Problems of sustainable development of rural areas (on the materials of Samara region)

Anna Volkonskaya¹, Oksana Mamai¹*, Aleksandr Kudryashov², and Nikolai Nikulnikov²

¹ Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education “Samara State Agrarian University”, 2, Uchebnaya St., Kinel, urban-type settlement Ust-Kinelsky, Samara Region, 446442, Russian Federation
² Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education “Povolzhskiy State University of Telecommunications & Informatics”, 23, L. Tolstoy St., Samara, Samara Region, 443010, Russian Federation

Abstract. The effectiveness of the development of the agricultural sector of the economy directly affects the socio-economic development of the country, rural areas. Among the factors of sustainable development of agricultural production, a special place has recently been given to state support. It allows not only to increase the efficiency of agricultural enterprises, but also contributes to the development of rural settlements and employment in them. Therefore, research in the field of integrated development of rural areas is currently relevant for many regions. The purpose of the study is to study the development trends of the agricultural sector of the economy as the basis for the development of rural areas, to identify problems that hinder this development. In the course of the study, various methods were used to study processes and phenomena in the field of organizational and economic relations: analysis and synthesis, systematic and logical approaches to studying trends in the development of the agricultural sector of the economy, the integrated development of rural areas, graphical interpretation of theoretical information and empirical data. As a result, shortcomings in the mechanism for implementing the state program for the development of rural areas were identified, and corrective measures for this mechanism were proposed.

1 Introduction

Rural areas are the most important productive, socio-demographic, cultural, ecological resources of the country that ensure its territorial integrity, as well as the unity of legal and economic space. Rural areas cover the population, land and other resources of the open landscape and small settlements outside the immediate economic areas of influence of major urban centers. Especially in comparison with urban regions rural areas are characterized by narrow relationships between industries and low population density. The predominant occupation of people in most rural regions is agriculture, there is lower socio-economic development, some labor activities, higher professional and social homogeneity of the population [1].

The state program “Comprehensive Development of Rural Areas” (CDRA state program) identifies rural areas as the territories of rural settlements and intersettlement territories. At the same time, small towns connected with rural areas through the joint use of infrastructure facilities and united by intensive economic, including labor, and social ties are considered the full participants of the CDRA state program.

The main purpose of this study is to identify the conditions and factors affecting the sustainable development of rural areas as the basis for ensuring the food security of the country and its regions.

2 Materials and methods

The research materials include the scientific works of domestic and foreign scientists in the field of sustainable development of rural areas. The study utilizes such methods as monographic, analytical, abstract-logical, economic-statistical, scientific deduction and induction, comparison, quantitative and qualitative analysis and others. The study is based on data from the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia and the Federal State Statistics Service.

3 Results

At the beginning of 2021, the rural population of Samara region amounted to 641.62 thousand people (20.2% of the region’s population). The rural population lives in 27 municipal districts of Samara region, which are combined into 1284 rural settlements. On average, there are about 11 rural settlements, 48 rural communities per municipal district.

The vast majority of the rural population lives in rural settlements with a population of up to 10 thousand people. They differ from urban settlements by underdeveloped communication, transport and engineering infrastructure, do not have the necessary conditions for the development of entrepreneurship, especially small businesses, and also do not have a base that meets modern economic conditions [2]. Rural areas

* Corresponding author: mamai_ov@ssaa.ru

© The Authors, published by EDP Sciences. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).
are characterized by high unemployment and low incomes.

According to sample surveys of labor, employment and unemployment in Samara region carried out by the territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for Samara region, the number of employed able-bodied population (men 16-59 years old, women 16-54 years old) living in rural areas in 2019 amounted to 260 thousand people, which is the minimum figure over the past 3 years. At the same time, against the background of a general decrease in the number of working-age population, its share in the total number of citizens of this category as a whole in Samara region (1443 thousand people) (18%) has not changed.

Compared to 2019, in 2020 in rural areas, in addition to a decrease in the number of employed able-bodied rural population by 5.8 thousand people (by 2.2%), there was a decrease in the number of unemployed by 1.6 thousand people (by 9.5%). Due to demographic factors, this decrease, which for the employed able-bodied population amounted to 1.5% in 2020, for the number of unemployed – 16%, is typical for the entire region.

At the same time, the number of rural working-age population who do not operate in the labor market for the production of goods, performance of works and the provision of services, i.e. which is not part of the labor force, increased by 6.9% over 2020-2021. The number of such a population amounted to 71.5 thousand people, which almost corresponds to the value of 2017 (71.2 thousand people). This increase is mainly caused by a 20% increase in the number of pensioners and citizens employed in personal subsidiary farms by 34%, as well as a 20% decrease in the number of full-time students and other reasons.

As of 01.01.2021, the registered unemployment rate in the municipal districts of Samara region was 1.14%, which is 0.27 p.p. higher than the regional value (0.87%) and 0.05 p.p. higher than the value for the same date in 2020.

Since the beginning of 2020, 8435 villagers, or 25.6% of all applicants, have applied to the employment service, 5691 people were recognized unemployed. In total, 5312 people were employed, or 63% of the total number of rural residents that applied to the employment service.

