

Relevance of implementation of the system of technical ISO quality control by companies in the agricultural sector

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Abstract: *The authors substantiate the necessity of introducing a quality control system in agricultural sector enterprises under market economy conditions. A number of problems that may arise during the development and implementation of the quality system at the enterprise are highlighted. Possible solutions to these problems are suggested.*

Keywords: quality, quality control, standards ISO 9000 agro-industrial sector, harmonization of technical regulation and quality standards.

I. Introduction

The liberalization of foreign trade, Ukraine's accession to the WTO and further accession to the EU against the background of transformations problems of domestic enterprises and the steady growing demand of international markets for organically-produced products have led to the domination of the agro-industrial sector in the domestic economy.

In the context of the development of international trade and related activities, all enterprises and sectors of the economy in the domestic and foreign markets are fully dependent on the fact that their products meet the world standards of quality.

Therefore, one of the main tasks of the Ukrainian economy is to ensure and increase the quality control of products at agricultural enterprises. The success and effectiveness of the foreign economy of our country depends to a large extent on its solution.

Domestic experience of integrated quality management serves as a good basis for the development and mastering of international ISO 9000 quality standards, the main feature of which is the possibility to be used by any enterprises and organizations, regardless of their size of ownership and sphere of activity.

II. The main material

The agro-industrial complex of Ukraine is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy. The level of its development depends on the financial and food security of the state, the development of domestic and foreign markets. Today, the agro-industrial complex of Ukraine provides 95% of food resources, and over 2/3 of the consumption fund is formed at the expense of its

products. Agriculture accounts for about 18% of the total gross national product. In 2006-2016, the volume of gross agricultural output increased from UAH 151 billion to UAH 252.8 billion [1].

The country faces serious challenges in creating economic conditions that would stimulate the growth of agricultural production of the required quality, a significant increase in investment in agriculture, the implementation of long-term programs of mechanization, automation, the use of chemistry in agriculture and livestock husbandry, the development of agricultural science, the improvement of forms of production management, procurement, processing and distribution of agricultural products. Important role in solving these challenges is played by the introduction of an international system of technical quality control ISO.

The signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU countries, as well as the creation of the Free Trade Area (FTA) with the European Union under this Agreement and the harmonization of standards, are important factors in the development of the agricultural sector. This will allow Ukraine to open up the prospects of gradual development of the EU market by domestic companies, raising the level of quality, safety, environmental characteristics of Ukrainian agricultural products, improving the food security of the state, changing the Ukrainian legislation in the field of technical regulation in line with the European one, which will reduce the non-tariff trade barriers with third countries.

An important stage in the output of Ukrainian goods to foreign markets is the introduction and quality control of products. This aspect has several advantages, namely:

1) for the state: opportunities for entering foreign markets, development of enterprises and branches of the economy, as well as increase of tax revenues, reduction of unemployment, etc.;

2) for enterprises: improving the quality of products, the emergence of foreign markets, the introduction of new production technologies;

In general, the operating system of quality control in the food industry must meet some specific tasks. One of the tasks is to ensure compliance with sanitary standards and compliance requirements of the legislation, including with regard to food safety standards, the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and the system Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). The new regulatory guidelines of Ukraine should be based on the latest, most effective achievements of science, technology, and advanced technologies.

The discrepancy of Ukrainian products with world standards is one of the main threats to the development of the domestic agro-industrial sector, as this factor becomes the main barrier between the internal and external market for the period of harmonization of national technical regulations and standards. This leads to a reduction in the profits of Ukrainian small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, as well as to weakening the competitive position in the domestic market of certain types of Ukrainian products in comparison with the European one, which has already been properly certified.

The Association Agreement allows domestic companies involved in the production, processing and marketing of livestock products, cereals, sunflower seeds and sugar beet enter the EU countries market with quotas [5].

In the near future, it is impossible to fill the established quotas for this product, since, for example, the vast majority of animals are kept by households (as of 07.01.2016, the household kept 71.6% of the total cattle population, including 77.7 cows %, pigs – 53.1%, sheep and goats – 87.0%), who are not able to use modern production technologies, which leads to its poor quality and non-compliance with European sanitary norms and standards. Standards on feed and feed additives have a significant impact on husbandry productivity and the quality of husbandry products. The standardization of feed, protein-vitamin supplements, and feed additives produced by the industrial process is of great importance for the commercial cultivation of animals and poultry.

For the vast majority of domestic small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, there are also problems in ensuring compliance of their products with European standards, as processes of harmonization and adaptation of legislation in the field of technical regulation and sanitary and phytosanitary measures require not only long time but also considerable material resources. For example, the total cost of adapting to the EU standards of the Polish meat industry was about 2 billion euros [3].

The analysis of the current state of standardization of agricultural products shows that there are 566 national standards in force in Ukraine, of which 64.8% meet the requirements of international or European standards, which cannot be considered satisfactory.

The process of introducing international standards of safety and quality of food products in Ukraine is at a critical level. Thus, there is an urgent task to develop mechanisms of state policy in order to increase the efficiency of using the existing potential of the agricultural sector of the economy including its adaptation to new conditions and taking into account possible risks arising from the liberalization of foreign trade relations.

Conclusion

Based on the research material, it can be concluded that progress and economic development are impossible without guaranteeing an increase in quality standards, which cannot be achieved without the use of a perfect quality management system

Implementation of the quality control system under the ISO 9001 standard in national agricultural enterprises provides broad prospects for the development of foreign

markets, improving the environmental quality of products and improving the condition of food security of our country.

To accomplish this task it is necessary:

firstly, to implement the requirements of EU directives and regulations concerning agriculture and food industry in Ukrainian legislation, as well as at least 80% of the current European standards;

secondly, in order to minimize the risks, implement a number of measures of the state agricultural policy that will provide conditions for increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and protect the national producer from displacement from the domestic and foreign markets, for example, to intensify work with international donor organizations (EBRD, USAID, World Bank, etc.) on the development and implementation of technical assistance projects in order to harmonize the national system of technical regulation and standards in agricultural production with European and international standards (HACCP, ISO, EN, Codex Alimentarius);

thirdly, to initiate the development with the further dissemination of recommendations on the introduction by the agricultural producers and processing enterprises of the necessary changes in economic and production activities, which will lead to the confirmation of their products and production processes to European and international standards of quality and safety;

fourthly, to provide balanced and interconnected structural adjustments of all branches of the agro-industrial sector of Ukraine, while maximizing the latest achievements of scientific and technological progress, world experience and making use of the most progressive forms of economy.

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