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## THE FORMATION OF A CONCEPTUAL AND CATEGORICAL APPARATUS FOR RESEARCH ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF AGRARIAN ENTERPRISES

*Initial conceptualization of economic security issues, its systematization, and logicization with the help of basic conceptual structures creates prerequisites for understanding the principles and methods of analysis of manifestations, resource base, and trends of economic security development. Within the framework of various economic paradigms, they are developing their approaches to the content and technology of the cognitive process, its capabilities, and reliability. Taking into account the geostrategic tasks of Ukraine, the experience of implementing the state food security strategy, it is essential to rethink the concept of Ukraine's national interests in the economic sphere, assess new challenges and threats to economic security and, on this basis, prepare a new state strategy, as well as a mechanism for its implementation. The systems of economic activity, management, and compliance with the economic security of subjects of economic relations differ functionally and spatially. A significant part of economic phenomena, processes, several business entities, and economic relations are beyond the influence of the elements of the economic security system. All this actualizes the problem of analyzing information at the "output", primarily indicators of the effectiveness of the functioning of enterprises, organizations, individual industries, the quality and standard of living of employees, and the population as a whole, since these indicators act not only as indicators of social and economic well-being but also as criteria, by which it is possible to judge the level of internal threats to ensure sustainable and safe economic development. In the conditions of free market relations, the process of decentralizing the state management system in ensuring economic security, the role of economic managers of agro-industrial complex enterprises and organizations of all forms of ownership, vast and medium, is increasing. The content of this type of management, its functional, technological, and other features, is primarily determined by the state of the country's economy and its industries as an object of management. Ensuring the economic security of enterprises in the agrarian sector of Ukraine depends on the constituent structures of the agricultural sector since the agrarian sector is closely connected with the entire agrarian complex of the country.*

*Keywords: management, economic security, agricultural sector, influencing factors, enterprise.*

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## ФОРМУВАННЯ ПОНЯТІЙНО-КАТЕГОРІАЛЬНОГО АПАРАТУ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ З УПРАВЛІННЯ ЕКОНОМІЧНОЮ БЕЗПЕКОЮ АГРАРНИХ ПІДПРИЄМСТВ

*Вихідна концептуалізація проблематики економічної безпеки, її систематизація і логізація за допомогою базових понятійних конструкцій створює передумови для осмислення принципів і методів аналізу проявів, ресурсної бази, тенденцій розвитку економічної безпеки. У рамках різних економічних парадигм існують і розвиваються власні підходи до змісту і технології пізнавального процесу, його можливостей і ступеня надійності. З урахуванням геостратегічних завдань України, досвіду здійснення державної стратегії продовольчої безпеки важливо переосмислити концепцію національних інтересів України у сфері економіки, оцінити нові виклики і загрози економічної безпеки і на цій основі підготувати нову державну стратегію, а також механізм її реалізації. Системи економічної діяльності, господарювання і дотримання економічної безпеки суб'єктів економічних відносин відрізняються як функціонально, так і просторово. Значна частина економічних явищ, процесів, деяке число суб'єктів господарювання та економічних відносин знаходяться поза межами впливу елементів системи економічної безпеки. Усе це актуалізує проблему аналізу інформації на „виході”, насамперед показників результативності функціонування підприємств, організацій, окремих галузей, якості і рівня життя працівників і населення в цілому, так як дані показники виступають не тільки як індикатори соціально-економічного благополуччя, але і критеріями, по яких можна судити про рівень внутрішніх загроз для забезпечення сталого і безпечного економічного розвитку. В умовах вільних ринкових відносин, процесу децентралізації системи державного керування у забезпеченні економічної безпеки зростає роль господарських керівників підприємств АПК, організацій усіх форм власності, особливо великих і середніх. Зміст подібного типу керування, його функціональні, технологічні й інші особливості багато в чому визначаються станом економіки країни та її галузей як об'єкта керування. Забезпечення економічної безпеки підприємств аграрного сектора України залежить від складових структур АПК, оскільки аграрний сектор тісно пов'язаний з усім аграрним комплексом країни.*

*Ключові слова: управління, економічна безпека, аграрний сектор, фактори впливу, підприємство*

### Formulation of the problem in general

Security has been the most essential human need since the beginning of humankind. As a scientific category, it acts as a form of expression of the viability and sustainability of objects in the material world. However, such a straightforwardly simplified, purely linguistic interpretation of this concept is the absence of danger, the absence of threats to acquired values, or the condition for the vital activity of an individual society.

