

UDC 332.3

The land issue in the works by M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii: unlocking the experience of the past, looking into the future

Yuliya V. Prilepskaya

PhD in Economics, Associate Professor,

Department of economic theory,

Donetsk National University of Economics and Trade named after M.I. Tugan-Baranovsky,

283050, 31 Shchorsa st., Donetsk;

e-mail: askolsova@mail.ru

Abstract

The article deals with the land issue in the works by M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii in a historical context. It shows the peculiarities of the development of the agricultural sector and its main differences from the industry and focuses on the fact that agriculture is developing according to its specific laws that differ from laws that exist in the industry. The author points out that the process of production in the agricultural sector is influenced by climatic conditions. While exploring the peculiarities of agricultural production, the author reveals the features of small-scale agricultural production. The article determines the features of large-scale and small-scale land use and identifies the benefits and disadvantages of these forms of management. M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii made a significant contribution to studying many political and economic issues. He paid special attention to small-scale agricultural production, identified its problems and prospects for development. The author agrees with most conclusions made by M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii and thinks that the results of his scientific research remain relevant at the present stage of development and can be used by economists in the process of designing the overall strategy on the development of the state with a view to achieving sustainable development of the country.

For citation

Prilepskaya Yu.V. (2018) Zemel'nyi vopros v trudakh M.I. Tugan-Baranovskogo: opyt proshlogo, vzglyad v budushchee [The land issue in the works by M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii: unlocking the experience of the past, looking into the future]. *"Belye pyatna" rossiiskoi i mirovoi istorii* ["White Spots" of the Russian and World History], 1-2, pp. 69-76.

Keywords

Agricultural sector, agricultural production, small-scale agricultural production, large-scale agricultural production, cooperative enterprises.

Introduction

Agrarian relations have always been the object of close attention at all historical stages of their development. So, according to the researcher L.I. Dmitrichenko, "the rise and decline of the Roman republic is connected with the history of land ownership. Therefore, literature on the agrarian question is of great scientific interest" [Dmitrichenko, 1999, 15].

The development of agriculture up to the period of the crisis of ancient Rome is reflected in the treatises of Cato, Varro, Columella, as well as the agrarian reform of the Gracchi brothers. According to L.I. Dmitrichenko, Cato in his treatise called "Agriculture" advocated a natural economy and considered agriculture an honorable and noble occupation. Columella in his tract "On Agriculture" reflected the state of this industry in Rome during the crisis of the slave system and considered the declining fertility of the soils to be the reason for the impoverishment of agriculture. The Gracchi brothers in their writings represented the interests of the landless peasants. The national heritage on this issue is represented by the works of K.R. Kacharovskii, M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii and other scientists.

It should be noted that narodnik K.R. Kacharovskii writes in the work "Russian Community": "The right to work presumes that the capitalist owners do not cultivate the lands themselves, and therefore they do not have the right to either it or its product, and those who process it have this right. The right to work states that capitalist land property violates the uniformity of distribution between people of the basic material comforts needed for their life and requires an equal distribution of it according to the equal right of all people" [Kacharovskii, 1906, www].

One of the outstanding researchers dealing with the problems of the agrarian sector is the distinguished scientist-economist M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii. His scientific legacy includes such works as "The Russian Factory in the Past and Present", "Land Reform", "Foundations of Political Economy", "Methodology of Political Economy", etc. In his works he studies the theory of land rent, the essence of food rent and its features; labor movement and legislation on labor protection, the essence and forms of cooperative enterprises, the peculiarities of agricultural cooperation and so on. He pays special attention to the peculiarities of agriculture and the role of small-scale production in the process of the formation of the agricultural complex.

The land question in the works of M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii

In M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii's opinion, the issue of land relations is a poorly-studied economic science in comparison with the industry. He proves this argument by the fact that in the sphere of industry the economist feels much more common than in the sphere of agriculture, where we should take into account an external nature that is not a subject well-known to economists. In addition, a number of natural factors operate in agriculture, as a result of which the patterns of development of the agricultural sector, unlike industry, do not obey the laws of the material environment. This leads to the fact that economics prefers to study industry, not agriculture.

