

**AGRICULTURE IN THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA
(СІЛЬСЬКЕ ГОСПОДАРСТВО В КРАЇНАХ ЛАТИНСЬКОЇ АМЕРИКИ)**

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Тема, висвітлена у публікації, актуальна, оскільки країни Латинської Америки мають перспективи швидкого розвитку та є одними з найкрупніших експортерів сільськогосподарських товарів у всьому світі. Майже 50% сільськогосподарської продукції йде на експорт, таким чином країни Латинської Америки роблять свій внесок у вирішення світової продовольчої проблеми. Україна також має економічні відносини з латиноамериканськими країнами, закуповуючи продукцію, котру неможливо отримувати вітчизняним способом через ряд таких аспектів, як географічне розташування та кліматичні умови.

Ключові слова: *сільське господарство, Латинська Америка, імпорт, експорт, Україна, економічні відносини, рослинництво, тваринництво.*

The topic presented in the publication is relevant, as the countries of Latin America have prospects for rapid development and are among the largest exporters of agricultural goods in the world. Almost 50% of agricultural products are exported, thus the countries of Latin America contribute to solving the world food problem. Ukraine also has economic relations with Latin American countries, purchasing products that cannot be obtained domestically due to a number of aspects such as geographical location and climatic conditions.

Key words: *agriculture, Latin America, import, export, Ukraine, economic relations, plant breeding, livestock breeding.*

The Andes Mountains, which frame all of South America from the north and west and the proximity of the Pacific Ocean, contribute to the formation of a peculiar climate. The climate of the countries of Latin America is subequatorial and tropical with droughts and periods of rain [1], are also found subtropical, equatorial and temperate [2, 3]. These climatic conditions and the shape of the relief contribute to the growing and cultivation of unusual agricultural plants and the breeding of various breeds of animals.

Agriculture occupies a leading place in the economy of these countries, because the export of food and raw materials of vegetable and animal origin is the main source of foreign exchange earnings and the main sphere of their material production [4].

A large share of food products that are not typical for Ukraine, most of the flowers that Ukrainians grow at home on their windowsills, are imported from these countries. You can make sure of the importance of economic cooperation with the countries of Latin America on your own experience by carefully considering the labels of goods in domestic stores. You can often see phrases such as “Bananas – Central America”, “Lemons – Argentina” or “Coffee. The country of origin of raw materials is Colombia.”

Colombia, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala are known for one of the best varieties of coffee, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Dominican Republic – cocoa. Ecuador, Panama, Colombia grow various varieties of bananas, among them the green vegetable banana – plantain, which has a starchy hard texture and is used for frying and preparing other salty and spicy dishes.

More than 90% of the world's coca plantations are concentrated in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia – the so-called Andean drug triangle. Although this plant produces not only the world-famous drug cocaine, coca leaves are also used for medical purposes as a local anesthetic (local anesthesia), it has a tonic effect, quenches hunger and thirst, stabilizes well-being in mountainous areas, coca leaf extract is added to the Coca-Cola drink [5, 6, 7].

Brazil is famous for its oranges. It is one of the largest exporters of oranges, orange juice and concentrate. Argentina exports lemons in large quantities. Many vineyards of different varieties grow in Chile – Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Cabernet, and there are also several local varieties, for example, Carmenere. Chilean wines are known all over the world, on a par with Italian and French wines.

Edible species of cacti grow in Mexico, the fruits of which can also be eaten, for example, prickly pear. Various national dishes are prepared from this cactus. Cultivation of agave occupies an important place in agriculture, because it produces the world-famous alcoholic drink tequila and agave syrup. In this country, cassava is grown, the root of which is used as a potato. As decorative plants, marigolds, calendula, and hibiscus of various species are grown, which are also used for the production of karkade tea.

Colombia supplies various flowers such as orchids, chrysanthemums, and carnations to the world market and Ukraine in large quantities.

All these countries grow a variety of exotic fruits – papaya, mango, mangosteen, pineapple, passion fruit and others.

Latin America is known for the cultivation of spices: vanilla, cinnamon, anise, hot pepper of various types. They also grow wax palms, sugar cane, tobacco, Paraguayan holly or yerba mate (a type of herbal ethnic tea), candlenut and other nuts: Brazil nuts, cashews, coconuts.

The countries of this region grow soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton. It is worth highlighting quinoa (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador) and chia seeds (Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia), because these products are gaining great popularity in dietary nutrition and modern diets. Tomatoes and potatoes predominate in vegetable production [4, 8].

The two countries of the “Southern Cone” – Argentina and Uruguay – are the traditional area of livestock breeding. Since the topography of Latin American countries is mostly mountainous and the work of agricultural machinery is difficult, donkeys, mules and horses are bred as labor force. Breeding of llamas and alpacas is in great demand, their wool is stronger than that of sheep, and various warm products are made from it all over the world.

Cows of various breeds, both meat and dairy, are bred in large numbers. The world-famous Argentinian ribeye steaks are produced from the Black Angus meat breed. Hereford and Shorthorn are also bred among the meat breeds, and the Dutch-Argentine breed is also bred for milk. Sheep breeding has a meat and wool direction. Pig farming is poorly developed.

In the diet of Latin Americans, plant products predominate, products of animal origin can be quite expensive, but prices can vary depending on the country [8, 9].

Trade and economic relations of Ukraine with Latin American countries are built mainly on Ukrainian imports. In Colombia, Ukraine buys edible fruits and nuts (46.8%), coffee and tea (8.4%), live trees and other plants (2.1%). The basis of Ukrainian exports is grain crops (1.6%), sugar and sugar confectionery (0.5%) [10].

Edible fruits and nuts (54%), seeds and fruits of oil plants (6.1%), coffee and tea (4.7%), cereals (1.4%) are the main group of goods from Peru on Ukrainian markets. The main groups of goods exported from Ukraine are fats and oils of animal or vegetable origin (3%) [10].

The basis of imports from Panama is edible fruits and nuts – 86.1%, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages – 9.7%, essential oils – 2.3%. The basis of Ukrainian exports is alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages – 10.0%, vegetable oil – 8.4% [11].

In general, Latin American countries account for 21% of fruit, 19% of cotton, 18% of corn, and 15% of world meat production. So:

- Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela are the largest producers of agricultural products among Latin American countries;
- coffee, cocoa, sugar, cotton, bananas, citrus fruits, other tropical fruits and flowers form the basis of the export of agricultural products of Latin American countries to the world market;
- Latin American countries export their products to Ukraine as well;
- in turn, among the Ukrainian agricultural products exported to the countries of Latin America, grain crops, vegetable and animal oils, sugar and confectionery products, various beverages stand out;

• economic relations between Latin American countries and Ukraine in the field of agriculture are insufficient and have certain development prospects for solving food problems.

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