

THE THEORETICAL BASIS AND PRACTICAL COURSES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TERRITORIES IN UKRAINE

Svitlana PAVLIUK

Mykolayiv National Agrarian University, Ukraine

Abstract

At the present stage, the idea of sustainable development of rural territories plays a very important role, especially in the processes of globalization of the society. During the research of this issue the ideas of many scientists concerning such notion as «rural development on the sustainable basis» were analyzed. Taking into consideration the fact that Ukraine has a sufficient resource potential, the government has worked out the legislative document, which introduces the priority of aims of rural territories sustainable development. The initiated measures concerning decentralization of power of local governments are also of great importance in the strategy of local sustainable development. It was determined that local (territorial) communities are the motive power in the development of the rural economics and improvement of living conditions of people within rural territories. The statistical material was cited as an example, which shows the positive experience of introducing of the common project of the European Union and the Program of Development of the United Nations Organization – «Community Based Approach to Local Development» on the territory of Ukraine. On the basis of the above-mentioned material, a series of measures concerning providing of the sustainable development of rural territories in Ukraine, were introduced.

Keywords: sustainable development, rural territories, local government, rural (territorial) communities.

JEL Codes: R11, R12, R58

Introduction

A number of economic, social and ecological problems of rural areas in Ukraine during a long period of time indicates the necessity of scientific investigations concerning the peculiarities of their functioning and development on the sustainable basis, and also a search of innovative forms of rural management. Modern conditions of the rural development demand the refusal of the approach of evaluation of the rural territories solely as a resource base for agroindustrial production in favor of the conceptions, which unite the functions of social development with economically effective multifunctional production and providing of ecologically favorable condition of rural territories.

In recent times, in agricultural science some new categories, the initial origins of which concern village, have appeared: rural region, rural sector, rural territory, rural district, rural development, etc. In the world science these concepts are analogous to such a category as «rural development», which, in its turn, is often used and has been widely adopted. In Ukraine, in the second half of the XXth century, the overcoming of socioeconomic differences between city and village was declared to be one of the tendencies in state politics.

The founder of this course in agro-economic science, which got the name «socio-economical development of the village», is Professor L. Shepotko. This course focuses on the interests and actions of people, who, cultivating land, preserving and improving it and the whole rural vital habitat for the next generations, create the most important product for the society – food stuff. Today its initial definition has been considerably enlarged and enriched, and it has been gradually getting its true meaning and it is named according to its foreign analogue – «development of the rural territories», «rural development».

From the scientific point of view, the category «rural development» embodies the combination of knowledge about modern, the nearest, available for examination and strategically distant future of Ukrainian village, peasantry and the whole rural society, and also about the tendencies, ways and mechanisms of bringing agriculture to the principles of sustainable development. As it is noted by such scholars as O. Onyshchenko and V. Yurchyshyn, from the point of view of the applied characteristics, the rural development must be viewed as materialization of the systematic national, regional and directly local

measures and practical actions, subordinate to modern strategic interests and needs of each particular rural territory, each rural settlement, each industrial economic structure, each peasant, and other rural inhabitants. (Onyshchenko and Yurchyshyn, 2006).

The rural development is the demonstration of the development of rural territories in process, thus, the one which includes all the components of the rural territory subsystem of the society, which is found in a close contact with the local subsystem. The rural development is associated with rural territories as its object and sphere of the course of events of social process and contrasts with urban development as dichotomous. Nevertheless, according to O. Pavlov, firstly, it is not limited by agrarian branch only; secondly, it is spread also in urban settlements as a certain way of vital activity, and according to functionality, it is dominant in the fields of union of rural and urban territory subsystems of the society, i.e. in suburban areas (Pavlov, 2013).

M. Malik considers rural development to be a process of formation of a viable system, a complex of knowledge about the rural society, mechanisms of the rural industry keeping on the basis of the sustainable development on the whole rural territory, in which political, social and economic aspects are deeply interconnected (Malik, 2008).

Materials and Methods

The fundamental principles of Economics and the works by the leading national researches concerning the questions of the sustainable development of rural territories, and also laws and legislative acts of Ukraine, became the methodological basis of the research.

