

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34069/AI/2023.62.02.29>

How to Cite:

Halanets, V., Dziurakh, Y., Yaremko, H., & Fedorchak, O. (2023). Transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine. *Amazonia Investiga*, 12(62), 293-301. <https://doi.org/10.34069/AI/2023.62.02.29>

Transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine

Трансформація державної регуляторної політики в аграрному секторі України

Received: January 13, 2023

Accepted: March 17, 2023

Written by:

Volodymyr Halanets¹<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9348-6211>

Web of Science R-8649-2017

Yurii Dziurakh²<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7131-7468>

Web of Science R-8733-2017

Halyna Yaremko³<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2257-2264>**Olha Fedorchak⁴**<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9965-5135>

Abstract

Ukraine is taking appropriate measures to achieve an important national priority - to become a rightful and active participant in global economic processes. This is evidenced by the adoption of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, where cooperation in the agricultural sector is given an important place, in particular in economic development and increasing the number of livestock. The article aims to identify current problems and justify priority measures for the effective development of integration processes in the agricultural sector of Ukraine with the European Union. The methods used to write this article are analysis, synthesis, generalization, explanation, and qualification of data. The analytical method was applied to objectively assess the socioeconomic processes in the agricultural sector of Ukraine, and comparative analysis was used to study the institutional environment in the European Union and Ukraine. The state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector will ensure: proper regulation of the use of pesticides and other chemicals; development and implementation of financial support mechanisms for agricultural enterprises; development of an electronic system of monitoring and control of product quality. The importance of

Анотація

Україна вживає відповідних заходів для досягнення важливого національного пріоритету – стати повноправним і активним учасником світових економічних процесів. Про це свідчить ухвалення Угоди про асоціацію між Україною та Європейським Союзом, де важливе місце відводиться співпраці в аграрному секторі, зокрема в економічному розвитку та збільшенні поголів'я худоби. Стаття має на меті визначити актуальні проблеми та обґрунтувати першочергові заходи для ефективного розвитку інтеграційних процесів аграрного сектору України з Європейським Союзом. Методи, використані для написання цієї статті: аналіз, синтез, узагальнення, пояснення та кваліфікація даних. Аналітичний метод застосовано для об'єктивної оцінки соціально-економічних процесів в аграрному секторі України, а порівняльний аналіз – для вивчення інституційного середовища в Європейському Союзі та Україні. Державна регуляторна політика в аграрному секторі забезпечить: належне регулювання використання пестицидів та інших хімічних речовин; розроблення та впровадження механізмів фінансової підтримки сільськогосподарських підприємств; розробка електронної системи моніторингу та контролю

¹ PhD in Public Administration, Associate Professor of the Department of Administrative and Financial Management, Institute of Administration and Postgraduate Education, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine.

² PhD in Public Administration, Associate Professor of the Department of Administrative and Financial Management, Institute of Administration and Postgraduate Education, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine.

³ PhD in Education, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine.

⁴ Doctor of Science in Public Administration, Associate Professor of the Department of Public Administration and Public Service Institute of Administration and Postgraduate Education, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine.

improving the system of state management of the agricultural sector of Ukraine has been proven.

Keywords: integration, European Association, state agricultural policy, institutions, rural areas, free trade area, agricultural sector, exports, imports.

Introduction

The adaptation of Ukraine to the terms of cooperation with the European Union in the agricultural sector set out in the Agreement is considered a complex and long-term process. However, it will be an important factor for further modernization of the domestic agricultural sector under the generally accepted principles of global development, strengthening of integration processes, and based on common interests and values.

An important prerequisite for Ukraine's effective participation in global integration processes is that the subjects of transnational profitable relations achieve a collective understanding of government programs, under the laws that support them, an appropriate level of knowledge and compliance with the rules set by the World Trade Organization (WTO), other transnational unions and relevant intergovernmental agreements. It should be borne in mind that transnational agreements ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine under the Constitution of Ukraine have a higher legal force than domestic legislation. However, the applicability of their provisions depends on the proper legal strength and compliance with Ukrainian legislation.

