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## **About some systemic problems of economic development in rural areas of Kazakhstan**

This article deals with the systemic economic problems of rural areas of Kazakhstan. Purpose - The aim of the study is to identify the systemic economic problems of rural development and develop practical recommendations aimed at their solution. Methodology - based on the application of a functional-logical approach to the object under study, general scientific research methods: methods of comparison and generalization, abstract-logical and analytical. Originality/value - The main value of the work consists in the formulated conclusions and recommendations on the improvement of economic processes at the level of economic entities aimed at the rational and effective use of labor, land, material and other resources that enhance competitiveness and lean production. Findings - The economic basis for the development of rural areas is the agrarian sector, which occupies an important place in the structure of the rural economy and fulfills a systemic role in maintaining and developing the economic potential of these territories. The analysis of the economic structure shows the predominance of territories that have a dispersed production base, as well as the fact that personal subsidiary plots that occupy an independent place among other economic structures are an important sector of the rural economy. The research identified systemic economic problems and structural limitations of intensive growth of the rural economy, as well as recommendations for their solution. The authors developed recommendations and proposals that are of practical value and aimed at solving systemic problems and structural limitations of the intensive growth of the rural economy.

*Keywords:* economy of rural territories, system problems, branch structure, innovative directions.

### *Introduction*

Achieving the progressive development of the economy and improving the well-being of citizens is largely determined by the development of rural areas. Therefore, in the process of formation and implementation of the state policy of any state, a special place is given to rural areas that play an important role in the country's socio-economic development and ensure food security, the significance of which is revealed through the implementation of multifaceted national functions.

One of the strategic tasks of Kazakhstan is to ensure the integrated development of rural areas. The structural crisis in the economy of the rural areas of Kazakhstan, caused by the disruption of inter-branch relations and the collapse of the socialist system, was accompanied by disproportions between the needs and production of the main types of products, the increased diversity of the economic space of rural areas and the deepening of differences in starting positions. The radical transformation of the economic environment of the functioning of economic entities affected the state of employment and income of the rural population, which resulted in a paradoxical situation: on the one hand, an excess of labor, on the other hand, a lack of qualified specialists in changing the quality of life, which largely influenced the processes of high migration, the reduction of the rural population and the depopulation of individual villages.

The current state of the economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan deposes about the positive changes and achieved economic growth, which are based on strategically verified economic policies aimed at diversifying the national economic system and giving sustainable development to economic development. Thanks to this, the financing directed to the development of rural areas is increasing every year, and the scale of qualitative changes in the parameters in the economic and social spheres of rural settlements is very significant. At the same time, rural areas still have unresolved problems that hamper their transition to sustainable development. Key ones among them are: inadequate development of social, engineering and transport infrastructures, low level of labor productivity, formal employment and qualification of labor resources [1].

The rural economy is based on the agrarian sector, which, despite the growth of investments and the expansion of various forms of state support, is characterized by a backwardness of the industry from a higher technical and technological level, an insufficient level of economic efficiency of production activities and a shortage of highly qualified personnel.

Improving the competitive environment from the perspective of the quality characteristics of the products is considered to be an important task, since it is precisely the high level of competition that stimulates

the demand for innovations that are a real factor contributing to the improvement of the production structure and the development of the innovative economy. To do this, it is necessary to use elements of competitiveness, to develop a more effective system of economic incentives that promote business activity growth, cooperation, consolidation of economic entities aimed at organizing higher-level productions on the basis of innovations and output corresponding to qualitative and price parameters, as well as needs and desires of the population.

Thus, the solution of the systemic economic problems inherent in the rural areas of Kazakhstan, as well as the search for new ways of developing these territories, are among the priorities of the state in modern conditions.

*Main article text*

According to the results of monitoring of social and economic development, there are 6,838 SNPs, in which 7,7 million people live. Out of the total number of SORT 1 080 corresponds to the high, 5 293 - medium and 465 - low economic development potential. At the same time, more than half of SORTs are small and only 9.3 % of rural residents live in them [2]. The low population density of the rural population, as a deterrent to ensuring the integrated development of rural areas, leads to the dispersion of limited budget funds.

