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Analysis of the Effectiveness of State Support to Farms in Region of Russia. The Case of Sverdlovsk Region

Viktor KUHAR
Ural State Agrarian University, Russia
viktorurgau@mail.ru

Ekaterina KOT
Ural State Agrarian University, Russia
Ktekaterina@rambler.ru

Olga LORETTIS
Ural State Agrarian University, Russia
olgaru-olga-loretts@yandex.ru

Olga TEREKHOVA
Ural State Agrarian University, Russia
oluhka81@yandex.ru

Aleksey RUCHKIN
Ural State Agrarian University, Russia
alexeyruchkin87@gmail.com

Nadegda YURCHENKO
Ural State Agrarian University, Russia
unaapk@yandex.ru

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the analysis of the effectiveness of the implementation of state agricultural programs, national and priority regional projects to support peasant (farm) farms and rural areas in Sverdlovsk region. Materials and methods: tools and methods of financial assistance, including grants, for peasant (farm) farms in the Sverdlovsk region are analyzed. These mechanisms are used in the implementation of state programs for the development of the agro-industrial complex at the Federal and regional levels. The identified problems of agricultural development allow us not only to formulate recommendations for improving the mechanisms for implementing measures to support farmers, but also to pay attention to aspects that are not taken into account by state programs. The authors relied on statistical, structural, analytical, system, logical, and correlation analysis. The normative legal basis of the study was chosen by the normative legal acts of Russian Federation and Sverdlovsk region, including state programs, national and priority regional projects implemented in the field of agriculture, and official materials of state statistics. Results: the effectiveness of the main instruments of state support for farmers in the region is evaluated, recommendations for improving the mechanisms of support for farmers in Sverdlovsk region are developed, and directions for the development of rural cooperation are proposed. Discussion: the article presents a socio-economic analysis of the support and development of peasant (farm) farms by the state government authorities of Sverdlovsk region. The authors pay special attention to the fact that during the implementation of state programs and projects, certain aspects are not taken into account when evaluating applications for state funding, which were identified by researchers in Estonia and Latvia. Conclusion: it is necessary to regularly assess the effectiveness and then correlate the tools used to support peasant (farm) farms. In order to increase efficiency, it is necessary to apply correlation analysis of statistical data to public authorities and conduct sociological research (in the future).

Keywords: agricultural cooperatives; agricultural products; development; economic effect; financing; grants; peasant (farmer) farms; personal subsidiary farms; social effect; state programs; state projects; subsidies.

JEL Classification: O13; Q14; Q18.

Introduction

According to Russian Federal Service of State Statistics, the proportion of peasant (farmer) households in agricultural production is increasing annually. So, the volume of products produced by farmers in 2013 amounted to 9.8% of the total production, and in 2017 - 12.7%. The growth rate of agricultural production in peasant (farmer) farms is ahead of the growth rate in agricultural organizations. In 2017, the production index in the farming sector amounted to 111.1%, while in agricultural organizations - 105.2%.

Peasant (farmer) farms remain the basis for the development of rural areas, they play a leading role not only in accelerating growth in the agricultural sector, but also in solving the most important social problems of the village: they provide employment for the rural population; contribute to the preservation of traditional lifestyles; are a source of replenishment of local budgets (Maleykina 2018).

State support of agriculture in the current market economy is an objective necessity due to its inherent features. Seasonality of production, high capital intensity, dependence on natural and climatic factors, disparity in prices for consumed resources and manufactured products, the presence of a constant risk in obtaining stable incomes and many other features lead to the uncompetitiveness of agricultural sectors. These features of agriculture give rise to the need for constant intervention and support of the state (Siraeva 2012).

Based on the socio-economic importance of farming, in the formation of programs for their development it is necessary to take into account the following main principles: priority (determination of the main areas of support); purposefulness (determination of key goals and objectives of programs at all levels) and consistency (development of a set of measures necessary for the implementation of programs in conjunction with state agrarian policy) (Streltsov 2012).

Currently, the financial and economic mechanisms of state support for the development of priority areas and sectors of agriculture, including peasant (farmer) farms, are being implemented as part of sectoral state programs: "Development of agriculture and regulation of agricultural products, raw materials and food markets for 2013 - 2020 years" and "Development of the agro-industrial complex and the consumer market of the Sverdlovsk region until 2024" (Degtyarev 2018).

The problems of the development of small forms of agricultural production, their support and development are the subject of research by many learned agricultural economists. A certain contribution to the study of the theory and practical development of peasant farms was made by such scientists as P. Beck (2019), I. Bhakta (2019), D. Blandford (2019), N.V. Maltsev *et al.* (2014), J. Mroczkowska (2019), O.D. Rubaeva *et al.* (2016), A.N. Semin (2009), L.V. Subbotina and S.G. Golovina (2017), S.S. Sushentsova *et al.* (2011), B.A. Voronin and E.A. Treskova (2013), B.A. Voronin *et al.* (2019), S.K. Wegren (2018).

The issue of evaluating the effectiveness of programs was considered in the works of M.P. Afanasyev and N.N. Shash (2013), S.V. Barulin and V.S. Kusmartseva (2010), P.G. Kradinov (2011), A.G. Breusova (2015) and other researchers.

