

HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN UKRAINE DURING THE INTEGRATION OF STATE REGULATION SYSTEMS

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INTRODUCTION

Historically agriculture was and still remains the leading industry for all civilizations and governmental systems on the territory occupied by modern Ukraine, also known as «On Stimulation of Agricultural Development for the Period 2001–2007» of January 18, 2001, № 2238-III, «... the type of economic activity in production, which is associated with biological processes of its cultivation, intended for consumption in raw and processed form and for use in non-food purposes ...»¹ according to Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine. Understanding the fundamental place of agriculture for the Earth, the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Russo highlighted: «Agriculture is the only way to keep the country independent. Should you possess all possible wealth, but you have nothing to eat – you depend on others. Trade creates wealth, but agriculture provides freedom»².

Taking into consideration mentioned above, referring back to agricultural sector experience is a deal breaker in overcoming existing challenges and development of the branch. A number of publications devoted to the history of agricultural development in Ukraine have fundamental importance, e.g. Lanovik B.³, Zavalnyuk O., Rybak I.⁴, and others⁵. However, experience gained in the search and implementation of the latest approaches to increase the efficiency of the industry, continues to interest domestic researchers.

¹ Закон України «Про стимулювання розвитку сільського господарства на період 2001–2004 рр.». *Відомості Верховної ради України*. 2001. № 11 (1 берез.). С. 233–237.

² Жан-Жак Руссо. Про суспільну угоду, або принципи політичного права. Переклад з французької та коментарі : О. Хома. Київ : Port-Royal, 2001. 349 с.

³ Історія господарства : Україна і світ : підручник / за ред. Б.Д. Лановика. Київ : Вища шк., 1995. 480 с.

⁴ Завальнюк О.М., Рибак І.В. Новітня аграрна історія України. Кам'янець-Подільський : Абетка-Нова, 2004. 287 с.

⁵ Історія українського селянства. Нариси в 2-х томах. Т. 2. Київ : Наук. думка, 2006. 654 с.

In this regard, the purpose of this work is to highlight the general features of state regulation of agricultural development in Ukrainian territories at the end of the XIX – early XXI centuries on the basis of the application of the principles of historical search (historicism, objectivity, systemacity, continuity, complexity, etc.) and systems of complementary methods (general scientific, interdisciplinary and actually historical).

1. Development of Agriculture in the Imperial Era

From history it is known that wars, revolutions, resettlement, reforms accelerate the development of the agrarian sector. So, after the Crusades, a widespread introduction of the autumn fallow occurred; after the Reformation – the potato was introduced into the cultivation and the fertilization spread; together with the Great British Revolution, received a seed drill, a horse hack, and improved methods of cultivating the soil; after the Great French Revolution, introduced a culture of sugar beet; Political changes in Western Europe during the years 1848 to 1849 stimulated the massive spread of fecundity and mineral fertilizers.

For the Russian Empire, which comprised 85% of the present Ukrainian lands, such radical changes occurred, if not to take into account 1812 – the time of the First World War, which forced the landlords to evict to their rural estates and to engage agricultural management⁶ in proper way, after the abolition of serfdom in accordance with the manifesto of Alexander II in February 19, 1861, «On the All-Gracious Gift to bonded peasants the Status of Free Rural inhabitants». The main thing that gave the royal manifesto is personal freedom and civil rights: now the peasant had the rights on movable and immovable assets, to enter into agreements, to act as a legal body, to marry without the landlord's consent, to go to service and to educational institutions, to change the place of residence and even go to the cohort of townspeople and merchants. Within two decades after the reform, the country's population increased by 28% and reached 64 million people, which led to a reduction in the load of one desiatina of arable land from 4.8 to 3.8 des. Droughts that caused enormous damage (in the 18th century there were 34, and in the 19th century – 40⁷), they urged to look for alternative ways of solving food safety issues at the state level by obtaining

⁶ Вергунов В.А. Перші Всеросійські та місцеві з'їзди діячів сільськогосподарської справи : організація, напрямки роботи, значення. *Історія укр. науки на межі тисячоліть*. 2002. Вип. 7. С. 14–15.

⁷ Власюк П.А. Содружество русских и украинских ученых в развитии сельскохозяйственных наук. *Науч. тр. Отделения с.-х. наук АН УССР*. Київ, 1956. С. 3–15.

sustainable yields of the main field crops, especially grains. According to the results of the World Exhibition in 1893 in Chicago, dedicated to the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by H. Columbus, the indicators of its quality were better than the then major exporters, and especially England and France, which, taking into account climatic conditions, were obliged to engage in production, first of all – grain.

