

UDC 14

The "competition-monopoly" dichotomy in ensuring food security

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Abstract

Objective. The purpose of the paper is to study the problem of the competition-monopoly dichotomy in relation to the structure of the food market. **Methodology.** The author uses general and special methods of scientific knowledge and philosophical analysis. **Results.** Small and medium-sized producers of food products and raw materials have much more opportunities, both in the production of high-quality products, and in the field of a wide variety of food products, including products that meet the ethno-cultural characteristics of consumer preferences. But, at the same time, possible volumes of food production by small and medium-sized enterprises, possibility of storing and transporting food available to small and medium-sized producers, and, more often prices of products of these producers can not compete with large transnational corporations. That is why agroholdings are able to create significant barriers to entry into the industry for small and medium-sized producers, and they also are able to displace players which already work in the market. **Conclusion.** Modern global processes in agro-food markets are in a deep ideological impasse, which characterizes state regulation of the agro-industrial sector practically in all countries. The authorities of most states and various unions of states, at the present time, do not have motives to prioritize conservation of natural resources and ecological cleanliness of food products. Although, this support is based on the standardization of product quality in almost all countries supporting agribusiness. Unfortunately, this standardization of food and raw materials for their production is aimed at further narrowing the diversity of food products. All this leads to the dichotomy of "competition-monopoly".

For citation

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Keywords

Dichotomy "competition-monopoly", food security, the structure of food markets, state regulation of argot and food markets.

Introduction

At present, the problem of the correlation of competitive and monopoly markets is particularly acute. It is due both to the ever increasing level of globalization of the world economy as a whole, and to the search for the greatest efficiency, both for individual economic entities and for national economies. Of course, the concentration of production allows to achieve more efficient use of almost all types of resources, but at the same time, highly concentrated production is much less able to satisfy consumer preferences that meet the demands of the population in such commodity groups as, for example, food or clothing and footwear, compared to with small and medium business. At the same time, end consumers of food products have significantly less market power compared to producers, even in markets that are not monopolistic.

The search for a balance between the efficiency of resource use and the satisfaction of consumer preferences is a difficult task, which is practically impossible to solve by methods of economic analysis. It is due both to the problems of using exhaustible resources, and to the priorities of consumption at the level of national economies, economies of regions and the world economy as a whole. The methods of economic analysis used to solve the described problem do not bring a proper result. Thus, to solve the described problem it is necessary to use elements of philosophical analysis.

Food markets, in comparison with other markets, have a significant feature, namely, the priority of short-term interests in relation to long-term strategic goals. The reason for this is the existence, at present, of the problems of hunger and malnutrition of a large part of the population of our planet, which almost everywhere prevails over the tasks associated with the rational and careful use of soil and water. Since food products are needed "today", their producers are much less interested in preserving these resources for "future generations", as compared with the growth of crop yields (or the increase in

the number of livestock and poultry), an increase in the shelf-life of food products and raw materials for their manufacturing, reducing the cost of a product unit, or increasing production volumes. These problems are exacerbated even more in those national economies that allow producers and non-residents to enter their territories and domestic markets, and, therefore, are even less interested in preserving the natural resources of "alien" territories for future generations.

Quality, including environmental cleanliness, and a variety of food products, also lose their priority compared to the task of "feeding" the population. Agroholdings which are able to produce significant amounts of food can not fully ensure their high quality and ecological purity, since the effectiveness of food production, most often involves the use of genetically modified seed, fodder antibiotics, inhuman treatment of a domestic animal. In addition, the efficiency of food production is the reason for a significant restriction in the variety of food products, since crops are selected for growing with the highest yield and resistance to unfavorable external factors and the most productive breeds of livestock and poultry. The consequence of this is the standard assortment of food products present on supermarket shelves.

It should be specially emphasized that small and medium-sized producers of food products and raw materials have much more opportunities, both in the production of high-quality products and in the wide variety of food products, including products responding to the ethno-cultural characteristics of consumer preferences. But, at the same time, the possible volumes of food production by small and medium-sized enterprises, the possibility of storing and transporting food available to small and medium-sized producers, and, more often than not, the prices of products of these producers can not compete with large transnational corporations. That is why agroholdings are able to create significant barriers to entry into the industry for small and medium-sized producers, and also are able to displace players already present on the market.

