, rural communities became key stakeholders in the policy of development of rural regions. Community partnership is becoming the main aspect of rural development policy instead of rigid hierarchy and ineffective state paternalism. The importance of the leader's

activity in rural communities is growing. The powers of local self-government are being increased. The development of agricultural enterprises is the result of a combination of land, material, information, and human potential, which provides production and processing of agricultural products, providing services for the needs of consumers, creating jobs and the revival of rural communities.

The tendency to increase the number of agricultural holdings, the area of farmlands and increase

their wages to employees during the period of 1990-2020 was established (Fig. 1; Table 1). Different legal forms of management are developing in the modern agricultural sector of Ukraine. Market relations and agricultural potential of the country gave impetus to creation of new agricultural formations which in functioning were integrated into the holding-type union. Modern agricultural holdings work on principles of specialization, concentration, automation, diversification with closed cycle of production.

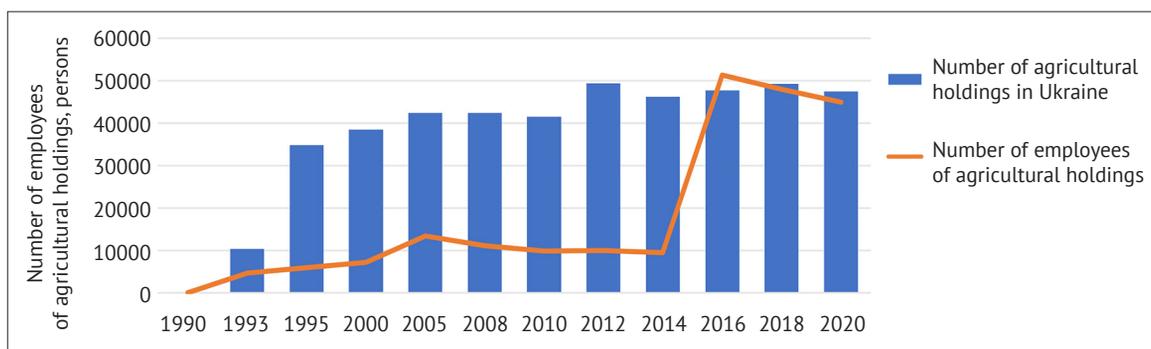


Figure 2. Number of agricultural holdings in Ukraine and number of their employees for the period 1990-2020

Table 1. Dynamics of development of farming in oblasts of Ukraine (1995-2020)

Oblasts	Stages of development of farming in Ukraine (number of agricultural holdings by the end of the period)				
	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2016	2016-2020
Vinnitsia Oblast	846	+128	+400	+296	+315
Volyn Oblast	595	-67	+226	-48	+68
Dnipropetrovsk Oblast	2,549	+478	+378	-64	+72
Donetsk Oblast	2,089	+65	-352	-233	+61
Zhytomyr Oblast	310	+191	+185	+55	+196
Zakarpattia Oblast	1,054	+400	-7	+159	-9
Zaporizhzhia Oblast	1,695	+496	+146	-54	+19
Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast	697	-65	-101	+30	+143
Kyiv Oblast	923	+299	+257	-84	+271
Kirovohrad Oblast	1,792	+424	+369	-128	+175
Luhansk Oblast	1,293	+239	-58	-73	-7
Lviv Oblast	1,186	-25	0	-238	+133
Mykolaiv Oblast	4,981	-721	+185	+110	-191
Odesa Oblast	4,095	+772	+1346	-447	-652
Poltava Oblast	1,343	+50	+134	+130	+234
Rivne Oblast	347	+148	+10	+45	+57
Sumy Oblast	956	-159	-69	+2	+91
Ternopil Oblast	753	-57	-40	+117	+51
Kharkiv Oblast	1,035	+144	+135	-118	+150
Kherson Oblast	2,783	+230	-484	-136	-144
Khmelnytskyi Oblast	522	+262	+415	+68	-106
Cherkasy Oblast	509	+204	+389	+30	+173
Chernivtsi Oblast	695	-3	+55	+93	-101
Chernihiv Oblast	575	-100	-14	+20	+175

Rural regions, where agricultural holdings were developing and functioning, received new workspaces, local budgets were being filled, and, as a result, social projects were being implemented, which helped revive agriculture, improve trade balance, and increase incomes of the rural population. During the study, it was noted that the system of mutually beneficial economic relations in agro-industrial complex is gradually improving in agricultural holdings, increasing financial interest of employees aimed at improvement of manufacturing, increasing of its quality and profitability of production, economic mechanism of economic management is introduced.

