

**LAND AS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASIS OF STATEHOOD
(on the example of ATU Gagauzia)**

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***Abstract.** This work highlights the role and importance of land in agriculture, use of which is largely determined by the solution of one of the vital problems associated with the food supply of the population. The leading sphere of the agro-industrial complex is agriculture, which is a very complex socio-economic, organizational-economic and technical-technological system, always fulfilling the role of a locomotive that ensures the development of many sectors of the country's economy. Each agricultural worker provides work for from 7 to 10 workers in related sectors of the country's economy. Authors of this study propose methodological approaches to the classification of the forms of farming (agricultural organizations, peasant (farmer) households and individual households) which are based on the type of economic activity and legal form. Land relations occupy a special place in the general system of socio-economic relations due to the specificity of land as one of the elements of natural resources and at the same time as an indispensable business entity. Determined by the needs of socio-economic development, they are of paramount importance in human life. The peasants look at land not so much as the economic space of management, but as the foundation, the pillar of property for each and everyone, the guarantor of truth and justice. Land for the peasant is life itself. The land on which his ancestors lived and worked was the main measure of values for the peasant. It was the earth which was often defended against enemies. The most important feature of peasant life was a close connection with the land. This connection is important for all mankind as a science about our environment, our survival and balanced development.*

***Keywords:** land, land relations, agriculture, peasant, habitat, socio-economic development.*

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Introduction

In modern agrarian transformations, the question of land remains the most acute. The nature of its use largely determines the solution to one of the vital problems associated with the food supply of the population. As the main and irreplaceable means of production in agriculture, land is the basis for the development of the entire agro-industrial complex, it is a constant source of wealth and a national treasure of any state. Moreover, unlike other means of production, which, in the process of economic use, wear out, lose their useful qualities and drop out of production, the quality of land, being a product of nature itself, can be improved with proper and rational use, as well as its productive power can be infinitely enhanced by the application of capital, labor and science, according to K. Marx.

Analysis of recent research and publications

The issues of land use significance are considered in the economic literature from various perspectives. In particular, in their publications A.Rasskazova and R.Zhdanov introduce the concept of the effectiveness of sustainable land use [1, p.23-25], S. Siptits examines problems of combining the efficiency and sustainability of the functioning of agri-food systems based on the rational use of land as a basic factor in the industry [2, p. 56-59], and I. Romanenko and N. Evdokimova analyzed

placement of crop production in the territory, which ensures a high degree use of the bioclimatic potential of the region [3, p. 60-63].

Among the Moldovan authors, it should be noted the work of doctors of economic sciences A. Stratan, V. Doga and E. Timofti, who in their studies developed and proposed their own options for the economic mechanism for locating production and rational use of land [4,5,6]. Of great importance is the study of Doctor of Economics L. Todorici, aimed at studying the problems of sustainability of agricultural production and assessing the level of stability of productivity of land in the regions [7].

Research Content

The importance of land in the system of multi-structured farming in the autonomy. From classical economic theory it is known that food production is the first condition for the existence of mankind and all production in general. "People, - as noted F. Engels, referring to K. Marx, who discovered the law of the development of human history, - first of all, should eat, drink, have a home and dress before being able to engage in politics, science, art and religion, etc.". Therefore, the creation of a steadily developing, competitive and efficiently functioning agro-industrial complex is the primary task of each state if it sets as its goal the provision of food security and economic independence. As Jean-Jacques Rousseau once said, the only way to keep the state independent from anyone is agriculture. At least even if you have all the riches of the world, but you have nothing to eat - you depend on others. These are the wise words of the great French writer and philosopher, and they gained a special significance in world practice.

Proclaiming in words the development of the agro-industrial complex as one of the main priorities of its economic policy, the country's leadership in fact finances this most important sphere of the economy according to the residual principle, restraining not only the solution to the food problem, but also significantly aggravating the already difficult situation in related industries. The fact is that the leading sphere of the agro-industrial complex is agriculture, which is the most complex socio-economic, organizational, economic and technical-technological system, always plays the role of a kind of locomotive, which ensures the development of many sectors of the country's economy. Moreover, each agricultural worker provides with work, according to various estimates, from 7 to 10 workers in related sectors of the economy. Therefore, states interested in their food security, as a matter of priority, create favorable socio-economic conditions for the sustainable development of their own agriculture, which is its effective management on the basis of expanded reproduction with increasing growth in the production of basic agricultural and livestock products through the rational use of land and other resources, widespread use of the latest achievements of scientific and technological progress, the most progressive forms of labor organization, while maintaining and multiplying the ecological state of the environment. Carrying out the development of agriculture in precisely this way, highly developed states guarantee their food security and economic independence, ensuring stable growth in the production of high-quality food products that are affordable and satisfy the needs of the population according to physiological norms.

In the course of economic transformations in agriculture, a multistructured agrarian way of organization was formed, and it is represented by various forms of management and structures. In the framework of this study was proposed a methodological approach to the classification of the forms of farming management (agricultural organizations, peasant (farmer) households and individual households) based on the type of structure of economic activity and legal form. The economic justification for the allocation in the agricultural sector of the region of 6 household structures:

- for family consumption;
- family business;
- private;
- state;
- cooperative;
- public.