The prognostic scheme of the territorial development of the country until 2020, which is part of the documents of the State Planning System of the Republic of Kazakhstan and is one of the important tools for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2020, provides for the stimulation of territorial concentration and the formation of an optimal system for resettlement of the population and placement of social facilities, aimed at ensuring equal access of the population to social services guaranteed by the government, especially in rural and remote areas [3].

The ideological concept of the Program for the Development of the Regions until 2020 is based on ensuring a rational balance between the priority development of prospective centers of economic growth and the support of regions (different types of settlement systems) with a low economic potential at the minimum sufficient level of the quality of life standard.

According to this program document, among the centers of economic growth are included regional centers, rural settlements, including supporting and bordering territories.

Based on this, the conceptual provisions of the new regional policy of Kazakhstan are based not only on the solution of common problems in the development of rural areas, but also on the creation of conditions for priority socio-economic development of basic rural settlements with the provision of a higher standard of living for the rural population.

Analysis of world practice shows that this approach, focusing on the principle of polarized development, was used by developed countries in the transition period in the development of regional policy. The factor of limited material and financial resources serves as the basis for the expediency of applying this mechanism in the implementation of the policy of development of rural areas and in Kazakhstan. Attracting and concentrating large investments in strong points of economic growth will help create favorable conditions for the development of business activity in the territories located around the «poles of growth».

In the development of rural settlements, the solution of many problems, including the creation and expansion of a network of social, transport, engineering infrastructure, as well as landscaping, is possible at the expense of budgetary funds. At the same time, in order to ensure stability and growth of the rural population, the solution of only the mentioned problems is not enough, since here the development of the economic basis of villages is the fundamental mechanism providing employment and formation of income sources of the rural population, and also contributing to the reduction of migration outflows. In this regard, the integrated development of villages should be carried out simultaneously and with diversification of economic activity of economic entities.

The country has accumulated sufficient experience in carrying out reforms in the rural economy and achieved certain positive results: increasing the growth rates of agricultural production and investment, aimed at renewal, modernization of fixed assets, and the use of advanced innovative technologies. Along with this, in the course of the study, systemic problems and structural limitations of the intensive growth of the rural economy were identified and highlighted, the most important of which are:

- persistent low labor productivity;
- irrational use of land resources;
- small-scale production;

- lack of effective sales channels;
- the problem of staffing.

Achieving a high level of labor productivity is an important factor contributing to the solution of one of the most urgent tasks of the state - to increase the competitiveness of the national economy.

Labor productivity in agriculture is characterized by a low level in the range of 3 thousand dollars per employee per year, while this figure in developed countries is 50-70 thousand dollars [4].

The state of fixed capital and the level of technical and technological equipment of production has a direct impact on the formation of indicators of labor productivity and production efficiency, which in the agro-industrial complex is characterized by a high degree of depreciation, as well as the prevalence of energy and resource-intensive material and technical base.

Analysis of the fixed assets of the agricultural sector shows that, in general, despite the positive dynamics of renewal of agricultural machinery, there are still insufficient rates of commissioning of new and worn-out funds as compared with the retirement of old ones.

In the industry, the real life of agricultural machinery exceeds the regulatory deadlines by an average of 1.3 to 2 times [5]. As a result, the economy of rural areas is characterized by irrational technological structure, in which the main production assets with a long service life prevail.

In this regard, the process of increasing labor productivity is directly related to the activation of the technological resource-saving factor, which requires the introduction of innovative technologies and a qualitative upgrade of fixed assets. This is also facilitated by the ongoing trend in the world of technological development, including the transition to a new fourth industrial revolution.

The main factors behind the insufficient level of attracting investment in renewal of fixed capital include the imperfection of the pricing mechanism for agricultural products, which causes a low level of gross accumulation in this sector of the economy, which accordingly influences the pace of modernization of the industry.

