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DETERMINING THE FORECAST PARAMETERS OF INDICATORS REPRESENTING AGRO-SERVICES AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

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Abstract. This article analyzes the development trends of the main indicators characterizing agro-services and estimates their forecast parameters using econometric methods. The impact of agro-services on agricultural productivity, employment, and household income is examined, with particular emphasis on their role in poverty reduction. Based on the research findings, practical recommendations are developed to reduce poverty in rural areas through the expansion of agro-services and improvements in their efficiency.

Keywords: agro-services, agriculture, forecast parameters, econometric modeling, statistical analysis, time series, regression model, service efficiency, poverty reduction, household income, employment, rural development, sustainable economic development, innovative technologies.

Аннотация. В статье анализируются тенденции развития основных показателей, характеризующих агросервисные услуги, а также оцениваются их прогнозные параметры с использованием эконометрических методов. Исследуется влияние агросервисных услуг на производительность сельского хозяйства, занятость и доходы домашних хозяйств, при этом особое внимание уделяется их роли в сокращении бедности. На основе результатов исследования разработаны практические рекомендации по сокращению бедности в сельской местности посредством расширения агросервисных услуг и повышения их эффективности.

Ключевые слова: агросервисные услуги, сельское хозяйство, прогнозные параметры, эконометрическое моделирование, статистический анализ, временные ряды, регрессионная модель, эффективность услуг, сокращение бедности, доходы домашних хозяйств, занятость, развитие сельских территорий, устойчивое экономическое развитие, инновационные технологии.

INTRODUCTION

The development of agro-services in agriculture is one of the important factors in increasing production efficiency, ensuring the rational use of resources, and increasing the income of the rural population. Modern agro-services help increase the volume and quality of production by providing agricultural producers with technical, agrotechnical, logistical, informational, and consulting services.

Today, one of the urgent issues is the analysis of indicators representing agro-services based on economic, statistical, and econometric methods, the determination of their forecast parameters, and the use of these results in improving poverty reduction policies. An increase in the volume and quality of agro-services has a positive impact on the creation of new jobs in rural areas, labor productivity, and income growth.

This article analyzes the development trends of the main indicators representing agro-services, determines their forecast parameters, and assesses the impact of these results on poverty reduction opportunities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The following scholars have examined the determination of forecast parameters for indicators representing agro-services and the possibilities of poverty reduction in their research: Shodiyev Kh.A. [1], Khudoyberdiyev U.Kh. and Aliyev B.R. [2], and Orekhov S.A. [3] examined statistical methods, including correlation and regression analysis, that can be applied to the assessment and forecasting of socioeconomic indicators.

The study of the development of the world economy as an integrated process was first reflected in the works of F. Quesnay. For the first time, F. Quesnay used elements of macroeconomic analysis when compiling the "Economic Table." Elements of macroeconomic analysis have also been studied by J.B. Say, L. Walras, V. Pareto, and other scholars since the nineteenth century.

The economic policy of each country is developed with a view to achieving macroeconomic stability. Uzbekistan's anti-crisis measures and measures aimed at protecting the macroeconomy play an important role in reducing negative consequences, particularly in supporting low-income populations.

Macroeconomic stability is a guarantee of stable economic growth and an increase in the well-being of the population.

Maintaining fiscal balance at all levels, price stability in the domestic market, and the stability of the national currency is an important condition for sustainable economic growth¹.

In his book *Fundamentals of the Economy of Uzbekistan*, N. Tukhliev described the formation of two different theoretical approaches to achieving macroeconomic stability in classical economic literature².

According to the scientific and popular brochure entitled *Ways to Ensure Macroeconomic Stability* by B. Berkinov and F. Mamatova, "Macroeconomic stability is the main factor determining the economic growth of a country. Macroeconomic stability refers to a situation in which inflation is low and the real exchange rate is sufficiently stable to remain competitive³. «

According to H. Abulqasimov, "Macroeconomic stability means the stable development of the economy in the country without disturbing the balance of the main macroeconomic indicators, including real gross domestic product growth, inflation, the exchange rate, the unemployment rate, and the balance of payments⁴».