Thanks to such an understanding of the place of agriculture in the life of the country, according to the decree of Alexander II in June 1893, March 21, 1894 profile department was established for the first time in the history of the Motherland – Ministry of Agriculture and State property, headed by a famous scientist, agrarian and statesman Yermolov O. Among his state-building decisions – the maximum budget support for the development of domestic agricultural research as an organization through the creation of a network of diversified research institutes in the country's natural and climatic zones, which, according to the decree of Nicholas II of May 28, 1901, approved the «Regulation on Agricultural Research Institutions» for the first time, it has received state recognition as an effective measure to improve the productivity of fields and farms⁸. In this case, only one digit must be given. In 1883 the average yield of winter wheat in the Poltava province was 7.21 c/ha, and in 1913 it reached the level of 13.0 c/ha.

In addition, some progressive landowners had 15.2 c/ha⁹. According to expert opinion, such successes for a country, that at the beginning of the XIX century for three hundred years lag behind the leading countries of Europe in development of agriculture, in 1913 made it possible to be in top of five exporters not only produced, but also processed agricultural products.

In this light, I think it is necessary to highlight the positive and negative effects of the introduction of Stolypin's agrarian reform on 85% of the current Ukrainian lands. I cannot but agree with the ingenious scientist, the founder of the scientific soil science Dokuchaev V., who noted: «... People of science have been warned against impending threats for decades... provided dozens of projects and petitions for research ..., projects were sometimes tested ... and were supported ... but, if not always,

⁸ Положение о сельскохозяйственных опытных учреждениях. *Известия Министерства земледелия и государственных имуществ*. 1901. № 29 (22 июля). С. 546–547.

⁹ Коваленко Н.П. Становлення та розвиток науково-організаційних основ застосування вітчизняних сівозмін у системах землеробства (друга половина XIX – початок XXI ст.). Київ, 2014. С. 86.

in the vast majority of cases received approximately the following answers: – no funds; – there are more important problems; – this issue is outlined; – the country is large, it is not explored at all; – your work will extend on decades of years, God knows how matters will turn out...»¹⁰.

Coordinating, the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property was preparing the reform. But the main generating burden was taken by Prime Minister Stolypin P., because, as you know, history is made by the personality. Consequently, according to the agrarian-economic concept of Stolypin P., the chronological reform took place from November 9, 1906, to the October events of 1917, in particular till the adoption of the Decree on the land of V. Lenin on November 8, 1917. Despite the fact that the official date of decision on Stolypin's agrarian reform was November 9, 1906, some transformations began earlier in the countryside. Thus, on August 12 and 27, 1906, two decrees were passed on the transfer of 1 million 800 thousand acres of dividends and state lands to the peasant bank for sale to the peasants.

According to the Decree «On supplementing some of the resolutions of the current law affecting peasant land tenure and land use» of November 9, 1906, signed by Nicholas II on the proposal of Stolypin P., it was supposed to take such measures: the allocation of peasants from the communities and the consolidation of land for them in private property; creation of a homestead and individual farm; resettlement policy. Their implementation was closely linked to the work of the Peasant Bank, the cooperative movement, relations in the countryside, agriculture, etc. Contrary to the plans for land nationalization, Stolypin P. advanced the liberal doctrine of the gradual liquidation of the rural community, the development of private property in the countryside and the achievement of economic growth on this basis. He stressed repeatedly that the peasant should choose the way of using the land that he liked.

The decree of November 9, 1906 made adjustments to the legislation of the previous most significant reform, dated 1861, concerning the community and communal property. If before 1906 the community was considered to be the owner of an allotment land and the right to use it belonged to all its members, then since 1906, the peasants could isolate the land from the community, regardless of its thought. Already adopted Law in November 9, 1906 on the withdrawal of peasants from the communities

¹⁰ Докучаев В. В. Избранные сочинения. Москва : Сельхозгиз, 1954. С. 427–428.

in June 14, 1910 introduced a new addition which stated all communities having no land allocation amendments were considered privately owned by landlords. The opinion of one member of such a community became law and extended to all farms.

The essence of agrarian reform was to create a land fund and transfer the land from it to the peasants. The implementation of this plan should have been as follows: initially, the land plot provided to the peasant temporarily, and subsequently – secure the area of the state lands to the peasant, providing water and other agro-cultural use conditions. Thus, along with the community, a wealthy peasant, a true landlord, would be there. Such an evolutionary way of solving the peasant's problem was reduced to the growth of peasant farms in the highest type – farmer-oriented, market-oriented. Agrarian system in the country Stolypin P. saw as a system of small and medium-sized farms and small noble estates, united by local self-government.

The question of development of agriculture in Stolypin's way is controversial. Some experts believe that the version of American farming was leading in the reform of the village, since it consisted in the withdrawal of peasants from communities and the creation of farms. Others followed the opposite – Prussian, which kept landlord's land tenure. Therefore, we can assume that due to Stolypin P. it was worked out a peculiar national path, in which there were elements of the two aforementioned directions of agricultural development. Its essence was based on four systems: state, community, large private and family labor, or small private. Thus, the economy of agriculture has become more and more complex, which also provided progress in the agrarian sector.

