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### **AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES OF UKRAINIAN PROVINCES IN RUSSIAN EMPIRE: THE FORMATION OF NETWORK AND EXPERIENCE (1861-1914)**

*Стаття присвячена діяльності сільськогосподарських товариств українських губерній Російської імперії у період з 1861 р. по 1914 р. На основі архівних матеріалів та друкованих джерел автор вивчив причини виникнення, динаміку чисельності аграрних об'єднань. Охарактеризовані різні типи аграрних організацій за масштабами їхньої роботи (центральні, обласні, губернські, повітові та сільські) і спеціалізації (землеробські, тваринницькі, садівничі та ін.). Сільськогосподарські товариства Правобережжя, Лівобережжя та Півдня України мали свою специфіку у методах роботи з населенням, засобах господарювання, науковій і комерційній базі. Після початку I Світової війни активність вищезгаданих товариств зменшилась. Сільськогосподарські організації зробили значний внесок у модернізацію аграрного сектора українських губерній Російської держави.*

**Ключові слова:** сільськогосподарські товариства, українські губернії, Російська імперія, сільське господарство.

*Статья посвящена деятельности сельскохозяйственных обществ украинских губерний Российской империи в период с 1861 г. по 1914 г. На основе архивных материалов и опубликованных источников автор изучил причины возникновения, динамику численности аграрных объединений. Охарактеризованы разные типы аграрных организаций по масштабу их работы (центральные, областные, губернские, уездные и сельские) и специализации (земледельческие, животноводческие, садоводческие и т. п.). Сельскохозяйственные общества Правобережья, Левобережья и Южной Украины имели свою специфику в методах работы с населением, способах хозяйствования, научной и коммерческой основе. После начала I Мировой войны активность данных обществ снизилась. Сельскохозяйственные организации внесли вклад в модернизацию аграрного сектора украинских губерний Российского государства.*

**Ключевые слова:** сельскохозяйственные общества, украинские губернии, Российская империя, сельское хозяйство.

*The article deals with the activities of agricultural societies in the Ukrainian provinces of the Russian Empire in the period from 1861 to 1914. The author has studied the reasons of occurrence, population dynamics of agricultural associations based on archival materials and published sources. Different types of agrarian organization on the scale of their work (central, regional, provincial, district and village) and specialization (agricultural, livestock, gardening, etc.) were characterized. Agricultural societies of the Right Bank, Left Bank, and Southern Ukraine had its own specificity in the methods of work with the inhabitants, methods of management, scientific and commercial basis. The activity of these companies decreased after the start of World War I. Agricultural organizations have contributed to the modernization of the agricultural sector of Ukrainian provinces of the Russian state.*

**Key words:** agricultural societies, the Ukrainian provinces, Russian Empire, agriculture.

There was a tendency of growth of pan-European public's role in society in the nineteenth - early twentieth century. Russian Empire evolved, but the stages, forms and terms of modernization were different than in Europe. This type of modernization was called the overtaking. Active transition to modernization took place after the reforms 60-70-ies XIX century. However, the process in the Russian Empire began earlier. Modernization has become a common phenomenon. It encompassed educational, scientific and other activities, including which were focused on agriculture.

The subject of research is agricultural companies, which were subject to the General Directorate of Agriculture and land arrangement by the Department of Agriculture. In addition, the Russian Empire contained agricultural cooperative organizations (companies, cooperatives, groups), which were administered by Department of Rural Economy and Agricultural Statistics Office in cases or small loans.

The aim of this study is to examine the causes and dynamics of establishing the network of agricultural companies, their types, specialization, regional differences, and place in the modernization process in Dnieper Ukraine. The chronological boundaries article reaches are from the reform of 1861 to the beginning of World War I. Territorial boundaries include the Ukrainian province of the state.

Historiography of the problem. This topic has acquired certain coverage in historical literature. Historiography can be divided into the following stages: 1) pre-Soviet; 2) Soviet; 3) modern. During all stages of the development of historiography, publication should include the following types: the development of the Russian Empire as a whole; community organizations, including agrarian; personalities.