The basis of the family consumption structure is family work and production for personal needs. This way is the most numerous and is represented by household goods. The family business form was developed in peasant farms, which carry out their activities by the forces of their family

members and in the household goods of the population. The private structure is based on private property, it has been developed in agricultural organizations of various organizational and legal forms and is characterized by the use of collective labor and the relatively large size of farms. Separately, it is necessary to highlight the state, cooperative and public forms, as they have their own distinctive features and characteristics. The state structure is based on state ownership and is represented by state, municipal and autonomous institutions. The cooperative way, although it is based on private property, but at the same time involves the personal labor participation of members (owners) of the cooperative. Non-profit organizations created on the basis of different forms of ownership (state, municipal and private) in the form of associations, unions, public and religious organizations should be included in the public structure.

Currently, small forms of management are experiencing big problems with the commercialization of their products, and processing of the production, they have limited technical resources for the provision of transport services, tillage and other works. To solve these problems, a new form of organization in rural areas is becoming more common - agricultural consumption cooperation, the main activities of which are the collection and sale of products, their processing, provision of material and technical resources, the implementation of agricultural measures, the provision of transport and other services through the combination of forces and funds of cooperative members, borrowing to form a production base.

Earth as a factor in preserving national characteristics of social economic development of society. An important area of modernity is the deep transformation of land relations. The objects of these relations in the agricultural sphere are agricultural lands (arable land, perennial plantations, hayfields, pastures), lands of rural settlements, lands of forest and water funds located in rural areas. In the system of these relations, two links are distinguished. The first link is the legal basis of land ownership, including the rights to own, use and management of land; the second link is the economic mechanism for regulating land relations, including fee for the land use, regulatory and market prices, economic incentives and sanctions.

Is Earth an economic resource, human habitat or home? The questions raised are the eternal philosophical and practical dilemmas faced by humanity... This is the only, unique and irreproducible economic resource of its kind, this is the only human habitat destined for by God, and at the same time is his native home, where there is warmth, comfort, joy and the love, faith, and hope that inspire man.

Land relations occupy a special place in the general system of socio-economic relations due to the specificity of land as one of the elements of natural resources and at the same time as an indispensable household object. Determined by the needs of socio-economic development, land relations are of paramount importance in human life. Earth is indispensable for human society, and above all, because it represents the only habitat of all human generations. The Earth, being the only habitat and a native home for a person, feeds this person, grows him and will someday accept into his motherly fold. Earth is the most important component of the natural environment, which functions according to the laws of a living organism, helps to purify the atmosphere, stores water resources, and is a breeding ground for all living things.

The cornerstone of land relations is agricultural land, which is and will be the main source of production of goods of universal significance which is food. In this sense, agricultural land forms the basis of social production and human activity. Hence: historical experience has prompted people and states to treat agricultural land as a national wealth and impose certain restrictions on the right to manage this resource, according to the requirements of the time and circumstances. It should be remembered that the peasants look at the land not so much as the economic space of management, but as the basis, the foundation of property of each and everyone, the guarantor of truth and justice.

Today, pragmatism and individualism began to dominate in public relations, and entrepreneurial activity, as one of the priority economic resources, is primarily aimed at generating advantages and profit. Hence here comes the importance of state regulation of land management, which should ensure the achievement of the following goals:

- safety and rational use of land resources;
- targeted use of agricultural land and land with agricultural purpose, depending on the quality characteristics determined in accordance with the land cadastre;

- compliance with environmental requirements for the economic use of land;
- the priority of the land law, land use regime, state registration and regulation, in which the alienation of land resources, their transfer and circulation are allowed only on the basis of direct legislative acts.

In general, the application of land legislation serves as a form of state regulation based on the power-organizing functions of the state. In this case, the main functions of state regulation of land relations should be: accounting, planning, distribution and redistribution, the function supervision over the proper use of land, control and security. The accounting function is basic for the remaining functions of state-legal regulation of land relations, since the effectiveness of planning, distribution, redistribution of lands, control and protection, their proper use depends on the accuracy of knowledge about the availability and condition of the land fund.

Land use is the basis of rural areas. Land for the peasant is life itself. The land on which his ancestors lived and worked was the main measure of values for the peasant. It was the earth which was often defended against enemies.

A person who does not know his roots, does not love his homeland, which "does not dream of grass from his home," will not respect the traditions, culture and national feelings of another nation.

The earth is endowed with a certain educational purpose. It lies in the fact that sometimes it causes an inexplicable desire to follow good examples, established norms and rules, traditions of our ancestors. The most important feature of peasant life was a close connection with the land. This connection is important for all mankind as a science about our environment, our survival and balanced development.

The traditional occupation of the peasantry was agriculture. The land and labor on it were for the peasant the basis of his life. The harming has aroused in the peasant a special, reverent attitude towards the land. In the definitions of the land, the peasant used the most delicate epithets: "motherland", "land-nurse". In the worldview of the peasant, the earth is a "gift of God," and the right to work on it is sacred. Defining oneself as "salt of the earth" expressed the consciousness of the peasants of the importance of the work of a plowman. Agricultural work for the peasant was more than just a process of material reproduction, it was the basis of his spiritual life.