Stolypin's P. proposed reform of the agrarian sector, which simultaneously envisaged important changes in political relations on the ground, provoked opposition, first of all, of the fellow courtiers of the country and certain revolutionary parties. As the Stolypin's P. daughter – Maria Bok-Stolypina subsequently wrote: «When every peasant became a small landowner and farm work was in progress, the party of the Social-Revolutionaries was destroyed. Therefore, their desire to stop the reform is understandable. The work of this party was manifested not only in agitation among the peasantry ... but, in general, in artificial propaganda against my father and the organization of constant attempts on his life»¹¹(11 attempts were made).

¹¹ Бок М. П. Воспоминания о моем отце П.А. Столыпине. Москва : Тов. А. Н. Сытин и К°, 1992. С. 146.

From 1906 to May 1, 1915, 468,000 households came out from peasant communities of seven Ukrainian provinces, receiving 2,794,000 acres of land in private ownership, or 30.2% of the total area of communal land. Characteristically, 57% of the peasants who left the community and consolidated the land into private ownership were Ukrainian farmers. Although, the land value was higher for them, than in other regions of the Empire. In the steppe zone, the price of one dessiatina was 172 rubles 30 kopecks, and in the neighboring Kursk province – 122 rubles 60 kopecks. Those, who could not immediately pay, arranged a credit with a Peasant Bank for 20 years with an annual payment of 4 rubles or 1.5% per annum, which was significantly cheaper than a lease payment. At that time the peasant earned 75 kopecks per day in the summer at the landlord farm¹².

For three decades of its existence, from the 80's of the XIX century at the time of Stolypin's reform the social structure of the buyers of the Peasant Bank changed significantly. Initially these were communities and societies, and then private peasants. The ones gained 2.35 million for the period 1909–1919, and the others – 2.9 million acres of land. At the same time, the sizes of self-employed farmer's land increased and the average area of which in 1908-1913 increased from 10 to 18 acres. For this purpose, the land surveying commission of the Russian Empire, during the period 1906 to 1910, allocated 9 230 725 rubles (at that time the cost of cow was 5–6 rubles.). In total, peasants received about 10 million acres of land with the help of the bank in the years of reform. Of this amount – 480 thousand acres of land were sold by landowners of Ukraine, and in general for 1906–1910 aristocratic possession decreased by 1.1 million acres¹³. Stolypin P. encouraged those peasants who took the land into private property, lowering the fee for that. By a decree of January 1, 1907, land redemption payments were canceled in general.

In the period of the Stolypin's reform peasants continued to gravitate to the lease of land. By 1917 43.2% of the peasant landlords of Ukraine were in lease relations, which covered 6 287 thousand acres of land. Although, for example, in the Volyn province only 3.1% of the peasant households farm out in part or in whole. The cost of a leasehold landed

¹² Вергунов В.А., Коцур А.П., Коцур В.П. Україна та століпінська аграрна реформа: передумови, завдання, здійснення : монографія. Київ : ННЦ «Ін-т аграрної економіки», 2008. С. 89.

¹³ Панченко П. П., Кириленко І. Г., Вергунов В. А. Аграрна історія України : еволюція соціально-економічних відносин : навч. посіб. Вид. доп. і перероб. Київ : Аграр. наука, 2014. 536 с.

property in the Poltava province amounted to 16 rubles in the year, and multi-term – 9 rubles. 70 kopecks. The last one was the most widespread. The metayage was not profitable. The main task of homestead and individual farm was the elimination of multiple and strip farming.

The most active transition to settlements was the in the farms of the Volyn province and especially in Zhytomyr region. In some counties it reached up to 80%. At the beginning of 1916, 440,000 homesteads and individual farms operated in Ukrainian villages, or 13% of the total number of peasant households, despite the high cost (from 100 to 300 rubles.) for transferring from the village to the homestead.

Stolypin's reform provided an increase of yields from 1906 to 1915 by 14% and in some provinces by 20–25%. The harvest of the main grain crops has grown from 2 billion pounds in 1884 to 4 billion pounds in 1911, or 28% up, which exceeded the aggregate figures of the USA, Argentina and Canada. In 1912, tallow oil was exported to England worth 68 million rubles, which was twice the cost of annual production of Siberian gold. Compared to 1884, the horse population increased by 37%, and cattle – by 63%. As of 1913, meat consumption in the country amounted to 88 kg per year per head of the population. Due to the allocation of farms and plots of land from communities to peasants, the sown area in Ukraine in 1910–1919 increased by 900 thousand acres, and in 1913 amounted to 2.9 million acres, 90.5% of which occupied by grain crops. As a result, 90% of total exports of winter wheat of the Russian Empire were exported from Nikolaev to England, France, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, Austria, Spain, Tunisia, along with meat, oil, animal oil, lard, sugar, live livestock, poultry, sheep, etc. As of 1913, 586 distilleries were operating in Ukraine, producing 13.5 million buckets of alcohol. A convincing factor of the development of Ukrainian agriculture after the Stolypin's reform was the accumulation of peasant funds in savings banks. If in 1905 the sum of such investments amounted to 11 115 thousand rubles, then in 1914 – 14 278 thousand rubles¹⁴.