The state still needs to be more accurate since it implies the possibility of achieving such an ideal situation.

However, in real life, there have always been, are taking place, and probably will be mildly dangerous for security objects. Therefore, the category "security" is not absolute but only relative and acquires meaning only in connection with specific objects in the sphere of human activity and the surrounding world.

Compliance with safety involves implementing actions aimed at eliminating dangerous conditions or significantly reducing their negative consequences. However, there is a paradox: there is no security without danger. Security exists if there are any threats. Thus, the main criterion for compliance with security is the identification of phenomena and processes that can create threats both in the statics of the system and in its dynamics.

### Analysis of recent research and publications

The following scientists have devoted their work to the problems of the formation of theoretical and methodological aspects of managing the economic security of enterprises as O. V. Arefieva, L. I. Donets, N. V. Vashchenko, L. O. Vdovenko, H. M. Kaletnik, G. V. Kozachenko, T. M. Korpanyuk, O. M. Lyashenko, L. O. Matviychuk, E. A. Oleynikova, N. L. Pravdyuk, V. S. Ponomarenko, O. O. Sosnovska, O. F. Yaremenko, and others.

Despite significant scientific progress, the issues regarding ensuring the processes of managing the economic security of enterprises still need to be completed.

The article aims to reveal the theoretical and methodological provisions of the conceptual and categorical apparatus of managing the economic security of the enterprise.

### Presentation of the primary material of the study

The study of "economic security" as a socio-economic category is based on a broad interpretation of security in general (for man and society). Without going into the details of the analysis of the general concept of "security", let's focus on scientific approaches to defining this concept. Before defining the economic security of the agricultural sector in modern conditions, let us consider the components of economic security in general. When analyzing economic security, including the agricultural sector, it is necessary to consider its three main components [1]:

- economic independence, which characterizes the possibility of controlling national resources, achieving such a level of production, efficiency, and quality of products that would ensure the competitiveness of national producers and allow them to participate on equal terms in international trade, cooperative relations, and the exchange of scientific and technical achievements;

- constancy and stability of the national economy, which involves the strength and reliability of all elements of the economic system, protection of all forms of ownership, creation of guarantees for effective business activity, containment of destabilizing factors;

- the ability to self-development and progress, which is especially important in today's world, which is developing exceptionally dynamically, that is, the ability to independently realize and protect national economic interests, create a favorable climate for investments and innovations, and develop the country's intellectual and labor potential.

Based on this, we propose to consider that the economic security of the agricultural sector is such a stable state of development of the agrarian sphere of the economy that satisfies the necessary minimum needs of society in the relevant agricultural products, raw materials for other areas of the economy, including the needs of social and food security and the formation of insurance reserves in case of force majeure situations and during the action of internal and external threats.

The given definition, on the one hand, covers the most critical components of economic security as a scientific category, i.e., the need to ensure economic independence, the stability of the national economy, and the ability for self-development, and on the other hand, it focuses attention on the peculiarities of the agrarian sector, emphasizes the connection between economic security and social stability and outlines the goal of implementing actions to ensure economic security through achieving a state of food security in the country.

The objects of economic security of the agrarian sector are all its institutions and ensuring their stable and safe state. The state system of economic security is aimed at them: sub-complexes, business entities, families, and individual citizens.