The methods of economic investigation, which contributed to the achievement of the most complete and reliable results, were used during the research: systematic approach and generalization – in the process of investigation of the theoretical basis, laws and other legislative acts regarding the sustainable development of rural territories, the reforms of the system of local authorities; monographic – while comparing different approaches of the scientists concerning their interpretation of nature of the sustainable development of rural territories; historical and economic analysis (for identification of the main stages of politics of the sustainable development in the context of the Program of Development of the United Nations Organization and the European Union).

Results and Discussion

Today the problem of the sustainable development is one of the most urgent in modern world, the solution of which demands a great number of governmental, international programs, conceptions, strategies, and which is controlled by world leaders and the most influential international organizations.

For the first time the notion «sustainable development» got its official status in 1992 during the Universal conference of the UNO concerning the environmental development, which took place in Rio de Janeiro. It became the result of the long-term scientific, research and political work concerning elucidating, coordination, formulation and acceptance of the new conceptual ideas on the general basis.

The sustainable development started to be viewed as the development of the society, which satisfies present requirements, without threatening the ability of the future generations to satisfy their own requirements. Thus, the sustainable development of the society is such a development, during which no harm to natural systems is done and they have time to restore themselves (Savchenko et al., 2011).

The interest of most national scholars towards the scientific provision of balance and sustainable development of rural territories has grown at the beginning of the XXI century. A number of works, dedicated to a range of problems of the sustainable development have been published during the last years, including the works by M. Malik, O. Onyshchenko, O. Pavlov, P. Sabluk, V. Yurchyshyn and others.

One of the main peculiarities of our country is its possession of considerable human potential, first of all, highly-educated. Therefore, Ukraine has sufficient favorable conditions for the sustainable development, taking into account the geographical position of the territory of the state, the resource potential (black earth, minerals, climate and other natural factors).

During 2005-2007 the Institute of the Applied Systematical Analysis of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine has worked out the measuring metric for the processes of the sustainable development in the context of economic, ecological and social components; though the approaches and indexes, which were

used, differ a little from those proposed by the Commission of the Sustainable Development of the UNO, they reflect the fixed mechanism concerning interdependency of the main components in full measure.

According to the data of the Global Data Centre concerning geoinformatics and sustainable development, in 2013 Ukraine took the 74th position in the world according to sustainable development indices. Unfortunately, the whole complex of the realized programs and strategies of development on all the levels of management was based only on complete use of the available resources, without transformation of system of industrial relations according to adequate requirements of the sustainable development. Therefore, new reforms in the sphere of economic and administrative decentralization, financial markets, systems of social services and participating of the citizens in the governing process and development, must be held for solving these problems.

Today the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine has worked out the unified complex Strategy project of agricultural and rural territories development in Ukraine for years 2015-2020, which is aimed at solving their problems through the all-embracing process of consultations with the parties concerned, especially with the civil society and business representatives, and also with the international donors. The strategy outlines urgent and prolonged measures, presumable results, and also includes the detailed action plan.

The general aim of the Strategy is the increase of competitiveness of agriculture and assistance in rural territories development on the sustainable basis according to The European Union and international standards. The approval and adoption of this strategy will become one of the first attempts to consolidate on legislative basis the priorities of the aims of the sustainable development, which by its nature is the process of long-term actions with an aim to get financial and material resources, which in its turn are rather limited; and also to attract attention of the population, which lives in rural areas.

The main aims of the rural territories development on the sustainable basis are the next:

1. The support the small farms, which includes encouragement, concerning diversification of farms towards alternative cultures; improvement of production and methods of production of innovative market distribution, direct marketing; besides farming, the development of other kinds of economic activity due to support of initiatives concerning eco-tourism; other forms of organization and kinds of activities which could supply the additional source of income, especially for the young farmers, whose aim is to develop small and medium-sized agrarian business; improvement of legal regulations concerning functioning of personal farms; facilitating of access to industrial and financial resources; stimulating of integration on the basis of partnership, collective actions and cooperation development; reinforcement of function of personal rural and farm economies support in activities of institutions of farming and village state regulation; establishing of a number of public and other organizations and unions with an aim of protection of their interests and economic rights of the rural communities.

