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EFFICIENCY OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF GOVERNMENTS OF UKRAINE IN RESOLVING SOCIAL CONTRADICTIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY

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Today in Ukraine there is a bimodel structure of agriculture: large-scale commodity production on the basis of newly established agricultural enterprises and small-scale production in private peasant and small farms are developing in parallel. The first model can be called industrial, and the second – traditional. In addition, the agrarian business in Ukraine is becoming increasingly specialized and differentiated in size. There is a tendency to concentrate land in the use of fewer and fewer businesses.

Let us dwell on the main forms of manifestation of social contradictions in the agricultural sector of modern Ukraine. In particular, during the transformation period there was a deterioration of access of rural residents to socio-cultural services. There is a reduction in social institutions. The network of children's preschool institutions, the number of schools and medical institutions has been closing down at the fastest pace, and this trend is intensifying. Officially, everything is explained by the decrease in the number of school-age children and the need to improve the quality of education. Thus, 55.6% of rural settlements do not have schools, 66% – children's preschools, 27% of medical institutions and mobile services, 99.3% – households, 30.1% – shops, 42.3% of clubs and

houses of culture. A significant part of the buildings of the social sphere requires major repairs or is in disrepair [4, p. 59].

The main reasons for the decrease in the number of social infrastructure facilities in rural areas are: the exemption of agricultural enterprises from maintaining their own socio-cultural facilities and participating in their construction; the inability of local budgets to ensure adequate funding for social institutions and organizations that are dependent on them; low effective demand of the population for paid services.

The improvement of the rural housing stock is in unsatisfactory condition. In the surveyed 10.6 thousand settlements (39.1%) all apartments did not have central heating, 40.4% – water supply, 43.1% – sewerage, 45.4% – natural gas. As a result, the villages are devastated and depopulated. Only since 2005 the number of rural settlements has decreased by 962 units, and 369 have no population [4, p. 59–60]. As for the volume of housing construction in rural areas, if in 1990 they decreased significantly, today housing construction has begun to grow gradually. However, a characteristic feature of modern housing in rural areas is its huge asymmetry: in peripheral villages and districts, housing is almost not built, and around large cities and in recreational areas, it is built in large numbers by construction companies for profitable sale.

The peculiarity of the demographic situation of rural settlements is the combination of the scale of depopulation with the progressive aging of the rural population and the deterioration of other qualitative indicators. There is a constant decrease in the number of rural residents and an increase in the intensity of this process. If during 1990–2001 the number of villagers decreased annually within 100 thousand people, then since 2003 – about 200 thousand people a year. That is, the rate of decline in the rural population over the past decade compared to the previous year has almost doubled [5].

The dynamics of the age structure of the rural population indicates a decrease in the share of people younger than able-bodied. Today, almost one in three villagers is retired. Rural areas are characterized by a high level of demographic aging, which is accompanied by an increase in the demographic burden of people of childbearing (fertile) age – 15–49 years

[1]. The main reason for the decrease in the total birth rate in villages is the insufficient level of wages and incomes of the rural population for economic support of its reproduction, often the lack of objects of employment, the lack of social infrastructure in villages and so on. Wages in the agricultural sector are the lowest among all sectors of the national economy (in 2018 it was 80.8% of the average nominal wage in the country as a whole) [3], so its level does not provide not only the maintenance and upbringing of children, but also restoration of spent forces of agricultural workers themselves.

According to a sample survey of living conditions, 34.1% of rural households constantly denied themselves what they needed, except for food, and 4.3% could not even provide themselves with sufficient food. In recent years, about 1/5 of the rural population has an average per capita equivalent monthly cash income below the subsistence level [2, p. 40]. Under such conditions, the birth rate in rural areas has become crisis-ridden, with families with two children becoming rare.

However, the main social problem that has arisen as a result of Ukraine's agrarian transformations is real and hidden unemployment. The number of employed has been declining in recent years in both agricultural enterprises and farms, as well as households. The number of vacancies for such unemployed is limited. If on average in the country 10 people applied for one vacancy, then among agricultural workers – 53 people [2, p. 39]. In addition, in recent years the situation has only worsened [3].

Unemployment in rural areas covers not only people with a low level of education or lack of education, but also sufficiently educated people. Among the unemployed rural residents 2/3 are specialists, employees [2]. As a result of unsatisfactory working conditions and rising unemployment in rural areas, there is an increase in labor migration. More than a third of villagers work in cities and other settlements. A significant part goes abroad to earn money. As a result, the birth rate decreases. Already today, depopulation and depopulation of villages have become signs of demographic and settlement crisis.

The growth of nominal incomes of peasants in recent years has not reduced the differentiation of rural residents in terms of welfare. The low

level of income of peasants has a negative effect on their food security. Most of the calories they get from plant products. For most basic foods, actual consumption does not reach the level of rational norms established by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. The largest gap between actual and rational consumption was observed for milk and dairy products, meat and meat products, fish and fish products. Only for bread, potatoes and oil (until 2015), actual consumption during the period of market transformations usually exceeded the rational norm.

Thus, the social consequences of structural changes in rural areas were mostly negative. The main reason for this was the fetishization of the economic component and ignoring the social component of agrarian transformations, namely: providing official employment, a certain level of income and social protection of peasants, their access to consumer goods and services and more. The elimination of the previous scheme to support the development of social infrastructure in rural areas was not accompanied by the formation of a new institutional system of its socio-economic development. All this is a consequence of unresolved contradictions in the system of property relations.

Thus, in the agricultural sector of Ukraine today there are such unresolved contradictions as: contradictions in the development of the social sphere of the village (financing on a residual basis); contradiction between the concentration of agricultural production and land ownership in the hands of agricultural holdings and the reduction of the rural population and falling living standards; contradiction between peasants (nominal landowners) and corporate structures (actual landowners) and others. The main manifestations of social contradictions in the system of agrarian relations are: the growth of real and hidden unemployment in rural areas; strengthening migration processes; depopulation; demographic and settlement crisis; reduction of human capital in rural areas; deterioration of living standards and welfare of peasants; food poverty in rural areas, etc.

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