In the late nineteenth - early twentieth century Russian society sought to reflect changes in the country introduced major reforms. Statesmen, zemstvos, landowners, businessmen, teachers analyzed the processes taking place in the country. Numerous works were published [7, 11, 22]. These include the famous scientist and entrepreneur A. M. Enhelhard [31]. He, incidentally, mentioned agricultural companies, which member A. M. Enhelhard (and sometimes humorous). However, A. M. Enhelhard did not deny the existence of such organizations and saw in their favor. Zemstvos that cooperate with agricultural companies (including B. Veselovsky) left a rich legacy of work, especially general for trying to analyze and organize the material is not only a need or scientific interest [5, 18]. Pre-revolutionary heritage of the investigated problem is very colorful. It should include the memories, printed materials congresses scientists, entrepreneurs, etc. [17, 19].

In the Soviet period, historians have not paid sufficient attention to agricultural societies. Cooperative movement studied separately. Public organizations of Russian Empire, including agricultural, were considered effective low and dependent on the central government [25]. A new stage in the development of historical science began after 1991. The subject of society's modernization, public organizations to be engaged gradually prominent place in the works of historians near abroad and abroad. The thesis by A. Panteleymonenko should be called among native researches [20]. But in his book he studied, first of all, cooperative organizations. A number of dissertations dedicated staff, active members of agricultural associations (A. Zaykevich, K. Matsiyevich, and others) [6, 8, 10]. The local lore publication by V. Kolisnyk covers the gap in this issue to some extent [12]. The researcher described the history of the Podolsky company of agriculture and agricultural industry. N. Venher (a scientist from Dnipropetrovsk) described the modernization processes in the South of Ukraine, especially in agrarian societies Mennonites [4].

Among historians, neighboring countries B. Myronov created a monumental work [16]. It is conceptually defined modernization processes that took place in the Russian Empire. Unfortunately, his intelligence does not apply to Ukrainian provinces.

Scientists from foreign countries not engaged in this issue. The only suitable work can serve as a work, which analyzes the impact of the Russian Technical Society the formation of entrepreneurial culture in the country [41]. So, historiographical analysis of the literature shows that the issue (agricultural companies of Ukrainian provinces of the Russian Empire) covered in fragments. There remain unexplored issues such as the evolution of the network of public companies, the essence of modernization processes, their impact on the agricultural sector and society.

The source base study is diverse. It consists of the current documentation of the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural associations, statistical directories, address books, calendar, agricultural magazines and newspapers [1, 2, 33-36]. The author of the article have also been used unpublished sources contained in the State Archive of Kharkiv region (Fund 237 Kharkiv Society of agriculture and agricultural industry) [38], Central State Historical Archive (Kiev) (Fund 731 Kiev Society of agriculture and agricultural industry) [39], State Archive of Zhytomyr region (Fund 187 Volyn hopcompany) [37], the Institute of Manuscripts of the National Library of Ukraine named by V. Vernadskyin Kiev (personalities).

Agricultural Societies of the Russian Empire were found since the XVIII century. The main purpose of founding was to promote agricultural of regions. There were 21 agricultural societies before peasant reform in 1861 in the European part of the Russian Empire (A. Panteleymonenko suggests figure 25), including the number of one Ukrainian association [20, p. 12]. In the XIXth century has been changing the nature of these associations with the development of capitalist relations in agriculture. By the way, some of them try to practice and even commerce (in addition to educational work). Though, the nature of their activities before the reforms carried more theoretical. New impetus for the establishment of agricultural societies was reform of 1861. Ministry of Agriculture pinned much hope on the local initiative on the case of its organization. So in the book «Selskoe and lesnoe economy in Russia» (1893), published as an official publication of the World Agricultural Exhibition in Chicago, we find the following reasoning. «From this period of time (1861) the government began to take more definite views on ways to promote agriculture. This basic provision is that agriculture, by its very nature, can not be subject to the control and that its development can be influenced only indirectly-the proliferation of beneficial agriculture information, support special private enterprises and the removal of obstacles hindering the development of the agricultural» [22, p. 621].

In the second half of the nineteenth century, Department of Agriculture following the example of the United States appealed directly to farmers. Five times a year reporters have provided different information, including loaves of crops and grasses, state animal husbandry, and others. However, the process of agricultural societies was long and complicated, because of the remnants of feudal and backward ideas about the forms and methods of management, which to a certain time (almost to the end of the nineteenth century) satisfy both small and large landowner. The only part of the entrepreneurial landlords who wanted prosperity in the new environment (or purely intuitively, or under the influence of foreign experience) resorted to organizing associations in agriculture.

