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FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT IN BELARUS: MAIN CHALLENGES

Развитие лесного хозяйства в Беларуси: основные проблемы

The article is aimed at the study of challenging aspects of the development of forestry business in the Republic of Belarus. The forestry business in Belarus, which is largely tied to the state management model (primarily through the state-owned enterprise «Bellesbumprom»), faces a specific set of economic and production problems that have their own national specifics. The analysis of these problems is the purpose of this article.

1. Economic issues. Strict state regulation manifests itself through the dominance of the state-owned enterprise «Bellesbumprom» which encompasses about 50 organizations and creates a monopolistic market structure. This structure suppresses private initiative and competition. The situation is exacerbated by administrative pricing and a focus on meeting planned targets, which often contradict the requirements of long-term economic efficiency. The export model is heavily dependent on global market prices, with a predominance of low-value-added products such as lumber in the export structure, while high-tech processing industries are underdeveloped. The significant tax burden, including payments for forest use and mandatory contributions to the state budget, limits the investment opportunities of enterprises. The challenges of modernization are exacerbated by the dependence on imported equipment and spare parts, as well as the lack of investment for the transition to deep wood processing. Sanctions pressure has led to the loss of traditional markets in the EU and the US, as well as causing complications in logistics chains and international payments, creating additional difficulties.

2. Production issues. In the production sector, the Belarusian forestry complex faces a range of interconnected challenges. The depletion of available resources necessitates the relocation of logging operations to less productive forests with higher costs, exacerbated by the accumulation of overmature forests that require maintenance expenses. The low quality of raw materials is manifested in the predominance of low-value hardwood species with lower market value, while the inefficient use of sawmill waste remains unchanged.

The technological backwardness is expressed in the use of outdated equipment and the low level of mechanization in reforestation activities. The shortage of qualified operators and the low attractiveness of these professions for young people remain acute issues. Additional challenges are posed by the increasing environmental requirements and the natural phenomena that have become more frequent due to climate change, leading to the loss of timber and increased costs for forest protection.

One acute problem is the insufficient intensity of forest resource use. It means that the intensity of forest resource is increased but a large amount of labor is expended per

unit of forest area. «There are no quantitative measures of forestry intensity in the Republic of Belarus» [1]

Conclusion. To overcome these economic and production problems a complex approach to changes in forestry management model should be proposed. One of the ways is the increase of private sector and motivate healthy competition and initiatives of small private forestry enterprises. As to the production challenges, it is necessary to develop modern equipment, elevate the level of mechanization in reforestation activities.

Reference

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THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN SHAPING CHINA'S BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Роль государственной политики в формировании бизнес-среды Китая

This paper examines the influence of recent Chinese government policies, which have led to changing country's business environment, domestic corporate strategies, and foreign investor perceptions and behavior. The reviewed cases are: the Made in China 2025 strategy and the Little Giants program. In recent years, China took up a number of government initiatives intended to achieve growth and more balanced economic structure.

Launched in 2015, Made in China 2025 is a government policy for industrial sector aimed at modernizing China's manufacturing base through the development of high-tech sectors such as new energy vehicles, advanced robotics and information technology. The plan attempts to increase technological independence and its own innovation potential by providing financial benefits, legal support, and collaboration between the government and the industrial sector. On a larger scale, this policy shows how government intrusion affects business strategies and market priorities, coordinating development with national economic goals.

China has launched the «Little Giants» program to develop small and medium-sized businesses that are focused on innovation and high-tech sectors. This program is an extension of Made in China 2025. It aims to build a framework of technology suppliers that assist China's manufacturing industry progress and reduce reliance on foreign technology.