In particular, the objects of economic security of the agrarian sector can include:

- resources of the economic activity of the agrarian sector;
- tangible, intangible, and monetary assets of residents of the agricultural sector;
- stocks, reserves, savings, and funds;
- stability of the national currency and payment turnover between households, businesses, and the

state;

- socio-market orientation and dynamic development of the economy of the agrarian sector;
- global economic ties of the Ukrainian agricultural sector.

Subjects of economic security of the agrarian sector are institutions that form and ensure the state of economic security of the sphere at various levels. The subjects of economic security are clearly defined by the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 17), which states that ensuring economic security is the state's business and, therefore, of all state institutions and the entire people [2].

Before constructing the "economic security" concept, let us define its most essential components: recognition of Ukraine's special national-state interests and goals. These interests exist both within the borders of the country and beyond them: support of state sovereignty and independent development; the international position of Ukraine, its place in the world division of labor, in the specialization and cooperation of production, in world trade, international financial and banking systems, the most important markets of goods and services, securities; self-preservation, self-defense, and self-development of Ukraine as a single multinational state.

Currently, research on security has expanded significantly. It includes not only such traditional aspects as protection against possible external armed aggression and protection of the existing order and form of government but also ensuring the sustainable development of national production and its material, technical, and technological support, support of a high scientific and personnel base, protection from natural or anthropogenic destructive forces and harmful consequences of disruption of the natural balance, demographic and health security, which are inseparable from the biological foundations of the human body and the social conditions of its existence.

There are many theories claiming the status of the methodological basis of the economic analysis of reality, including the problems of economic modernization and safe economic development. The problems of economic security analysis increase because there is a relatively wide range of opinions and judgments on this issue, which means its cognitive capabilities, principles, methods, and tools of cognition. It is most productive to conduct research on the realities of economic security in the context of dialectical economic paradigms, emphasizing systemic, structural, functional, organizational, and management aspects of the object under study. The principles of systematicity, dialectic, technologicalness, variability, adequacy, and representativeness should be singled out as initial methodological guidelines that set the defined logic of the cognitive process. The starting point of the study of the problems of economic security enterprises is its design, definition of basic target instructions, basic methods and procedures, and technologies of the research process. The basis for the design of the research work was the original hypotheses, which formulated the main problems of the state and ensuring economic security in the conditions of a problematic systemic crisis and the processes of modernization of the economy, changes not only in property relations but also in the entire management mechanism [3, 4, 5].

The main methodological and methodical difficulties are created by information asymmetry, as well as the process of its elimination when forming a system of indicators of economic security. As a methodological guideline for selecting and systematizing initial facts and indicators, the position that economic security is a type of open, summative system functioning in a broad socio-economic and political space of relations and relationships was adopted.

The initial technological stage of the systematization of actual material is its concentration in problem situations identified by the researcher. This primary systematization makes it possible to clarify some issues related to the content of specific conceptual constructions, with the sufficiency of actual, empirical material for using it to reflect trends and processes previously identified as problematic situations, subject to understanding and economic analysis [6].

Diagnosis of problems consists in their detection and unique work with them, which includes such procedures as expanding the content field of the problem, working with problem boundaries, separating the problem's ontology from assessments, descriptions, and opinions; problem transformation; and formulation of the problem-causes.

The criteria for classification of threats to the economic security of enterprises also play a decisive role. Problems of external constants, objective circumstances, threats, and other factors that have a positive or negative effect on the functioning of the subject's economic security system are distinguished from the place in the economic space; problems arising within the open system of economic security, and, finally, problems arising in the sphere of life of the population, which are caused by one or another state of economic self-sufficiency, stability, security of economic development.

The subject of the grouping of economic analysis facts is the processes that take place within the system of economic security: at the "entrance" - in the space of international and nationwide economic and directly sectoral relations, using the example of agro-industrial relations; at the "exit" - in the sphere of the quality and standard of living of the population, interests, target instructions of people, their mood. A rather urgent problem is the search for optimal ways to reduce the dimensions of the initial array of indicators reflecting specific parameters of economic security. In the process of "condensation" of the source information, the principle of its grouping according to the criteria of proximity, complementarity, and interchangeability was used.

