

## **RESEARCH OF THE EFFICIENCY OF USING AND ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE REPRODUCTION OF LAND RESOURCES IN SUMY REGION**

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The land is one of the basic resources of Sumy region. It includes agricultural land; forests and wooded areas; built-up areas for the industrial and transport facilities, housing, streets, etc.; land covered with surface waters; other lands. Land of the Sumy region covers 2383 ths ha and is the 16th biggest region in Ukraine. Most of it (73%) is agricultural land, and 72% of that is arable. Economic efficiency of the land use measured through crop fertility is gradually growing since 2010 but crop structure is not sustainable. A major part of the land is occupied by grain, sunflower seeds, and soya. In the modern market economy, companies take their own decision about the crop rotation seeking for higher returns on the capital but such a practice might be exhausting for the natural land fertility and may produce a substantial pressure upon rural envi-

ronments. Also, returns on the capital are growing during last years, and the situation seems more optimistic for large scale producers, which may employ more intensive technologies, better machinery, managerial practice, optimal sales policy. They now start to possess some degree of control over government decisions and local communities. Protecting small farmers and middle scale producers is now a priority also because they demonstrate better indicators of ecological performance.

The land is also suffering from degradation, wind and water erosion, pollution by the residuals of the pesticides and in some areas – oil products, the much valuable land is wasted as landfill. Special programs need to be worked out to overcome these challenges and increase the efficiency of the land use together with better sustainability.