Initially, agricultural cooperatives were set up on the initiative of government instructors through loans from the State Bank. Subsequently, their support was Zemstvo small cash loans and the system of peasant credit co-operation. In 1906–1919, their number reached 4,715 societies.

¹⁴ Вергунов В.А., Коцур А.П., Коцур В.П. Україна та столицінська аграрна реформа: передумови, завдання, здійснення : монографія. Київ : ННЦ «Ін-т аграрної економіки», 2008. 132 с.

At the same time with consumer co-operation, credit co-operation has also developed. This led to the emergence of meat and dairy and butter-making artels, consumer shops, peasant artel dairies. By October 1917, about 20 thousand different production cooperatives functioned in the Ukrainian village. All of this cooperation experience is currently used in Sweden, Finland, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Holland, etc. Stolypin's reform prompted the intensification of the training of specialists and the spread of agricultural knowledge among the rural population through them and thus increased the efficiency of agricultural production on the basis of the «Regulation on Agricultural Education» of May 26, 1904. With that in 1910 Stolypin P. instructed to stop teaching in Ukrainian language, to close Ukrainian cultural societies and publishing houses. Under sectoral educational institutions, specialized research fields and even stations were created. All together, the infrastructure of the Ukrainian village was altered by building highways, creating supply organizations to provide farmers with the necessary agricultural machinery, tools, etc.

On a voluntary basis, in accordance with the Decree of March 10, 1906, the peasants moved to Siberia, Central Asia and the Caucasus to increase land holdings. Between 1906 and 1910 more than 2.5 million people were displaced. They were provided free medical care. Transportation for the migrant cost only a quarter of the fare, and children less than 10 years of age transported free of charge. Most of Ukrainians (1 million), especially from Poltava region and Chernihiv region (350 thousand people), went out to Siberia. As of 1911, they received 24 483 plots of land, which made it possible to increase the sown area up to 80%. Although some of them turned back, more likely, because of the fault of responsible authorities for the allocation of land. Especially this tendency was traced in 1910-1919. Crop failure of the last year also factored on the situation. In 1914, Russia was visited by an official German delegation led by Professor Augagen to study the positive results of the Stolypin's reform. In its report it was noted that after the completion of this land reform, the war with Russia would not be beyond any state's power.

2. Features of the Development of Agriculture from 1917 to Present Time

After the seizure of power by the Bolsheviks, on November 8, 1917, a Decree went through where the landlord's ownership was canceled without any ransom, and all belongings and estates of the monasteries, churches,

private and public were handed over to land committees and county councils of peasant deputies. The next document was the «Basic Law on the Socialization of Land», approved by the Central Executive Committee on February 9, 1918, which focused on specific issues of collectivization. On March 19, 1918, this law entitled «Temporary Provision on the Socialization of Land» was adopted in Ukraine. To some extent, the abolition of private property right of land is also referred to in the Third Universal on November 7, 1917, in favor of the labor class, however provisions on movable and immovable property are missing, which caused the indignation of most peasants in favor of the Decree on Land, Lenin V. and led to the so-called peasant war, the victims of which in 1918–1920 were about 7 million people.

According to the Circular Letter of the NCA of the Ukrainian SSR on the organization of communes of March 8, 1919, and the «Regulation of the Central Executive Committee on Socialist Agriculture» of May 26, 1919, a course was adopted on the forced planting of collective farms and state farms in the Ukrainian village. The dynamics of their growth is impressive. Those increased from 20 in 1918 to 1 685 by spring of 1919. Along with the complex of authorities' punitive actions it was possible to increase grain procurement to 71.5 million pounds of grain in 1920, compared with 10.5 million pounds in 1919. At the same time, the authorities ignored the cooperation in the countryside, despite the Decree «On Consumer Communes» (March 16, 1919). At the beginning of 1917 there were 31 thousand rural consumer societies operating in the country, whose members were 7.5 million people, and 25, 6 thousand agricultural and locally-industrial cooperatives, counting 11 million people and more.

After the proclamation of Lenin's V. new economic policy (NEP) at the end of 1922 – at the beginning of 1923, the state's attitude towards cooperation as an effective means of agricultural management changed, which, through the adoption of the Decree on the allocation of agricultural cooperatives into a separate structure, took the course for the revival of cooperation for 20, 9 million people who lived in the countryside. It was extremely important in the conditions of the famine of 1921–1923 in Ukraine after the drought of 1921, which covered 21 districts of the Ukrainian SSR and took lives, according to various data, 5 million people. As a result, only 637 million pounds of grain were collected which is only 40% of the 1916 crop. Protest actions among the peasantry prompted the

authorities to adopt the decree «On measures to restore the peasant economy» of December 30, 1921, which abolished the course for forced integration of the «socialist land use»¹⁵.

