

monocultures on relatively large areas, maintaining natural landscapes – forests, meadows, wastelands, swamps.

In conclusion, we would like to highlight a few points about how the green economy affects agriculture:

1. Organic farming involves the production of agricultural products and their consumption on the same territory. In the global world, the transportation of food requires high costs. In this regard, the question arises: “Why not localize food production in this territory for these consumers?”. We are not talking about abandoning the division of labor in the agriculture of the global world (there is no point trying to grow dates in the Nordic countries), but the production of milk or meat may well be localized.

2. Organic farming offers the freshest product and the fastest way to deliver the product to the consumer. For this purpose, special organic food stores or departments in supermarkets are created.

3. Organic products are more beneficial for health (especially for children, pregnant women). The demand for them is growing every year, which pushes the production of biological products to develop. However, you cannot do without state support, here, as in organic agriculture, subsidies are needed.

### **UDC 330.3**

## **ON THE WAY TO GREEN ECONOMY IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN BELARUS**

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The textile and clothing industry is one of the fastest growing and most globalized industries in the world. It is traditionally a significant part of the light industry in Belarus. Today, textile and apparel production accounts for up to 3.5 % of the country’s GDP. The industry employs over 80 thousand people, not including those employed in the textile and clothing retail sector. The industry has about 2,000 economic entities and occupies the top two positions in the structure of light industry in the country. The volume of textile and clothing production is constantly increasing, and more and more clothes are being bought and thrown away, which leads to increased environmental pressure in the form of greenhouse gas emissions, excessive water consumption, and more wastewater containing hazardous chemicals.

In this article we can learn about the peculiarities inherent in the supply chains of the textile and clothing industries in Belarus, such as the management of textile

industrial and household waste, the policy of producers with regard to product and production certification, the specific market for second-hand clothing, and buyers' perceptions of "environmental friendliness" of textile products and responsible consumption and production of clothing, which are emerging among an active minority in Belarus.

The main regulatory institution in the textile and clothing industries is the concern Bellegprom, formed on the basis of the Ministry of Light Industry. Certain aspects of the industry are regulated within the framework of the Belarusian legislation.

The analysis of textile statistics shows that the concept of green industry is not yet relevant for the Belarusian textile manufacturing. Large enterprises do not implement any business model characteristic of sustainable production. They are not characterized by transparency of trade and marketing chains. The fundamental factor in the purchase of raw materials, reagents and consumables is economic but not environmental.

There is no detailed monitoring of all types of waste from textile and garment production, including wastewater discharges. Environmental and social factors are hardly considered in product design. Manufacturers do not include the possibility of safe disposal or recycling of products in their area of responsibility. In most cases, manufacturers focus only on minimizing production waste, selling waste, and following mandatory formal requirements for waste management. Moreover, Belarus does not have its own Type I ecolabel used in the textile and garment industry.

Up-to-date data on occupational diseases in the clothing and textile industries is practically absent. This is due to the fact that most diseases may occur after workers are laid off at retirement age or for other reasons, which makes research activities in this area difficult.

The economy of the Republic of Belarus is at the initial stage of transition to the green one. There are some barriers that hinder the transition to green business models in the fashion industry of Belarus. So far there is not a single enterprise, producer or initiative that would work entirely within the basic business motives of the green economy.

Manufacturers do not include the safe disposal or recycling of their own products in their area of responsibility. The textile and apparel industry is not completely transparent in its supply chains. When labeling the products on the labels there is no additional information about environmental and social aspects of production and use of chemicals. This is due to the tradition of providing information to consumers, the lack of demand for additional information from

customers and the trust in the existing system of mandatory certification and labeling.

The economic factor becomes the main factor when manufacturers purchase raw materials, reagents and consumables. The criterion of low price becomes the leading one, which is a momentary tactical decision.

Deprivation of secondary material resources status of textile wastes led to the removal of the share of internal obligations from the producers of clothing and textiles, and allowed to form a spontaneous market for sale of high-quality industrial waste out of the country. As a result, processing companies in the country are experiencing a shortage of textile secondary raw materials. The situation is complicated by the fact that the country has no logistical resource for collecting, sorting and pre-preparation for recycling of clothing that has served its useful life. There is also no digital tool for rational monitoring of the formation of textile waste in the industry.

On the other side, it's well known that the textile industry has a great potential for the development of green economy. Major textile manufacturers are modernizing their production processes, buying new equipment, obtaining international environmental certificates, such as Oeko-Tex, which is associated with the improvement of marketing strategies. They have the desire to enter the broader international market, where the criteria of circularity and sustainability of textile and clothing products are becoming increasingly relevant.

Recyclers can increase the amount of textile waste which they recycle. They are interested in incorporating end-of-life clothing into the production cycle. Some recyclers have already upgraded their equipment. This factor allows them to add new types of textile waste products.

In conclusion, there are some recommendations how to help transform the textile sector of Belarus and implement the principles of green economy.

It is proposed to include textile materials in the list of goods, whose producers and suppliers are obliged to provide collection, neutralization and (or) use of waste formed after the loss of consumer properties of these goods (according to Annex 1 to Decree No. 313 of the President of Belarus of July 11, 2012 "On Some Issues of Consumer Waste Management").

It's advisable to develop a procedure to reduce the tax burden for enterprises in the textile and clothing industry, if the taxpayer proves that the goods do not contain particularly hazardous substances specified in the regulated list. All clothing is taxed with a possible reduction of up to 95 % if the taxpayer can prove that the goods do not contain these chemicals. Such decisions are a real incentive for manufacturers and brands.

Organizations in the textile sector that accumulate textile waste should strengthen cooperation with textile waste recyclers as well as with the State Enterprise “Operator of secondary material resources” and “Belcoopsoyuz”.

The Ministry of light industry can create a digital toolkit to analyze the formation and movement of textile waste in the textile and clothing industry as well as a logistics resource of recyclable textile waste. It can also facilitate the collaboration between textile waste recyclers, marketers, and designers to create relevant, sustainable consumer products from textile waste. Moreover, it may support start-ups and community projects on circular economy in the textile industry (in partnership with the public sector).

The way to green economy should begin with educational establishments. The Ministry of education can contribute to the expansion of the curricula of specialized educational institutions, with a new training course or unit on circular economy and innovative environmental technologies in textile and apparel production processes.

It’s necessary to initiate information campaigns for consumers on the environmental aspects of the production and use of clothing and textile products, including a block of information on mandatory standards and eco-labeling of clothing and textile products; on ways to prolong the life of clothing, on the possibilities of C2C strategies, on responsible consumption; on improving the image of recycled goods.

All the mentioned steps can support large and small producers who implement new innovative and sustainable approaches in the textile and apparel industry. The formation of new foundations in textile industry means a transition to a new stage in green economy. Much has been done but still much should be done in the future to transform the textile industry in Belarus into a green economy.

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