Сучасні макроекономічні тренди та тенденції

Modern macroeconomic trends and tendencies

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Glushkov Oleg
Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate Professor,
Director of Separated Structural Subdivision «Professional College of Oil and Gas Technologies, Engineering and Service Infrastructure of Odesa National University of Technology»
112, Kanatna Street, city of Odesa, Ukraine, 65039
e-mail: glushkovuk99@gmail.com;
ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6423-2239

Methodological aspects of the formation of cluster-institutional space in the field of animal husbandry and processing

Abstract. In the current context of food security, globalization of the agricultural product market, and the urgent need to enhance the competitiveness of Ukraine's agrarian sector, the development of cluster-institutional structures, particularly in the livestock sector and related processing industries, is gaining increased relevance. The formation of a cluster-institutional space represents a critical tool for ensuring synergy among the agricultural economy's production, scientific, educational, and managerial components.

This publication aims to provide a methodological analysis of the formation of the cluster-institutional space and its significance in livestock production and processing. The methodological framework of the study is based on general scientific and specialized methods, including analysis and synthesis to form a comprehensive understanding of the functioning of livestock clusters; systems analysis to identify interconnections and synergy among cluster participants; the monographic method for studying international experience in cluster development; and modeling and graphical methods for constructing and visualizing the model of livestock cluster formation and evaluating the outcomes of its implementation.

This article examines the cluster-institutional space in the livestock sector as a set of interconnected economic agents, organizational structures, institutional norms, and mechanisms that ensure effective interaction among agricultural production and livestock processing actors. The methodological program for forming, establishing, and developing the cluster-institutional space is outlined, and its key stages are identified. It is substantiated that the effective development of such a space in the livestock sector requires the implementation of strategic mechanisms such as institutional support for clustering, infrastructure modernization, development of horizontal and vertical cooperation, and educational-scientific support.

Introducing a cluster model in the livestock and livestock processing industries opens new opportunities for enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and innovative development in the agrarian sector. Forming a cluster institutional space in livestock and its processing should be regarded as a modern economic model and a strategic tool for the sustainable development of rural areas, strengthening national food security, and integrating Ukraine into global agri-food value chains.

Keywords*: competitiveness, food security, livestock, cluster-institutional space.*
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Introduction. In the context of modern challenges of ensuring food security, globalization of the agricultural market, and the need to increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector of Ukraine, the relevance of forming cluster-institutional structures is rising in animal husbandry and related processing industries. The formation of a cluster-institutional space is considered one of the tools for ensuring effective interaction between production, scientific, educational, and managerial components of the agricultural economy [1-5], as it contributes to strengthening innovative activity, technology transfer, optimization of resource provision and increasing the overall efficiency of the functioning of the agro-industrial complex.

Clustering as a new paradigm for the development of the agro-industrial complex, in particular animal husbandry and its processing, is based on the implementation of a cluster model within the institutional space, which contributes to the formation of informal institutions that regulate internal transactions between cluster participants, forming trusting relationships between integrated agro-business entities. Developing a cluster-institutional space in animal husbandry and processing requires a comprehensive integration of various conceptual approaches, particularly systemic, institutional, technological, territorial, and cluster. Such an integrated approach will make it possible to ensure sustainable development of the agricultural sector, reduce dependence on imported products, create new jobs in rural areas, activate the socio-economic development of regions, and strengthen the food security of the state in general. In addition, the cluster-institutional approach will contribute to the formation of effective cooperative relations between agricultural producers, processing enterprises, logistics structures, research institutions, educational institutions, and state administration bodies, which will create the prerequisites for joint investments in the modernization of production infrastructure, the introduction of high-performance technologies, compliance with international standards of quality and product safety to increase the added value of animal products, expand export potential and strengthen the resilience of domestic production to global risks and price fluctuations.