The Decree of the SNC of the Ukrainian SSR on the segregation of agricultural cooperatives from the unified system of consumer cooperation allowed the state to form a joint stock company «Selo-Dopomoga» in the spring of 1924. During 1924–1925 it also included the All-Ukrainian Union of Dairy and Dairy Cooperatives «Dobrobut», «Ukrsiltsukor», «Plodospilka» and others. However, this did not allow achieving price parity of purchasing capacity between cultivated products and the opportunity to buy products of factory production. The plow in 1913 costs 6 pounds of wheat and in 1923 expenses increased four times. This gap caused the village a loss of 500 million rubles, which is a half of the effective demand. But a convincing indicator of the revival of productive villages in the agrarian sector in the conditions of the NEP was the production of grain. If in 1921, 227 million pounds of grain were collected, in 1922 – about 637 million, then in 1926 – 1,057 million pounds. However, this figure has not reached the level of 1911–1915 with its 1 084 million pounds. Bread-harvesting crisis of 1927–1928, which obliged «voluntarily» to hand over an additional 20 pounds of wheat to each farm, virtually curtailed the NEP through its own method of procurement, called «Uralsky-Siberian» by J. Stalin's. As a result, in the spring of 1929, almost 18,000 farms declared «kulak» sold out in Ukraine, and 33,000 peasants were brought to court for «speculation» by bread.

In the spring of 1929 the first five-year plan for the development of the economy was approved by J. Stalin, and announced as «the year of the great turning point». Such an approach to the activities of all components of the economy through the state order remained effective until Ukraine gained statehood. At the time of the official approval of the planeness of the work – on October 1, 1928 – there are 280 communes, 2,718 artels and 8,084 joint cultivation companies or 11,082 units. For the deployment of solid collectivization, which was planned for Ukraine at the level of 30%, with 18–20% for the USSR, 27 thousand «twenty-five thousandths» were sent, which in January 1930 underwent special two-week preparatory courses. In addition, in the spring of 1930, 72 204 workers, 13 thousand

¹⁵ Панченко П. П., Мельник Ю. Ф., Вергунов В. А. Аграрна історія України. Навч. посіб. Київ : ВЦ «Просвіта», 2007. 532 с.

Komsomol accountants, 50 thousand ordinary soldiers and junior commanders, as well as 23 500 special commissioners were sent to the village from the city. As of June 1, 1930, all together, it was possible to dispose of 90 thousand farms and confiscate cattle farms, various implements, buildings for the amount of 95 million rubles, 860 thousand people were deported to Siberia and the Far North.

The Holodomor of 1932–1933 was a terrible tragedy of the people of Ukraine. It was aggravated by the fact that during the 1930s and 1931s, 780 million pounds of grain was exported from the country, and the harvest of 1932 was 12% lower than in the period 1926–1930. Any attempts to use the grain were considered as sabotage. In the governmental resolution of August 7, 1932, «On the Protection of the Property of State Enterprises, Collective Farm, and Cooperation and the Strengthening of Public Property» it was proclaimed that all collective-farm property was state-owned. Having increased 44% of the grain procurement plan in Ukraine in 1932, Stalin J. condemned the peasants to a hunger, which led to the death of 5 to 6 million people. On January 19, 1933, instead of a surplus appropriation system, a new system of mandatory procurement was introduced in the form of taxation of squares planted. March 17, 1933 officially introduced by the government decree of workdays, and the «Charter» in 1935 approved the norms of production and wages. Previously, one working day (1930–1931) was 300 g of grain¹⁶.

The Agricultural Tax Act of September 1, 1930 established a progressive income tax on farmland plots instead of taxation on the income they received on weekdays. The movement in agriculture branch made it possible in December 1934 to abolish the card system of food products in the cities. This achievement was facilitated by products grown on farmland, the percentage of which in Ukraine amounted to 30% of 21.5% of all agricultural production in the USSR. In addition, both first five-year plan (completed for «four years and three months») and the second did not provide a significant increase in grain yield. If in the first five-year plan 735.6 million c. were received, then the second – only 729 million c., or less than in the time of the NEP.

