

Environmental, economic and social characteristics of functions of land resources

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At the current development stage land resources are used immensely intensive, while performing a set of important functions; the following of them can be distinguished: main means of production, natural resource, spatial basis. Land resources are used differently in different branches of production. In industry and building land resources are the spatial basis; in extractive industry the importance of land resources is supplemented with concentration of minerals in earth's bosom; in agrarian industry and forestry these resources serve as the main means of production and an object of labour. Studying of the land resources through their functions can be considered as important and complicated studying task, but necessary for the further researches.

A considerable contribution to the investigation of land resources is made by such scholars as: Stupen M.H., Danylyshyn B.M., Dobriak D.S., Sokhnych A.Y., Tretiak A.M., Martyn A.H. and many others. In particular Andreitsev V.I. studied a land as an independent subject of economic use and a constituent of environment that promote the forming of complex natural formations, i.e. ecological systems. Danylenko B.V. studies an ecological constituent in land utilization; in particular, he considers that the principle of priority of lands of agricultural designation should forgo itself for the principle of priority of nature-oriented land utilization.

Land resources are lands that are used in human economic activity, and also lands that can be used in different branches of industry. They belong to the renewable natural resources and are characterized by certain territory, quality of soils, climate, relief, hydrological regime, and flora.

There is no a single approach to the determination of land resources first of all over the fact that the majority of scholars reveals the essence of the notion "land resources" through the essence of one or another function of land resources.

Taken into consideration the importance of all functions of land resources, it can be stated that in accordance with the concept of substantial development it is relevantly to distinguish three blocks of land resources' functions: economical, ecological and social.

To the scholars' view, an economic function of land resources lies in providing the necessity of continuing increase of production of social product, growth in the living standard and incomes of the population, new work creation, liquidation of poorness as a social phenomenon. Scholars ascribe to the manifestations of ecological function the maintaining of integrity of biological and physical natural systems and their viability; it provides a stability of the whole biosphere. Social function includes an improvement of living conditions of the inhabitants due to the effective development of social, production, transport, engineering, communication and ecological infrastructures. Implementation of the social constituent of the substantial development causes the formation of the full-fledged living environment for the current and next generations.

Land resources perform the following important functions: 1) as an environment for life and development of the society – to satisfy people's demands for residence, physical and intellectual development, rest, health care etc. In accordance with the Land Code of Ukraine, these functions are performed by lands related to such categories: "lands

of housing and civil building purpose; lands of nature reserve and other environmental protection purpose; lands of health-improving purpose; lands of recreational purpose; lands of historic and cultural purpose”; 2) basis of humanity productive forces placement: agricultural, forestry-based, industrial, transport, power, military and other projects. In accordance with the Land Code of Ukraine, these functions are performed by lands related to the categories of “lands of agricultural purpose; lands of industrial, transportation, communications, energy, defense and other purpose; Forest Fund lands”; 3) source of raw materials for the national economy. Depending on the type

of raw materials, different categories of the land fund can serve as this source. Thus, sources of agricultural productions are the categories of “lands of agricultural purpose, Forest Fund lands”; 4) soil land resources serve both as a subject of labour and means of production. Due to the ability of a soil covering to be an accumulator of solar energy and elements of plant nutrition through the photosynthesis, the land performs a function of production means of plant growing and cattle breeding products in the rural economy. At the same time, the soil covering is a subject of the human labour, namely: tillage and sowing of crops, its fertilizing, crops gathering and so on.