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CREATION OF REGIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL CLUSTERS IN UKRAINE

The modern food market is characterized by a growth of demand for organic production. At the same time, organic production market in Ukraine develops slowly. The existent operators of this market segment are unable to satisfy growing needs of consumers. Herewith, a production that is growing by households of the population on the principles of organic production does not get to consumers over the lack of proper infrastructure and effective functioning mechanisms of this market segment.

In general, Ukraine has a significant potential for the development of organic production in small-scale households and providing needs of internal market in organic production. One of the ways of formation by small-scale producers of consignments of homogeneous product and organization of systematic supply of such a production to the internal market is the creation of clusters on the basis of agricultural service cooperatives.

The article considers features of the creation of regional organic agricultural clusters in Ukraine. In particular, it clarifies a concept of cluster, provides data on operators of organic production, makes an analysis of the state of production of agricultural products by households of the population, notes a quantitative characteristic of agricultural service cooperatives; determines prospects of further development of commercial production of organic production in small-scale households through association in cooperatives and creation of regional clusters.

According to results of the conducted research, the following conclusions are obtained. Organic production market in Ukraine is in its infancy and has large perspectives of further development, in particular, in the case of activation of small-scale commercial farms' participation in production processes. Now, households of the population produce about 45% of agricultural production in Ukraine, moreover, the vast majority of potato, vegetables, fruit, and milk. At the same time, more than a half of such households do not use mineral fertilizers in growing agricultural cultures. As a result, lands are in a good and satisfactory condition that is a prerequisite for the organic direc-

tion of activities. Along with that, there are problems that hinder the development of such a production, the biggest among which is the lack of possibility of the entrance to the internal market. Thus, in the perspective, unification of small-scale producers of organic production in agricultural service cooperatives and the creation of regional clusters on their basis are necessary.

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