

REVIEW

Of a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, specialty Economics and Management

Author of the Thesis: **GETOAR LUBENIQI**, Ph.D. student at the Department of Economics at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Thesis topic: „**THE ROLE OF THE SUBSIDIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRIBUSINESS IN KOSOVO**“

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Vanya Krasteva Georgieva, Ph.D., Agricultural University - Plovdiv, Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Degree 3.8. Economics, Science Specialty: Accounting, Control, and Analysis of Business Activities appointed as a member of the scientific jury with order № РД-16-547/25.06.2020 by the Rector of Agricultural University-Plovdiv

1. The relevance of the problem.

The agriculture in the Republic of Kosovo is an important sector of the national economy, which, in addition to food production, also contributes to the creation of employment and income provision in rural areas. The subsidization of agriculture and its benefit to the development of the industry has long-lasting disputes among researchers. The relevance of the current dissertation is related to the need to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the role of the subsidies for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Republic of Kosovo, with a focus mainly on the economic aspects of the sustainability. The chosen theme is dissertable and allows to make reasoned conclusions, suggestions, and to formulate contribution aspects.

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and methods of research.

The purpose of the dissertation work is based on the analysis of the state, development, and potential of the agriculture in the Republic of Kosovo, to assess the role of the institutional support for its sustainable development and propose measures to optimize the tools used. **The tasks** for achieving the main objective are precisely formulated, which is a prerequisite for achieving the set goal and defining in-depth conclusions and recommendations.

A **key thesis** of the study is that the subsidies and their distribution by regions and sectors have a positive impact on the economic sustainability of agriculture.

In the dissertation work, different **methods of research** are used - analysis of literary sources, comparative, monographic, tabular and graphical method, method of analytical groups, method of average dimensions, statistical methods of research and analysis, matrices for policy analysis.

3. Visualization and presentation of the results obtained.

The used toolkit in the study is completely in line with the subject, object, objectives and tasks of the thesis. 47 tables and 28 figures are used to illustrate the presented facts and the observed results.

4. Discussion of the results and the literature used.

The thesis consists of 194 standard pages of basic text, supported by tabular, graphic and appropriately processed empirical material. The volume of thesis is sufficient to unfold a qualitative and complete statement based on logical scientific arguments, facts and conclusions. The structure is classical and consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, and a list of the literature used.

The relevance of the thesis topic is justified in **the introduction** as well the subject object, main thesis and purpose, and the tasks for its achievement are formulated.

The first chapter presents different definitions and classifications of the subsidies. It considers the concepts of sustainable agricultural development and the link with institutional support. Based on the theoretical analysis, a methodological framework of the study is chosen.

The second chapter justifies the important role of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Kosovo. Namely this role identifies the need for reforms and a targeted agricultural policy that supports the industry and leads to the formation of sustainable and competitive agriculture. The main features of the agriculture policy in Kosovo are taken out in detail. The tools used to support agriculture are analyzed in details. The analysis is based on its own survey of 30 farms.

The third chapter analyses the opportunities for the development of Kosovo's agricultural sector in two directions – at the sectoral and structural level. On this basis, the ways of support in the directions of its sustainable development are formulated.

On the basis of the analysis, the main barriers to the sustainable agricultural development of Kosovo are systematized. Recommendations are made on the implemented agricultural policy, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, climate change, improving the business environment, reducing transaction costs for market organization and trade, increasing public services and institutional capacity, and ensuring targeted public investment.

The language and style of the presentation in the thesis are at a good level. No repetitions or deviations of the exposition are established. The individual parts of the work are proportional. The degree of development of the scientific problem under investigation is very good, observing the necessary research consistency and depth.

The literary sources used (172 in number) are up-to-date, thematically correspond to the subject of the study and the objectives set and are quoted in good faith.

5. Contributions of the thesis.

The thesis outlines the following scientific results, which are of a contributing character:

Scientific and theoretical contributions:

- Based on an analysis of various literature sources, a theoretical framework is presented. It observes the definitions, types, elements, and features of institutional support in agriculture.
- The link between sustainable development and subsidies in the agricultural sector is outlined on the basis of the established theoretical model.
- An integrated methodology for research and assessment of the impact of public support on sustainable development has been selected.

Practical contributions:

- Based on a comparative analysis, the changes in the agricultural policy of the Republic of Kosovo have been monitored and assessed.
- The impact of the institutional environment on sustainable agricultural development in Kosovo has been surveyed.
- Opportunities for sustainable development of agribusiness through institutional adaptation are observed.
- On the basis of sectorial and structural features of agribusiness, options for an increase in agricultural sustainability are modelled.

In summary, I accept the Ph.D. student's contributions as correctly formulated.

6. Critical notes and questions.

I allow myself to recommend to the PhD student to continue his scientific searches and developments in the field of the problem of the dissertation work, which will help to make better use of the achieved scientific and applied contributions.

I have no critical remarks or questions regarding the content of the dissertation.

7. Published articles and citations.

The thesis publications are 5, with three co-authoring and two being independent. They meet the requirements of the ADASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its implementation, which is proof that important parts of the dissertation work have become public and received a scientific assessment. I do not know the results of the study in the dissertation work to be quoted by other authors.


The presented autoreferat consists of 44 standard pages and successfully, fully and accurately reflects the main reasoning, summaries, conclusions and recommendations presented in the dissertation work. The content of the autoreferat corresponds to the dissertation and meets the quantitative, structural, and qualitative requirements for its writing.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the various methods of research, the correctly performed experiments, the summaries, and the conclusions made, the dissertation submitted meets the requirements of the ADASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its implementation, which gives me a reason to evaluate it POSITIVE.

I allow myself to offer the honorable Scientific Jury also to vote positively and to award GETOAR LUBENIQI the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ in Economics and Management.

Date: 25.07.2020
Plovdiv

Reviewer: 
(Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Vanya Georgieva)