2. The rise of the standard of living in the rural areas due to:

- diversification of economic activities in the village (foundation of pilot infrastructure projects in the spheres of modern telecommunication, Internet-services, local water-supply network, power supply, motorways, etc.; stimulating of development of non-agrarian activities: rural housing, producing of building materials, providing industrial and consumer services, rural tourism, traditional national handicrafts, etc.; development of rural power economy, restored energy, stimulation of diversification of power supply sources and forms of power consumption, etc.);

- formation of the conditions for the increase of the rural population wages (creating of educational and further training system for adult rural population with an aim to increase its skills regarding rural industry and competitiveness in the labor-market; increase of social responsibility of the agrarian business due to establishing of transparent mechanisms and applying of the best social partnership practices between agrarian business and rural communities with an aim of strengthening the positive impact in the process of creating new jobs in rural areas; assistance in uniting and self-organizing of the owners of land areas (shares) with an aim to consolidate their efforts for getting more economic benefits from the usage of their lands);

- improvement of accessibility of high-quality prizes of life (decentralization and deconcentration of public services, diversification of their financial sources; creation of conditions for providing village children

with pre-school education, qualitative secondary education on the level of the established requirements and challenges of the labor-market; providing the inhabitants of all the villages with medical care of high quality; establishment of regular clinical examination of the rural population in order to prevent diseases; establishment of healthy lifestyle, family values, legal behavior propaganda; re-orientation of house-building support programs in the village to improvement of living conditions of the youth on the most vulnerable rural territories, where rural economy is the main source of income (owners of family farms; education, health protection and culture workers etc.);

- improvement of agrarian landscapes and increase of life safety in the village (increase of drinking water safety due to development of local water-supply network, establishment of control of water quality in group and individual wells, boreholes; establishment of usage regulations concerning open reservoirs, marshlands and proper maintenance of water-protection zones; establishment of economic mechanisms of environmentally-friendly disposal of industrial wastes, and also domestic garbage in order to prevent environmental pollution; regulation of rules of chemical substances usage in manufacture, which action is spread on rural habitat (particularly, carrying out chemical-aviation works in rural districts); rationalization of agrarian landscapes structure with expansion of natural frame elements (forests, meadows, pastures, etc.) at the expense of removing of degraded, underproductive pasture lands from active cultivation; assignment of lands of high natural value with a rich bio-diversity and establishment of special regulations of their usage).

3. Improvement of the rural local governmental system due to establishment of local control practices for local initiative development and decentralization of decision making process in order to establish transparent management, taking into account local needs and initiatives of the civil society. The formation of governmental system of rural development: decentralized approach «upwards» which is based on self-development of the communities; formation of local development capital; providing realization of self-governmental rights for rural communities and granting them constitutional rights.

The level of material well-being and quality of life of people, who live in rural territories, directly depend on ability to solve particular daily problems connected with vital activity of people. Thus, the question of planning and realization of strategies of local sustainable development are very urgent. Solving the problems concerning socio-economical development of the rural territories demands much effort not only from the government, but, first of all, from local communities and villages.

One of the first steps concerning decentralization was passing the Law of Ukraine «About Collaboration of the Territory Communities», which determines legal and organizational collaboration basis of the rural communities, principles, forms and mechanisms of such a collaboration; its stimulation, financing and control. The positive moment of the given legislative document is providing the territorial communities with the opportunities to unite their own resources for more effective solving of local problems, upkeep of communal objects, providing of services today.

The present system of institutions of local government, taking into consideration modern administrative and territorial system of Ukraine, does not always allow forming all-sufficient territorial communities, which could maintain appropriate material and financial resources, territory and objects of social infrastructure, necessary for an effective fulfillment of tasks and functions, which the indicated organs are responsible for. As a result, the Law of Ukraine «About Voluntary Uniting of Territorial Communities» was passed, the aim of which was the formation of active, all-sufficient territorial communities, which could maintain appropriate material, financial resources, territory and objects of social infrastructure, necessary for an effective fulfillment of tasks and functions, which institutions of local government are responsible for; and improvement of quality of administrative, social, and public services supplied to inhabitants of the territorial communities.

The world experience shows that local (territorial) communities can contribute to solving of such problems as: poverty, establishing of rural economy and development of socio-oriented small business.

One of the examples of management strengthening with the assistance of communities aimed at improvement of dwelling conditions of people, living in rural territories in Ukraine, is the project «Community Based Approach to Local Development» established in 2007 and financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union. With the assistance of UNDP, the local

communities establish and support partnership relations with central and local authorities, private sector and international donors, thereby they improve local infrastructure, contribute to employment and enterprise, and also improve the quality of the most important social services, which are provided (in education, medicine, etc.).