In order to radically improve the situation on the dynamics of the average real operating life of machinery and equipment in the agro-industrial complex, in our opinion, improvement of state support for agro-entities is needed, aimed at stimulating the expansion of investment in technological and technical modernization of the industry, based primarily on Kazakh content, i.e. domestic agricultural machinery.

In the EU, among the main factors that have a significant impact on improving labor productivity, include: technological innovation, staff development and labor organization technology [6].

In this context, Kazakhstan needs to develop promising innovative directions, including in agriculture, and for this purpose the role of universities and research centers should be strengthened [7, 8]. In this regard, the technical equipment of working places in agriculture at the proper level (mainly due to the development of domestic production of agricultural machinery and equipment) requires a systematic approach and intensification of the integration of science, production and education. As a result, this approach contributes to increasing the productivity of labor and production efficiency, which will strengthen the competitive advantages of agricultural units, and, in general, will positively affect the competitiveness of the rural economy.

Taking into account the different possibilities of agricultural companies specializing in the crop sector, one of the ways to solve the problem of technical re-equipment of the industry is, in our opinion, outsourcing. To do this, special state support is needed for service companies that, through concentration of long-term investments in equipment and machinery, training and training of highly qualified specialists will provide quality services to agribusiness entities. At the same time, the quality assurance of outsourcer services should be ensured by specialization and gained practical experience. As a result, outsourcing certain functions will result in lower costs and risks of agro-formation, and will also create favorable conditions for increasing labor productivity.

Agriculture, as the dominant branch of the rural economy, is directly related to the use of agricultural land, the irrational use of which is one of the most important systemic economic problems.

The study found that the vast majority of agricultural land is in agrarian formations on a lease basis and the lack of effective legislative mechanisms to ensure control over the preservation of qualitative characteristics of the fertile layer, the complexity and length of procedures for the termination of the lease of a land plot in the event of non-fulfillment of the terms of the lease agreement create prerequisites to degradation and decrease in fertility of agricultural lands. In this regard, in our opinion, in order to preserve and improve the fertility of agricultural lands, the following activities are necessary:

- improvement of the legal regulation of the procedure for monitoring the leased land, including for newly granted land plots, during the first three years - annually, subsequent - once every 2 years;
- Development of a standard form of the lease contract for agricultural land, which should provide for an item that requires the rational use of agricultural land, and non-compliance with this requirement should be grounds for unilateral termination of the contract;
- delineation of powers and transfer of functions to control legislation in the sphere of land relations to the level of executive bodies of the district and village.

Taking into account that land is the main means of production in agriculture, the proposed measures to strengthen the responsibility of land users, as well as state control over the use and protection of land, will contribute to the effective and rational use of land resources.

Expanding the areas of irrigated agriculture is one of the important conditions for increasing the output of agricultural products and addressing food security issues. Practice shows high economic efficiency and efficiency when using the areas of regular irrigation. State support for the development of this area of economic activity is carried out within the framework of the state program «Road map of business-2020» through the implementation of infrastructure projects at the expense of the budget. At the same time, the rate of introduction of irrigated land into circulation is insufficient. Over the next five years, it is planned to increase the area of irrigated land

40 % and bring up to 2 million hectares [9]. We believe that it is possible to realize the significant potential for the development of irrigated agriculture by attracting the financial resources of international financial organizations, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to finance projects aimed at creating and restoration of irrigation infrastructure of irrigated lands based on the use of modern resource-saving technologies.

Agriculture is characterized as an industry dominated by small forms of management (small-scale production), usually with a low level of labor productivity. With the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Agricultural Cooperatives», this problem finds its consistent solution by enlarging the agro subjects in agricultural cooperatives that combine milk receiving points, family feedlot sites, slaughter stations, etc. To activate this process and attract large investors to rural communities, it seems appropriate to strengthen economic incentives by reducing taxes for large investors, which will create the productive core of each village.

With a reduction in tax rates, one of the main conditions should be the mandatory use of innovation in production activities [10].

