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RESOURCE POTENTIAL OF UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

The aim of the article. The article defines its main goal as the assessment of the resource potential of agricultural sector of Ukraine and description the opportunities of its usage in achieving competitive advantages of the state on foreign markets.

The results of the analysis. During the research it was established that the resource potential of agricultural sector of Ukraine provides conditions for formation of powerful competitive advantages in world markets. In the period of exacerbation of the global food crisis the prospects of Ukraine become apparent. However, it has been found out that the state does not use its opportunities and, moreover, turns into an import-dependent country. Transformation processes that began in the village after gaining Ukraine's independence, had to withdraw the agrarian economy to a qualitatively new level of development, however, led to the decline of the industry. Land as the main national wealth turned out to be in the hands of those who were unable to take care of it, and is rapidly losing its value. Most newly formed agricultural farms work on short-term lease that does not induce them to make efforts for the implementation of land improvements, but only provokes predatory exploitation of the soil. The problem is exacerbated due to lack of effective legal base and state control over business activities in rural areas. At the same time, there is no sense to speak about the state support, which is missing for small structures are at the disposal to close to power managers of agricultural holdings, which puts the market participants in unequal conditions of competition. The results of investigation confirmed that several of agricultural holdings, which operate in the state procure more than half of the equipment and, thus, have a higher level of productivity. Small companies have no funds for it, and this undermines their competitive position, and gives them neither the access to world markets, nor the opportunity but further development.

Conclusions and directions of further researches. The analysis gives reasons for the conclusion about the ineffective usage of the resource potential of Ukraine's agrarian sector, its actual neglect which is the consequence of unsystematic character and incoherence of define stages of agrarian reforms and can lead to a serious social, economic and ecological crisis. The awareness of this predetermines the necessity of searching the ways of urgent solution of the problems. The first steps in this direction are the following: the improvement of the legal field of agrarian reforms, simplification of administrative procedures of running business, fighting corruption and building a qualitatively new system of state regulation of distribution and use of productive resources of the agrarian sector. It has been indicated that the main task of the current stage of reforms should be the creation of optimal conditions for a substantial increase in social investment and productive capacity of the earth, its transformation into an independent factor of economic growth. The fulfillment of this task must be insured by the comprehensive application of instrument of economic and administrative methods of management that should be implemented as a part of general economic reform, and in searching the balance between which there are prospects for further research.

Keywords: agriculture, resource potential, agrarian reform, agricultural production, labour resources.

Problem statement. One of the main problems of modern society consists in product provision for population. The problem actuality appears within situation, when the population size is growing simultaneously with decreasing of cultivable lands. Thus, in 1990 the world's population was 5,26 billion people, in 2009 – 6,6 billion, and till 2050 this figure will

expected to reach 9,3 billion. At the same time, due to the deterioration of the environment, rapid industrial and real estate market, world loss 24,5-29,5 million hectares of farmlands [1, p. 5]. Nowadays the world is worried about the problem of hunger. According to the UN, 1,2 billion people are suffering from chronic malnutrition [2] that is almost the fifth part of the world's population. FAO specialists found out that in order to provide the normal life for the next thirty years, the humanity will have to increase food production by 70%. But to their minds, only three countries – Russia, Ukraine and Argentina have the potential for this [3].

Achieving of this goal has to be provided by the above mentioned countries for up to 90% owing to the productivity improvement, and to 10% – through bringing of the additional resources into production [4]. The above shows that these countries actually are able to gain decent positions in the international community and can make a significant contribution to solve global problems. However, the available potential is not used by them. For example, according to UN experts, Ukraine, which has the potential to feed 300 million people per year [5, p. 10], is not able to provide even its own forty-five million people with all necessary goods. One may suppose that the problem root consists not in the lack of potential, but in its use. This demonstrates the need to implement reforms in the agricultural sector of Ukrainian economy.

The analysis of the recent research and publications. Agricultural sector resource potential has complicated and various problems and attracts the attention of many Ukrainian scholars. Significant attention is paid to the research on various aspects of land use in Ukraine in the V. Mesel – Veseliak's [26], P. Sabluk's [2], I. Shuvar's [8], M. Fedorov's [26] works. Problems to create production technical and technological bases are shown in the works of O. Artemenko [19], O. Vyshnevskaya [24], O. Varchenko [1], E. Libanova [26], V. Moshko [6]. O. Hrishnova focused attention on resolving the complex issues of workforce development. However, there are basically no complex publications in this area, and most problematic aspects to use village resource potential remain unresolved. The above mentioned facts form the urgency of the research topic, defines its content and purpose.

The aim of the article is the analysis and use of the resource potential in the Ukrainian agricultural sector and to outline ways to solve existing problems.

