

Current status and development of agricultural cooperation in Germany in the context of EU integration processes and globalization

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Cooperatives – is a form of management that in times of financial and economic crisis offers a rational form of farming. Cooperation has a strong competition capacity and allows small producers to compete at the regional level even with large international holdings. Cooperative ideas have the most effective use in the agriculture. In recent years, there is a qualitative change in the system of agricultural cooperatives in Germany.

In the current economic conditions relevant is the study and generalization of experience of the cooperation in agriculture abroad. Each country has many specific features in the cooperation development. Of great interest is the experience of agricultural cooperatives in Germany. The analysis of cooperative organizations in the agricultural production in Germany discovered and summarized the characteristics of their operation, and, in particular:

- reduction in total agricultural cooperatives and their membership base by increasing trade turnover, which indicates the consolidation of cooperative units;

- development of new markets; in the last years German cooperatives pay more attention not only to the German market and the EU but also to the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America;

- priority of the Federal Union of Raiffeisen (DRV) for the development of international cooperation and promoting ideas of cooperation is the implementation of specific national projects in various countries, held usually at the federal level.

It is the agriculture where the globalization has a major impact on the production, distribution and consumption of products. However, it is the agriculture, where the globalization offers new opportunities and chances. Cooperatives should try to identify and meet the new needs of their members and clients. Outpace demographic development of population and late development of food infrastructure in many developing countries open to agricultural cooperatives in Germany the possibility to develop new markets of sales and development. Experience of the establishment and functioning of cooperative structures of Western European countries are the basis for determining areas, form and content of its application in the agricultural production of Ukraine. At the current stage of the agricultural sector development it is important to the fullest extent possible to use the experience of foreign countries in the development of agricultural cooperation and at the same to approach reasonably to the real situation in the country.