The common project of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme «Community Based Approach to Local Development» actively functions on the whole territory of Ukraine since 2008. More than 2.6 million people in more than 2000 villages have improved their lives due to realization of micro-projects concerning renewed kindergartens and schools (664), medical centres (118), access to qualitative water (110), preservation of the environment (9), power-preserving street-lightning (706).

The components of rural territories economical development of the project «Community Based Approach to Local Development» are aimed at supporting the existing unprofitable multiple-oriented agricultural co-operative economies and founding new ones in order to create new workplaces and to get income in rural areas.

In general, from the moment of beginning of the project (2007-2015), 17 agricultural cooperative economies were created, with the total number of 1491 persons, and these are 1018 households, moreover each co-operative economy gets 62 households in general. Within the framework of the project, agricultural cooperative economies establish their own economic initiatives – micro-projects concerning fruit and vegetable growing, producing of milk. The project expects purchasing of equipment (for example, tractors and its spare parts, tanks for milk cooling) or creating of structures (for example, «ecological house»), which contribute to either production or processing of agricultural products due to usage of new technologies.

By the end of 2014, the total cost of such micro-projects was 6.1 million hryvnias, or 218 455 hryvnias per project in general. Moreover, 73.8% of the total financing sum belongs to UNDP «Community Based Approach to Local Development», 17.5% are the investments of the cooperative economies members, 8.3% - money from local governments and 0.9% - from private donors.

Conclusion

To conclude, the sustainable development of rural territories is such a development of society, which answers requirements of the present time, without threatening the ability of the next generations to satisfy their own requirements.

For providing of the sustainable development of rural territories, it is reasonable to introduce the system of measures, the most important of which are: support of small farms; increase of life quality in rural areas, improvement of local governmental system. The measures mentioned above are many-sided and require intensive and purposeful work.

References

1. MALIK, M. 2008. Do pytan'nia stalogo rozvytku sil'skykh terytorii. In *Ekonomika APK*, no. 5, pp. 51-55.
2. Mistseve samovriaduvannia sil'skykh terytorii : bazovi materialy. - [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-20]. Retrieved from: <http://minagro.gov.ua/themes/garland/pdf/7.3.%20Basic%20material%20UKR.pdf>
3. ONISHCHENKO, O. - YURCHYSHYN, V. 2006. Sil'skyi rozvytok: osnovy motodologii ta organizatsii. In *Ekonomika Ukraine*, no. 10, pp. 4-13.
4. PAVLOV, O. 2013. Sil'skyi rozvytok yak rezultuiucha funktsiiuvannia sil'skykh terytorii ta agrarnoi sfery. In *Ekonomika APK*, no. 1, pp. 77-82.
5. Pidtrymka malykh fermerskykh gospodarstv : bazovi materialy. - [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-20]. Retrieved from: <http://minagro.gov.ua/themes/garland/pdf/7.1.%20Basic%20material%20UKR.pdf>
6. Proekt Strategii roslytstva sil'skogo gospodarstva I sil'skykh terytorii v Ukraine na 2015-2020 rr. [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-19]. Retrieved from: <http://minagro.gov.ua/node/16015>.
7. Pro spivrobotnytstvo terytorialnykh gromad : Zakon Ukraine vid 17.06.2014 roku № 1508-VII : za stanom na 20.08.2015 r. - [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-20]. Retrieved from: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1508-18>.

8. Pro dobrovilne obyednannia terytorialnykh gromad : Zakon Ukraine vid 05.02.2015 roku № 157-VIII : za stanom na 20.08.2015 r. - [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-20]. Retrieved from: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/157-viii>
9. SAVCHENKO, A. – Maslovska, L. – Sereda, V. – Tymochko, T. 2011. Stalyi rozvytok suspilstva: navchalnyi posibnyk. Kyiv.
10. World Data Center for Geoinformatics and Sustainable Development (WDC-Ukraine). - [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-20]. Retrieved from: <http://www.wdc.kpi.ua/en/services/country-profiles-visualization>.
11. Yakist zhyttia u silskii mistsevosti : bazovi materialy. - [online]. [Retrieved 2015-08-20]. Retrieved from: <http://minagro.gov.ua/themes/garland/pdf/7.2.%20Basic%20material%20UKR.pdf>

Contact address:

Svitlana Pavliuk, PhD. - Mykolayiv National Agrarian University, 9, Paryzka Komuna Str., Mykolayiv, 54020, Ukraine, e-mail: svetlanapavliyk@yandex.ru