After the agrarian crisis 80-90 years of the nineteenth century, the government began to relate more closely to agricultural societies. In 1898, new statutes were approved for agricultural societies [7, p. 4]. Minister of Agriculture made a speech in the face of the representatives of the nobility on this occasion. He said: «the first agricultural societies emerged in a different environment. Now it is important not only to the creation of agricultural value but profit» [1,p.XII]. In 1902, he created «Committees on agriculture» to examine the state of agriculture in the places. The newly created committees attracted to his work with heads of agricultural companies. March 4, 1906, were approved «Temporary Regulations on societies and unions» [1, p. XII] that concerned and agricultural societies. The normal local statute of agricultural societies was introduced last of legislative documents from 7 May 1911 [1, p. 3]. In the report of the Inspector of Agriculture in Poltava province (1910), we find this opinion. «The establishment of agricultural societies are important not only to agricultural methods, but also the development of the initiative of the local population, without which a massive rise in agriculture is unthinkable» [18, p. 52].

By statute, agricultural society acted as voluntary organizations. In terms of jurisdiction and workload, they are divided into central, regional, provincial, county and local (or village). Branches of the All-Russian agrarian societies existed in the Ukrainian provinces. Only Kyiv Agrarian Associations belonged to central level (such as Free Economic Society in St. Petersburg and Moscow Agricultural Society).

First society on the Ukrainian territory was established in Odessa in 1828, called the Imperial Society of Agriculture of South [13, p.6]. By the scale of its activities, it was actually regional. It is the only company in the Ukrainian provinces founded on the pre-reform period. Its activities are spread to Bessarabskaya, Ekaterinoslavskaya, Taurida and Khersonskaya provinces. This wide spectrum of activity was due to several factors: Odessa was an international port and the largest city of the South; swift economic development in southern provinces of the empire, domestic and international trade in the state.

Poltava (1865), Kiev (1874), Kharkiv (1880) and other provincial partnership were organized later in the post-reform period. The aim and the means of their creation are somewhat changed. The establishment of public organizations is increasingly associated with the capitalization of agriculture, above all the landlord. Although the strategic goal (the recovery of the agricultural sector of the country, including farms) remained. The provincial agricultural society had its own specificity, which manifested through various factors (agricultural specialization area, the size of private land ownership, the development of

certain sectors of agriculture or animal husbandry, etc.). The agricultural company carried a significant internal capacity. They had a bigger area of action, better funding and stronger ties with the center.

Poltava provincial agrarian society was the first after reforms in 1861. It was organized under initiatives the reign V. Kochubey and landowners in the Poltava region. Work of the company was to require and subsequently greatly expanded. This is consistent with the objectives of the agricultural land as Poltava province. Number of relevant companies was highest not only among Ukrainian provinces but in the Russian Empire [24, p.107].

Kiev Society of agriculture and agricultural industry was opened in 1874. Background of its founding is very interest. The first attempt to organize agricultural society in the South West province was made yet in 1860. The representatives of the Kyiv, Volyn and Podolsk provinces set up a committee in Kiev. They solved the problems of the formation of the western provinces Agricultural Society (patterned after Warsaw). That project is not done through the Polish national liberation strike (1863-1864). However, the statute of unrealized western provinces Agricultural Society was draft as the model for Kiev Society agriculture and agricultural industry [17].

Kharkiv Society agriculture and agricultural industry emerged in 1880. The initiative to his creation was belonged the congress of farmers, held in Kharkov in 1874 [3, p.639]. This company has consistently pursued the activity. His work spread to neighboring Ukrainian and Russian province of Belgorod, Kursk, Voronezh and the Don region.

After the central and regional provincial agricultural society became the most powerful in the Ukrainian territory. In fact, they operated until 1919, although the «peak» of their activities took place in 1907-1914. Moreover, the provincial agricultural societies took care county and local. Last associations preferably introduced in the 80's XIX century. P. Stolypin agrarian reform in the Ukrainian provinces, events 1905 -1907 had influence for the development of the county and local agricultural societies.

Statistics of agricultural companies are not always accurate. This is due to irregular reporting these mergers, some confusion in the level of subordination (when the same company identified as independent or affiliate), duplication of the same companies in different sources, not always correct information from the places. That information consisted addresses-calendar book. Some individuals worked in several companies. Sometimes it was impossible to deal with a major company. For example, there were All-Russian Society pigeon sports, the association for the dissemination of agricultural knowledge, the promotion of women's agricultural education. They are also considered to be agricultural societies. Important steps of a network of agricultural societies were the years 1861, 1880-ies., 1905-1907 and 1913-1914.