Literature review. The formation of cluster and institutional space in the agro-industrial sector in animal husbandry and processing is based on the conceptual foundations of clustering, institutional economics, and spatial production organization. The primary foundations of economic agglomeration and clustering can be traced in the works of A. Marshall [1], who emphasized the effects of concentration of production, localization, and specialization as prerequisites for increasing productivity. Theoretical and methodological understanding of the cluster model is set out in the works of M. Porter [2], where the cluster is interpreted as a geographical concentration of interrelated companies, suppliers, contractors, and related institutions in a particular area, which contributes to increasing competitiveness. In this context, S. Sokolenko [3] adapts the cluster concept to the conditions of the Ukrainian economy, outlining the cluster as a tool for regional development and technological renewal of the agro-industrial complex.

The methodological contribution to the development of the cluster approach in the agro-industrial complex was made by M. Kropyvko and O. Kovaleva [4], who consider the cluster the latest network form of interaction between agricultural production participants. Scientists emphasize the importance of coordinating the actions of subjects through institutional mechanisms. A significant contribution to the development of institutional approaches to clustering is made by M. Yavorska [5], who focuses on the role of investment and innovation infrastructure in the agricultural sector as a basis for the sustainable functioning of cluster formations.

The application of the cluster approach to the formation of agri-food systems at the regional level is considered in the work of V. Samofatova [6], who substantiated the feasibility of using the cluster mechanism to achieve sustainable development goals. In the same context, Lavruk V. and Lavruk O. [7] consider clusters as a tool for food security management through the prism of global sustainable development goals. The application of the cluster approach in the dairy subcluster is analyzed in the dissertation study of Nikolaenko S. [8], where the mechanism of cluster formation is proposed on the example of the dairy industry, considering the specifics of its institutional support.

From the point of view of the spatial organization of agricultural production, Korepanov O. and Dashutin V. [9] reveal the regional features of the development of animal husbandry; scientists conducted a regional ranking according to the level of development of the industry and proposed a method of spatial differentiation.

Korobka S. [10] discusses clustering development in rural areas, considering socio-economic features. The author analyzes the prerequisites for creating clusters in the context of decentralization. Danko Y. and Zhurbenko N. [11] assess the potential of agricultural enterprises in detail as a basis for integration into cluster formations. The authors emphasize the importance of resource and management potential as a prerequisite for including agrarian entities in the cluster-institutional environment.

The study of literature sources has shown the presence of diverse approaches to understanding and studying the cluster-institutional space, which is formed at the intersection of economic geography, institutional economics, strategic management, and agrarian management. However, despite the wide coverage of the outlined topic, there is a need for further development of methodological principles regarding the mechanisms for creating and developing cluster-institutional space in the livestock sector, considering regional, environmental, and social factors.

Purpose, objectives, and methods of research. The purpose of the study is a methodological analysis of the formation of the cluster-institutional space and its importance in the field of animal husbandry and processing of livestock products under modern economic conditions.

To achieve this goal, it is necessary to perform the following tasks:

- to analyze the prerequisites and factors that determine the formation of cluster structures in the field of animal husbandry, considering the peculiarities of the agrarian economy, institutional environment, and resource provision;
- to identify modern barriers and limitations that complicate the creation of an adequate cluster-institutional space in the agricultural sector;
- to analyze the international experience of the functioning of agro-industrial clusters and to identify approaches relevant to domestic practice
- to develop a methodological model for the phased creation of a cluster in the livestock industry

The methodological basis of the study was made up of general scientific and specialized methods, in particular, analysis and synthesis to form a holistic view of the mechanisms of cluster functioning in animal husbandry, a method of system analysis for a comprehensive study of the relationships between cluster members, identification of their functional interaction and potential for synergy; monographic method for detailed analysis of the experience of countries with a developed cluster model, which made it possible to identify practical organizational approaches and institutional conditions for the functioning of agricultural clusters; modeling and graphical methods for the development and visualization of a methodological model for the formation of a livestock cluster and for assessing the expected consequences of its implementation from the standpoint of economic efficiency and sustainable development.