Organizing the fulfillment of transnational obligations is an important and responsible function of state institutions. It requires not only applied knowledge but also well-grounded statements and the search for effective mechanisms in the matters of state regulation of foreign profitable activities, which should primarily ensure the protection of the public interest. Currently, the state is in the process of fulfilling numerous transnational obligations, including the measures set out in the Association Agreement. Failure to fulfill, withhold or ineptly fulfill these obligations will hinder the development of beneficial cooperation with the EU countries and reduce the effectiveness of Ukraine's participation in other global integration processes.

Following the Association Agreement, along with general measures of cooperation in the field

якості продукції. Доведено важливість удосконалення системи державного управління аграрним сектором України.

Ключові слова: інтеграція, Європейська асоціація, державна аграрна політика, установи, сільські райони, зона вільної торгівлі, аграрний сектор, експорт, імпорт

of profitability, the directions of gradual approximation of Ukrainian agricultural legislation and bringing the institutional structure and system of state control over food quality in line with the supervisory and executive policies and practices of the European Union are defined. First of all, this concerns the legal support for the regulation of supervisory mechanisms, taking into account almost 60 applicable regulations, directives, opinions, recommendations, and announcements of the European Union.

Among the points of the Association Agreement, some issues require attention. These include finalizing the adjustment of agricultural product quality standards, and regulating the cultivation of organic products and genetically modified crops. Equally important is compliance with the rules of seed trade, preservation of geographical values, origin, and styles of agricultural and food products, as well as the development of biodiversity, etc. Despite the rather long term of the Association Agreement, there are still many problems in these areas that need to be freshly worked out and agreed upon. The measures envisaged by the Agreement are insufficient in the areas of fisheries and forestry. They require improvement of the system of functioning for the development of pasture areas and strengthening of environmental protection. This includes climate change, the development of the agricultural wisdom and education system, the establishment of mechanisms for the protection of intellectual property, and other issues related to the agricultural sector.

Thus, in the agricultural sector of Ukraine, the fulfillment of the indicators set out in the Association Agreement and other transnational agreements in terms of ensuring effective integration into global European and world profit processes can currently be assessed as insufficient and not entirely balanced. This is evidenced by the slow pace of expansion of long-term cooperative relations between the subjects of agricultural demand. This applies to the introduction of a unified agrarian system and the lack of foreign investment in the domestic agricultural sector of Ukraine. Moreover, there is

a backwardness and low efficiency of raw material equipment for exporting Ukrainian agricultural products, the spread of social and environmental problems in pastoral areas that do not meet European trends, etc. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2021).

Thus, this situation indicates an incorrect association in terms of approximation to European analogs of institutional support for foreign profitable vectors of agro-industrial tension and the development of the state's pastoral areas. This shows the need to strengthen transnational cooperation and adapt the behavior of relevant transnational and public institutions. Regulation of these and other trends requires intensification of the scientific search for reasonable proposals to improve the state policy in the association of foreign profitable activities. It is necessary to strengthen scientific support for the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union in agricultural matters.

The article aims to identify current problems and substantiate priority measures for the effective development of integration processes in the agricultural sector of Ukraine with the European Union.

Literature Review

The problems of European integration of Ukraine related to the agrarian sector of the economy are considered in the scientific works of many well-known scientists and economists, namely O. M. Borodina (studied the agrarian sector of Ukraine in the context of European integration); V. I. Vlasov (studied the key areas of adaptation

of the development of the agricultural sector of Ukraine in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU); I. G. Kirylenko (2000-2002 Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine; in 2000 he was a member of the Government Committee on Reforming the Agrarian Sector and Environmental Issues); P. T. Sabluk (studied the problems of regional integration as a component of economic globalization). These and other authors pay considerable attention to both theoretical aspects and scientific support for the organization of practical implementation of relevant measures on European integration.

Results

The agricultural sector is one of the key sectors of Ukraine's economy, contributing a significant portion of the country's GDP and playing a significant role in ensuring food security. However, it is also one of the most heavily regulated sectors in Ukraine, which creates a challenge for businesses operating in the sector. The problems of the agrarian sphere were aggravated by the war with Russia. This was clearly manifested in the export sector. The export of grain from Ukraine through the ports was practically blocked. However, they were partially unblocked with the help of the world community and UN representatives. The created grain corridor from Ukraine operates with fairly constant interruptions. It was not possible to fully reorient the logistics of grain export from Ukraine through other chains. Therefore, the total losses from the export of grain and other goods amounted to 61.2 billion dollars, and the losses on agricultural products alone amounted to 18 billion dollars. Table 1 presents changes in grain exports in Ukraine.