**Table 1 Number of agricultural companies in Ukraine (in 1905)**

Province	Common agricultural associations				Special agricultural associations			
	together	province	county	local	together	province	county	local
Malorosiya	317	1	23	293	13	8	2	3
South-west Region	34	5	6	23	15	6	6	3
Novorosiya	152	2	15	135	39	16	12	11
together Russian Empire	2616	72	240	2304	423	170	116	137

Table is completed according to 1, p.24; 39, f.731, op.1, spr.18, ark. 44.

Thus, in 1905 in the Ukrainian provinces worked 503 common (18.8% of the all-number) and 67 special (15.8 % of the all-number). Though, the number of agricultural societies can not be an absolute indicator of the level of agricultural development and entrepreneurship in the region, especially on the Right Bank. Overall, the number of agricultural organizations increased: in the second half of the nineteenth century it grew mainly due to provincial and district societies, after 1905 - local.

In 1911, the number of agricultural associations in Ukrainian provinces grew by several times in comparison with 1861 year. The comparison of the number and types of agricultural societies in the Ukrainian provinces and throughout the Russian Empire considered in Table 2.

Region	Agricultural associations			
	together	of total (%)	common	special
Malorosiya	332	10,7	318	14
Novorosiya	195	6,3	154	41
South-west Region	55	1,8	35	20
together Russian Empire	3103	100	3633	470

The table is completed according to 2, p. XXIV; 39, f. 731, op.1, spr.26, ark.10.

The number of agricultural companies increased till the I World War. There were national societies. For example, Volyn hops Society (Germans, Czechs), in the south of Ukraine – German, Bulgarian (Melitopol, Alexander, Berdyansk districts).

Throughout the Ukrainian provinces were branches of the All-Russian agricultural societies. They had a different meaning. On the Right Bank, they filled the gaps, because there was a ban on Polish and Ukrainian society. Sometimes in Slobozhanshyna and Left Bank Ukraine agricultural associations duplicate the activities of local companies and reduced efficiency. In the southern provinces, the companies had mixed nature in businesses and the economy in general.

Agricultural company of Ukrainian provinces can be classified into the following types: general and special. Most of these organizations were shared. Accounted for a smaller proportion of special agricultural society, whose range was very wide. These should include Society of beekeeping, gardening, horticulture and viticulture, poultry, fish farming and fisheries, livestock and dairy farming, dissemination of agricultural knowledge, acclimatization and nature lovers, forestry, agricultural distilling, promoting the handicraft industry, sericulture, entomology and more.

The main forms of agricultural societies were: to study the status of various sectors of agriculture and to ascertain the needs of local agricultural producers, spread among the rural population of theoretical and practical knowledge, the constant search for the optimal ways of farming; encouragement of original developments and achievements in the field of agriculture and so on. The level of their performance is largely dependent on cooperation with other organizations, aid from zemstvo, government policy, and subsidies. Local needs and opportunities were into account.

The structure of agricultural companies defined by the statute. According to the statutes of agricultural associations their members were divided into three categories: honorable (which elected for special services), valid (the bulk of Society members, who paid certain cash contribution) and staff members or corresponding members. At the head was the chairman of the company (in some cases also honorary chairman), who was elected at the general meeting of the membership of the Society. Council (government) formed similarly in general meeting agricultural societies to address current affairs. Sometimes they have their treasurer [19]. Over the period the procedure of opening the agricultural societies streamlined. This gave an opportunity for the initiative.

The social composition of society was mixed. These included representatives of various segments of society: landowners, businessmen, teachers of educational institutions, employees, officials etc. The majority of local agricultural associations were farmers. National composition of agricultural societies was different. Specifically, on the Right bank dominated Poles [12, p. 11]. Most landlords in Slobozhanshyna were Russians, but Germans were considered the richest [38, f. 237, op. 1, spr. 30. ark. 278]. In southern Ukraine, the situation was more varied.

Not all agricultural companies, especially local, carried out fruitful work. Lack of funds, qualified, energetic leaders became of an obstacle. Some formal or non-viable agrarian society closed. However, most agricultural societies justify their existence, were the impetus for the further development of the agrarian sphere provinces Dnieper Ukraine.

Thus, in the post-reform period one method rise of agriculture was the agrarian societies. They were various on types and forms of the activities. Agricultural associations contributed to raising the culture of agriculture and modernization of society as a whole.

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