Research results. The modern development of the domestic agricultural sector requires new approaches to the organization of production, especially in animal husbandry and its processing. The formation of clusters and institutional spaces is one of the most promising areas for increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the industry. Clustering is especially relevant in the context of the growth of globalization processes, which indicates the formation of a new stage of the integration cycle in the agro-industrial complex, where the cluster model allows flexible adaptation to economic fluctuations [4]. At the same time, like any system, clusters undergo cyclical volatility, especially in the food sector, due to the seasonality of production, fluctuations in demand, energy prices, and global economic trends.

Cluster-institutional space in animal husbandry is a set of interrelated economic agents, organizational structures, institutional norms, and mechanisms that ensure effective interaction of

subjects of agricultural production and processing of livestock products. Such a space is characterized by the presence of a dominant type of activity, the territorial concentration of production and processing capacities, a high degree of institutionalized ties (contractual, regulatory, informational), active participation of educational and scientific institutions in the process of advanced training and implementation of innovations, a public-private partnership based on joint strategic planning.

In Ukraine, cluster formation in animal husbandry faces several challenges: fragmentation of agricultural production, underdevelopment of rural infrastructure, limited access to financing, insufficient institutionalization of the cooperative movement, and lack of regional programs to support agricultural clusters [9]. To ensure the stable and effective functioning of clusters in the livestock industry, it is worth focusing on the concept of "7 I" - the basic principles of a booming economy:

1. Investments - support for modernizing livestock complexes, biosafety, and processing equipment.
2. Institutions - creating transparent game rules for farmers, cooperatives, and processors.
3. Infrastructure - development of logistics centers, refrigerated transport, and quality control laboratories.
4. Innovations - introducing modern breeding, feeding, genetics, and digital animal monitoring technologies.
5. Intelligence - development of human capital: agricultural education, veterinary science, digital literacy of farmers.
6. Information - access to up-to-date market, climate, and technology data.
7. Integration is a partnership between the state, science, business, and communities.

Implementing the model through a public-private partnership will ensure a balanced financial and credit policy, increase the competitiveness of the livestock industry, and create prerequisites for Ukraine's sustainable agricultural development.

The methodological program for forming a cluster and institutional space in the agro-industrial complex provides for the sequential implementation of key stages that ensure the effective creation and functioning of sectoral integration associations. In general, the process of space formation can be presented as a sequence of interrelated stages, each of which has its strategic role in achieving synergy between cluster participants, particularly in animal husbandry and its processing (Fig. 1).

The first stage is the preparatory stage. At this stage, a preliminary analysis of the market for livestock products (milk, meat, eggs, by-products) is carried out to form a reasonable business idea. meat, mixed type) and its potential geographical reference.

The second stage is the design of the cluster structure. At this level, there is a deep justification for the feasibility of creating a cluster as a new-generation business structure focused on innovation, sustainability, and cooperation. A multifactorial analysis is carried out, in particular: assessment of the sustainability of demand for livestock products in the region and beyond, determination of the key business goal of the cluster (cost reduction, access to foreign markets, implementation of environmental standards), development of a cluster development strategy with clarification of all stages of the production process - from the cultivation of raw materials to processing, packaging, logistics, and sales. The preliminary composition of the cluster members is also formed, including basic enterprises (producers and processors of livestock products), suppliers of equipment, feed, veterinary services, scientific institutions, educational institutions, logistics companies, investors, and banks.