According to L. Simkiv *et al.* (2021), the agricultural sector of Ukraine during the Soviet period was oriented towards a stable increase in production to meet the dietary needs of other Soviet republics. However, the earlier elements of the functioning of agricultural sector and its structure of the organization have changed significantly, which has influenced the development of rural regions under the conditions of transition to market economy and restructuring of the social and political regime. In the 20th century, the economic development of the world's advanced countries, driven by farming, provided a significant contribution to poverty reduction and the transformation of these countries into industrial developed countries (Simkiv *et al.*, 2021). The results of this study confirm the data that under existing conditions, the tendency towards large concentration of capital, land, and advanced technologies in agricultural sector is being revived. In Ukraine, the largest agricultural holdings have built a leadership model on the domestic market of production and supply of agricultural products and on the world market.

The comprehensive study of literature and regulatory documents showed that after Ukraine gained independence, communities of rural regions were met with reorganization of Soviet communal farms. Farming was considered as an alternative to the sharing of agricultural land, and economic grounds for the formation of a system of agricultural enterprises were created. According to O. Mulka *et al.* (2020), at the end of 1990s, the activity of communal farms was a catalyst of the crisis economic situation, and the leaders of these communal farms were not ready for efficient conduct of matters. Their financial indicators were positive mainly in paper form, because the loan debt was stable, which was constantly elongated or written off. These findings coincide with the results of the presented study, as the formation and development of new forms of economic activity in the agro-industrial complex of Ukraine relates to transition of a part of the land of a public property in the private by the state privatization through transfer to collective ownership and sharing between employees.

According to E. Nicholls *et al.* (2020), the important goal of the activities of agricultural holdings is to obtain profit – economic effect, and for the society – provision of the benefits of local community. Promoting

the revision of local taxation as the main form of financial resource mobilization concerns the development of agricultural holdings and the improvement of agricultural production efficiency on their basis. The creation of agricultural holdings is a certain element of output of agricultural production from the crisis by means of creation of modern competitive agro-industrial complex, which is characterized by the following features: production of high-quality competitive products; application of scientific and technical achievements, new agricultural resources and technological systems in production; development of agricultural market infrastructure; rational usage of land, with introduction of resource saving and restoration technologies; elevated level of environmental safety. Therefore, the current state of economic development is set by several specific requirements for agricultural holdings. The authors of the presented study agree with this statement, because along with the restoration of resource potential, optimization of production structure, territorial allocation, familiarization of investment, they should focus their attention on the formation of labour potential of enterprises, restoration of social infrastructure and realization of social programs.

I. Irtyshcheva *et al.* (2021) consider that the development of agricultural holdings is a factor of revival of agricultural production and a model of provision of food for the population of Ukraine at the level of established norms of nutrition, supply of industry with raw materials, growth of labour employment of rural people, growth of their wages, improvement of wellness and prosperity, and social development of rural regions. The practice of forming agricultural holdings in agricultural sector of Ukraine indicate that it is a long and laborious process. At the same time, N. Popadynets *et al.* (2020) believe that the advantages of such farming are found by combining the function of ownership, labour, and management in one person, which stimulates added impulse to efficient agricultural production. Holding-type companies are full-scale and equal manufacturers of agricultural products; they occupy a leading place in the Ukrainian food market. Conditions and time are necessary for their formation and development, they depend to a large extent on the following factors: improvement of financial, credit and taxation policy; creation of appropriate land legislation; formation of appropriate infrastructure of services, agricultural service, processing and sale of products; state support of holding companies in creation of production facilities; conducting special training events based on secondary and higher educational institutions and promoting the development of integrated structures in mass media (Khodakivska & Mohylno, 2020).