Table 1.
Changes in the export of cereals during 2022-2023 in Ukraine

Agriculture products	Total as of 03/27/2022	Total as of 27.03.2023	Deviation	Change %
Cereals and legumes, total, thousand tons	44849	36922	-7927	-17,67
Including, thousand tons				
Wheat, thousand tons	18399	12623	-5776	-31,39
Barley, thousand tons	5641	2267	-3374	-59,81
Rye, thousand tons	161,9	16,9	-145	-89,56
Corn, thousand tons	20348	21714	1366	6,71
Wheat flour, thousand tons	66,9	108,9	42	62,78
Other flour, thousand tons	1,5	4,3	2,8	186,67
Flour together, thousand tons	68,4	113,2	44,8	65,50
In terms of grain, thousand tons	91,2	150,9	59,7	65,46
Export together (grain + flour), thousand tons	44940	37073	-7867	-17,51

Source: calculated by the authors based on (Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, 2023).

Thus, Ukraine's total grain export opportunities were lost by 17.5%. The largest export losses are observed for rye and barley (89.5% and 59.8%) (Figure 1). Wheat grain losses amounted to 31.4%. With such positions of losses, Ukrainian agrarians began to increase the export of corn and

flour. Flour from crops other than wheat was exported the most, and the tact increase was 187%. The export of wheat flour increased by 62.8% and the least - corn - only 6.7%. So, despite serious difficulties in export, Ukrainian farmers are gradually increasing export losses.

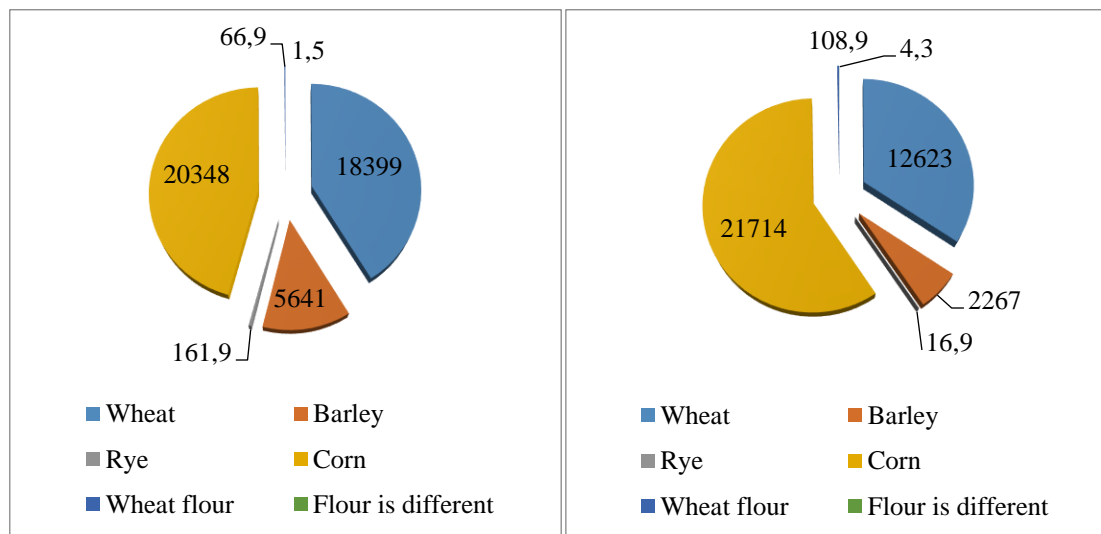


Figure 1. Ratio of grain exports in Ukraine in 2022 and 2023

It is necessary to modernize the state regulatory policy to improve the situation and increase the efficiency of the agricultural sector in Ukraine. The state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector aims to ensure the efficient functioning of the industry and support the development of agriculture in the country. However, many of the existing regulations do not meet the current realities and market requirements, which leads to negative consequences for the industry and society as a whole. For instance, the lack of appropriate regulation may lead to the widespread use of pesticides and other chemicals that may be harmful to health, while insufficiently effective regulation may lead to unequal terms of trade and unfair competition (Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, 2021).

