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### **PUBLIC POLICY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*This research aims to consider the main components of the concept of sustainable development, as well as to identify the main directions of public policy in the agrarian sector in a context of sustainable development. Taking the above mentioned into consideration, public policy in the agricultural sector in the context of sustainable development aims at simultaneously achieving both food and environmental sustainability and security, which, in turn, serves as a guarantee of long-term positive dynamics of economic development. Environmental issues include the negative consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the inefficient use of agricultural land, the imperfection of legislation on state environmental supervision, etc. That is why the main task of public policy in the environmental field – at the present stage - is prevention of further environmental pollution and minimization of negative environmental impact, technological renewal of the agricultural sector, as well as stable and balanced use of natural resources, creation of conditions for transition to their restoration. Public policy in the agricultural sector in a context of sustainable development should be based on the consideration of global, national, regional and local factors. At the same time, an important guarantee of the success of sustainable development is the pursuit of economic activity, which will maintain a balance between social needs, environmental costs and economic benefits. For this purpose Ukraine should develop a national plan for implementing the ideas of sustainable development of the agricultural sector as an integral part of the development of the national economy. And a great significance in this case can play a positive foreign experience, because for the last period of time, the concept of sustainable development is one of the priorities in policy Western economies.*

*Key words: development of agricultural sector, public policy, formation of sustainable development, agricultural sector.*

#### **Т. П. Паламарчук. Державна політика в аграрному секторі в умовах сталого розвитку**

*Аграрний сектор традиційно був одним із ключових сегментів економіки України. Дане дослідження має на меті розглянути основні компоненти концепції сталого розвитку, а також визначити основні напрями державної політики в аграрному секторі в умовах сталого розвитку. Державна політика в аграрному секторі в умовах сталого розвитку має на меті одночасно досягнення як продовольчої, так і екологічної стійкості та безпеки, що, у свою чергу, є гарантією довгострокової позитивної динаміки економічного розвитку. Глибина та універсальність концепції сталого розвитку в галузі сільського господарства зумовлює необхідність враховувати, коли вона реалізує сукупність факторів на глобальному, національному, а також регіональному та місцевому рівнях. Концепція сталого розвитку в аграрному секторі на національному рівні передбачає розгляд трьох взаємопов'язаних компонентів державної політики: економічної, соціальної та екологічної. Головним завданням державної політики в галузі навколишнього середовища – на сучасному етапі – є запобігання подальшого забруднення навколишнього середовища та мінімізація негативного впливу на навколишнє середовище, технологічне оновлення сільськогосподарського сектору, а також стабільне та збалансоване використання природних ресурсів, створення умов для переходу до їх відновлення. Важливими є також регіональний та місцевий рівні реалізації концепції сталого розвитку в аграрному секторі. Зокрема,*

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*пріоритети сільськогосподарського сектору та фінансові джерела їх реалізації визначаються на регіональному рівні. У той же час це потребує започаткування процесу підвищення обізнаності про ключову роль продовольства та сільського господарства до основних національних цілей сталого розвитку, а також започаткування трансформації, якою володіють та керують національні уряди та їхні партнери та ключові зацікавлені сторони. Державна політика в аграрному секторі в умовах сталого розвитку повинна базуватися на врахуванні глобальних, національних, регіональних та локальних факторів. У той же час важливою гарантією успіху сталого розвитку є здійснення економічної діяльності, яка дозволить підтримувати баланс між соціальними потребами, екологічними витратами та економічними вигодами.*

*Ключові слова: розвиток аграрного сектору, державна політика, формування сталого розвитку, аграрний сектор.*

**Introduction and problem statement.** The agricultural sector has traditionally been one of the key segments of the Ukrainian economy. In recent years, there has been a gradual recovery of agriculture from a protracted crisis and actually, it was from the 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, there is still a large number of issues that require significant efforts both public authorities and civil society in general.

