

## REVIEW

of the official opponent

Candidate of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of  
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**Mariia Shkurat**

for the qualification work of Du Wei on the topic:

«Internationalization Strategy of Chinese Agriculture: Fostering Sustainable  
Development and Promoting Global Food Security»,

submitted for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the field of knowledge 05 –  
Social and Behavioural Sciences in speciality 051 – Economics

**The relevance of the research topic and its connection with scientific programs, plans, topics.** Over the past decades, the problem of ensuring sustainable development of the agricultural sector and guaranteeing global food security has gained particular importance against the background of world population growth, climate change, degradation of natural resources and geopolitical instability. In these conditions, significant attention of researchers and practitioners is focused on countries with strong agricultural potential, in particular the People's Republic of China, which is actively promoting a strategy of internationalization of its agriculture, using economic, investment, institutional and technological expansion at the global level.

China, as one of the largest producers and consumers of agricultural products in the world, is expanding its participation in global agricultural value chains, introducing innovative technologies, concluding intergovernmental agreements on agricultural cooperation and investing in agriculture in countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Such a strategy has not only economic, but also geopolitical and ecological significance, as it can influence regional stability, food availability and adherence to the principles of sustainable development.

Despite the growing interest of the world scientific community in the internationalization of China's agricultural sector, the issues of comprehensive research into the economic mechanisms, challenges and prospects of this strategy in the context of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring global food security remain insufficiently studied. Of particular relevance is the study of the impact of Chinese agricultural policy on recipient countries of investments, the transformation of



market infrastructure, the use of land and water resources, as well as harmonization with international environmental standards.

In this context, there is a need for a systematic analysis of the strategic principles of the internationalization of Chinese agriculture as a tool for implementing the economic interests of the state, increasing the food sustainability of regions and forming global models of agricultural cooperation. This determines the scientific novelty, practical significance and interdisciplinary nature of the chosen research topic, which fully meets the modern priorities of the development of economic science, social responsibility of business and global resource management. Thus, Du Wei's dissertation work was carried out on a topical topic, the coverage of which substantiates scientific and practical recommendations for optimizing the strategy of internationalization of Chinese agriculture.

Du Wei's dissertation work was carried out within the framework of a comprehensive program of scientific and research works of the Western Ukrainian National University. In particular, the results of the dissertation are part of scientific research within the framework of: fundamental state-budget scientific and research work on the topic: "Model of regional security: economic and technical aspects of sustainable development and civil protection during war" (state registration number 0124U000063); international project "Regional Integration: European Reference Points in the Context of Global Fragmentation" (Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module 101048216 – REFRAG – ERASMUS-JMO-2021-HEI-TCH-RSCH); scientific and research work under the economic contract "Goeconomic Interests of Ukraine and Export Opportunities" (state registration number 0123U104400); performance of work on the provision of scientific and professional services on the topic: "Modern Mainstreams of Global Development: Economic, Environmental, Social and Military Factors" (contract No. ME-30-2022 dated 06/13/2022).

**The degree of validity and reliability of scientific provisions, conclusions and recommendations.** The study of the dissertation allows supporting theoretical and methodological provisions, practical conclusions and recommendations, which are characterized by scientific novelty, formulated by the dissertationist independently,



reflecting his author's scientific contribution.

The conducted research is based on the use of general scientific and special methods, which confirms a high level of mastery of the methodology of scientific activity: the method of theoretical generalization; methods of analysis and synthesis; methods of deduction and induction; cluster analysis; statistical, tabular and graphical methods; case study method.

The information base of the research was official materials, statistical databases of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the State Statistics Service of China, the Customs Service of China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Ministry of Commerce of China, publications of research centers, universities, etc.

**Structure of the dissertation.** It is worth noting the structure of the work, the consistency and the argumentation of the thesis. The thesis explores and systematizes the theoretical approaches, conceptual and categorical apparatus and tools used by the author, which explain the peculiarities of the development of strategic imperatives of the internationalization of agriculture.

The structure of the work is determined in accordance with the goal, objectives and logic of the study. The dissertation consists of an abstract, introduction, three sections, conclusions, a list of sources used and appendices. The total volume of the dissertation is 226 pages, of which the main text takes up 180 pages. The dissertation presents 45 tables, 33 figures and appendices on 10 pages. The list of sources used has 254 positions on 23 pages.

The dissertation is written in business English with adherence to the scientific style of presenting its content, is characterized by content completeness, logical consistency of relevant issues, and objectivity of presenting research materials. The style of presenting research materials, scientific provisions, conclusions, and recommendations in them ensures their ease and accessibility of perception.