M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii believes that the conclusions of economists regarding the regularities in the development of the agrarian sector are based on the fact that they replace independent research of the features of the functioning of agrarian relations by the spreading of laws governing them in industry. According to him, the most inclined were those economists who did most of all to turn political economy into an exact science, for such a science could arise on the basis of studying the relations of industry only. He argues that, for example, Marx never studied any agrarian relations carefully. The agrarian relations were of little interest to him, and the amount of his actual knowledge in this area was very limited, as the third volume of "Capital" shows, the scientist says. In his view, the main error of K. Marx is the fact that he extends conclusions made on industry to agriculture.

The views of M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii are based on the fact that the agricultural sector has a number of differences from industry and therefore it is impossible to extend the patterns of industrial development to agriculture. According to him, agrarian relations and agrarian development do not fit into any single type and are highly individual and unique.

We should note that M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii paid enough attention to the agrarian question, first of all, to small-scale land use. In his work "Fundamentals of Political Economy", he not only revealed the features of the development of the agricultural sector and its main differences from industry, but also investigated the advantages of small-scale agricultural production in front of a large-scale one thoroughly.

In his view, small-scale agricultural production outstrips the big capitalist in many respects. The main foundation for the stability of small-scale farming is not its economic advantages over large-scale one, but the essential circumstance that large-scale farming is carried out in the form of a capitalist enterprise of the council of profit and rent, and small one aims to ensure the existence of the producer itself. He argues that the peasant continues to farm even when the economy does not give him nothing more than an average wage, while a capitalist economy whose income would cover only the wages of an employee should, if necessary, cease. Therefore, a small rural economy can exist and develop with a much smaller gross and net income than a capitalist large farm.

M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii criticized the views of Kautskii; in his work "The Agrarian Question" he recognizes the possibility of sustainable development of small-scale agriculture, but still does not believe in the possibility of peasant economy to reach the technical level of capitalist agriculture.

The scientist inclines to the opinion that peasant farming, as a rule, does not concede to large-scale agricultural production, but, on the contrary, it tends to push out the latter. The analysis of the scientist's views makes it possible to reveal the features and advantages of small-scale agricultural production in comparison with the large-scale one.

Thus, M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii tends to the opinion that land development develops according to its own specific laws, which differ from the laws of industry. According to him, a specific natural law of falling productivity of agricultural labor operates in agriculture. This law is that,

by increasing the thoroughness of cultivating the land, it is impossible to increase the amount of agricultural products produced accordingly. This is due to the fact that the process of production in the agricultural sector is affected by natural and climatic conditions of farming. Thanks to these specific features in agriculture, unlike industry, large-scale capitalist production is considerably inferior to small in many respects [Krylatykh, Strokova, 2002, 62].

It should be noted that the conclusions of the scientist regarding the fact that large-scale capitalist production of agricultural products is much inferior to small-scale production remain relevant at the present stage of development. So, according to the modern economist A.M. Onishchenko, the economy of the population (in particular, we mean personal peasant farms) will play an important role in ensuring the food security of our state for a long time. Therefore, it is desirable to increase attention of the relevant state structures, as well as scientists, to personal peasant farms that produce more than half of the country's gross agricultural output, but, like in the Soviet era, among the agricultural producers they are still seen as something unimportant [Onishchenko, 2003, 61]. The validity of such conclusions is confirmed by statistical data.

However, we note that in large-scale agricultural production there are some advantages, which primarily include their ability to sell and buy large amounts of products, to use a loan, etc. M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii argues that this advantage has no decisive influence due to the fact that a small agricultural producer can also sell, buy, and use a loan through cooperation.

As a cooperative enterprise, he understands a business enterprise that joined several people voluntarily, which aims not to receive the greatest profit on capital spent, but increase, due to the general management of the economy, the labor incomes of its members or to reduce the latter's spending on consumer needs. According to him, the main purpose of cooperatives is to increase labor incomes or reduce the costs of its members. The features of the cooperative enterprise include voluntary creation and community management. We emphasize that in order to improve the state of small-scale agricultural production this mechanism can be used at the modern stage of development.

The scientist notes that for agricultural entrepreneur, who owns large areas of land, on the one hand, it is unprofitable to constantly keep a large number of wage workers due to the seasonality of work, and on the other hand, he cannot use the services of urban workers. So the capitalist agriculture needs, along with itself, the existence of peasant economy that would supply the capitalist rural workers for agricultural work. However, in the developed capitalist countries, the number of agricultural workers is declining due to resettlement in cities. At the same time, according to the scientist, the most intelligent and enterprising workers leave the village. In the village, mostly children and the elderly remain. We emphasize that with the development of industry this situation was observed in Ukraine. But this was caused not by the desire of the peasants to work in the factories, but by the compulsory actions of the government.