The Strategy of sustainable development “Ukraine-2020” identifies providing of mechanisms for sustainable development of agriculture as one of the priority directions of the country's development. The concept of sustainable development, that envisages meeting the needs of the present-day, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, is relatively new in world economic thought [4, p. 174]. The development and implementation of sustainable development ideas has replaced the theory of economic growth and has become relevant in the Western economies in the 1970s, without losing its significance to this day.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The issues of the sustainable development of the agricultural sector were studied by foreign scientists R. Nelson, L. Brown, N. Carter, S. Winter and others. In the national historiography on this topic, the papers of B. Danylyshyn, P. Gaidutskyi, O. Shubravska, V. Yurchyshin are devoted. However, despite a wide range of publications devoted to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in domestic and foreign historiography, this issue needs further study.

**The aim of the article.** This research aims to consider the main components of the concept of sustainable development, as well as to identify the main directions of public policy in the agrarian sector in a context of sustainable development.

**Presentation of the material.** In recent years, the agricultural sector has become the engine of the Ukrainian economy. Almost 40 percent of Ukrainian exports are agricultural and food products. The agricultural sector has become both, an important source of foreign exchange and a major employer for the rural population. This development goes hand in hand with the development of large corporate export-oriented enterprises, also known as agroholdings, which are often associated with detrimental societal effects such as dispossession and distributional injustice in rural areas. As a result, agriculture is increasingly becoming the focus of public attention. In addition, there is an ongoing debate about agricultural land market, the exploitation of rural resources and infrastructure, and the negative environmental impact of intensive soil cultivation without any adequate compensation from agricultural enterprises for rural development.

Almost all experience of using natural resources by human being, including in the agriculture field, has always been based on the underestimation of the need to preserve the environment, ignoring the idea of ensuring the recovery of consumed natural resources. However, the development of industrial potential in combination with the advent of advanced technologies has shown the obvious relationship and interdependence between environmental conservation and economic growth, since the barbaric exploitation of the natural potential of agricultural territories can potentially lead to environmental

disasters and, consequently, huge losses both for the world economy and for the economies of separate countries. Thus, the concept of sustainable development is connected, first of all, with its ecological component [3].

Taking the above mentioned into consideration, public policy in the agricultural sector in the context of sustainable development aims at simultaneously achieving both food and environmental sustainability and security, which, in turn, serves as a guarantee of long-term positive dynamics of economic development.

The depth and versatility of sustainable development concept in the field of agriculture makes it necessary to take into account when it implements a set of factors at global, national, as well as regional and local levels. And global factors are the most difficult to regulate. These include climate change, stability on the geopolitical map of the world, world experience in the development and implementation of agrotechnologies oriented to the needs of nature conservation, etc. The implementation of the sustainable development of the agricultural sector at this level requires close cooperation at the interstate level through the conclusion of international treaties, as well as participation in the activities of international organizations.

The concept of sustainable development in the agrarian sector at the national level involves the consideration of three interrelated components in the public policy: economic, social and environmental. The economic component is based on stimulating the use of economic innovations, promoting the development of new technologies, taking steps to reduce unemployment, etc. At the same time, the economic component in the domestic agricultural sector, as a rule, acts as a priority. This is due to a shift in the background of social and environmental issues in the context of weak infrastructure development, low level of material and technical base, wear deprivation of basic productive assets, etc. [2, p. 35].

However, there is no doubt that social and environmental factors should not be neglected either. In particular, social factors such as demographic crisis, unemployment, low living standards, low fertility, etc. have a negative impact on the sustainable development of the agricultural sector. That is why the social component of public policy in the context of sustainable development must include, first of all, raising the level and quality of life of peasants, the conditions of their work, as well as stabilisation of demographic and migration processes [3].