In the activities of agricultural holdings, the main task is to consolidate long-term, stable and sustainable production, organizational, economic, technological and other types of connections that ensure maximum

reduction of products losses in the process of transition from one sphere to another, well-coordinated functioning of the remanufacturing link and stable provision of food facility (Hou *et al.*, 2017). M. Bil *et al.* (2021) argue that the aim of creation of agricultural holdings are the following: provision of raw materials of own production, since the organization of own production is less expensive in conditions of imperfect market, compared to operations on free market; fixing on the market of land lease in expectation of the moratorium annulment; reduction of property risks; control over processes of agricultural production; expansion of sales markets for products of own production; preferential tax treatment; effective assets management of local self-government along with cooperative property. The authors of this study agree with the opinion of M. Bil *et al.* (2021) regarding the purpose of formulating an agricultural holding. It was established that the goal of the agricultural holding formation is to supply the coordinated activity of all legal economic structures involved in organizational technological cycle of production of certain types of final products; economic and social interest of each partner in obtaining a high final result; qualitative organization of the agrarian market. N. Key (2019) believe that in comparison with small agricultural enterprises, agricultural holdings have better opportunities to attract investments, experienced and skilled staff, developed infrastructure and ability to diversify risks.

The analysis of literature allowed making the conclusion that the transition of agricultural sector to market economy in the system of agricultural enterprises development is a significant prospect for the development of agricultural production in Ukraine. The functioning and effective production management is impossible without solving acute social issues, cutting social tension, and establishing partnership relations between farms and territories they are located at. The degree of scientific and practical elaboration of social aspects of change and transformation of agricultural production will determine the development of the economy of agriculture sector. The functioning of farms and agricultural enterprises that have the leading role in solving provisions issues in the state, occupy one of the important positions of economic activity in the effective flow of the agricultural sector. The attractiveness of agricultural sector in the view of investment helps to attract significant financial resources to agricultural production, which actively introduces innovative technologies and quality management systems, improves the qualification of employees, improves the management system of agricultural enterprises.

The importance of rural communities' development is also related to Ukraine's performance of its obligations to harmonize the current legislation of Ukraine and the European Union. The important principles of the state policy implementation should be the reduction of the level of economic development division in

the territories and social provision of the population. In addition, the possibilities of territorial communities and local self-government bodies to solve the issues should be established, related to socio-economic development and improvement of property inter-budgetary relations independently. Opening new possibilities for rural community and local governments, the creation of preconditions for the suspension of the social sector decline, reducing the intensity of the process of depopulation, promoting the agricultural production growth, increasing the employment of the population in the agricultural sector – all of this can ensure the development of holding structures in agricultural sector. In conditions of change of the rustic lifestyle and production relations, which will ease the formation of an employee interested in the results of his/her work, the solution of economic issues and revival of rural regions will be ensured. The promotion of the ability of rural people to provide adequate employment, income level, appropriate household and social and cultural services can be ensured by the creation of integrated structures and the growth of agro-industrial production, which determine the level of development of rural social sphere and social wellness of rural people. The provision of material benefits to the population: food, industrial goods, services, and conditions that meet certain needs of people and meet their interests depends on the speed and scale of agricultural production growth.

Consequently, generalizing the results of the research, it is concluded that in Ukraine there are certain consequences of functioning of agricultural holdings: the increase of competition on the market of land lease and increase of the size of rent; the promotion of investment attraction into agricultural sector; the growth of productivity and volume of production; the usage of skilled staff; the usage of resources in development of the village; the growth of competitiveness of agricultural production; the growth of innovation processes in agricultural sector; growth of revenues to local budgets. By the aid of the historical transformation of the established forms of economic activity which existed before 1990s, insistence and hardworking of small farms owners and large agricultural holdings, the agricultural sector of Ukraine became a locomotive of the national economy. And it concerns not only territorial level, but also the country in general, because it has the largest crop and volume of increasing of agricultural exports annually.

