Regionalization as a Factor of Agriculture Development of the Republic of Serbia

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ABSTRACT

Identified trends of all systems evolution indicate the fact that strategic planning of development, as managerial decision which defines goals, and planned decision on how to realize determined goals, is not possible without insight into actual situation in the regions, municipalities and local communities. Regionalization can contribute to interactive usefulness, i.e. it can be useful for the one who spatially defined areas makes available for investors and it can be useful for investors, due to acceptability of economic environment. Institutional harmonization of competences can only contribute to entire development. Changes and regionalization, as a result of reasonable and unique strategic development policy, will contribute to improvement of entire economy, agriculture diversification and rural community activation. These processes can be harmonized with positive-legal regulative brought and conducted by the state institutions (politics, legal factors, financial taxes, harmonization of technological standards with ecological standards), with aim to prevent social and market imbalance (stagnation, recession, decline of morality, unfair competition).

Keywords: Agriculture Development, Economy Development, European Integration, Regionalization, Republic of Serbia

INTRODUCTION

Respecting strategic documents brought by the institutions at higher government levels, mainly the Republic and Provinces, it is necessary to indicate to the possibilities of municipalities’ plans and suggestions. Municipalities, spatially defined, institutionally established entities, with hierarchically lower authorities and legal subordination, often do not have the chance to present plans, projects and visions of development-oriented farms and local organizations to higher authorities, regardless on the relevancy and actual operability. Local authorities in spatially determined areas have abundance of elementary natural and intellectual resources which predispose optimism regarding overall development possibilities. There are indications that factors which inhibit revitalization and development of actual sector should be

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searched, among other, in limited competencies of rural areas. After identification of these factors regionalization is inevitable, that is model of state organization by regions, within the process of positive government competences decentralization.

STATE OF RURAL AREAS

Devastated agriculture; small and extremely limited agriculture budget; legislative regarding agricultural activities regulation, which contributes to confusion of project realization related to agriculture improvement; grey economy; lack of official purchase centers, lack of interest in banks regarding agriculture sustainability and other multifunctional activities; lack of unique bank for agriculture development and export of its newly created real value; only declarative interest of system institutions regarding improvement of environmental conditions for economy are only some of the discouraging factors of production. Stated limitations delay production expansion, which inevitably impact development and growth of rural areas.

City-village migrations, especially if they are caused mainly by economic reasons, are not the problem of the local community. Migrations are social category and they are entirely caused by economic factors in the case of Serbia. Importance of migrations management falls on the shoulders of the State, but only formally. Basically, although not legally regulated, this is under power of local authorities. So, expert analysis of the causes and justification of migration trend is necessary. First, because in that areas there is a disturbance of sex-age population structure, which by its self imposes traditional norms and specific culture, and to which potential city-village migrants have aversion, regardless on their origin. Second, so far the case was that to life in these areas usually aim persons with less vital and intellectual strengths, which questions necessary developmental agriculture processes. Third, profit-oriented citizens in these areas do not have appropriate business environment nor do they feel business safety, from the reason of enabled brokerage and cartel activities in all segments of production cycles, regardless on the type of the rural products.

This ascertainment certainly does not deny the need to populate so far neglected rural areas, but indicates the necessity to institutionally solve this problem. Village and rural areas should not be alternative areas of living, especially now. Concept of rural areas dynamic development, if it is really strategic determination of agriculture policy creators and their goal, is possible to conduct, of course with the help of the State, mainly through significant investments and through sustainable and clear normative-legal regulative of relations between all actors in production chain, processing and sale of newly created real value, originated from agriculture and its compatible multifunctional activities (handicraft trades, tourism, folk arts etc.). In conditions which are characteristic for the Republic of Serbia, agriculture should be the basis of overall economy stabilization.

In the Republic of Serbia there are healing thermal waters, preserved fertile soil, possibility of health safe food production in accordance with organic principles, autochthonous seed material, traditional technology in production of autochthonous food products etc. Stated characteristics are the basis of sustainable rural development of the Republic of Serbia (Cvijanović et al., 2011 or Subić et al., 2012).

The same authors also state that, based on analysis of available natural resources and other factors which impact the agricultural production, it can be said that achieved results will be more significant in further years. Relevant indicators indicate the fact that little has been done regarding agricultural production improvement, although it was noticed long ago that agriculture is, as economy branch, the most prosperous, depending on conditions, and that with strategically justified investments it can become carrier of sustainable rural development in the Republic of Serbia. Agricultural production should be, especially now, treated as foundation of economic sustainable development, and it should be given especial attention. Agricultural
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