Main material. Agrarian field is recognized a priority sector of the Ukrainian national economy. The main components of its potential are the most fertile humus soils in the world with area 65% of the state territory [6, p. 15], that is from 8 to 15% of world black soil reserves [7, p. 4-8] according to various estimations. However, the transformational processes that occurred in the independent Ukraine, and were accompanied with fundamental changes in rural areas, had a significant impact on the efficiency of land use and the country's resource potential state. Inconsistent, unsystematic and contradictory individual stages of reform, which was carried out without a proper legal framework and with absence of economic and psychological training, led to the technological infrastructure destruction in rural areas, as well as the decline in agricultural production and the agriculture decreasing in creating GDP from 26% in 1990 to 8,9 % – in 2012. Having a strong resource base, the country has become an importer of berries, meat, milk, fruits, sugar, buckwheat, and even potatoes. The imported goods share in the consumption of fruits, berries, grapes reaches 61,4%, meat and meat products – 23,5% at 30% thresholds rate [9, p. 28]. The average Ukrainian consumer's ration lacks 35% of meat and meat products in comparison with standard indicators of consumption, 45% of milk and dairy products, 10% of vegetables and melons, 56% of fruits, berries, grapes, 17% of fish and fish products. At the same time, the consumption of bread and cereal products

exceeds the norm by 10,2%, potatoes – by 4%, sunflower oil – by 13,8%. The Ukrainians provide daily need in calories for themselves through including economically affordable crop production to their ration, but they don't receive vitally important animal protein. To a large extent it is connected with the practical decline in the state of livestock industry and the necessity to buy expensive imported products, which are not affordable for most people.

Even worse situation is observed in the countryside. The peasant's daily diet includes 1,2 times higher sugar consumption, than the urban population consumption, bread and cereal products – by 1,3 times, potatoes – by 1,5 times, but the consumption of meat is 18,9% less, fish and fish products – by 5,9%, fruits, berries, nuts and grapes – 40,5% [10]. This situation is caused by the widespread poverty in rural areas. Over 36% of village inhabitants are behind the poverty limit, which is 15 points higher than in the city. It is clear that such conditions encourage the most active farmers to realize their potential outside the village. It leads to the loss of population in many rural areas and their degradation. Because of the rural inhabitants prolonged negative motivational demographic behavior for the whole Ukraine's independence period approximately 28 villages disappeared every year, 227 villages are identified as uninhabited, 6163 – retrogressive [11; 12, p. 162]. A special anxiety is caused by the fact of rural population impressive aging. During 1979-2013 the proportion of people aged between 0 and 15 in the total number of rural population decreased from 23,8 [13, p. 53] to 17,3% [14, p. 17], and their total number per 1000 people of working-age has decreased by 1,6 times. The reduction of working and under-working age people creates threats to reproduce village labor potential for a long time, and warns about agricultural sector development problems.

A painful issue for Ukraine is the quality of human resources in the rural areas. The analysis of the agricultural workers' educational level showed a low proportion of qualified specialists, who are able to solve complex production issues, as well as negative trends in the process. About 52% of employed workers in the agricultural sector are people without special training [15], and only 13,7% are workers with higher education [16, p. 64]. Nowadays 40% of Ukrainian agricultural enterprises have problems with staff [17], and 15% of companies are fully provided with qualified workforce. Their share consists in 40% of industry gross domestic product [18].

The problem is not the lack of specialized educational institutions, but the attitude of the rural youth towards education and work in the countryside. That small part of young people who decided to stay in the country, sees no need to get education; and the other part of youth who has got education, either stays to live in the city, or after a short-term work at the agricultural enterprises, becomes disappointed in the working conditions and salary, resign from work and moves to other manufacturing areas.

Dangerous processes of reduction in the working potential quantitative and qualitative characteristics in rural areas have led to low labour efficiency in agriculture (Table 1).

The data in Table 1 confirm the trend of labour productivity growth in the agricultural sector during 2007-2011 and its decline in the last analyzed year. One can also notice the law of labor resources marginal productivity diminishing, according to which an increase in the number of variables under other unchanged conditions is effective to a certain extent, beyond which the marginal product begins to decline. The received results show that in the last period the labor marginal product reached its peak in 2011 and then declined significantly. Since the marginal product reduction is accompanied by the decrease of the average product (labour productivity), we can state a further reduction in gross and average product under given conditions. Regarding the profitability of agricultural labor, sustainable growth rate is obvious; however these trends are the result of inflation processes impact.