The objects of scientific interest are tools and methods of cultivating the land, crops produced, the nature of community land use, the role of traditions and innovations in the economic structure of the village.

The list of crops grown in the region was generally traditional for the region, with some exceptions. Of the cereal crops, these are wheat, rye, oats, and barley. The leading role was played by winter wheat as a leading food crop. Among the crops, corn is traditional as well as peas. As for technical culture, sunflower has always been cultivated in our region. Of the perennial plantations it should be noted the long tradition of cultivating grapes, fruits and various berries. Grapes in our conditions have always been in great demand, both technical and table varieties. A wide variety of pome and stone fruit varieties were cultivated in the villages of the region. Among pome fruits, prevail apples, pears, quinces, among stone fruits prevail plum, apricot, peach. In small volumes, walnut and mulberry were invariably grown in the region.

A small variety of cultivated berries should be recognized. Gooseberries were preferred. In conditions of risky agriculture in the southern zone of the country, due to lack of moisture, vegetable production is notable for its small volumes, but a wide range. The same objective reasons did not allow the production of potatoes in the volumes necessary to fully meet the needs of the region.

Agricultural production is the lot of the majority of the rural population. The population, especially as a human resource, is the main wealth of the country and of the ATU Gagauzia as well. The permanent population of the autonomy at the beginning of 2016 amounted to 152.2 thousand inhabitants or 4.0% of the total population of the Republic of Moldova (including the population of the Left Bank of the Dniester). Most of the employed population works in education (19.7%), industry (18.1%), agriculture (15.1%) and trade (12.6%). For 1 person employed in the economy, there are 3.6 people who are not employed in the economy of the region [8. p.19-20].

In recent years, informal employment has increased. From 2010 to 2015, the number of people employed in the informal sector of the economy increased from 354 thousand people up to 418

thousand people, or by 18%. Their share in the total number of employees increased from 31% to 35%. The share of workers in the formal sector, respectively, decreased from 69% to 65%. With informal forms of employment, most workers cannot even rely on relatively small pensions and other social guarantees, since they do not pay social taxes. Accordingly, the budget system does not receive social and other tax payments [9, p. 44-45].

A significant part of those employed in the informal sector of the country are engaged in agricultural activities and produce products exclusively for personal consumption. From 2010 to 2015, the number of people employed in personal subsidiary plots increased from 105.0 thousand people to 156.9 thousand people, or 1.5 times. They comprise 38% of those employed in the informal sector, 41% of those employed in agriculture and 13% of all those employed in the economy. Excluding this group, the number of people employed in the economy in 2015 amounted to 1047 thousand people against 1204 thousand people officially considered to be employed (157 thousand people, or 15% less), and the employment rate of the population was only 35% against 40% officially recognized.

In the sectoral structure of employment in the autonomy, the agricultural sector prevails, which accounts for 32% of all employed in the economy, non-agricultural sectors account for 68% of the employed, respectively, including industry - only 12%. The sectoral structure of employment has a pronounced "agrarian" nature of payments [9, p. 45].

Economic activity related to land cultivation, despite its high labor intensity and low efficiency, is still very widespread in autonomy. This "vitality" is due to a number of reasons. Autonomy has become a region of chronic underemployment. The destiny of many of its residents, seeking to provide themselves with employment, is usually unskilled seasonal and / or temporary labor. In the case of employment, residents of the autonomy, as a rule, do not leave completely agriculture, which is mainly due to the unstable position of the labor force in the labor market.

At the end of the period of temporary work, they have to return to their native villages and live again depending on agriculture for a certain time until the next attempt to find a job. This nature of the participation of rural residents in a market economy has given rise to a typical economic pattern for our time — seasonal farming... which plays the role of stabilizing rural incomes in the face of fluctuating labor demand. Such circumstances contribute to the preservation in the autonomy of agriculture in the form of an auxiliary occupation

As we can see, agriculture, which provides primarily the means of subsistence, rather than profit, is widespread in the autonomy quite widely and at the same time they show some stability in the conditions of fluctuations in market prices for agricultural products. In other words, the decline in the number people, which depend on agriculture is much lower than is evident from official statistics. The opinion that this area of the economy in the near future will not play a significant role is perhaps premature.

Conclusions

It is difficult to judge nowadays the prospects for maintaining a commitment to using land for self-sufficiency. Here, apparently, one should take into account the complex combination of not only objective factors (low rates of economic development of the country as a whole, high real unemployment), but also the subjective ones: the socio-cultural local factors of the population and its attitude to the land use. Agricultural occupation in the eyes of a significant part of the region's population is something more than just a labor-intensive way of life-support that promises little benefit. This is a type of activity that allows you to maintain your identity and traditions.

Thus, agriculture over the current period gains particular importance for ensuring food security, in combating poverty and protecting the environment through sustainable use of land resources; All these areas are important in the development of common regional needs. In addition, the region has a large number of pasture lands, which ensures animal farming, especially sheep.

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