The Soviet-German war of 1941–1945 brought huge losses to domestic agriculture. A significant part of the property of the farms has

¹⁶ Панченко П. П., Мельник Ю. Ф., Вергунов В. А. Аграрна історія України. Навч. посіб. Київ : ВЦ «Просвіта», 2007. С. 276–288.

been evacuated to Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, which is 8 508.3 thousand heads, or 47.5% of public cattle, 187 state farms, 3,182 tractors and 3.5 million people. At the beginning of 1943, the mass exile of occupants from Ukraine took place. In the spring of 1944, the crop area of Ukraine was restored by 65% – in comparison with the prewar period. Average grain collection reached 10.8 c/ha of grain (in 1940 – 14.6 c/ha), which enabled to fulfill the state plan of grain procurement. Retreating, the occupiers took from Ukraine to Germany 9 million tons of grain, 400 thousand tons of sugar, 950 thousand tons of oil, 622 thousand tons of meat products, 108 thousand tons of oil, 2 million 500 thousand tons of livestock feed. 27,910 kolkhozes, 872 state farms and 1 300 MTS were demolished. The occupants seized 56 thousand tractors, 24 thousand combines, 16, 9 million heads of cattle and pigs, 7, 8 million sheep and goats, and 3, 3 million horses. Out of the total amount of material damage 285 billion rubles, 31% falls on agriculture. The reconstruction of the village took place in difficult conditions, and especially in terms of providing the material and technical base. As a result, an increase of 1 million hectares of cultivated land in 1945 did not lead to an increase in average yields. There were 27 493 kolkhozes, 784 state farms and 1 277 MTS in Ukraine at the end of 1945. The following year the process of merging small collective farms into large farms began, which became massive in 1950. Amount decreased from 33 653 units in 1950 to 16 506 units by 1951¹⁷.

Great harm to the Ukrainian village brought the “third Soviet famine” of 1946-49, which took 1.2 million human lives, as a result of another drought. It led to the death of 550 thousand hectares of winter crops, or 20% of the total sown area. Despite 95 thousand tons of food grain that came to the republic, 34 kg of grain per one Ukrainian did not serve to resolve the situation, especially against the backdrop of increased grain exports of the USSR to the newly established “socialist camp” countries. Positive changes took place after Khrushchev’s speech in September 1953 at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Investments in agriculture have increased, which doubled this figures of 1933–1953. This gave an opportunity to technically rebuild the village. Thus, in 1955, on the fields of Ukraine, 50,7 thousand combine harvesters operated against

¹⁷ Панченко П. П., Кириленко І. Г. Вергунов В. А. Аграрна історія України : еволюція соціально-економічних відносин : навч. посіб. Вид. доп. і перероб. Київ : Аграр. наука, 2014. С. 386–412.

33,4 thousand in 1940, and by 1960 their number increased to 64,8 thousand units, which allowed in 1958 to hand over 552 million pounds of grain at a yield of 19.9 c/ha.

Since 1959, the process of containment of auxiliary agriculture has taken place, which resulted in lower incomes of rural workers and undermined the state agricultural sector. Since 1959, the process of containment of auxiliary agriculture has taken place, which resulted in lower incomes of rural workers and undermined the state agricultural sector. The widespread introduction of Williams' W. herbivorous system without taking into account the climatic zones has led to a reduction in crops and caused billions of losses to the agrarian sector. The area of winter wheat crops decreased by 31% in 1963, or by 5.2 million hectares compared to 1958, with 7.5 million hectares. As a result- 1963 food crisis broke out. Khrushchev's next «innovation» did not help to solve the crisis in March 1962 by using the dominance of the structure of the corn crop area, apparently the creation of 250 territorial collective and state farm enterprises¹⁸.

The new rise of agriculture in Ukraine took place in 1966–1970, when gross production increased by 21% with 9,244 collective farms and 1,605 state farms produced from all-Union volumes of 20% of grain, 59% of sugar beet, 44% sunflower, 28% vegetables and 23% of livestock products. Capital investments reached 16 102 million rubles in 1970, which allowed to bring the number of tractors to 317.2 thousand and 81.2 thousand grain harvesters, as well as 244.2 thousand of trucks. The period from 1966 to 1970 was the third rise of agriculture over the years of Soviet power. The first – 1922 – 1926- when gross production has almost doubled. The second is from 1954 to 1958, when production increased by 50%¹⁹. Mostly the success in agricultural production in the third period was achieved due to the fact that in late 1970 in Ukraine, 40% of its employees were young people under the age of 28 years. Among them: 119 thousand – mechanics, 92 thousand- livestock breeder, 25 thousand – agricultural specialists in 100 various majors. This enabled obtaining an average grain yield of 21.4 centners per hectare. The creation of high-yielding varieties of winter wheat by scientists also contributed to goal:

¹⁸ Панченко П.П., Чишко В.С. Украинское село на путях научно-технического прогресса: достижения и просчеты (60–80-е годы). Киев : Наук. думка, 1989. С. 94.

¹⁹ Панченко П. П., Мельник Ю. Ф., Вергунов В. А. Аграрна історія України. Навч. посіб. Київ : ВЦ «Просвіта», 2007. 532 с.

Bezosta 1, Myronivska 808, Myronivska jubilee, Odessa 51, Poliska 70 and others.

The period of 1970's is one of the most difficult in agriculture. It coincided with a marked weakening of the pioneering aspirations, preservation of the principles and forms of management of agricultural production by the party and the state, which lasted until November 1982. Despite an increase to 29 204 million rubles investments and the increase in the level of mechanization of milk cows from 55 to 89%, the quality of milking equipment remained low.