Table 1 – Labour efficiency in Ukrainian agriculture (years 2000-2012)

Years	Gross agricultural output, mln UAH	Average number of employees, thous. pers.	Net income (loss) in industry, mln UAH	Labour productivity, thous. UAH / person	The marginal product of labour, mln UAH	Profit per employee, thous. UAH
2000	151022	4334,1	–	34,8	–	–
2001	166427	4117,4	–	40,4	-71,1	–
2002	168424	4107,0	–	41,0	-192,0	–
2003	149900	4079,1	–	36,7	663,9	–
2004	179427	3944,6	–	45,5	-219,5	–
2005	179606	3986,3	–	45,1	4,3	–
2006	184096	3633,8	2445,4	50,7	-12,7	0,67
2007	172130	3468,1	6854,1	49,6	72,2	1,98
2008	201564	3300,1	5789,2	61,1	-175,2	1,75
2009	197936	3131,0	7584,8	63,2	21,5	2,42
2010	194887	3094,5	17170,5	63,0	83,5	5,55
2011	233696	3393,8	25341,3	68,9	129,7	7,47
2012	223255	3492,4	26787,2	63,9	-105,9	7,67

In general, the growth of labour productivity in agriculture that has been taking place in recent years is caused by active spread of agricultural holdings in our country, which possess rather high degrees of production processes mechanization and which have the capacity to train its own experts. Small companies have no money for it, and it undermines their competitive positions and prevents from coming to world markets. The research results show that namely agricultural holdings purchase 55% of equipment, and are characterized by the highest technical and technological levels among agribusiness entities [19, p. 396]. The currently functioning model of agricultural economy is industrial at best concerning large business sector, and obviously pre-industrial in relation to multi-million sector of small farms.

Today, the Ukrainian agriculture comprises 1,3% of assets in comparison with 25% in 1996 and 11,6% – in 2000, and despite the fact that the industry contribution to create added value is 8,9% (Table 2). The amount of capital equipment in one hectare farmland during twelve years was increased by only 4% in dollar terms, and the employees' capital endowment – by 19,3%.

Despite the critical technical and technological base of agricultural production in Ukraine, we should note that the measures for its updating are performed very slowly. Relatively successful was only the year 2012; the annual cost of main assets was increased by 14% during this period and the cost of machinery and equipment, put into operation, was 169% higher than the cost of released labour means from the production. However, a significant improvement of the enterprises material base has not made yet, because large part of technology acquired by them, has already been used in the production, and only the equipment that was impossible to repair was subjected to be discarded. The experts say, in order to reproduce technical means, taking into account the implementation of innovative and investment development models in Ukrainian agricultural sector, they must be annually updated by 18-20% [26, p. 54].

Table 2 – Main assets in Ukrainian agriculture (years 2000-2012),
(formed and calculated according to data [20; 21; 22, p. 7-8; 23, p. 2; 25, p. 16; 25, p. 344])

Years	Share of agriculture in gross added value, %	Average annual value of fixed assets, millions of dollars	The share of agriculture in fixed assets in the economy, %	Agricultural area, million ha	Average annual number of employees, millions.	Amount of capital equipment of one hectare of agricultural land, dollars	Capital endowment of labour, dol. pers.
2000	16,7	17917	11,6	43,40	4,33	412,8	3137,9
2001	16,2	17391	10,2	43,04	4,12	404,1	4221,1
2002	14,5	16171	8,9	41,80	4,10	386,9	3944,1
2003	12,0	14446	7,6	41,79	4,08	345,7	3540,7
2004	11,7	13978	6,6	41,77	3,97	334,6	3520,9
2005	10,3	14625	6,0	41,76	3,99	350,2	3665,4
2006	8,4	14953	4,8	41,72	3,63	358,4	4119,3
2007	7,2	15639	3,9	41,68	3,47	375,2	4506,9
2008	7,4	18194	3,0	41,65	3,30	436,8	5513,3
2009	7,8	13246	2,6	41,63	3,13	318,2	4231,9
2010	7,9	14281	1,9	41,58	3,09	343,5	4721,7
2011	9,6	14810	2,7	41,56	3,39	356,4	4368,7
2012	8,9	17226	1,3	41,56	3,49	414,5	4935,8

Our studies have shown the inefficient use of the resource potential in Ukrainian agricultural sector, and its actual neglect. It does not mean that there are no people who are able to develop agricultural production in this country. The problem consists in the unsystematic and inconsistent individual stages of agrarian reforms. As a result of the transformational processes in the rural areas collective farms were reorganized into agricultural farm unities of market type, based on private property. However it turned out to be problematic to ensure the emergence of an effective landowner. Most owners of land shares are retired farmers who do not have the physical or financial ability to handle them. They are unable to exercise their ownership through market transactions of sale and mortgages because such agreements implementation is freezing. The only way for them under such circumstances is to rent. However, an average peasant does not get tangible benefits from the lease of land, as the average rental payment for 1 hectare of agricultural land in Ukraine is around 470 UAH. Moreover, the bigger part of this sum (about 75%) is paid to the owners in natural form, i.e. agricultural production, prices for which are set at a level that far exceeds the market level.

