Food Supply and Its Security in the North: Regional Aspect

M E Tarasov¹, V R Darbasov², O M Tarasova-Sivtceva³

¹Department of "Sectorial Economics and Management", Faculty of Economics, Arctic State Agrotechnical University, Sergelyakhskoe shosse 3 km, 3, Yakutsk, 677021, Russia
²Yakut Scientific Center of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2 Petrovskogo str., Yakutsk, 677000, Russia
³Department of Population Economics and Demography, Scientific-Research Institute of Regional Economy of the North, NEFU named after M.K. Ammosov, 8a Stroiteley str., Yakutsk, 766009, Russia

E-mail: Toksana19@mail.ru

Abstract. The article deals with the need to increase the competitiveness of rural areas in the food supply market with local products for the population of the republic. The necessity to strengthen the protectionist economic social policy of the state for the North regions development and create conditions for the effective functioning of the agricultural sector of the economy is justified. We raise the question about necessity to maintain state support and government regulation at both the regional and federal levels in order to ensure employment of the rural population, increase the level of its income, preserve local traditions, and classify agriculture in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) as a traditional sector of the North's economy.

1. Introduction

The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is located in the most continental part of the Eurasian continent, with an area of 3,102 million square kilometers. It should be added that almost 80% of the territory lies North of 60° C, and 40% - in the Arctic Circle [1]. Moreover, in such open spaces, in severe extreme conditions that have a negative impact on the results of economic activity, the employees of the agro-industrial complex of the Republic are engaged in solving problems of providing the population with food, processing local food products.

The successful resolution of these issues is always based on the possibilities of the Sakha Republic economic modernization and sustainable development. It directly depends on the human capital of rural areas, requires increasing the food market competitiveness of rural areas, and are characterized entirely by agricultural specialization [2]. In addition, due to the low bioclimatic potential, these farms, assigned to the Far North and the territories equated to them need a special approach and support from the federal government.

There are plenty of reasons for this. There is also no dispute that in recent years many socio-economic problems have accumulated in the agriculture sector of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) that require urgent solutions. They are especially visible in the countryside, where the production base is mostly destroyed, and the majority of the population is below the poverty line, up to 70% of the working population, not retirement age is unemployed, that are certainly negative factors that have a negative impact on the final results of economic activity.
And in these circumstances, state support from both regional authorities and the federal center is a necessary tool for the effective functioning of agriculture, and especially in the North, where natural and climatic conditions periodically create difficulties in the management of agricultural production.

Everyone knows that the main goal of the development of the agricultural sector of the economy is a stable increase in the level of food supply to the population. The agricultural system of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is developing and functioning in extreme conditions that have a negative impact on the results of economic activity [3], which is a negative factor. All this leads to an objective repeated regional increase in the cost of the entire chain of production, processing of local food products. In addition, in recent years we have repeatedly pointed out the absence or insufficient scientifically based protectionism of the state's economic and social policies for the development of the regions of the North.

2. Methods and materials
The existence of the Republic's food supply system is an objective necessity, since the level and quality of life of the population depends on the effectiveness of its functioning. Therefore, the government should help create conditions for the effective functioning of the agricultural sector of the economy in the North. Moreover, certain types of agricultural products produced in the Republic cover the demand of the local population for meat by an average of 26.6%, for milk by 57.9% and for eggs by 48.3% of the established consumption standard [4]. That is, the level of self-sufficiency of the population with the main types of food remains quite low. Hence, we can conclude that with a decrease in domestic production, the amount of food imported to the region increases, which means that there is an outflow of financial resources from the turnover, and the threat to public health increases due to poor quality and contaminated with harmful elements of food.

This problem is further aggravated by the fact that due to difficult natural climatic conditions in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), 25-30% more petroleum products are spent, equipment maintenance costs increase by 30-35%. Due to the expansiveness of the territory, the cargo transport radius increases by 2-3 times compared to the average for the Russian Federation. Consequently, the level of competitiveness of goods produced in the republic is slightly lower than in other regions of Russia.

All this suggests that the regulatory role of the state should increase even more in modern conditions, because the economic system, focused on the active use of market mechanisms in agriculture, is unthinkable without state intervention. It is the choice and implementation of the most rational organizational and economic forms, methods and means of ensuring the efficiency and sustainability of agricultural production [5].

In short, the institution of financial and economic state support for agricultural producers and state regulation of the agro-industrial complex is a legal phenomenon inherent in all States of the market economy and is an important component of the market mechanism of the economy.

At the same time, the absolute and main indicator that reflects the level of the food security is the level of the state self-sufficiency with food as a whole or a separate region of the Russian Federation.

Moreover, in the not distant past, that is, during the Soviet period, the food supply of the population living in the North was the prerogative and subject of centralized management, but unfortunately, with the beginning of radical economic transformations in the 90s of the last century, the vector of food concerns shifted to the regional level.