A large number of indicators of economic security were combined into two blocks. The first block is indicators that express the resources of knowledge, abilities, skills, and qualifications of the primary, active subjects

of ensuring sustainable, effective, and safe development of the economy of the agrarian sector. Numerous indicators reflecting the dialectical synthesis of economic modernization, economic efficiency, and economic security are combined into a group of indicators that reflect processes, phenomena, trends in management, investment climate, financial capabilities of subjects of economic relations, and economic security of the agrarian sector. Indicators that reveal the content of such problems and concepts as managerial, legal, and organizational resources for ensuring economic security at the level of a separate industry are allocated to a separate block.

It should be noted that the agro-industrial complex, due to its significance and the specifics of the sectoral structure of the economy, plays the role of a stabilizer in the food security system. Moreover, thanks to the agro-industrial complex, the financial resources of many branches of industry and the sphere of production services are formed. The agrarian sector's need for material and technical means creates conditions for developing innovative activities in most sectors of the national economy. In these conditions, the creation of an indirect mechanism of state regulation of the entire food security and independence system, which takes into account the historical experience of development and the current state of the agricultural sector, is required.

Managing the economic security of agricultural sector enterprises has some features. From the point of view of managerial influence, the emphasis shifts from the problems of development rates and economic success to the problems of economic stability, self-sufficiency, reduction of economic risks of economic activity, and investment activity. This is a stabilizing type of control. In our view, managing the provision of adequate economic security in the sphere is a specific type of purposeful, complex impact on threats to economic self-sufficiency, on resources and factors that ensure reliable, dynamic, and effective functioning of the economic system [7].

Subjects of managerial influence on the degree of adequacy of economic security of the agricultural sector according to one or another accepted standard are state authorities, including unique structures for ensuring national, social, and economic security, property entities, participants in economic relations, and public structures. Structures and subjects of state power and municipal self-government form the primary subsystem of the mechanism of managerial influence on economic security.

In the conditions of free market relations, the process of decentralizing the state management system in ensuring economic security, the role of economic managers of agro-industrial complex enterprise organizations of all forms of ownership, vast and medium, is increasing. The content of this type of management, its functional, technological, and other features, is primarily determined by the state of the country's economy and its industries as an object of management [8].

We proceed from the fact that the economic security of both enterprises and the state means reliable protection of national-state interests in the sphere of the economy from internal and external threats and direct and collateral material losses, provided by all necessary means and institutions of the state. In an environment of intense competition in market conditions, effective, profitable economic activity is combined with increased economic threats. Increased economic threats, in turn, increase the degree of economic instability. The resource insufficiency of economic development increases such a contradiction.

In the existing conditions, the issues of price, the degree of tactical and strategic justification of investment, and financial and other economic threats are being updated about each subject, to the peculiarities of its not only economic but also socio-political development, role, and place in the general economic system and ensuring the protection of national interests. Such a typology corresponds to the methodological assumptions that the economic security of enterprises and the state is not only the protection of economic interests from internal and external, potential and actual threats but also purposeful activity to ensure these interests, expand the spheres of economic influence, the space of safe economic activity [9].

From our point of view, the forms, methods, and effectiveness of the regulatory influence of subjects on ensuring the desired or possible level of economic security are largely determined by the state of cyclical reproduction.

The main goal of measures to ensure the economic security of agricultural sector enterprises should be the achievement of real economic growth. For this, it is necessary to implement an economic policy that would create favorable conditions for the growth of production investments, expansion of production, increase of income from labor activities, stimulation of innovative activity, and technological progress.

Criterion assessment of the economic security of the agricultural sector includes:

- ✓ assessments of the resource potential of the agricultural sector and its development opportunities;
- ✓ the level of efficiency in the use of resources, capital, and labor and its compliance with the level in the most developed and advanced countries, as well as the level at which internal and external threats are minimized;
- ✓ competitiveness of the agricultural sector economy;
- ✓ social stability and conditions for preventing social conflicts.