The agricultural holdings are the major tenants of lands. Nowadays there are about 60 agricultural holdings in the state, which have several hundred thousand hectares of land. These structures together control 5 million hectares of land in Ukraine. Some agricultural holdings conclude contracts to lease land simultaneously with 4-5 thousands of peasants. Today many researchers talk about great advantages of big business. They justify their positions with the world experience, where several large farms produce the lion's share of agricultural products and provide states competitive advantages in the world food markets.

However, they overlook the fact that the market mechanisms have not been fully formed in Ukraine yet. It brings great social, environmental and economic threat in the absence of an effective legal framework and state control.

Land use in the way that the Ukrainian agricultural holdings do, leads to the complete exhaustion, loss of fertility. The farmers do not wish to enter into long-term leases because of low rent. That is why the companies, that use the lands, do not make expenditures to the lands quality improvement, because they do not know whether they will get benefit from it. Then the irreversible processes of soil degradation are going on. According to experts' estimates the annual loss of fertile lands is up to 100 thousand hectares [27, p. 9] and their continued use in active cultivation causes damage to the state in the amount of 75 billion UAH per year [28].

Significant influence on development of agrarian business is provided by the environment in which it functions. In 2013 the Foundation "Effective management", supported by the World Economic Forum, conducted entrepreneurs' survey and found, that the most serious problems that hinder the development of agribusiness in Ukraine, is the unstable political situation, burdensome licensing system, corruption, etc. [29, p. 64].

Therefore, we suppose that the state has to make all efforts to eliminate all these problems. Moreover, now as never before, the newly formed government has had great interest in it. Sustainable request for changes manifested by society has to make positive impact to solve the problem.

The level of Ukrainian economic development, revival of its economic power in the global society is mostly determined by the agricultural sector progressive development with high resource potential. However, the current state of the Ukrainian economy agrarian sector does not allow not only to provide the state with significant competitive advantages in the world market, but also to solve the main problems of the domestic food market functioning. The available potential is not actually implemented. It is obvious that the problems of the branch development are caused not only by limited production factors, but by the absence of the state regulation integral system concerning their distribution and use. The process to form the market of production resources in Ukraine is slow and is not characterized by a high socio-economic efficiency, owing to the peculiarities of the transition period, inefficiency of the legal framework and population biased attitude to the private property formation and the market relations introduction in rural areas.

The solution of these problems should be taken by the state. Public policy in the agricultural sphere should be based on new approaches in decision-making concerning the land resources rational use and protection, creation of optimal conditions for a social substantial increase, land investment and productive potential, its transformation into an independent factor of economic growth. The state can achieve this goal by using both economic (involving the use of incentives) and administrative methods (based on the power of authority, discipline, responsibility), which would be realized in the overall economic reform.

Conclusion and directions of further researches. It has been indicated that the main task of the current reforms is to create optimal conditions for a substantial increase in social investment and productive capacity of the land, its transformation into an independent factor of economic growth. The fulfillment of this task must be insured by the comprehensive application of economic and administrative management methods. It should be implemented as a part of general economic reform, and prospects for further research consist in searching of the balance between.

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Ресурсний потенціал аграрного сектора України та його використання

Здійснено оцінку ресурсного потенціалу аграрного сектора України та визначено можливості його використання у досягненні конкурентних переваг держави на зовнішніх ринках і в розв'язанні першочергових глобальних проблем. Проведено моніторинг стану й використання землі, праці і капіталу агросфери та висвітлено актуальні сучасні проблеми їх охорони і збереження. Обґрунтовано необхідність і засоби посилення державного впливу на подальший розвиток галузі.

Ключові слова: аграрний сектор, ресурсний потенціал, аграрна реформа, аграрне виробництво, трудові ресурси.

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Ресурсный потенциал аграрного сектора Украины и его использование

Осуществлена оценка ресурсного потенциала аграрного сектора Украины и определены возможности его использования в достижении конкурентных преимуществ государства на внешних рынках и в решении первоочередных глобальных проблем. Проведен мониторинг состояния и использования земли, труда и капитала агросферы и освещены актуальные современные проблемы их охраны и сохранения. Обоснована необходимость и средства усиления государственного влияния на дальнейшее развитие отрасли.

Ключевые слова: аграрный сектор, ресурсный потенциал, аграрная реформа, аграрное производство, трудовые ресурсы.

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