The flow of youth into the city became noticeable, and hence the need for specialists. As a result, the profitability of collective-farm production decreased significantly, for example, in 1978 it reached 17.2%. This was facilitated by an increase in the economic burden on Ukrainian lands, which was 3-4 times higher than in Germany and Japan. More than 70% of the territory of Ukraine (42 million hectares) 35,6 million hectares was plowed up. Thus, during this period the USSR purchased abroad from 30 to 40 million tons of grain.

At the beginning of the 1980's the agro industrial complex contributed a third of Ukraine's national income, but received only 18% of centralized capital investments. This led to a decrease in the production of grown crops. Thus, as of 1985, the production of sugar beets decreased by almost 7 million tons, sunflower – 135 thousand tons, potatoes – by 529 thousand tons, comparing to 1980. In 1988, the republic produced per capita: 86 kg meat, 68 kg of milk and 477.5 kg of dairy products. By 1990, Ukraine produced annually 110–120 kg of sugar per capita, and its share in the all-union production was 83%²⁰.

In 1989, purchasing prices went down for meat, potatoes, etc. Thus, the real value of pork in Ukraine was 1 896 rubles per ton at a real cost of 1 946 rubles. As a result, the level of profitability was 3% lower than required. As of 1989, collective farms and state farms had a total profit of 44 billion rubles, and its processors – 120 billion rubles, means 2.5 times more. All these factors negatively affected the general economic situation of agricultural production. In 1988 the financial debt to the state reached to 14 billion rubles, which made it impossible to implement the «Food Program» adopted in May 1982, which supposed to provide the population

²⁰ Панченко П. П., Кириленко І. Г., Вергунов В. А. Аграрна історія України : еволюція соціально-економічних відносин : навч. посіб. Вид. доп. і перероб. Київ : Аграр. наука, 2014. С. 412–428.

with food products in accordance with scientifically sound norms. For fulfillment of the task in accordance with the decree of 1985 «On further improvement of management of agro industrial complex», the State Agricultural Enterprise of the Ukrainian SSR has been established, which continued the «best» traditions of the Soviet era with regard to the publication of all kinds of directives and regulations, in 1986 there were more than 3 thousand of those, however it has not solved the food problem for the time of the USSR. 86 resolutions of the party and the government, which 21 times were considered and adopted at the plenums of the Central Committee of the CPSU on agriculture, did not work out.

In 1990, Ukraine's farmers received 37 c/ha, and in some areas the crops reached 45–65 c/ha at an all-Union level of 18 c/ha. At the same time, in Hungary, these figures were 50 c/ha, and in Holland 60 c/ha. As a result, grain was imported in the country at a price of 150-160 \$ / ton. Thus, in 1989, 38 million tons of grain has been bought abroad, spending the amount of 3.2 billion rubles. Mostly feed grain was imported: corn, barley, oats and sorghum, as well as 4.8 million tons of soybean meal and soybeans for a total value of 0.8 billion rubles. Therefore, all Ukrainian agriculture needed to change²¹. They began in December 1990, when the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the new Land Code of Ukraine as an independent state and adopted the Resolution «On Land Reform», according to which March 15, 1991 land reform was initiated. Another step was the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the privatization of land plots, which, despite all sorts of “obstacles”, ended in the late 90's of the last century. Issued on November 10, 1994 by the President of Ukraine Kuchma L. the decree «On urgent measures to accelerate land reform in the field of agricultural production» was blocked by the left-wing forces of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Other legislative acts should include the adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Resolution on the implementation of the Law of Ukraine «On peasant (farmer's) economy», and in particular the Decree of the President of Ukraine of December 3, 1999 «On urgent measures to accelerate the reform of the agrarian sector of the economy» targeting to realization state agricultural policy, acceleration of the reformation and development of the agrarian sector of the economy on the basis of private property, which in fact gives the countdown the

²¹ Вергунов В.А., Падалка С.С. Державне управління сільським господарством у вимірі європейської стратегії та глобальної інтеграції України. Історичний нарис з давнини до сьогодення. Вінниця : ТОВ «Нілан-ЛТД», 2017. С. 180.

return of the main approaches typical of state policy and the events of 1917, or the introduction of better, especially Stolypin agrarian reform.

