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Multifunctionality of Agriculture in the Reality of Globalization Crisis

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of implementing the multifunctionality of agriculture in the context of the globalization crisis. In particular, it is the assessment of the indicators related to implementing the multifunctionality of agriculture concept in Ukraine, the mutual influence of the industry efficiency, and the efficiency of performing certain functions. The practical implementation of the multifunctionality of agriculture concept was proven. It has acquired conceptually new features under globalization, such as the diversification of functions and the integration into the global economic space. The expediency of distinguishing the globalization function of agriculture was substantiated. The function involves intensified integration of countries in the global economic processes due to the activation of international trade transactions with agricultural products, the participation in the implementation of global programs aimed at overcoming hunger and poverty. A close relationship between the economic efficiency of agriculture and the effectiveness related to the implementation of its functions, was established. The increased efficiency of the realization of economic and globalization functions of the industry was proven. It was substantiated that the activation of the social and ecological functions of agriculture requires consolidated efforts of business entities and state institutions.

Keywords: multifunctionality, globalization, crisis, agriculture, function of agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

Under the conditions of globalization, multifunctionality has become as a critical characteristic of agriculture. At the same time, Willson (Willson, 2007, p. 6) argued that the last 20 years or so had seen the use of this term in a wide variety of contexts, spanning a broad spectrum of proponents from policy-makers to rural stakeholder groups and from politicians to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Durand & Huylenbroek (2003, p.16) suggested that multifunctionality has been introduced in recent years as a leading principle and new paradigm for the future development of agriculture and rural areas. Similarly, Andersen et al. (2013, p. 168) characterized multifunctional agriculture as a policy-led process describing the current agricultural trends, rather than as a concept explaining the agricultural change, and still primarily embedded in structuralist theory rather than informed by normative concepts.

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Borodina (2006, p. 109) discussed multifunctionality of agriculture in terms of additional internal effects, which could be created in the process of economic activity, but had no market values. They could be positive, negative, and neutral. The positive ones were identified as public goods – food safety (Shorikov & Babenko, 2014), rural areas vitality, landscape, and environmental protection (Czyżewski et al., 2019). Therefore, from an economic point of view, the market mechanisms do not apply to multifunctional agriculture.

Many authors develop a wide variety of approaches to specific scientific backgrounds and