It is necessary to note the importance of channels for promoting food products, which create conditions for physical access to food. Currently, the level of income of trade networks, almost all over the world, is higher than that of food producers. At the same time, access to the sale of products of small and medium-sized producers through trade networks is restricted by various conditions.

The concept of sustainable development of agro-food markets

These problems are relevant for most states, and, therefore, they are global in nature. Overcoming these problems can be achieved through a concept based on sustainable development. In this aspect,

sustainable development is understood as the possibility of satisfying the needs of the present, with the unconditional possibility of meeting the needs of future generations.

The main principles of sustainable development in the formation and development of agro-food markets can be:

- equality of the importance of economic efficiency, environmental safety and social justice in the development of the agro-food market development system and its underlying principles;
- comparability of producers' margins;
- equal opportunities for the development of the system at present, and preservation of the environment, both for contemporaries and for future generations;
- improving the life of all social groups living in all territories, regardless of the level of development of these territories.

At the same time, it should be emphasized that the application of the above principles is possible only in the case of a philosophical rethinking of the problem.

Conclusion

Modern global processes in agro-food markets are in a deep ideological impasse, which characterizes state regulation of the agro-industrial sector practically in all countries. The authorities of most states and various unions of states, at the present time, do not have motives for prioritizing conservation of natural resources and ecological cleanliness of food products. Although, this support is based on the standardization of product quality in almost all countries supporting agribusiness. Unfortunately, this standardization of food and raw materials for their production is aimed at further narrowing the diversity of food products. All this leads to the dichotomy of "competition-monopoly". All this determines the need to move to a new conceptual basis for the formation of agrarian policy.

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Дихотомия «конкуренция-монополия» при обеспечении продовольственной безопасности

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Аннотация

Цель. Целью работы является исследование проблемы дихотомии «конкуренция-монополия» в отношении структуры рынков продовольственных товаров. **Методология.** Методология работы заключается в применение общих и специальных методов научного познания, философского анализа. **Результаты.** Малые и средние производители продуктов питания, и сырья для их изготовления, имеют значительно более широкие возможности, как в области производства продуктов высокого качества, так и в области широкого разнообразия продуктов питания, в том числе, и продуктов отвечающих этно-культурным особенностями потребительских предпочтений. Но, при этом, возможные объемы производства продуктов питания малыми и средними предприятиями, возможности хранения и транспортировки продуктов питания, доступные мелким и средним производителям, и, чаще всего, цены на продукты этих производителей не выдерживают конкуренции с крупными транснациональными корпорациями. Именно поэтому агрохолдинги, присутствующие на рынках, способны создавать значительные барьеры для входа в отрасль мелким и средним производителям, а также, способны вытеснять с рынка уже присутствующих на нем игроков. **Заключение.** Современные глобальные процессы на рынках агропродовольствия происходят на фоне глубокого идеологического тупика, в котором находится государственное регулирование агропромышленного сектора практически во всех странах. Органы власти большинства государств и различных союзов государств, в настоящее время, не имеют мотивов для постановки во главу угла приоритетов, касающихся сохранения природных богатств и экологической чистоты продуктов питания. Хотя, практически во всех странах, осуществляющих поддержку агробизнеса, эта поддержка осуществляется на основе

стандартизации качества продукции, к сожалению, эта стандартизация продуктов питания и сырья для их изготовления направлена на еще большее сужение разнообразия пищевых продуктов. Все это приводит к дихотомии «конкуренция-монополия».

Для цитирования в научных исследованиях

Елагина А.С. Дихотомия «конкуренция-монополия» при обеспечении продовольственной безопасности // Контекст и рефлексия: философия о мире и человеке. 2016. Том 5. № 6B. С. 292-299.

Ключевые слова

Дихотомия «конкуренция-монополия», продовольственная безопасность, структура рынков продовольственных товаров, государственное регулирование агропродовольственных рынков.

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