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of detailed analysis of formation of agricultural holdings and coordination of interests of their participants, it was possible to determine that agricultural holdings allow restoring the economic relations between economic entities (structural-organizational aspect), to explicit distribute functions of financial-economic activity (functional aspect), to increase incomes

and reduce expenses on production and sale of products by tools of building a full production cycle (economic aspect), to provide equalization of incomes of employees of all participants of integration structure, to manage the social conflicts between agricultural and industrial staff, and to increase motivation to increasing of the productivity (social-psychological aspect). In addition, the expansion of processes based on creation of various agro-industrial formations allows solving the following issues: the provision of the population with the necessary final products; the coordination of business activity of the members of the association; the protection of common property interests, their financing and crediting; the carrying out marketing researches on production and delivery of the final product to the final consumer; the ensuring stronger competitive positions in the food market. The most stable are the agro-industrial associations, which create a closed cycle "production-processing-realization" that allow them to restore inter-branch price imbalance, to overcome monopoly of industrial structures and their dictates in the formation of prices for raw materials and to strengthen cooperation and coordination of the activity of structural units.

The functioning of agricultural holdings is a model of restoration of agricultural production and provision of food wellness of the population of Ukraine at the level of sustainable consumption standards, the provision of industry with raw materials, the increase of employment opportunities of people living in the village, the increase of their wages and incomes, and social development of the territory of rural region. Generalization of the above facts of functioning of agricultural holdings allows establishing the main competitive advantages (the growth of budget revenues, creation of new jobs and implementation of public programs). In summary, creation of agricultural holdings has generated favourable starting conditions in the regions for revival of agricultural production, its transfer to intensive way of management, the beginning and active development of entrepreneurship and renovation of social sphere of infrastructure. The main vectors for further research on this subject are the investigation of the activity of agricultural holdings and their concrete results that can become an effective tool for building the model of the future development of agro-industrial complex.

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Оцінка впливу діяльності сільськогосподарських підприємств на економічний розвиток регіонів України в період з 1990 по 2020 роки

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Анотація. Актуальність досліджуваної теми зумовлена занепокоєнням суспільства, адже нині в Україні активно впроваджується термін «ринок землі», завдяки чому монополюю привласнюється і перерозподіляється рента з метою збагачення кількох потужних землевласників і землекористувачів, які вже контролюють більше половини сільськогосподарських угідь України. Метою даної роботи є здійснення об'єктивного аналізу економічних процесів та висвітлення регіонального розвитку територій України, на яких функціонують сільськогосподарські підприємства та фермерські господарства. Провідними методами дослідження були діалектичний метод пізнання економічних явищ з розглядом в історико-економічному аспекті та абстрактно-логічний метод, який покладено в основу формування пропозицій і висновків. Показано, що агрохолдинги не тільки підтримують сформовану в економіці соціальну сферу, а й можуть реалізовувати програми, орієнтовані на розвиток найманих працівників та зростання їх соціальної захищеності. Практична цінність дослідження обумовлена також тим, що в інноваційних технологіях в аграрному секторі залучаються прогресивні принципи управління, господарювання та перенесення частини соціальних благ, доступних населенню міст, на село, які сприяють економічному розвитку громад, що сприяє підвищенню рівня добробуту населення. Результати дослідження свідчать, що в Україні існують передумови для розвитку агробізнесу. Зокрема, достатність земельних ресурсів; сформовано необхідну виробничу інфраструктуру та соціальну сферу; організовано виробництво високоефективної сільськогосподарської техніки та обладнання для цільового виробництва в різних едафокліматичних умовах, про що свідчить щорічне зростання кількості фермерських господарств у більшості регіонів України. Функціонування фермерських господарств є альтернативною можливістю паювання земель сільськогосподарського призначення, що сприяло створенню економічного підґрунтя для системи сільськогосподарських підприємств

Ключові слова: земля, фермерське господарство, регіональний розвиток, холдинг, економічні відносини