2. Methods of Research

Approaches to assessing the effectiveness of state programs in Russian practice have been formed relatively recently, after a decision was made to switch to program-targeted methods of budget planning and result-oriented public administration (Breusova, 2015). Issues of evaluating the effectiveness of programs often became the subject of scientific discussions, moreover, the very concept of "effectiveness of state programs" was not fixed by regulatory legal acts.

The authors concluded that at present there is no universally accepted methodology or a single approach to assessing the effectiveness of government programs. The regions are developing their own methods, which in most cases make it possible to obtain a high degree of program effectiveness in the report, and therefore it is not possible to give an objective assessment of the activities of executive authorities - responsible program executors and, accordingly, to effectively use budget funds (Breusova A.G., 2015).

Moreover, M.P. Afanasyev and N.N. Shash noted that not only in Russian, but also in foreign practice there is no single methodology that would allow a systematic assessment of the effectiveness of implemented budget programs at various levels (Afanasyev & Shash, 2013; Nozhenko, 2015).

In the course of the study, the authors used the analysis of statistical data, correlation analysis, analysis of documents, including regulatory legal acts and departmental reports.

In 2019, in the Sverdlovsk Region, in accordance with the Decree of the President of Russian Federation "On National Goals and Strategic Tasks of the Development of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2024", the regional project "Creating a Support System for Farmers and Developing Rural Cooperation" began. Implementation of the project

will be one of the tasks of the State Program for the Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex and the Consumer Market of Sverdlovsk Region until 2024.

The project includes new activities to support novice farmers (grant “Agrostartap”) and agricultural consumer cooperatives, as well as support for centers of competence. This will be additional measures of state support for small business forms to existing ones.

In conditions of limited budgetary funds, the determination and calculation of the economic efficiency of state financial support is of particular relevance. Scientists of the All-Russian Research Institute of Economics, Labor and Management in Agriculture and the Ural Agrarian University have developed a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of the use of budgetary funds, determined on the basis of the ratio of the total support to its financial result (Novoselova and Efremov, 2015), which is calculated by the formula:

$$FRS = \frac{GO \cdot VS}{OPC} \quad (1)$$

where FRS is the financial result of support, million rubles;
GO - gross agricultural output, million rubles;
VS - the volume of state support, million rubles;
OPC - gross output production costs, million rubles.

Based on this, we determine the effectiveness of state support by the formula:

$$ES = \frac{FRS}{VS} \quad (2)$$

where ES is the effectiveness of state support;
FRS - financial result of support, million rubles;
OP - the volume of state support, million rubles.

3. Main Results of the Study

The analysis shows (table 1) that the effectiveness of state support to peasant (farmer) farms in the Sverdlovsk region (an increase in gross output per 1 ruble of allocated budget funds) averaged 1.85 over three years. This indicator reached its maximum value in 2015 (the maximum volume of agricultural products was obtained), but in 2017 decreased to the level of 2012 (since production costs increased in 2017). The increase in gross output amounted to 90% by 2012. Based on the analysis of the allocated budgetary funding, it can be noted that the implemented state support measures are justified and play a significant role in the activities of farms, since each budgeted ruble contributes 1.85 rubles of production growth, while the share of subsidies in agricultural production is only 9 %.

Table 1. Analysis of the economic efficiency of budget financing of peasant (farmer) farms of the Sverdlovsk region

Indicators	Years						2017 to 2012, %	In just 6 years
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
The increase in gross output from state support (FRS), million rubles	400.6	686.1	674.0	800.5	767.6	704.4	176	4033.2
The effectiveness of state support (ES)	1.73	1.88	1.77	2.04	1.92	1.73	-	1.85

Source: compiled by the authors based on Bulletins on the state of agriculture

We will evaluate the effectiveness of using state support funds using a correlation analysis of the volume of state support and the volume of agricultural products produced by farms (Vakhitova 2016, Shikhalev 2015) (table 2).

Table 2. Estimated data on the correlation of the amount of state support and agricultural products produced by peasant (farmer) farms of the Sverdlovsk region for the period 2012-2017

Years	Amount of state support, million rubles	Produced agricultural products of peasant farms and individual entrepreneurs, million rubles
	X (factor sign)	Y (effective sign)
2012	231.5	2463.3
2013	364.6	3223.2
2014	380.4	3885.3
2015	391.5	4901.4
2016	400.2	4387.6
2017	406.3	4688.3
TOTAL	2174.5	23549.1
AVERAGE	$\bar{x} = 362.42$	$\bar{y} = 3924.85$

Source: compiled by the authors based on Bulletins on the state of agriculture

We calculate the correlation coefficient in order to assess the degree (tightness) and direction of the correlation between the size of state support and agricultural products produced by farmers according to the following formula:

$$R_{xy} = \frac{XY - X \cdot Y}{Q_x \cdot Q_y} \quad (3)$$

where $xy = \sum xy/n = 8803072,70/6 = 1467178,78$;

$$x = \sum \bar{x}/n = 2174,5/6 = 362,42;$$

$$y = \sum \bar{y}/n = 23549,1/6 = 3924,85;$$

$$Q_x = \sqrt{\frac{\sum X^2}{n} - (X)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{809741,55}{6} - (362,42)^2} = 60,07;$$

$$Q_y = \sqrt{\frac{\sum Y^2}{n} - (Y)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{96807333,83}{6} - (3924,85)^2} = 854,46;$$

$$R_{xy} = \frac{1467178,78 - 362,42 \cdot 3924,85}{854,46 \cdot 60,07} = 0,87.$$

Connections between attributes can be strong (or close) and weak (respectively, R_{xy} takes values from -1 to +1).