According to N.M. Makhmudov and A.H. Hakimov, "Macroeconomic stability is a state in which stable economic growth rates of the national economy have been achieved, inflation has been curbed, long-term low rates of national currency depreciation and balance-of-payments stability have been maintained, public debt and the budget deficit have been kept at acceptable levels, and the economy is capable of withstanding external influences⁵.

In general, based on the various definitions and approaches to the concept of macroeconomic stability, and taking into account its essence, we attempted to define macroeconomic stability under pandemic conditions as follows: Macroeconomic stability involves curbing inflation, implementing an effective fiscal policy, reducing the tax burden, optimizing state budget expenditures, strengthening the stability of the banking system, increasing banks' lending capacity, and creating favorable conditions for obtaining loans for entrepreneurship and self-employment activities. It is a necessary condition for overcoming an economic crisis.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employed methods such as the logical approach to the theory of knowledge, induction and deduction, comparative and factor analysis, temporal and spatial analysis, comparison, and monographic observation.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Uzbekistan has undergone significant socioeconomic changes in recent years. Economic development plays an important role in these processes, as it influences living standards, social stability, employment, and the functioning of sectors such as education, healthcare, social protection, and public administration. One of the key directions of structural transformation is to increase the contribution of industry and services to the national economy. This process supports economic diversification, improves production efficiency, and contributes to sustainable economic growth.

1 Sh. Mirziyoyev. Critical analysis, strict order - discipline and personal responsibility - should be the daily rule of every leader's activity. T.: «Uzbekistan». 2017 24 – p.

2 Tukhliev N. and others. «Fundamentals of the economy of Uzbekistan», T.: 2005.

3 Berkinova B.B., Mamatova F.Kh. Ways to ensure macroeconomic stability. - TDIU, 2011.

4 Abulkasimov Kh.P. and others. State macroeconomic policy. Academy. 2007

5 N.M. Makhmudov, A.H. Hakimov. Strengthening macroeconomic stability is an important condition for ensuring sustainable economic growth. Economy and education. 2017 #2. Pages 7-11.

Uzbekistan's natural and climatic conditions, including fertile soils and seasonal diversity, create favorable opportunities for the development of agriculture. As a result, the agricultural sector continues to play an important role in the national economy, contributing to production, employment, and regional development.

The development of a leading sector in a particular region often stimulates the growth of related and supporting activities. Accordingly, the expansion of agriculture in rural areas has increased demand for technical, agrotechnical, logistical, informational, and consulting services. This has contributed to the development of agro-services in non-urban areas of the region.

The development of the agro-service sector supports agricultural productivity and the efficient use of resources. In turn, the growth of agriculture may contribute to economic stability, improvements in household income, and greater food availability for the population.

The development of the agro-service sector therefore affects the development of many other sectors. Therefore, identifying the economic measures and key factors influencing the development of the agro-service sector, as well as estimating its forecast indicators, constitutes an important research objective.

When assessing the impact of factors on the result, there are some factors whose impact can be directly determined, and the results of their influence can be easily and accurately predicted. However, there are also factors whose impact on the result cannot be directly determined.

The relationship between factors and the result can be of two types:

1. Functional relationship;
2. Correlational relationship.

In some cases, both types of relationships may occur in a mixed form.

In a functional relationship, each value of one variable corresponds to exactly one value of another variable. An important feature of such a relationship is that it is possible to formulate an equation that fully expresses the complete set of all factors and their relationship with the resulting indicator [1].

For example, let us consider the influence of the number of employees and labor productivity on the total volume of work performed by enterprises. In this case, the total volume of work performed by the enterprise and the number of employees are functionally and directly related. The more the number of employees increases while labor productivity remains constant, the more the volume of work performed by the enterprise grows proportionally. Functional relationships are also called complete relationships.