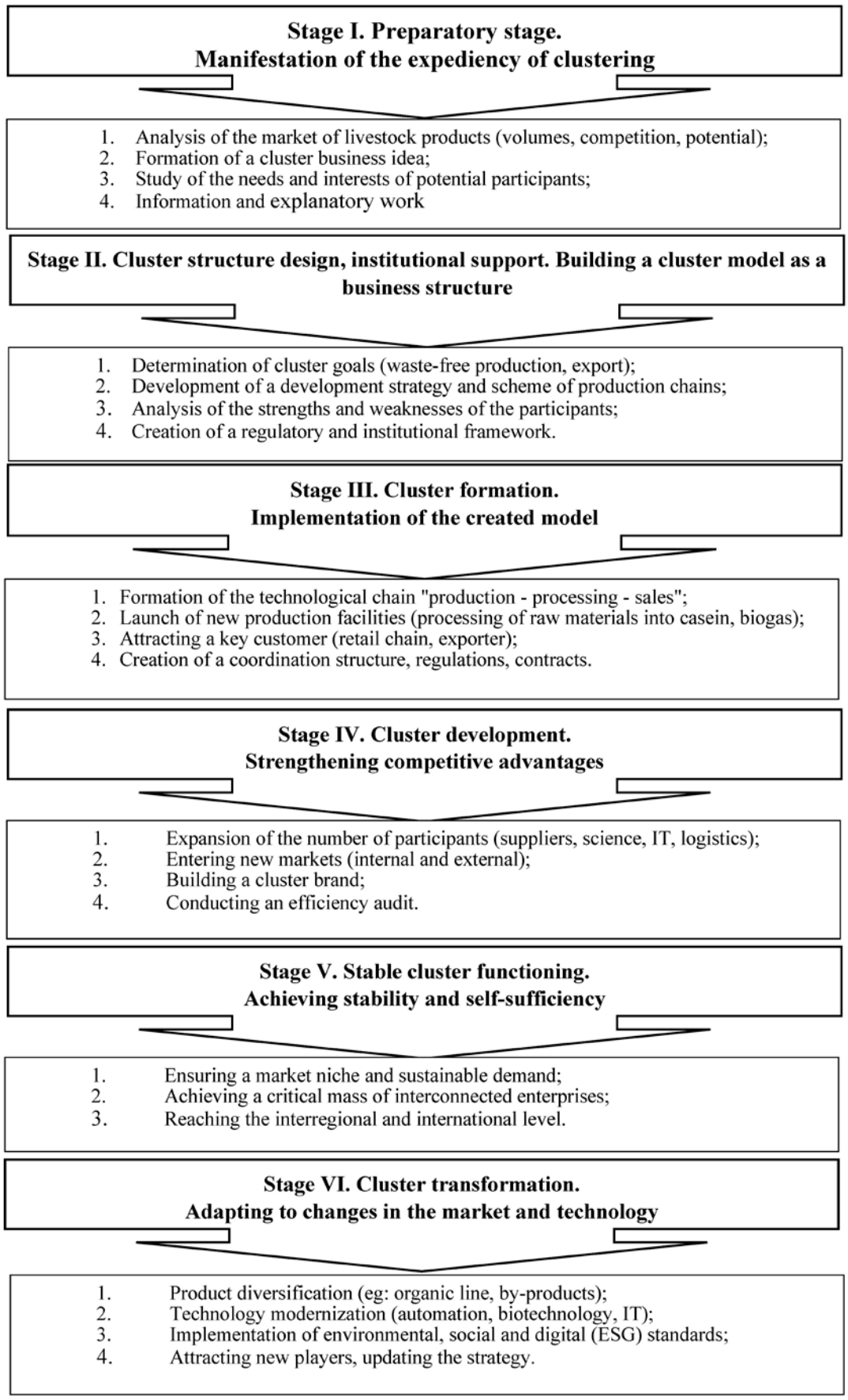

Fig. 1. Methodology for the creation and development of the cluster-institutional space.
Source: author's development

A regulatory and institutional framework (including support from local and state authorities), an investment program (state support, grant opportunities, lending), mutual trust, and openness between participants, which form a "culture of cooperation," are critical. Local governments and state administrations play a key role in mobilizing participants from various related sectors of the economy, attracting investments through benefits, information support, and communication facilitation, and creating a cluster coordination center responsible for communication, project management, and monitoring of results. Particular attention should be paid to the motivation of both the basic enterprises and the key customers of the cluster, which will ensure stable demand and price attractiveness.

At this stage, the real implementation of the cluster model is carried out, which includes constructing a technological chain of production and consumption of livestock products - from the primary producer to the end consumer or exporter. A technological sequence of processes is formed: cultivation of raw materials (dairy, beef cattle breeding, pig breeding, poultry farming); primary and deep processing, packaging, storage, logistics, and Sales of products. The possibility of launching new processing areas is being considered: the production of functional products, feed, biofertilizers, and alternative energy from livestock waste. Promising digital and biotechnologies are being introduced: automation of livestock accounting and maintenance (sensors, monitoring systems), environmental technologies of manure disposal and processing, genetic improvement of livestock, certification of products according to international standards (HACCP, ISO 22000, Global G.A.P.). Significant investments are needed to ensure the cluster's competitiveness [12].