Environmental issues include the negative consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the inefficient use of agricultural land, the imperfection of legislation on state environmental supervision, etc. [5]. That is why the main task of public policy in the environmental field – at the present stage – is prevention of further environmental pollution and minimization of negative environmental impact, technological renewal of the agricultural sector, as well as stable and balanced use of natural resources, creation of conditions for transition to their restoration.

Regional and local levels of implementation of sustainable development concept in the agricultural sector are important as well. In particular, the priorities of the agricultural sector and the financial sources of their implementation are determined at the regional level. At the local level, the mechanism of partnership of local self-government bodies with agricultural and industrial enterprises of all forms of ownership is implemented, as well as the condition of local agro-systems [2, p. 33].

It should also be noted that the transformation of the agricultural sector on the basis of sustainable development is possible only if active measures are taken on financial incentives for the regions. This will help to increase the volumes of agricultural products production, as well as promote the rational use, reproduction and protection of natural resources [1, p. 108].

With the sustainable development goals it is possible to identify an ambitious and comprehensive new framework for sustainable development adopted by all countries, and here to guide countries for the next decades. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has the potential to change our and,

even more, our children's and grandchildren's lives to the better [6]. It is the historical opportunity for countries to embrace sustainable development in a comprehensive and integrated way. What is needed now is political will and forceful action towards a transformational change at country level.

**Conclusions.** Considering all the factors which were discussed, it's clear to conclude that governments, businesses, scientists and civil society groups must focus attention on the source of our food security. All these groups must work together to enable the many millions of farm families, especially smallholders, to grow more crops sustainably through effective markets, more collaborative research and committed knowledge sharing. A broad-based, knowledge-centred approach to agricultural development is needed. The approach starts with focusing on farmers and the tools and information they need to steward land, grow crops, bring in their harvest and then get it to market. While modern agricultural technologies and management approaches have doubled the production of world food calories over the past half-century, many smallholder farmers struggle to achieve even the most basic level of subsistence. New investments, incentives and innovations are needed to achieve greater sustainability, while delivering increased agricultural production. These benefits must be made available to all farmers, recognising their role as guardians of our shared environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems. There is a need for a radical shift in thinking which places the farmer at the centre of sound and sustainable agricultural practices. This approach – delivering productivity and sustainability – must also lead to a more equitable and efficient production system. Combined with better functioning markets, an enhanced farming system will contribute to improved economic development, providing food security, fair prices and improved land management. To succeed, any new approach must be based on a stable policy environment within which farmers can work and invest. This, in turn, requires us to establish stable, long-term policy and regulatory frameworks for the development of agriculture; to enhance national financial allocations; to direct international development assistance towards the agricultural sector in developing countries; and to undertake comprehensive stakeholder consultation processes in the design and implementation of agricultural programs.

All of the above requires that national leaders look at the role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a new way, putting these sectors at a more prominent and adequate place in the national development trajectory. At the same time, it will require launching a process of raising awareness of the key role of food and agriculture to essential national sustainable development goals, and setting in motion a transformation, owned and led by national governments and their partners and key stakeholders.

Governments and societies will need not only need to change how they perceive agriculture and natural resources, but they will also need to change the ways how they govern these sectors. Ending hunger and poverty, responding to climate change and sustaining our natural resources are strongly inter-linked. This might be a truism for many farmers, especially small-scale family farmers often combine crop and livestock and trees production to provide food, feed, fuels, and income. However, it is not so for many government administrations and agencies, who are used to work within their narrow sectoral boundaries. Coordination and collaboration across sectors to address sustainability issues and opportunities in a coherent way is the exception rather than the rule. Lack of policy coherence is a frequent issue.

Therefore, public policy in the agricultural sector in a context of sustainable development should be based on the consideration of global, national, regional and local factors. At the same time, an important guarantee of the success of sustainable development is the pursuit of economic activity, which will maintain a balance between social needs, environmental costs and economic benefits. For this purpose Ukraine should develop a national plan for implementing the ideas of sustainable development of the agricultural sector as an integral part of the development of the national economy.

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