The correlation coefficient criteria (on the Cheddock scale) are evaluated as a relationship: weak ($0.1 < R_{xy} < 0.3$); moderate ($0.3 < R_{xy} < 0.5$); noticeable ($0.5 < R_{xy} < 0.7$); high ($0.7 < R_{xy} < 0.9$) and very high ($0.9 < R_{xy} < 1$).

In our case, the correlation coefficient was 0.87 (the relationship between the y sign and the x factor is high and direct).

We will also calculate the coefficient of determination:

$$D = R_{xy}^2 \cdot 100 \% \quad (4)$$

where D is the coefficient of determination;

$$R_{xy}\text{-correlation coefficient. } D = 0,872^2 \cdot 100 = 76 \%$$

4. Discussion

Correlation analysis allowed us to establish that there is a direct high correlation between the production of agricultural products by farms and the volume of their state support. The volume of agricultural products produced by farmers is 76% dependent on changes in their financial support. In our opinion, this situation confirms the effective use of state support funds by representatives of small forms of agricultural production and proves the need to protect and increase funding for activities aimed at supporting them.

Based on these conclusions, we suggest that local governments develop a mechanism for supporting farmers at the initial stage from local budgets, similar to grant support for novice farmers, since currently, support for farms from local budgets (according to departmental data) does not exceed 3 million rubles per year.

Increasing the role of farms in the food supply of the region and the country as a whole, their role in the social recovery and revival of the Russian countryside, proved the need for further development of farming as one of the most important state priorities.

In 2018, a new national project "Small and medium-sized businesses and support for individual business initiatives" was launched. Federal project "Creating a system of support for farmers and rural cooperation" was developed in response to this project. State support will be provided to small farms in three main areas: grants for the creation and development of farms (grant "Agrostartap"); subsidies for the creation and development of agricultural consumer cooperatives (including subsidies for reimbursement of part of the cost of selling agricultural products by their members, subsidies for reimbursement of cooperative costs (up to 50 %) for the purchase of farm animals and equipment to provide services to members of the cooperative), as well as subsidies for the support of competence centres that will provide a full range of consulting support to farmers and cooperatives.

In our view, these measures will increase the attractiveness of combining disparate agricultural producers, including farmers and private farms, into agricultural consumer cooperatives. The Sverdlovsk region has developed a regional project "Creating a system for supporting farmers and developing rural cooperation" for the period 2019-2024. The project participants are the Ministry of agriculture and food of the Sverdlovsk region and the Sverdlovsk regional business support Fund.

Conclusions

The aim of the regional project is to ensure the number of newly involved small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in agriculture in Sverdlovsk region by 2024 at least 694 people, including those registered as peasant (farm) farms.

It is planned to allocate 462.89 million rubles of budget funds for the implementation of the regional project, including 430.49 million rubles from the Federal budget and 32.4 million rubles from the regional budget.

In order to implement the project, we recommend making the following changes to the state agricultural Program of Sverdlovsk region.

The main indicator of the effectiveness of grants for new measures to support farmers will be the creation of new jobs (1 job per 1 million rubles of the grant). By 2024, it is planned to create 432 new permanent jobs, including 138-recipients of the grant "Agrostartap", as well as 294-recipients of grants to support beginning farmers and the development of family livestock farms. Thus, the social effect of farming is that it creates additional jobs in rural areas, increases the profitability of citizens, and the economic effect is to replenish local budgets.

The development of small forms of agricultural production as an important sector of the economy is a prerequisite for the successful economic and social development of the region and the country as a whole. It is hoped that the measures planned by the Federal government for 2019-2024 in the sphere of small and medium-sized rural entrepreneurship will be implemented and will become a real support for its further development and development of rural areas.

State authorities should take into account that the problem of the effectiveness of municipalities and support for rural areas depends on territorial, technological, transport and social (for example, the level of education) factors that should underlie the decision to allocate funding for individual peasant (farm) farms and rural municipalities as a whole. This will reduce the resulting gaps in economic performance and achieve higher economic indicators (Luik-Lindsaar *et al.* 2018).

Special attention should be paid to the technological part of agriculture. The current system of grant support of Sverdlovsk region "Agrostartup" does not take into account the level of technologies intended for purchase, planned research for the development of the knowledge economy when evaluating applications. Although studies show that these two aspects can significantly increase the level of return on funds in the development of peasant (farm) farms and the territory as a whole (Rivza *et al.*, 2018).

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