Regional authorities should play a proactive role in the implementation of the development program through the creation of a favorable business climate, the involvement of financial and credit institutions (banks, credit unions), the creation of a state guarantee fund for cluster projects, public-private partnership (PPP), preferential lending, subsidies, tax preferences [13-15]. After determining all production stages and participants, the following are formed: the cluster coordination council, which is responsible for strategic management, and the executive directorate, which is engaged in operational administration and implementation of initiatives. The approval of uniform standards and regulations for the work of cluster members and the signing of partnership agreements between participants and external stakeholders.

The fourth stage is the development of the cluster. At this stage, the cluster reaches a new level - economic growth and expansion of cooperation. Thanks to the established structure and the first results, the cluster becomes attractive for external partners - particularly domestic and international investors, farms, cooperatives, and innovative startups in biotechnology and processing. - both in the country and abroad, including participation in international exhibitions, obtaining certificates for export, and promoting products under a single cluster brand. The cluster becomes a platform for scientific and applied research. New feeds, veterinary drugs, and breeds are introduced, digital technologies for herd management are tested, and educational programs for training specialists are formed (cooperation with agricultural universities). Periodic audit of cluster development allows you to identify bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement, adjust the strategy, and make informed management decisions based on data.

At this stage, the cluster reaches a mature form of development when the system works efficiently and stably and has clear competitive advantages. The cluster occupies its niche position in the domestic and foreign markets, ensuring stable product quality, logistical reliability, and reputation as a regional manufacturer with high standards. Each other through cooperation (synergy effect), reduce costs through common infrastructure (laboratories, logistics, certification centers), and stimulate the emergence of new businesses within the region. The formed cluster can compete at the regional and global level, which provides for the export of livestock products, the creation of joint ventures with foreign partners, and participation in international grants and programs to support sustainable agricultural production.

The sixth stage is the transformation (modernization) of the cluster. Considering the specifics of livestock products and technological cycles, the agro-industrial cluster cannot maintain efficiency for a long time without adaptations and changes. Challenges of this stage: exhaustion of internal growth reserves, loss of innovative flexibility, increased competition from external producers (including international ones), change in consumer preferences, and aging technologies, especially in the processing and packaging of animal products. To maintain relevance and competitiveness, the cluster must diversify production - go beyond one product group; refocus on new target markets - niche products, exports to countries of growing demand, B2B segment (supply of raw materials to pharmacies or cosmetic industries); attract new participants - not only manufacturers but also startups, IT companies, logistics innovators, creative businesses; and invest in R&D - close cooperation with scientific institutions and attraction of public and private funding for transformation projects; modernize the institutional structure of the cluster - revision of standards, updating strategic goals, introduction of digital platforms for interaction between participants.

Consumers are increasingly paying attention to production sustainability, environmental friendliness, and social responsibility, so clusters must integrate ESG approaches, environmental certificates, and digital transparency of the supply chain ("from farm to table"). Therefore, the sixth stage is not completion but a new point of restarting the cluster and its transformation into a flexible, innovative, and diversified ecosystem capable of meeting the future market's challenges.

The cluster as a business structure of the new generation is an open socio-economic system characterized by such key features as institutional cooperation, integrity, sustainability of functioning, complexity, communicativeness, hierarchy, and innovation. Its basis is territorial concentration, coordination of participants' activities, and complementarity of types of production and technological processes, which is especially important in animal husbandry - for example, when combining feed producers, breeding farms, meat processing enterprises, and logistics operators. For the region, the functioning of the agricultural cluster is of great social importance since it contributes to creating jobs in rural areas, increasing income, developing infrastructure, and reducing population migration [6]. Improvement of production technologies and growth of labor productivity is impossible without qualified personnel who have modern knowledge, skills, and experience, which, in turn, leads to an increase in wages, the development of a system of continuous training, advanced training of employees, especially in the field of livestock technologies, veterinary control, biosafety. The properties of a cluster depend on the level of development and density of connections between its participants, and understanding the specifics of these connections allows you to effectively respond to changes in both the internal and external environment [3; 16].