In a correlational relationship, each value of the factor indicator corresponds not to one exact value of the resulting indicator, but to different values. For example, the education of a company manager affects their labor productivity. Alternatively, let us consider a builder. There is a relationship between the builder's professional grade and salary; that is, as the grade increases, the salary may also increase. However, the builder's salary does not depend entirely on their professional grade. Moreover, builders with the same grade may receive different salaries depending on the project on which they are working. The main reason for this is that the amount of salary depends not only on the grade but also on other factors, such as personal abilities, working conditions, the level of taxation, education, and the financial condition of the enterprise [1].

When assessing the activities of enterprises providing agro-services, the assessment is necessarily based on the volume of work performed by these enterprises. The volume of services provided is influenced more by factors with a correlational relationship, such as the number of agro-service enterprises, the number of enterprises in the agricultural sector, and the amount of investment in the agro-service sector, than by functionally related factors, such as fixed assets and their efficiency, the number of employees, and labor productivity.

When there is a correlational relationship, the impact of several factors on a particular result is assessed. The following factors were selected as factors having a correlational relationship with the volume of services provided by agro-service enterprises:

Y – Volume of services provided, billion soums.

X1 – Investments in fixed capital by type of economic activity in the Samarkand region, million soums.

X2 – Consumer price index.

X3 – Number of employees in agriculture, animal husbandry, hunting, and related services, persons.

X4 – Number of employees engaged in the repair and maintenance of other types of transport equipment not included in other categories, persons.

X5 – Number of enterprises engaged in the repair and maintenance of other types of transport equipment.

To determine the impact of these factors on the result, that is, on the total volume of agro-services, a regression equation is developed, since the relationship between the result and the factors is correlational.

For this purpose, the trends in the changes in all factors and the resulting indicator over the years are presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

Agro-services and Factors Affecting Their Development in the Samarkand Region of the Republic of Uzbekistan⁶

	Volume of services provided (billion soums)	Investments in fixed capital by type of economic activity in Samarkand region (million soums)	Consumer price index	Number of employees in agriculture and animal husbandry, hunting and service in these areas (persons)	Number of employees in repair and maintenance of other types of transport equipment not included in other categories (persons)	Number of enterprises in repair and maintenance of other types of transport equipment
2013	43.8	169,500.2	107.3	181,450	40	18
2014	36.9	249,389.6	107.6	179,210	42	18
2015	22.6	232,694.2	107	166,515	30	17
2016	42.6	258,129.9	106.8	175,126	33	18
2017	75.8	363,435.0	106.1	170,209	50	20
2018	83.4	477,501.6	105.6	163,885	25	15
2019	103.5	518,273.4	105.7	157,906	13	8
2020	102.7	763,314.0	114.4	75,943	22	14
2021	170.7	664,846.9	114.3	66,319	22	14
2022	78.0	1,016,555.6	115.2	52,622	37	15
2023	314.5	1,285,677.6	111.1	47,817	33	14
2024	238.3	2,255,184.0	110	41,315	56	17
2025	270.9	2,214,051.2	112.3	40,425	60	21

When assessing the influence of factors on the result, the relationship between the result and the factors is first determined. Usually, if the change in the result is stochastically, or indirectly, associated with several factors, such a relationship is called a correlational relationship in statistics. Without conducting a correlation analysis, it is impossible to determine the extent to which a unit change in factors with a correlational relationship will lead to an increase or decrease in the result. In this case, the influence of factors can be determined using correlation and regression methods.

The result is affected by a large number of factors. However, in practice, determining the influence of all factors is somewhat complicated. First, it is difficult to take into account a large number of factors and express them numerically. Second, calculations cannot be performed for all factors. Therefore, only those factors that can be taken into account and are considered the main ones are examined in the analysis process. The characteristics that affect a particular result are called factors, while the characteristic formed under the influence of these factors is called the result [2].

Pairwise correlation is mainly used to determine the influence of factors on the resulting indicator. Pairwise correlation makes it possible to identify factors that duplicate one another and factors that have a weak influence on the resulting indicator. By determining pairwise correlations using this method, the factors to be included in the regression equation are identified and subsequently incorporated into the equation.