The production system of agriculture, as already noted, is mainly represented by small and medium-sized agricultural units that have small areas under cultivation and other fixed assets, which in turn limits their ability to obtain borrowed funds in the required amount for technical and technological re-equipment, as well as the construction or reconstruction of production facilities. Here, in our opinion, relying on the world practice, it is important to more widely implement the transfer of certain functions to outsourcing and create conditions for the outsourcer (service company) through the improvement of financial and credit mechanisms.

In this case, the outsourcer should not be limited to technical services, because one of the urgent problems of agricultural enterprises is to ensure the safety of manufactured products. In this regard, outsourcers should also provide services for the provision of modern storage facilities for finished products, which will allow for a systematic sale of products taking into account favorable price conditions.

Analysis of the development of the agricultural sector shows that in this sector of the economy improperly developed effective system of marketing of agricultural products, which is the main cause of the problem of inadequate pricing of agricultural producers' products [11, 12]. This, in its turn, leads to a limitation of the scale of agricultural production and, on the whole, has a restraining effect on the level:

- commercial effectiveness of this type of economic activity;
- technological and technical renewal of the industry;
- labor productivity;
- Average monthly wages in agriculture.

One of the effective ways to solve this problem, in our opinion, is the formation of a state policy in the field of export promotion of Kazakhstani goods, including food products. At the same time, the basic principles and approaches to the formation of export policy should be focused on improving the institutional structure, mechanisms and tools for promoting export goods.

In modern conditions, the global demand for organic food is increasing annually [13]. This creates favorable prerequisites not only for the development of export potential, but also for the dynamic development of the domestic agrarian sector.

Today, it is clear that the export of livestock products requires the creation of a special structure. This can be done by analogy with the current mechanism of assistance to the grain market participants in promoting the produced crop production, which is carried out through the Food Contract Corporation. Therefore, carrying out systematic work to create the proposed structure in agriculture will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of economic indicators in the agroindustrial complex, since a normal reproduction process includes not only the production of products, but also its guaranteed sale at prices that make it possible to extract the maximum profit.

It should be noted that one of the ways to ensure a stable product market is to create concentration logistics centers or outsource this process. At the same time, it is necessary to have specialized storage facilities on the basis of a logistics center or an outsourcer, which will allow to level price fluctuations during the off-season [14].

In addition, communication between producers of agricultural products and consumers needs to be improved [15].

Issues of shortage of qualified personnel are correlated with problems of low level of labor productivity and imperfection of the sales system, as these factors directly affect labor remuneration. Therefore, the interdependence of these systemic economic problems indicates that the decision of one of them will have a positive impact on staffing.

It is the level of pay that affects the attractiveness of jobs. In this regard, it is necessary for the state to take measures aimed at creating economic conditions that ensure:

- Access of participants of the agrarian sector to the renewal of funds;
- motivation of agricultural units to introduce and use innovative resource-saving technologies;
- formation of an effective logistics system and pricing.

This, in turn, will promote the growth of labor productivity in the agrarian sphere and the level of wages, which will positively affect the prestige of professional activity in this sector of the economy and the demand in the labor market, and will also address the significant problems of the industry - low level wages, lack of demand for vacant jobs and a shortage of specialists of high skill level

### *Conclusions*

Based on the results of a study of the systemic problems of the rural economy, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. One of the constraints of low labor productivity in agriculture, the main sector of the rural economy, is the existence of a high level of depreciation of fixed capital. In this regard, at the sectoral level, the transition to a higher level of labor productivity requires the consideration of technological factors that require both renewal of fixed assets and the outsourcing of certain functions.

2. The problem of irrational use of land resources requires the adoption of legislative measures that enhance the responsibility of land users and control in the field of land relations.

3. It is necessary to build an effective structure of the sales network, which will be the final stage of the production cycle. The inadequate development of transport and logistics services, the lack of modern transport and logistics facilities and technologies hamper both the scaling up of agribusiness and the growth of the rural economy.