As a complex system, a cluster includes several components ordered through contractual relations. Still, in addition to unifying forces, centrifugal forces can break the system if there is no motivational basis for each participant. An effective cluster model in animal husbandry should include economic, social, and managerial incentives for agricultural producers, cooperatives, processors, and distributors. To ensure the sustainability of the cluster, it is necessary that market relations between participants are continuous, consistent, and focused on long-term benefits. Participation in the cluster should be attractive due to quality management, transparent distribution of benefits, resource sharing, and transaction cost savings when the result of the interaction of participants exceeds the individual efforts of each of them, which is possible through coordination of actions, mutual planning, digital supply chain management platforms, and joint investment projects.

The effective formation of the cluster-institutional space in animal husbandry requires the introduction of the following strategic mechanisms:

1. Institutional support for clustering involves creating a legal framework for the activities of agro-industrial clusters within the framework of regional development strategies.

2. Infrastructure modernization - supporting logistics, processing, and laboratory facility investments.
3. Development of horizontal and vertical cooperation: stimulating farm associations and forming joint sales and purchase cooperatives.
4. Educational and scientific support - introducing dual education and creating sectoral innovation centers.
5. Digitalization of management: the introduction of intelligent monitoring systems, electronic platforms for data exchange, and digital product passports.

Therefore, the cluster is not only a structure but a dynamic ecosystem where each participant retains freedom but benefits from cooperation. Under proper organization, it becomes the locomotive of regional agrarian development. In war and global challenges, the cluster approach is one of the most sustainable tools for strengthening Ukraine's food security.

Discussion. The formation of a cluster-institutional space in the livestock sector is undoubtedly an innovative approach to enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of Ukraine’s agricultural sector. Despite the high potential of such an approach, Ukraine faces a range of structural, economic, and regulatory barriers that hinder clustering: the lack of an established institutional framework, a low level of cooperation, weak infrastructure, and insufficient funding. On the other hand, the “7 I” concept as an integrated model for cluster development offers an effective framework for action. The alignment of efforts by the state, science, business, and civil society, supported by public-private partnerships, opens new opportunities for adapting agricultural production to contemporary challenges.

Furthermore, the study substantiates a step-by-step model for building an effective sectoral integration system. However, the successful implementation of this methodological program requires a critical assessment of the potential opportunities and limitations of applying the cluster-based approach in the Ukrainian context. The model is logically structured and reflects modern views on the role of clusters as tools for regional development, innovation-driven cooperation, and enhanced competitiveness. Nevertheless, there remains the issue of the actual readiness of agribusiness entities to engage in long-term associations, especially under the dominance of individualized farming practices and low trust levels among small and medium-sized enterprises. The state and local authorities are assigned a special role in stimulating clustering. However, the issue of decentralizing responsibility remains debatable: how effectively can local governments mobilize resources, ensure a strategic vision for development, and organize efficient interaction among cluster participants? Thus, while the proposed methodology for forming a cluster-institutional space is promising, its practical implementation requires regulatory, infrastructural, and financial support, a shift in managerial culture, the development of partnerships among participants, and an increase in the institutional maturity of the regions.

Conclusions. The introduction of the cluster model in animal husbandry and processing opens new opportunities for increasing the efficiency, competitiveness, and innovative development of Ukraine's agricultural sector. Clusters allow for the combination of the advantages of competition and cooperation and the legal independence of enterprises, with the benefits of interaction based on shared economic interests, technological ties, and territorial concentration.