One of the main directions of transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector is to introduce the principles of "simplicity and clarity" in the creation and implementation of regulations. This means that the acts should be written in a clear and accessible manner for all stakeholders, including farms and other enterprises operating in the agricultural sector. It also implies reducing the number of administrative procedures and documents to be submitted, which simplifies the life of the business and reduces the costs of their implementation.

Another important aspect is the establishment of clear and stable rules for the industry, which will allow agricultural enterprises to plan their actions for the future more easily. Appropriate mechanisms can be used to achieve this goal. These could include legislative changes, defining and securing property rights to land and other resources, developing infrastructure, and supporting access to markets.

Other possible directions for modernizing the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector include the following:

- Ensure appropriate regulation of the use of pesticides and other chemicals that can harm human health and the environment;
- Development and implementation of financial support mechanisms for small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises;
- Introduction of an electronic system for monitoring and controlling product quality, which will ensure food safety and increase consumer confidence in Ukrainian products.

To summarize, the transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine has great potential to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the industry. This can help attract more investment, increase production, and ensure sustainable economic development of the regions.

To succeed in this endeavor, it is important to establish a dialog between government agencies and business representatives, including agricultural enterprises, to ensure that the real needs and capabilities of the industry are taken into account. It is also important to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the results of the implementation of new regulatory mechanisms. This will allow for the timely identification of possible problems and adjustments to maximize the effectiveness of state regulatory policy.

Thus, modernization of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine's economy can become an essential tool to ensure sustainable development of the industry and increase its competitiveness in the international market.

Furthermore, modernization of the regulatory policy could help to reduce corruption and unfair competition in the agricultural sector. If government agencies effectively monitor and regulate the sector, this could help prevent illegal practices in the market.

One of the important directions for modernizing the regulatory policy in the agricultural sector is to simplify and unify the procedures for state registration, control, and permitting of various types of activities. This can help reduce bureaucratic pressure on enterprises and simplify the process of doing business in the sector (Lagodiienko et al., 2022).

It is also essential to ensure proper protection of property rights to land and other resources used in the agricultural sector. Modern technologies, such as geospatial analysis systems, can be used for this purpose. They allow for accurate accounting of land plots and their more efficient management.

To summarize, the transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine can become an important tool for ensuring sustainable development of the industry, increasing its competitiveness, and attracting new investments. To succeed in this endeavor, it is important to ensure a dialogue between government agencies and business representatives, effective monitoring and evaluation of the results of the implementation of new regulatory mechanisms, as well as simplification and unification of procedures for state registration and issuance of permits for activities in the agricultural sector, ensuring global food security. It is also important to

consider international standards and norms governing the agricultural sector and work on their implementation in national legislation (Lagodiienko et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, it should be noted that the transformation of regulatory policy in the agricultural sector is not an overnight process and requires a comprehensive approach and a long-term strategy. Furthermore, the success of modernization depends on many factors, including political will, mechanism of state regulation of the investment activity in agriculture, the efficiency of the state apparatus, the level of business development, and others (Vovchak et al., 2022).

Thus, the transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine is an important component of reforming the industry and ensuring its sustainable development. This can be achieved through effective cooperation between government agencies and business representatives, the use of modern technologies, and the adoption of international standards and norms.

It is also crucial to consider the peculiarities of the agricultural sector and its regulatory environment, which differ from other sectors of the economy. For example, the agricultural sector has a complex chain structure involving various actors, from seeds and fertilizers to products and their processing. Therefore, regulatory policy should reflect all stages of this chain and the interrelationships between them.

Besides, it is important to ensure transparency and openness in the decision-making process in the agricultural sector. This can be achieved by holding open consultations with stakeholders, publishing draft regulations following the requirements of the law, and ensuring access to information on decisions and actions of regulatory authorities.