However, the system of the state support of agriculture, its state regulation, and in particular of the food security, should remain by force of the Federal law dated 26.12.2006, №264-FZ "On agriculture development" (as amended on December 28, 2017), "On agricultural cooperation" dated December 8, 1995 №193-FZ article 2 (as amended on April 23, 2018), order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 26.01.2017. №104-r "On approval of the list of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the territories of which are classified as unfavorable for the production of agricultural products". It defined the basic provisions of the priority development of the rural social sphere and material - technical base of agriculture in the structure of the national economy of the Russian Federation.
The same measures are provided by the law of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) dated April 26, 2016 №1619-3 "On the development of agriculture in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)" by decree of the State Assembly (II Tumen) of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) dated 15.12.2010, 3№640-IV "On the empowerment of local governments of municipal districts and urban districts in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) with separate state powers to support agricultural production."

In addition, the state should strive to ensure the fair competition in commodity markets, protect the interests of certain categories of consumers, as well as the interests of the society as a whole. It allows the formation of the state food resources, support the incomes of commodity producers and regulate the market situation for the main types of products (grain, oilseeds, wool, and processed products).

This situation persists today in all developed countries, where the state regulation of agriculture is the most important part of the market mechanism of the economy.

The necessity for such regulation is also related to the unavoidable features of the agro-industrial complex, especially agriculture, which do not allow them to participate in the intersectoral competition fully and equally. Agriculture, which depends on natural factors and has a pronounced seasonal character of production, is usually a more technologically backward branch of the economy compared to industry. The material and monetary resources invested in it bring less return. It is also slower to adapt to changing economic and technological conditions.

Thus, the main goal of the development of the agricultural sector of the economy is a steady increase in the level of food supply of local products to the population of the republic, as well as an increase in the level of income and employment of the rural population.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Based on all this, it can be concluded that the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), due to the level of economic development, infrastructure and geographical location is most appropriate for the consumer type of agricultural production. The village for the republic is the most important sector of the national economy, it is also the material basis for preserving the identity of the ethnic groups inhabiting it. Agriculture is not only an economic concept, but also has a huge socio-political significance. This provision follows from the Federal Law "Support for agricultural producers engaged in the production of agricultural products" dated July 23, 2013, №236-FZ and should be implemented to ensure employment of the rural population, increase its income and preserve local traditions.

The issue of ensuring equal conditions for competition in the field of agro-industrial production continues to be relevant, in connection with necessity to develop a single support mechanism for all farming forms of agricultural producers. Based on implementation the primary link in the field of agricultural production and on the basis of established norms and practical experience, indicate the rate of workload per worker, the need for agricultural land, the norms of animal health and agro-technical requirements, plans for the production of agricultural products, the needs of government support, plans for the products’ delivery.

For many years, there has been talk and discussion about necessity to recognize the exclusive role of local self-government in settlements for providing employment, improving living standards and preserving local traditions of the rural population.

Meanwhile, in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), back in 2010, the law "On endowing local self-government bodies of municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) with separate state powers to support agricultural production" was adopted, only it is necessary to make a number of amendments to strengthen and expand powers and functions.

Russian agricultural scientists at various levels have long raised the issue of providing support to agricultural producers per hectare and per head of cattle, while extremely simplifying the procedure for issuing it, the report on receiving support should only be based on the report on the harvested areas and the presence of mother-stock for the previous year without any additional requirements.

The mechanism of government support and established rules should be based on the methods of economic management developed by the people over the years and ensure the conditions for emergence of a free market and comply with the principles of cooperation.
We believe that the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) should belong to the traditional branches of the North's economy, which have federal state support. Therefore, agriculture in general for the indigenous peoples of the North should have the status of federal state support. Agricultural lands (not only reindeer pastures, but also hayfields, pastures for cattle and horses, as well as forests, lakes, rivers used for hunting and fishing) should relate to objects of traditional nature management and be protected by the rights of indigenous peoples to these objects.

We see the mechanism for implementing these measures in two main blocks:
1. Direct government support;
2. Economic mechanisms in the framework of the implementation of special targeted programs.

Concluding the article, let us tell that food supply, characterized by sources of resource formation of basic types of food products and their use or in other words, the food balance (balance of commodity food resources) should become the main focus of the state agrarian policy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) [6].

4. References
[1] 2007 Yakutia Historical and cultural Atlas: Nature History Ethnography Modernity Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Institute for humanitarian studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (Moscow) pp 16-17
[2] Arctic: perspectives of sustainable development: a collection of reports of participants of International Scientific and Practical Conference (Yakutsk, November 26-28, 2014) edited by V I Kondratieva (Yakutsk: State Educational Institution "Strategic Research Center of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)") p 144
[3] Darbasov V R 2007 Food security of Yakutia: theory, experience, problems (Novosibirsk: Nauka) pp 8-10
[4] Sleptsov I I, Tarasov M E, Machakhtyrova V A, Nikonova T A 2018 Reserves for increasing beef production in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Far Eastern agricultural Bulletin vol 4
[5] Sleptsov I I, Tarasov M E, Teryutina M M 2016 About the main features of the state regulation of the agricultural economy and agricultural production The International Scientific and Practical Conference p 335
[6] Rodnina N V 2010 Economic, social and organizational problems of food supply in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia): theory and methods of management (Yakutsk) pp 5-6

Acknowledgments
The article was prepared within the framework of the project on the state task of the Ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation "Regularities of spatial organization and development of socio-economic systems of the Northern region of the resource type» (No FSRG-2020-0010).