6 Source: Calculated by the authors based on official statistical data.

For this purpose, the following formula for the pairwise correlation coefficient was used [3]:

$$r = \frac{\overline{YX} - \bar{Y} * \bar{X}}{\sigma_Y * \sigma_X}$$

Where $\bar{Y}$, $\bar{X}$, are the average values of the indicators representing the results and factors;

$\overline{YX}$ – the product of the indicators representing the factors with the result;

σ_Y, σ_X – the mean square deviation of the resulting and factor variables.

The correlation coefficient allows us to determine the degree of relationship between two variables, ranging from -1 to $+1$. The value of the coefficient can be interpreted as follows:

The closer the correlation coefficient is to -1 or $+1$, the stronger the relationship between the factors and the outcome.

If ($r = 0$), there is no linear relationship between the variables, although a nonlinear relationship may still exist.

If ($0 < r < 1$), then the relationship between these indicators is direct and has the same direction.

If ($-1 < r < 0$), then the relationship between them is inverse.

If ($r = 1$) or ($r = -1$), there is a perfect positive or perfect negative linear relationship between the variables.

The regression equation developed through correlation and regression analysis can be used to estimate changes in the volume of agro-services associated with a given percentage increase in investment in the sector.

The development of forecast indicators for the volume of agro-services is of great strategic importance in the country's poverty reduction policy, since these forecasts make it possible to expand the sources of income of the rural population, increase employment, and allocate resources in a targeted manner. In conditions where the majority of the rural population earns a living through agriculture, forecasting the volume of agro-services, including technical, agrotechnical, consulting, logistical, and financial services, makes it possible to assess changes in the demand for agro-services within the Samarkand region. This creates a clear basis for developing agro-service infrastructure in districts and villages with a high concentration of low-income households and directing investment and state support measures towards them.

Forecast indicators are also important in planning the agro-service market, since they help determine how many technical centers, advisory centers, or service enterprises should be established by the public and private sectors, as well as their staffing and financing requirements. As a result, new jobs will be created in rural areas, and opportunities for self-employment among the population will expand, thereby helping to reduce unemployment, which is one of the main causes of poverty. At the same time, an increase in the volume of agro-services will improve farmers' productivity, income, and access to markets, thereby ensuring the economic stability of low-income farms. Thus, forecasting the volume of agro-services is not only a means of developing agriculture but also an important instrument of socioeconomic policy aimed at reducing poverty. It helps allocate resources effectively, reduce territorial inequality, and improve the living standards of the rural population.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Forecasting the volume of agro-services in the poverty reduction process not only facilitates the planning of the number of services but also contributes to the long-term development of human capital, institutional capacity, and regional economic activity in rural areas. Based on such forecasts, it is possible to determine the regions in which farmers have limited access to relevant knowledge, information, and training, insufficient technical support, or limited access to markets and to develop targeted programs that address the structural causes of poverty. The findings may support a gradual transition from general support measures towards more targeted interventions based on regional and sectoral needs.

Forecasting the volume of agro-services is also important for stimulating the local labor market. Based on the forecast results, the demand for agronomists, machine operators, veterinarians, logistics specialists, and consultants can be determined, and vocational education and retraining programs can be developed accordingly. This makes it possible to create sustainable sources of income for rural youth, reduce labor migration, and engage population groups requiring additional support.

Forecasting the volume of agro-services also contributes to improving the business environment in rural areas. Forecast indicators identify areas in which demand for services is expected to grow, thereby sending clear signals that increase the attractiveness of investment for the private sector. This encourages the establishment of small service enterprises, family businesses, and cooperatives and facilitates the integration of low-income households into production chains.

When used in conjunction with social policy, forecast indicators for the volume of agro-services become a preventive mechanism for poverty reduction. In other words, potential declines in the volume of services or territorial imbalances can be identified in advance, and additional support measures can be developed for at-risk segments of the population. Thus, forecasting presents the agro-service system not only as a means of production but also as a socioeconomic instrument that helps identify poverty risks at an early stage and develop measures to mitigate their effects.

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