Traditionally, the main place of employment for the rural population is the agri-food cluster. The structure of the agri-food cluster consists of five main subsectors: crop production, animal husbandry, fish farming and fishing, traditional economic activities and food industry [3, 4].

The agricultural food cluster, although being one of the main clusters in Samara region, is far below in terms of employment of the region’s population and income to other sectors of the economy (Fig. 1) [5].

![Fig. 1. Share of clusters in the total output of all clusters in Samara region, % (Compiled by the authors based on the materials of the territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for Samara region, 2022).](https://doi.org/10.1051/bioconf/20225200024)
Development of Rural Areas” is directly aimed at the achievement of these objectives.

The state program for the comprehensive development of rural areas is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- to commission (acquire) housing for citizens living in rural areas;
- to improve the living conditions of rural citizens, including by providing mortgages (loans) at a preferential rate;
- to implement socially significant projects for the improvement of rural areas;
- to increase the number of employees studying in federal state educational organizations of higher education within the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation;
- to increase the number of students studying in federal state educational organizations of higher education within the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation engaged in students’ on-the-job training;
- to arrange engineering infrastructure facilities and improve sites located in rural areas meeting the requirements of compact housing development;
- to increase the level of gasification of residential buildings (apartments) with pipeline gas in rural areas;
- to increase the level of provision of drinking water to the rural population;
- to implement projects for the integrated development of rural areas within the framework of the departmental target program “Modern appearance of rural areas” of the state program of the Russian Federation “Comprehensive Development of Rural Areas”;
- to increase the length of public roads of local importance in Samara region.

Program activities are carried out in 27 municipal districts, as well as in villages of 2 urban districts, 250 rural settlements. This will improve the quality of life of almost 600 thousand people, which is 93% of the total rural population of Samara region.

The program is being implemented in eight areas: water supply, gas supply, integrated housing, construction of housing provided under a housing lease agreement, improvement of housing conditions for citizens living in rural areas, improvement of rural areas, modern appearance of rural areas, promotion of rural employment.

As part of the direction for integrated housing development, residential complexes are being built in the villages of Bolshaya Chernigovka, Malaya Malyshevka, Kineliskiy District, Surgut and Svetlodolsk villages, villages of Sergievsky District, while the work in Surgut village has been fully completed. 651 projects are being implemented in 27 municipal districts of Samara region and 2 urban districts. Currently, 83.4% of federal and regional funds have been spent.

![Fig. 2. Financial support for some areas of the “Comprehensive Development of Rural Areas” in Samara region, mln rub.](Compiled by the authors based on the materials of the territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for Samara region, 2022)

In accordance with the data of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation in Samara region for 2021, more than 800 million rubles were allocated for the “Comprehensive Development of Rural Areas”.

Within the framework of the program and subroutines more than 98% of funds were spent (Fig. 2).

In this regard, Samara region became one of the regions that managed to attract funds for the next year.
In total, it is planned to build 723 facilities as part of measures aimed at the improvement of rural areas over the coming period before the end of the program.

Currently, the development of rural areas requires the government of Samara region to implement a set of the following measures:
- to foster efforts to the development of the agrarian economy;
- to support small businesses;
- to ensure the development of market infrastructure;
- to improve the standard of living of the rural population through the housing affordability.

4 Conclusion

The analysis of this program makes it possible to conclude that it is aimed at a whole list of development objects: development of the labor market (personnel potential), housing construction in rural areas, increased level of household improvement, formation of a modern appearance of rural areas, arrangement of engineering infrastructure facilities and improvement of sites located in rural areas. However, they are absent or presented in the minimum scope of the program for the development of agricultural production itself [10]. But it is production that determines the development of the entire system of rural areas.

Thus, the restoration and development of agricultural production can be added to all the above. Besides, it is worth considering different requirements for different territories, as well as changing the mechanism for implementing the rural development program (Fig. 3).

At the same time, it is important to most accurately determine the needs of a particular territory and add some measures:
- to determine the powers of federal and regional state authorities, local authorities in the field of rural development;
- to establish the implementation stages of the state program for the medium-term development of rural areas, to determine its financial support and mechanisms for the implementation of specified measures;
- to ensure regular monitoring of rural development;
- to ensure the participation of economic actors, citizens, public organizations and associations in rural development.

Besides, when adjusting the state programs of the Russian Federation in the fields of education, health care, culture, tourism, etc., it is necessary to include measures for the development of rural areas, as well as to form a pool of rural development projects.

Thus, the integrated development of rural areas will solve three tasks:
- to increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector – the main place of employment of the rural population;
- to ensure sustainable management of natural re-sources;
- to achieve a balanced territorial development of the rural economy, including the creation and sustainability of jobs.

References

6. A. Chaplitskaya, W. Heijman, J. Van Ophem, O. Kusakina, Sustainability 13 (6), 3509 (2021)
7. Y. Jiang, H. Long, C. Ives, R. Chen, Y. Zhang, Habitat International 121, 102514 (2022)
8. L. Li, S. Ma, Y. Zheng, X. Xiao, Land Use Policy 114, 105939 (2022)