**Scientific novelty of the provisions and results obtained by the applicant and submitted for defense.** Among the main scientific results that characterize the novelty



of the research carried out by Du Wei, the following should be identified:

the work proposes an author's methodological approach to the analysis of the sectoral and spatial structure of the agricultural sector, in particular, the clustering of Chinese provinces was carried out using hierarchical methods, which made it possible to identify clear territorial differences in the agricultural and economic activity of the regions;

methodological approaches to assessing the impact of international capital flows on the agricultural sector of China have been improved, according to which the government carries out a strategic direction of foreign direct investment to developed countries, while simultaneously initiating public-private partnership projects with developing countries, which ensured the modernization of agricultural production both in China itself and in partner countries;

a scientific and theoretical justification for the sustainable development of agriculture in the context of internationalization and aggravation of geopolitical confrontations has been developed;

have further developed analytical approaches to the characterization of the global institutional and regulatory environment of agricultural internationalization and its impact on the national strategies of the world's leading countries and developing countries;

a comprehensive strategy for China's agricultural internationalization has been developed, which is focused on achieving sustainable development of agriculture and strengthening global food security based on five key areas: diversification of import flows through increased trade, investment in foreign agricultural projects, stimulation of the transfer of innovations and technologies, development of the infrastructure and logistics base, as well as expansion of international cooperation and political coordination.

**Personal contribution of the applicant.** The main provisions of the dissertation research, conclusions and practical recommendations for the use of the results obtained have been published by the author and have been tested at scientific and practical conferences of various levels. The main ideas, provisions and results of the scientific



research are reflected in the author's scientific publications. The results of the study were published in 9 scientific works with a total volume of 4.82 p.s. (the author personally – 3.46 p.s.), including 5 articles in domestic scientific professional publications and 4 publications in the materials of international and all-Ukrainian scientific and practical conferences. From the scientific works published in co-authorship, the dissertation used those ideas and provisions that are the result of the author's own developments, which is specified in the list of publications. The content of the abstract reproduces the main provisions of the study. No violations of academic integrity were identified.

### **Discussion points and comments on the dissertation**

While positively assessing Du Wei's dissertation work, we draw attention to certain points that are debatable, not fully disclosed, and require explanations in the discussion process during the dissertation defense.

1. On p. 55, the author provides an interpretation of food security and its multidimensional content, systematically examines specific manifestations and challenges of food security in four key aspects: provision, access, use, and stability. It is noted that the importance of food security is not only related to personal survival and well-being, but is also the basis of social stability, economic development, and international peace. At the same time, it is advisable to conduct a case study of China's international strategy in the field of food security, in particular, such measures as the creation of a system of food reserves, strengthening control over the import and export of products and the unification of environmental standards, reducing dependence on monocultures, minimizing trade risks, state subsidizing resource conservation and soil conservation agriculture, etc.

2. On p. 99, the author uses a multidimensional conceptual approach to analyze China's motivation to participate in the processes of internationalization of agriculture and expanding agricultural exports. At the same time, it would be advisable to reveal in more detail how China can make a strategic transition from "quantitative growth" to "qualitative dominance" within the framework of agricultural internationalization and the promotion of foreign trade in agricultural goods.



3. In section 2.2, the author analyzes the achievements of China and Ukraine in the development of agriculture from four perspectives: trade cooperation, investment cooperation, technical cooperation and cooperation in the field of sustainable development. The author analyzes statistical data on the export of agricultural products from Ukraine to China, the volume of investments and the number of implemented projects over the past five years. However, the risks and threats that accompany the aforementioned bilateral cooperation are not sufficiently highlighted.

4. On p. 179, the author puts forward the thesis that building a strategy for agricultural internationalization with Chinese specifics should be based on state leadership, business investments and technical cooperation. According to the author's approach, the government provides strategic guarantees for the internationalization of the agricultural sector through political support, the creation of international cooperation platforms, the stimulation of technological innovations, etc. However, the role of the government in ensuring global, national and local food security is not sufficiently covered.

5. Insufficient attention is paid to the analysis of barriers to market access that significantly affect the process of internationalization of Chinese agriculture. In particular, these are tariff barriers, non-tariff restrictions, technical barriers to trade, etc. These obstacles have a profound and lasting impact on both the volume of international trade in agricultural products and the implementation of international strategies of agribusiness.

The above comments do not reduce the overall positive assessment of the study and its practical value.

### **General conclusion**

Du Wei's dissertation on the topic " Internationalization Strategy of Chinese Agriculture: Fostering Sustainable Development and Promoting Global Food Security" is a completed qualifying scientific work, contains specific scientific results that allow solving an important scientific task, namely: based on the improvement of theoretical and methodological provisions, to develop scientific and practical recommendations on

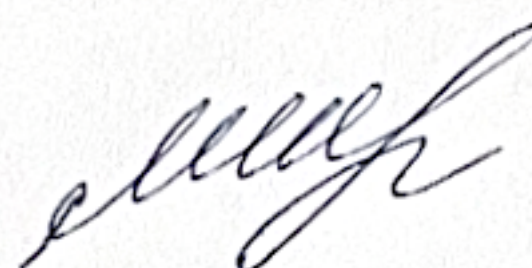


the internationalization of Chinese agriculture to stimulate sustainable development and promote global food security.

The above allows us to conclude that the dissertation meets the requirements of the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 40 dated 12.01.2017. "On Approval of the Requirements for the Design of a Dissertation" (as amended) and "The Procedure for Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Cancellation of the Decision of the One-Time Specialized Academic Council of an Institution of Higher Education, Scientific Institution on Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy", approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 44 of January 12, 2022, and its author Du Wei deserves to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in specialty 051 "Economics".

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