

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC WELFARE AND LAND REFORM OBJECTIVES

MARJONA TINICHEVA ¹

Abstract

Based on the analysis of the world practice of reforming land relations in countries with transition economies, the essence of egalitarian and market approaches to land reform, their socio-economic significance for the development of the national economy, social welfare and human rights are revealed. The author's vision of the possible consequences of the free market turnover of land in the context of social welfare is presented.

Keywords: *land reform, welfare, human rights, agroholdings, peasant farms.*

¹ 3rd year student of logistics department
of the Karshi Engineering Economic institute

Introduction. The experience of carrying out land reforms in the twentieth century in countries with transition economies proves that the main contradictions during their implementation continue to arise in connection with the changing role of the state and the market in processes that form the preconditions for corresponding shifts in income distribution, growth opportunities and the provision of basic human rights for all segments of the population, including the most vulnerable. Two conceptually different approaches to land reform - egalitarian (redistributive) and market - differ in their goals.

The priority of egalitarian reform is to rapidly reduce rural poverty and develop the capabilities of land owners and land users to build their capacity. Market-based land reform aims to allocate resources economically through a free market to support the growth of export-oriented agriculture

Thus, the center of the egalitarian approach is the individual, and the center of the market approach is the economy (regardless of the fairness or injustice of the final distribution of personal benefits).

Egalitarian land reform helps to significantly reduce rural poverty and overcome large inequalities in the wealth and opportunities of peasant farms that are exposed to monetary and non-monetary drivers of poverty.

Under egalitarian reform, land redistribution is seen as a redistribution of purchasing power and development opportunities for the rural population. By regulating land relations, the state influences market mechanisms in rural areas and does not allow the monopolization of land, labor and credit markets.

If market land reform is guided by the laws of the free market, this is contrary to common sense, since land, although it has the characteristics of a commodity, is not a commodity in its classical sense. It is not reproducible and cannot be replaced by any other means of production to ensure the basic human right to food and water.

It is spatially limited, which in an economic sense means a lack of territories characterized by a combination of certain properties and natural conditions that are most favorable for food production. The spatial limitation of land from the point of view of free circulation means that its supply cannot be increased even in the face of a significant increase in land prices. That is why the turnover of agricultural land should be considered in the context of fair distribution, the need to support vulnerable segments of the population, ensuring high efficiency in the use of natural resources, motivation and social values of the rural population.

Empirical evidence in favor of egalitarian approaches to land transformation for the economic development of the country is demonstrated by the experience of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The egalitarian approach to land transformation in China has proven that the essence of land reform cannot be reduced to dividing land into plots for transferring it into private ownership. The ultimate goal of land reform is free access to all productive resources and fair distribution of control over the production process.

Thanks to such approaches, the economic miracle that has occurred in China over the past 40 years has transformed it from a poor agricultural country to an upper-middle-income country. Currently, China is the second largest economy in the world, with significant imports and exports.

Free market circulation of land contributes to the concentration and monoculturation of

agriculture and the expansion of industrial production. The experience of Latin American countries shows that although such an agri-food system can satisfy the growing demand for agricultural products and food in the domestic and foreign markets, it negatively affects social welfare within the country: it increases the rise in domestic food prices, impoverishment of the population, environmental degradation, depopulation of rural areas.

Conclusion. Corporate land users extract more resources from rural areas than they invest in their reproduction, since a significant part of the created added value is transferred outside the country. At the same time, governments defend the interests of large land users and landowners for a number of reasons, namely: high levels of corruption, aggressive lobbying of corporate interests, “taming” representatives of local authorities and law enforcement agencies, etc.

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