4. The technology of outsourcing certain functions is relevant and of great importance for small forms of management, the production activity of which, as a rule, is characterized by a low technological order.

5. The issues of providing the agricultural sector with skilled labor resources require an integrated approach and are in the plane of solving the basic economic systemic problems of the sector that we have examined.

Thus, in order to realize the competitive advantages of rural areas, it seems expedient to further develop and improve the sectoral structure of the rural economy. This requires a comprehensive solution to systemic problems based on a qualitatively different approach to doing business and adhering to the technological culture of production.

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### Қазақстанның ауылдық аумақтар экономикасын дамытудың кейбір жүйелік проблемалары туралы

Мақалада Қазақстанның ауылдық жерлердің жүйелі экономикалық проблемалары талқыланды. Зерттеудің мақсаты жүйелі экономикалық проблемаларды ауылдық дамыту және практикалық ұсынымдар әзірлеу, оларды шешуге бағытталған жолдарды табу болып табылады. Зерттеу әдіснамасы — негізделген қолдану функционалдық-логикалық тәсіл зерттеудегі объектісі, жалпы ғылыми-зерттеу әдістері: салыстыру және қорыту, абстрактілі-логикалық және аналитикалық. Негізгі құндылығы тұжырымдалған қорытындылар мен ұсынымдарға жетілдіру жөніндегі экономикалық үрдістерді деңгейінде шаруашылық жүргізуші субъектілердің бағытталған ұтымды және тиімді пайдалану, еңбек, жер, материалдық және өзге де ресурстардың бәсекеге қабілеттілігін арттыруға ықпал ететін және ұтқыр топтың жұмысы екені белгілі. Зерттеу нәтижелері экономикалық базисі ауылдық аумақтарды дамыту болып табылады, себебі аграрлық сектор маңызды орын алады. Жүйеқұраушы релі — экономикалық әлеуетті қолдау және дамыту. Талдау экономикалық құрылымын иеленгендері бар аумақтарды өндірістік негізін, сондай-ақ зерттеу барысында сәйкестендірілген жүйелік экономикалық мәселелер және құрылымдық шектеулер қарқынды өсуі зерттеліп, олардың шешімі бойынша ұсыныстар әзірленді. Авторлар практикалық маңызы бар және жүйелік мәселелер мен ауылдық экономиканың қарқынды даму құрылымдық шектеулерді шешуге бағытталған ұсынымдар енгізді.

*Кілт сөздер:* экономика, ауылдық аумақтар, жүйелі мәселелер, салалық құрылым, инновациялық бағыттар.

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## О некоторых системных проблемах развития экономики сельских территорий Казахстана

В статье рассматриваются экономические проблемы сельских территорий Казахстана. Цель исследования — выявление системных экономических проблем сельского развития и выработка практических рекомендаций, направленных на их решение. Применены функционально-логический подход к изучаемому объекту, общенаучные методы исследования: сравнения и обобщения, абстрактно-логические и аналитические. Сформулированы выводы и рекомендации по совершенствованию экономических процессов на уровне хозяйствующих субъектов, направленных на рациональное и эффективное использование трудовых, земельных, материальных и иных ресурсов, способствующих повышению конкурентоспособности и бережливому производству. Отмечено, что экономическим базисом развития сельских территорий является аграрный сектор, который занимает важное место в структуре сельской экономики и выполняет системообразующую роль в поддержании и развитии экономического потенциала данных территорий. Анализ экономической структуры показывает преобладание территорий, имеющих дисперсную производственную основу, а также то, что существенным сектором сельской экономики являются личные подсобные хозяйства, занявшие самостоятельное место среди других хозяйственных укладов. В ходе исследования идентифицированы системные экономические проблемы и структурные ограничения интенсивного роста сельской экономики, а также выработаны рекомендации и предложения, представляющие практическую ценность и направленные на их решение.

*Ключевые слова:* экономика сельских территорий, системные проблемы, отраслевая структура, инновационные направления.

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