This is evidenced by the research of M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii. In the section "Labor Movement and Legislation on Labor Protection in Russia", the scientist argues that due to the fact that capital-

ist production required labor, at the beginning of the 20th century a policy of gradual weakening of the peasant's interaction with the countryside was pursued. However, whenever possible, there was a reverse pull from the city to the village. Many factory workers began to return to their allotments and tried to return to agriculture.

As we see, M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii studied the features of the functioning of agricultural production thoroughly and discovered the features inherent in small-scale production of agricultural products. We share his view that:

- the agrarian sector has a number of differences from industry and therefore it is impossible to extend the patterns of industrial development to agriculture;

- small-scale agricultural production has significant advantages over large-scale capitalist production;

- small-scale agriculture, unlike the large one, is almost independent of fluctuations in prices for agricultural products [Tugan-Baranovskii, 1894].

Note that the views of the famous economist M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii on the development of small-scale agricultural production remain relevant even at the present stage of agricultural development. Unfortunately, despite the weighty arguments in favor of small-commodity production, it happened in our country that small agricultural producers who owned some land were destroyed. In order to identify the reasons for this situation, we should turn to events almost a hundred years ago. The historians of modernity emphasize the fact that collectivization resulted in the fact that the performer appeared in the agriculture instead of the master. In some cases, it was a disciplined and conscientious performer, while in others it was lazy and prone to drunkenness and deceit, lacking the mastery of initiative and responsibility.

Thus, in the process of collectivization, the most skillful and wealthy masters were destroyed. The lack of a link between earnings and the end result led to the fact that the peasant's invaluable ability to be the master of the land, which takes into account a large number of conditions while performing his activities, and that is a necessary condition for the stable growth of agriculture, was left unused [Berdichevskii, 2002].

It should be noted that Ukraine's land resources were used irrationally almost all the time. According to historians, negative trends in agriculture, for example, in the 1970s, were due to the fact that "the mechanization of agriculture was in fact reduced to supplying low-quality machinery to collective and state farms; there was a pollution of land with agricultural chemicals; and melioration led to the destruction of fertile lands and the violation of the ecological balance. This sad picture was supplemented by the extremely low efficiency of using human resources in agriculture and the backward system of processing and storage of agricultural products; in the result, the annual yield losses reached more than 30% for some products" [Lanovik, Lazarovich, 2001, 555].

The shortcomings of the centralized management system also had a significant negative impact. The planned administrative system of agricultural management led to a crisis in agriculture, and Ukraine is experiencing today its consequences [Berdichevskii, 2002].

Since gaining independence, Ukraine got opportunities for independent development. According to S. Kulchitskii, in the post-Soviet space there was a unique social and economic situation, formed by all the experience of reforms accumulated by mankind [Lanovik, Lazarovich, 2001]. After long struggle for independence, Ukraine finally had the opportunity to make independent decisions in all spheres, including agriculture, but it lost the peasants' ability and desire to dominate the land. Therefore, at the present stage, developing a system of measures for the effective use of agricultural potential becomes urgent.

Conclusion

Summarizing, we can say that M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii contributed significantly to the study of many political economy issues. In our opinion, his study of land relations, as well as features and characteristics of agricultural production, is of a great interest.

In the works of the scientist, small-scale agricultural production is thoroughly studied in comparison with the large-scale one; its problems and prospects are determined. We note that we agree with many conclusions of the scientist and believe that the research of M.I. Tugan-Baranovskii remain relevant at the present stage of agricultural development and can be used by economists when building a general strategy for the development of the state in order to achieve sustainable development rates.

Thus, this study determines:

- the nature of the influence of small-scale agricultural production on the country's economic growth and its national security (including economic, environmental, social and food security);
- the role of small-scale production of agricultural products in the process of solving the main problems of our time;
- some possible ways and strategies for the development of agriculture at the present stage.

References

1. Berdichevskii Ya.M. (2002) *Vsemirnaya istoriya* [Universal history]. Zaporozhye: Prem'er Publ.
2. Dmitrichenko L.I. (1999) *Istoriya ekonomicheskikh uchenii* [A history of economic thought]. Donetsk: KITIS Publ.; Donetsk State University.
3. Kacharovskii K.R. (1906) *Russkaya obshchina* [The Russian community]. Moscow: Tipolitografiya Russkogo tovarishchestva. Available from: http://neb.rf/catalog/000199_000009_003735370/viewer/ [Accessed 28/06/16].
4. Krylatykh E.N., Strokova O.G. (2002) Agrarnyi sektor s perekhodnoi ekonomikoi i VTO [The agricultural sector in transition and the WTO]. *Mirovaya ekonomika i mezhdunarodnye otnosheniya* [World economy and international relations], 5, pp. 59-65.