Ensuring the economic security of enterprises in the agrarian sector of Ukraine depends on the constituent structures of the agricultural sector since the agrarian sector is closely connected with the entire agrarian complex of the country. Accordingly, the economic security of agricultural sector enterprises is influenced, firstly, by economic relations at the level of the agro-industrial complex, secondly, by economic relations at the level of production and non-production complexes of the agro-industrial complex, and, third, by the state of the product sub-complexes of

the agro-industrial complex.

The agro-industrial complex includes three main areas. Accordingly, ensuring the economic security of the agricultural sector depends primarily on the state of the first sphere, that is, on the safe development of industries that provide the agro-industrial complex with means of production, as well as those engaged in the production and technical maintenance of agriculture, these are tractor and agricultural machine building, machine building for animal husbandry and fodder production, food engineering, production of specialized motor vehicles, reclamation machinery, production of mineral fertilizers and chemical plant protection products, microbiological industry, capital construction in agro-industrial complex, repair of agricultural machinery.

The goal of the safe development of this area of the agro-industrial complex is to provide resources for the production process, create a base for the industrialization of agriculture, and promote the normal functioning of all links of the complex. The rhythm, flow, and mass production of agricultural and final products depend on its activity.

Ensuring the economic security of the agrarian sector depends on the state of the second sphere of the agricultural industry, that is, on the development of enterprises and organizations directly engaged in the production of agricultural products. The main component of the economic security of the agrarian sector is the safe development of agricultural production itself, in which two main branches are distinguished - plant breeding and animal breeding.

Ensuring the economic security of enterprises in the agrarian sector also depends on the safe development of industries and enterprises that ensure the harvesting and processing of agricultural products and bringing them to the consumer, that is, on the third sphere of the agro-industrial complex. The goal of the safe development of this area of agriculture is to ensure the primary industrial processing of agricultural raw materials, their harvesting and preservation, the secondary processing of raw materials, and their preparation for sale to the population. At this level, finished products are delivered to places of storage and sale.

The country's food security level depends on the state and pace of development of the entire agro-industrial complex, especially its third sphere - the food and processing industry.

According to the nature of the produced final product, the economic security of agricultural sector enterprises should be divided into the economic security of the food complex and the security of the non-food complex.

According to the branch, the economic security of enterprises in the agrarian sector implies the safe economic development of product sub-complexes. They represent a set of enterprises and organizations for producing raw materials and producing finished products and service sub-complexes. In Ukraine, such food sub-complexes are grain, sugar beet, potato, fruit and vegetable, meat, dairy, oil and fat, fish, etc. Product sub-complexes have their specificity, and at the same time, they are closely related to each other and sometimes interdependent. The largest sub-complexes in Ukraine are grain, meat, and dairy. In the sectoral section, the safe development of the mentioned sub-complexes forms the basis of the economic security of the agrarian sector.

The specified features of the economy of the agrarian sector are reduced to the following:

1. Agricultural production in a market economy is mainly carried out by individual agricultural commodity producers who cannot monopolize the industry. In other words, relatively small producers cannot organize any groups to influence the market, not to mention that an individual producer cannot achieve such volumes of production that would allow him to influence market prices.

2. In agriculture, land not only serves as a base for the location of an agricultural enterprise but is also used as a direct resource, a means of production. Agriculture uses a unique property of the top layer of the earth - soil, which nourishes valuable plants. Land plots differ significantly in quality: some are more fertile, others less so. The land resource is highly heterogeneous - even in the same field, different land plots can differ in fertility. However, land remains the main object and labor tool in agriculture. At the same time, land is a limited resource, and its limitation gives rise to land rent.

3. Agricultural production is highly dependent on natural conditions. Even in countries with a high agrarian culture that use highly intensive technologies in agriculture, agricultural production results remain unpredictable.

4. The possibility of diversification of agricultural sector products could be improved. Breeding activity is aimed mainly at improving the production qualities of new species of plants and animals: at reducing susceptibility to diseases, pests, and adverse weather conditions, at increasing productivity and manufacturability, including adaptability to mechanized or even automated technologies, etc. In this sense, compared to other sectors of the economy, agricultural producers are more limited in their ability to raise prices for their products.