Besides the regulatory policy, it is also important to ensure infrastructure development and access to financial resources for agricultural enterprises. For instance, attracting investment and introducing modern technologies can increase production efficiency and ensure competitiveness in the international market (Bondarenko, 2021).

To summarize, the transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine is a complex but necessary task that requires a comprehensive approach and a long-

term strategy. This can be achieved through the effective cooperation of various public and private entities, the introduction of the latest technologies and quality standards, the improvement of education, and support for small and medium-sized businesses.

One of the most important components of an effective regulatory policy is a system for monitoring and evaluating its impact on the industry. This allows for the timely detection of negative consequences of decisions and necessary adjustments to the policy. Such a system should be as objective and independent as possible, as well as open to stakeholders.

An important component of an effective regulatory policy is also to improve the skills and competence of professionals involved in the development and implementation of regulatory policy in the agricultural sector. For this purpose, specialized courses, training, and master classes on regulatory policy in the agricultural sector can be organized.

Thus, the transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine is an important task to ensure the stable and sustainable development of the industry. To do this, it is necessary to take into account the specifics of the agricultural sector and its regulatory environment and implement a comprehensive approach and a long-term strategy. It is crucial to ensure transparency and openness in the decision-making process, improve the skills and competence of specialists, and improve the system of monitoring and evaluation of the impact of regulatory policy on the industry. This will help create a favorable environment for the development of Ukraine's agricultural sector, maintain its competitiveness in the international market, and ensure a sufficient level of income for farmers and other industry actors.

One of the key challenges facing the agricultural sector is ensuring the country's food security. Ukraine has the potential to become a leader in food production. However, to reach this goal, it is necessary to implement effective regulatory policies that will increase production and improve product quality.

One of the main components of food security is ensuring the availability and quality of food for all citizens of the country. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to control the quality and safety of food at all stages of its production, processing,

and marketing, from sowing in the fields to selling on store shelves.

To improve product quality and ensure consumer safety, it is necessary to introduce the latest technologies and quality standards and to systematically monitor and evaluate the impact of regulatory policy on food quality.

To ensure the availability of food for all citizens of the country, it is necessary to take into account the diversity of regions and their specifics. For this purpose, special programs and measures can be developed to support small and medium-sized businesses in rural areas, which will promote the development of local production and provide the local population with fresh and high-quality food.

One of the important directions of regulatory policy to ensure food security is to support innovation and the development of new technologies in agriculture.

This will increase production and improve its quality and safety, reduce production costs, and increase the economic efficiency of the sector. However, it is necessary to ensure an adequate level of intellectual property rights protection for innovative enterprises and to control the use of new technologies in the agricultural sector.

Another important area of regulatory policy to ensure food security is the development of a crop and other risk insurance systems related to increased production and improved product quality. This will reduce the risk of financial losses for producers and ensure the stable development of the industry.

Furthermore, to ensure food security, it is necessary to comply with international standards and ensure that the products produced meet them. This is important from the perspective of food exports and ensuring the competitiveness of producers in the international market.

Thus, the modernization of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine is a key element in ensuring the country's food security. Ensuring the quality and safety of products, supporting innovations and the latest technologies, developing the insurance system, and meeting international standards are the main areas that will help ensure the effective development of the agricultural sector and strengthen the country's food security. Besides, attention should be paid to ensuring the availability and even distribution of products

throughout Ukraine, including in rural areas and remote regions.

To achieve these goals, it is necessary to actively engage with all participants in the agricultural market, including farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and other industry players. Only through cooperation and partnership can the country's food security be achieved.

Thus, food security is a complex and multidimensional process that requires an integrated approach and active participation of all market participants. Transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine's economy is an important step in ensuring the country's food security and strengthening its economy as a whole.

Discussion

The development of the agricultural sector is a key factor in Ukraine's economy, as it is one of the largest exporters of agricultural products in the world. However, to achieve high productivity and product quality, it is necessary to modernize the regulatory policy and create favorable conditions for the development of the sector. In addition, transformation of the state regulatory policy can help to increase the country's food security and ensure the availability of products for all the population. However, it is necessary to take into account the possible increase in administrative costs and bureaucracy in the transformation of regulatory policy, which may negatively affect the activities of agricultural enterprises and farms. In addition, changes in regulatory policy may cause resistance and distrust among some industry participants, which may lead to a decrease in their activity and investment in the development of the agricultural sector. Therefore, it is important to develop and implement regulatory policy with due regard for the interests of all stakeholders and to ensure openness and transparency in the process of developing and implementing changes.