The formation of clusters contributes to a more rational use of resources, reducing costs due to economies of scale, accelerating the introduction of innovations, and strengthening the positions of Ukrainian manufacturers in domestic and foreign markets. An essential condition for the successful functioning of clusters is the availability of a legislative framework, state support, and participation of scientific institutions, educational institutions, and local governments. Coordinated actions of the state, business, science, and education should become the basis for building an effective model of agro-industrial cooperation for the new generation. The formation of cluster and institutional space in animal husbandry and its processing should be considered a modern economic

model and a strategic tool for the sustainable development of rural areas, strengthening the country's food security and Ukraine's integration into global agricultural value chains.

The substantiated methodology for creating and developing a cluster-institutional space in the agro-industrial complex in livestock breeding and its processing is a holistic and phased conceptual model that provides for strategic planning, institutional support, and technological integration of cluster participants considering regional characteristics. Sequential completion of the stages: preparatory analysis, design of the cluster structure and institutional support, cluster formation, cluster development, sustainable cluster functioning, and cluster transformation, will allow the formation of a competitive integration association capable of generating synergy, attracting investments, ensuring sustainable development and adapting to changes in the external environment. The advantages of the proposed methodology are orientation on inter-sectoral cooperation, institutional support from the authorities, the introduction of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies, diversification of products and sales markets, and active use of digital tools, as well as ESG approaches. The practical application of a sound methodology will contribute to forming a self-sufficient economic ecosystem, stimulating the development of human capital, innovative infrastructure, and the regional economy.

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Глушков Олег
кандидат технічних наук, доцент,
директор Відокремленого структурного підрозділу
«Фаховий коледж нафтогазових технологій, інженерії та інфраструктури сервісу
Одеського національного технологічного університету»
вул. Канатна, 112, м. Одеса, Україна, 65039
e-mail: glushkovuk99@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6423-2239

Методологічні аспекти формування кластерно-інституціонаного простору у сфері тваринництва і переробки

Анотація. В сучасних умовах продовольчої безпеки, глобалізації ринку сільськогосподарської продукції та необхідності підвищення конкурентоспроможності аграрного сектору України, зростає актуальність розбудови кластерно-інституціональних структур, зокрема у сфері тваринництва та пов'язаних з ним переробних галузей. Формування кластерно-інституціонального простору є важливим інструментом забезпечення синергії між виробничими, науковими, освітніми та управлінськими компонентами аграрної економіки.

Метою публікації є методологічний аналіз формування кластерно-інституціонального простору та його значення у сфері тваринництва та переробки продукції тваринництва. Методологічну основу дослідження становили загальнонаукові та спеціалізовані методи, зокрема: аналіз і синтез для формування цілісного уявлення про функціонування кластерів у тваринництві; системний аналіз для виявлення взаємозв'язків і синергії між учасниками кластеру; монографічний метод для вивчення зарубіжного досвіду кластеризації; моделювання та графічний метод для побудови й візуалізації моделі формування тваринницького кластеру та оцінки ефектів його впровадження.

В статті досліджується кластерно-інституціональний простір у сфері тваринництва, як сукупність взаємопов'язаних економічних агентів, організаційних структур, інституційних норм та механізмів, що забезпечують ефективну взаємодію суб'єктів аграрного виробництва та переробки тваринницької продукції. Досліджена методологічна програма формування, створення та розвитку кластерно-інституціонального простору та визначені його ключові етапи. Обґрунтовано, що ефективне формування кластерно-інституціонального простору в тваринництві потребує впровадження таких стратегічних механізмів: інституціональна підтримка кластеризації; модернізація інфраструктури; розвиток горизонтальної та вертикальної кооперації; освітньо-науковий супровід.

Запровадження кластерної моделі в галузі тваринництва та його переробки, відкриває нові можливості для підвищення ефективності, конкурентоспроможності й інноваційного розвитку аграрного сектору. Формування кластерно-інституціонального простору у сфері тваринництва та його переробки має розглядатися не лише як сучасна економічна модель, а як стратегічний інструмент сталого розвитку сільських територій, зміцнення продовольчої безпеки країни та інтеграції України до глобальних аграрних ланцюгів доданої вартості.

***Ключові слова**: конкурентоспроможність, продовольча безпека, тваринництво, кластерно-інституціональний простір.*

Формули: –; рис.: 1; табл.: 0; бібл.: 16.

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