5. Food is The final product of agricultural production and the food sector. However, the price elasticity of demand for food products is generally low. Consumers buy the main types of food in practically unchanged volumes regardless of the increase or decrease in prices.

6. Demand for agricultural products is not income elastic. At a low level of well-being, when the family's income is spent on food, it seeks to meet its food needs earlier. When the food problem ceases to be a priority, the additional earnings are used for other goods and services. Therefore, with the growth of incomes, the demand for food products and, accordingly, for agricultural products increases disproportionately.

7. The low elasticity of demand for agricultural products creates a long-term problem for producers. During

economic development and scientific and technological progress, agriculture is "caught" between two trends. On the one hand, with the growth of the supply, the sector's total turnover tends to decrease. On the other hand, the prices of purchased goods overtake the prices of agricultural products. The result is a relative decline in farm income.

8. The price inelasticity of demand for agricultural products, in combination with the significant dependence of agricultural production on the natural factor and the competition of producers, creates a short-term problem for agricultural entrepreneurs. A drop in demand leads to a drop in prices for agricultural products due to the immobility of agricultural resources; a proportional reduction in production can compensate for this. Thus, even short-term fluctuations in demand lead to sharp fluctuations in the income of agricultural enterprises.

9. The most widespread form of agrarian enterprise in market conditions is a peasant economy a family farm. For this enterprise, the purpose of functioning is the family's well-being, which is not exhausted by monetary income.

10. Protectionism as an economic policy of protecting the domestic producer is characteristic, not only for agriculture. However, it is the most widespread and intense in the food sector. Along with general arguments in favor of protectionism (anti-dumping, protection of the industry, reduction of unemployment, etc.), specific reasons are also used in the agricultural sector. First of all, it is the desire for food security of the nation, which is often understood as autarky, and the desire to preserve the traditional look of the countryside. The particular relevance of agrarian protectionism is evidenced by the fact that throughout the entire post-war history, the problem of its elimination occupies the most important place in several problems of international trade [10,11].

The objects of economic security of the agrarian sector are all its institutions and ensuring their stable and safe condition; the state system of economic security is aimed at them, namely sub-complexes, business entities, families, and individual citizens. Subjects of economic security of the agrarian sector are institutions that form and ensure the state of economic security of the sphere at various levels. The main goal of measures to ensure the economic security of the agricultural sector should be the achievement of real economic growth. Ensuring the economic security of enterprises in the agrarian sector of Ukraine depends on the constituent structures of the agricultural sector since the agrarian sector is closely connected with the entire agrarian complex of the country.

The current legislation has not become a complete system of norms that effectively protects the interests of the individual, society, and the state against new threats to their economic security, for example, undermining the competitiveness of enterprises, corruption, industrial espionage, and financial fraud.

As a result of the conducted research, we concluded that the economic security of enterprises in the agrarian sector is such a stable state of development of enterprises in the agrarian sector of the economy that satisfies the necessary minimum needs of society in the relevant agricultural products, raw materials for other areas of the economy, including the needs of social, food provision and formation of insurance reserves in case of force majeure situations and during the action of internal and external threats.

We proceed from the fact that economic security means reliable protection of national-state interests in the field of economy from internal and external threats direct and collateral material losses, provided by all necessary means and institutions of the state. In an environment of intense competition in market conditions, effective, profitable economic activity is combined with increased economic threats. Increased economic threats, in turn, increase the degree of economic instability. The resource insufficiency of economic development increases such a contradiction.

### Conclusions

The study of enterprises' economic security realities is most productively carried out in the context of dialectical economic paradigms, emphasizing the systemic, structural, functional, organizational, and management aspects of the object under study. The principles of systematicity, dialectic, technologicalness, variability, adequacy, and representativeness should be singled out as initial methodological guidelines that set the defined logic of the cognitive process.

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