SUSTAINABLE CIRCULAR AGRICULTURE: BOOK REVIEW

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This work presents a review of the actual monograph “Sustainable development of agricultural enterprises on the basis of circular economy” prepared by Associate Professor, PhD in economy Svitlana Strapchuk. It reveals the key provisions of the monograph and its contribution to the development of the modern system of scientific knowledge regarding the theory, methodology and practice of sustainable development of agricultural enterprises based on the circular economy.

Key words: sustainability, circular agriculture, agricultural enterprises, business models.
The issues of sustainable development and circular economy are among those that attract significant attention not only of scientists, but also of people who make managerial decisions at the global, national and regional levels. The exponential increase in publishing activity, especially in recent years, convincingly testifies to the significant attention to the circular economy in the world by scientists [1]. Until recently, these issues have been at an initial stage in Ukraine. However, a trend towards an increase in publishing activity was revealed during the last five years [2]. A comparative analysis of the trends, current state and prospects of scientific support for the development of the circular economy in Ukraine, Bulgaria and Poland has showed that Poland can be a successful example and benchmark for Ukraine and Bulgaria in the context of revitalizing circular economy research [3]. In addition, the results of the correlation analysis shows that the circularity levels of the Ukrainian economy and EU countries are closely related. Accordingly, increasing the level of the circular economy in Ukraine in the future will be able to positively affect the environmental situation in other countries of the world [4]. The issue of «transformation from wastes into products» and effective inclusion in supply chains and circular economy is an important socio-economic and environmental problem in the European Union [5].

The issues of sustainable development of agricultural enterprises in domestic and foreign literature indicates the growing relevance of them both for the academic community, and for practitioners. The concept of the circular economy is of a particular interest, fueled by the anticipated benefits for sustainable development associated with projected reductions in CO₂ emissions and increased economic impact. That is why most of the analysis components have room for further development as the available scientific research needs to be generalized, taking into account new tools for ensuring the sustainable development of enterprises based on new business models. The theoretical and practical significance of these problems determines the relevance, timeliness and importance of the recently published monograph “Sustainable development of agricultural enterprises based on circular economy” [6] written by Associate Professor, PhD in economy Svitlana Strapchuk.

The reviewed monograph is the first book in Ukraine regarding the issues of sustainable development in the agricultural sector based on the ideas of the circular economy concept. The author’s approach to this problem, using general scientific and special methods of scientific knowledge, made it possible to synthesize the theoretical and methodological aspects of the two concepts, to look at the issue in detail at the macro level and to develop new methods of evaluating the processes occurring at the level of agricultural sector enterprises.

The structure of the monograph includes an introduction, the main part, an afterword, a list of used sources, and appendices. The main part of the monograph consists of five organically interconnected sections. The first chapter considers theoretical aspects of sustainable development and circular economy in the agricultural sector. The second chapter reveals methodological approaches to assessing the level of sustainable development of agrarian enterprises based on the principles of circular
economy. The third section, based on the test results of the proposed methodological approaches, comprehensively assess sustainable development of agricultural enterprises in Ukraine, both in general, and in terms of environmental, economic and social components. The fourth chapter reveals structural shifts in the interbranch balance by the agricultural sector, the level of ecological and economic diversification in agricultural enterprises and models of sustainable intensification in agriculture, using the example of enterprises in Kharkiv region. The fifth chapter describes implementation of sustainable development mechanism and the approbation of the circular economy business concept.

The presented research examines the evolution of sustainable development concepts and the circular economy, identifies the specifics of normative and legal regulation of sustainability issues in the agricultural sector. It also describes the methodological structure of comprehensive assessment of agricultural enterprises sustainable development and the formation of business models, taking into account the elements of circularity. The research assesses the influence factors of sustainable intensification at the level of management efficiency and the level of achieving ecological and economic diversification, possible strategies for the development of the agrarian sector based on a cluster analysis of agricultural enterprises in Kharkiv region. It also describes a mechanism for ensuring the sustainable development of agrarian enterprises at the macro level. The results of the research presented in the monograph reflect the direction of scientific work on ensuring the sustainable development of agricultural enterprises.

The scientific novelty of the monographic study consists in the deepening of the categorical apparatus, clarification and addition of a number of classification features in different categories, development of separate methodological provisions, models and algorithms for the sustainable development of agricultural enterprises based on the principles of the circular economy. Practical significance of the research lies in the improvement of methodological approaches to the formation of business models of agricultural enterprises, including circularity elements as a sign of the transition to sustainable development. The author develops a methodical approach to assessing the sustainable development in the agricultural sector based on a comprehensive indicator of economic, ecological and social component. The research proves the interdependence of a sustainable development level of agricultural enterprises and the system of management decisions regarding the annual choice of the diversity level of agricultural crops by producers, as well as the amount of organic fertilizers, presence of livestock in the farm, labor costs and mineral fertilizers.

In the reviewed monograph, the author has formulated and comprehensively solved a scientific problem regarding the substantiation of the theoretical and conceptual provisions for ensuring the sustainable development of agricultural enterprises based on the principles of the circular economy, developing scientific and practical recommendations for their use. Acquaintance with the content of the monograph gives grounds for the conclusion that the author has set herself a task, the
solution and implementation of which are designed to positively affect the achievement of sustainable development of agrarian enterprises, while focusing on the transition from linear to circular business models.

In our opinion, the results of the reviewed monographic study can be useful in working out a strategy and comprehensive program for the development of the circular economy in Ukraine, in particular, at the stage of post-war recovery [4], as well as in the process of harmonizing the domestic legal framework with the European one, which is important for the path of European integration [2; 4]. In addition, research results are important for the educational process, as their use will contribute to a better understanding by students of the essence, purpose, tasks, principles of the circular economy, and its relationship with sustainable development.

Thus, the research results highlighted in the monograph “Sustainable development of agricultural enterprises on the basis of circular economy” are characterized by scientific novelty and an original author’s approach, have theoretical and practical importance, which collectively indicates a significant potential from the point of view of transfer into business and management practice. The book will be useful for specialists in the agrarian policy, state and regional management of agrarian-industrial development, managers of agrarian enterprises, scientists, lecturers and students of higher education who study sustainable development of the agrarian sector and the processes of transition from a linear to a circular economy.

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References