The introduction of modern production and processing technologies can help to improve quality and reduce waste, which will also contribute to food security. However, insufficient attention to consumer health and safety may lead to the adoption of regulatory policies that do not meet modern standards and requirements. Moreover, strict rules and standards may increase production costs and reduce the competitiveness of products on the international market. Modernization of regulatory policies can help to improve food quality and safety by setting strict

standards for product safety and quality along with controlling the production and supply of products to the market, but it is necessary to be attentive to the needs and requirements of the market and consumers to ensure an efficient and competitive industry.

The state can provide support for agricultural enterprises and farms by providing them with access to finance and investment to implement new technologies and standards. In addition, the state can conduct information campaigns to educate and raise awareness among rural residents about the new regulations and standards, and help implement new food quality control and monitoring systems. For this purpose, special programs and initiatives can be created to provide support and advice to agricultural enterprises and farms. However, there is a risk that the state may not have sufficient financial resources to provide support to agricultural enterprises and farms during the transformation of regulatory policy. In this case, there may be a misuse of funds or corruption in their distribution. Besides that, some agricultural enterprises and farms may not be sufficiently motivated to implement new standards and regulations that may increase their costs and reduce their profitability.

The failure to implement a modernized state regulatory policy could lead to a decline in food quality and safety, which would negatively affect public health and relations with international partners. Furthermore, it may reduce Ukraine's competitiveness in the international market and reduce the export potential of the agricultural sector, which could harm the country's economy and increase its dependence on food imports. However, the introduction of new standards and regulations may create additional bureaucratic obstacles for agricultural enterprises and farms, which may increase their costs and reduce profitability. Besides, the consequences of not implementing the modernized state regulatory policy may be less noticeable and will not affect the overall economic situation of the country.

The introduction of a modernized state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector of Ukraine's economy can have a significant positive impact on the quality and safety of food, the competitiveness of Ukrainian agricultural enterprises and farms, and the country's economy as a whole. To achieve these goals, it is necessary to support the government in implementing new standards and regulations, as well as providing support and advice to agricultural enterprises and farms.

However, it is also necessary to take into account possible risks and challenges associated with the introduction of new standards and regulations, such as bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of motivation for agricultural enterprises and farms to implement new standards and regulations. Nevertheless, considering all aspects, the introduction of a modernized state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector is a necessary step to ensure the sustainable development of Ukraine's economy and improve food quality and safety (Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine, 2021).

Conclusions

To conclude, the modernization of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector is an important step for the sustainable development of Ukraine's economy and the improvement of food quality and safety. The introduction of new standards and regulations will reduce the risks of a slowdown in the agricultural sector, increase the competitiveness of Ukrainian products on the global market, and ensure an increase in production while reducing production costs.

However, successful transformation of regulatory policy requires significant efforts on the part of the state and business entities. These may include awareness-raising and education measures, infrastructure improvements, and increased financial resources to make the necessary investments.

Additionally, international experience and standards should be incorporated to ensure the harmonization of domestic regulations and increase the competitiveness of Ukrainian products on the global market.

Overall, the transformation of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector has great potential for developing Ukraine's economy and ensuring food safety and quality.

To successfully implement this transformation, it is necessary to involve the general public, including representatives of the agricultural sector, scientists, and experts. This approach will help to create an effective system of monitoring and control over the implementation of new standards and regulations.

It is worth noting that ensuring the sustainable development of the agricultural sector and increasing its competitiveness is an important task not only for Ukraine but also for many other countries around the world. The application of

the latest methods and technologies in production, as well as improving the quality and safety of food, are key elements in the fight against global challenges such as climate change and resource scarcity.

Thus, it can be argued that modernization of the state regulatory policy in the agricultural sector is an important step towards sustainable economic development and improvement of the quality of life.

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