5. Kushnir I.V (2003) Tendentsii agrarnogo virobnitstva krain – osnovnikh virobnikiv sil's'kogospodars'koi produktsii [Trends in the agricultural production of countries that are the major producers of agricultural products]. *Ekonomika APK* [The economy of the agroindustrial complex], 4, pp. 124-128.
6. Lanovik B.D., Lazarovich M.V (2001) *Istoriya Ukrami* [A history of Ukraine]. Kyiv: Znan-nya-Pres Publ.
7. Onishchenko O.M. (2003) Osobisti selyans'ki gospodarstva u poreformenomu rozvitku agrarnogo sektora [Private farms during the post-reform development of the agricultural sector]. *Ekonomika Ukrami* [The economy of Ukraine], 6, pp. 57-69.
8. Tugan-Baranovskii M.I. (1894) *Promyshlennye krizisy v sovremennoi Anglii, ikh prichiny i vliyanie na narodnyu zhizn'* [Industrial crises in contemporary England, their causes and impact on people's lives]. St. Petersburg: Tipografiya I.N. Skorokhodova.

Земельный вопрос в трудах М.И. Туган-Барановского: опыт прошлого, взгляд в будущее

Прилепская Юлия Владимировна

Кандидат экономических наук, доцент,
кафедра экономической теории,

Донецкий национальный университет экономики и торговли им. Михаила Туган-Барановского,
283050, Донецк, ул. Щорса, 31;
e-mail: askolsova@mail.ru

Аннотация

В статье рассмотрены особенности земельного вопроса в трудах М.И. Туган-Барановского в историческом контексте. В работе раскрыты особенности развития аграрного сектора и основные его отличия от промышленности, достаточно тщательно исследованы преимущества мелкого сельскохозяйственного производства перед крупным. Акцентируется внимание на том, что земледелие развивается по своим особым законам, которые отличаются от законов, действующих в промышленности, в связи с действием природного закона падающей производительности земледельческого труда. Также отмечено, что на процесс производства в аграрном секторе влияют природно-климатические условия ведения хозяйства. Достаточно тщательно исследованы особенности функционирования сельскохозяйственного производства и обнаружены черты, присущие мелкому производству сельскохозяйственной продукции. Также определе-

ны особенности крупнотоварного и мелкотоварного землепользования. Обозначены преимущества и недостатки этих форм ведения хозяйства.

Для цитирования в научных исследованиях

Прилепская Ю.В. Земельный вопрос в трудах М.И. Туган-Барановского: опыт прошлого, взгляд в будущее // «Белые пятна» российской и мировой истории. 2018. № 1-2. С. 69-76.

Ключевые слова

Аграрный сектор, сельскохозяйственное производство, мелкотоварное сельскохозяйственное производство, крупнотоварное производство сельскохозяйственной продукции, кооперативные предприятия.

Библиография

1. Бердичевский Я.М. Всемирная история. Запорожье: Премьер, 2002. 496 с.
2. Дмитриченко Л.И. История экономических учений. Донецк: КИТИС; ДонГУ, 1999. 452 с.
3. Качаровский К.Р. Русская община. М.: Типолитография Русского товарищества, 1906. URL: http://нэб.рф/catalog/000199_000009_003735370/viewer/
4. Крылатых Э.Н., Строкова О.Г. Аграрный сектор с переходной экономикой и ВТО // Мировая экономика и международные отношения. 2002. № 5. С. 59-65.
5. Кушнір І.В. Тенденції аграрного виробництва країн – основних виробників сільськогосподарської продукції // Економіка АПК. 2003. № 4. С. 124-128.
6. Лановик Б.Д., Лазарович М.В. Історія України. Київ: Знання-Прес, 2001. 698 с.
7. Онищенко О.М. Особисті селянські господарства у пореформеному розвитку аграрного сектора // Економіка України. 2003. № 6. С. 57-69.
8. Туган-Барановский М.И. Промышленные кризисы в современной Англии, их причины и влияние на народную жизнь. СПб.: Типография И.Н. Скороходова, 1894. 512 с.