CONCLUSIONS

Establishment of the state regulation system and legislative decisions on the management of the agricultural sector was launched in 1894 by the creation of a specialized agency – Ministry of Agriculture and State Property, headed by Ermolov O.S. Substantial influence on the development of the industry has been done by the agrarian reform of Prime Minister Stolypin P., the leading idea of which was to create a land fund and transfer the land to the peasants aiming further farms establishing. The lessons of Stolypin's agrarian reform are following: 1) Without the full-fledged existence of the Peasant Bank, which allocated funds not only for the establishment of farms, but also for the development of the social infrastructure of the village, solving the problem of the provision of its labor resources, it is impossible to carry out agrarian reform in Ukraine; 2) it is necessary to clearly define the size of the land to establish a peasant-farm economy, by waving taxation from its owner during the first 2 to 3 years and determining the amount of taxation after the specified period of management; 3) provide a legal opportunity for the development of various forms of ownership in the countryside: state, cooperative, private, family-labor and give the peasant the right to choose; 4) it is necessary to revive agricultural cooperation in the village (butter-making, corn crackers, oil-mills, mini-bakeries, cheese factories, etc.); 5) in order to ensure that the land does not become the object of speculation, legislatively work out the entire legal mechanism in case of its sale to the population. But the given historical lessons can be successfully used for changes in the agrarian sector of Ukraine as Dokuchaev V. forecasted in 1881: «... when in our agricultural sector there will be a deeper reform that covers all of its people when ... our the agricultural business will be organized on a more correct agricultural and economic basis of knowledge, capital and labor» and added in 1892 that there is no other way if «... they want to put domestic agriculture on their hard feet ...»²².

Stolypin P., realizing that due to increased exports of agricultural products in the country it is possible to achieve its economic prosperity, systematically approached the introduction of its own reform. Having

²² Докучаев В. В. Избранные сочинения. Москва : Сельхозгиз, 1954. С. 427–428.

increased the amount of excise duty on the sale of alcohol beverages, he managed to create an insurance stabilization fund, which, according to his own estimates, was approximately 100 thousand dollars per peasant in the event of any risks from the failures of reform. In addition numerous professional courses, schools and colleges have been opened for agricultural sphere employees, not to mention the network of industrial SRIs, which since 1908 became part of the regional coordinating organizational form, which is valid till present days. As Stolypin's agrarian reform proves that not only legally ensured everything, but also financially, glorifying the Ukrainian peasant farmer all over the world, from any changes and transformations in the countryside it is possible to succeed due to carefully and thoroughly thought-out steps in terms! A huge place in this belongs to local self-government, which should become the driving force of all changes in society, in particular in the countryside.

Beginning in 1894, and especially since June 1917, the leader of the state policy on domestic agriculture continues to be the profile office despite changes in the name (Ministry, General Secretariat, the People's Commissariat and again the Ministry). Its leaders have borne and continue to be responsible for all the transformations regarding the implementation of the state policy towards the Ukrainian village. Many years of research have shown that from June 1917 to the present, there were 57 people. I am convinced that this is not a complete list of all profile ministers, as there is a possibility, especially as regards the period of 1917–1920 (for which there is no significant body of authentic archival documents), when not only three state-building processes with opposing views on land issues and stable aspiration to return the land to the peasants have changed, but also 11 national government units with 6 government courses. The appointed ministers made their own contribution to the formation and development of Ukrainian agriculture. In fairness it must be said that each of them, for objective reasons, became a hostage of his time and the regular reforms of the political system mostly, and, of course, acted accordingly with respect to agriculture in Ukraine.

The Bolsheviks' the Decree on land and the «Regulations of the Central Executive Committee on socialist agriculture» (1919) served as the basis for the further construction of the collective farm system of agriculture in the countryside. After the Holodomor, repression and war,

the country built a second-largest state-planned economy in the world, which periodically grew and receded, and failed in the late 1990's. Changes in the Ukrainian agricultural sector began with the adoption in December 1990 by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the new Land Code of Ukraine as an independent state and the adoption of the Resolution "On Land Reform", according to which on March 15, 1991 land reform was initiated. At the present stage of the systemic crisis in the state's economy, it is necessary to take into account and use historical lessons, in particular regarding the principles of the Stolypin reform.

SUMMARY

The proposed article deals with the main aspects of state policy regarding the development of the agricultural sector in Ukrainian territories in the late nineteenth and early twenty centuries. The main accent is on the quantitative indicators of agricultural production, taking into account the impact of the reforms. It was determined that the construction of the system of state regulation and legislative decisions on the management of the agricultural sector was started in 1894 by the creation of a specialized agency – Ministry of Agriculture and State Property, headed by well-known scientist-agrarian and statesman Ermolov O.S. Substantial influence on the development of the industry has been done by the agrarian reform of Prime Minister Stolypin P., which was conducted in 1906–1917. The harvest of the main grain crops has grown from 2 billion pounds in 1884 to 4 billion pounds in 1911, or 28%. The Bolsheviks' first the Decree on the land and «Regulation of the Central Executive Committee on socialist agriculture» adopted in 1919, served as the basis for the further construction of the collective farm system of agriculture. After the Holodomor, repression and war, the country built a second-largest state-planned economy in the world, which periodically grew and receded, and failed in the late 1990's. Changes in the Ukrainian agricultural sector began with the adoption in December 1990 by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the new Land Code of Ukraine as an independent state and the adoption of the Resolution «On Land Reform», according to which on March 15, 1991 land reform was initiated.

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