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# **INVESTING IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

# АУЫЛДЫҚ АУМАҚТАРДЫ ДАМЫТУҒА ИНВЕСТИЦИЯЛАУ

## ИНВЕСТИРОВАНИЕ В РАЗВИТИЕ СЕЛЬСКИХ ТЕРРИТОРИЙ

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Abstract. Aim - development of proposals for the development of rural areas on the basis of priority investment. Methods - analysis and synthesis to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between the volume of financial investments in the agro-industrial complex and the implementation of a comprehensive policy of modernization of the Kazakhstani village; economic and statistical - in the processing of statistical data characterizing the dynamics of investment in fixed capital and gross output of agriculture, comparing the results for 2012-2022, identifying their trends and patterns; correlation approach - to determine a direct linear relationship between the size of investment funds and the possibility of the development of rural areas. Results - a strong correlation between capitalization in the agricultural sector and gross domestic product is indicated. On the basis of increasing investment activity the directions of overcoming territorial inequality, smoothing the differences in the living standards of urban and rural population are substantiated. Conclusions the authors have argued the need to intensify investment activity in the agro-industrial complex of the national economy to transform the image of rural areas, to solve the problems of building the capacity of rural areas and agribusiness, to improve the investment strategy through economic, legal and administrative levers, to counter spontaneous migration from rural settlements, to reduce the number of rural residents. Unresolved problems are pointed out: unstable dynamics of increasing investment volumes, their low innovative orientation, rising prices for agricultural

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Аңдатпа. *Мақсаты* - басым инвестициялау негізінде ауылдық аумақтарды дамыту бойынша ұсыныстар әзірлеу. Ә*дістер* - АӨК-ге қаржы салымдарының көлемі мен қазақстандық ауылды жаңғыртудың кешенді саясатын іске асыру арасындағы себеп-салдарлық байланысты белгілеу үшін талдау және синтездеу; экономикалық-статистикалық - негізгі капиталға инвестициялардың және ауыл шаруашылығы өнімінің жалпы шығарылымының серпінін сипаттайтын статистикалық деректерді өңдеу, 2012-2022 жылдардағы нәтижелерді салыстыру, олардың үрдістері мен заңдылықтарын анықтау кезінде; корреляциялық тәсіл инвестициялық қаражат мөлшері мен агроөнеркәсіптік өндірісті кеңейту мүмкіндігі арасындағы тікелей желілік тәуелділікті айқындау, корреляция коэффициентін есептеу және корытындыларды түсіндіру үшін. Нәтижелер - аграрлық секторды капиталдандыру мен жалпы ішкі өнім арасындағы күшті корреляциялық байланыс белгіленген. Инвестициялық белсенділікті арттыру негізінде аумақтық теңсіздікті еңсеру, қала және ауыл халқының өмір суру деңгейіндегі айырмашылықтарды тегістеу бағыттары негізделген. Қорытынды авторлар ауылдық аудандардың келбетін өзгерту, ауылдық аумақтар мен агробизнестің әлеуетін арттыру міндеттерін шешу, экономикалық, құқықтық және әкімшілік тетіктер арқылы инвестициялық стратегияны жетілдіру, ауылдық елді мекендерден табиғи көші-қонға қарсы тұру, ауыл тұрғындарының санын қысқарту үшін ұлттық экономиканың агроөнеркәсіптік кешеніндегі инвестициялық қызметті жандандыру қажеттігін дәлелдеді. Шешілмеген проблемалар: инвестициялық салымдар көлемінің ұлғаю серпінінің тұрақсыздығы, олардың төмен инновациялық бағыттылығы, ауыл шаруашылығы техникасы мен инвестициялық мақсаттағы басқа да машиналар мен жабдықтар бағасының өсуі. Инновацияларды мемлекеттік инвестициялық қолдауды күшейту қажеттігі көрсетілді. Ғылыми зерттеулердің нәтижелері Қазақстанның ауылдық жерлерін дамытудың инвестициялық тұжырымдамасы мен кешенді бағдарламасын әзірлеу кезінде пайдаланылуы мүмкін.

Аннотация. Цель – разработка предложений по развитию сельских территорий на основе приоритетного инвестирования. Методы - анализа и синтеза для установления причинно-следственной связи между объемами финансовых вложений в АПК и реализацией комплексной политики модернизации казахстанского села; экономико-статистический - при обработке статистических данных, характеризующих динамику инвестиций в основной капитал и валового выпуска продукции сельского хозяйства, сопоставление результатов за 2012-2022 гг., выявление их тенденций и закономерностей; корреляционный подход - для определения прямой линейной зависимости между размерами инвестиционных средств и возможностью расширения агропромышленного производства, расчета коэффициента корреляции и интерпретации итогов. Результаты – обозначена сильная корреляционная связь между капитализацией аграрном секторе и валовым внутренним продуктом. На основе повышения инвестиционной активности обоснованы направления преодоления территориального неравенства, сглаживания различий в уровне жизни городского и сельского населения. Выводы – авторами аргументирована необходимость активизации инвестиционной деятельности в агропромышленном комплексе национальной экономики для преобразования облика сельских районов, решения задач наращивания потенциала сельских территорий и агробизнеса, совершенствования инвестиционной стратегии посредством экономических, правовых и административных рычагов, противостояния стихийной миграции из сельских населенных пунктов, сокращения численности сельских жителей. Указаны нерешенные проблемы: неустойчивость динамики увеличения объемов инвестиционных вложений, их низкая инновационная направленность, рост цен на сельскохозяйственную технику и другие машины и оборудование инвестиционного назначения. Показана необходимость усиления государственной инвестиционной поддержки инноваций. Результаты научного исследования могут быть использованы при разработке инвестиционной концепции и комплексной программы развития сельской местности Казахстана.

Key words: agriculture, investment, investment strategy, fixed capital, infrastructure, rural population, food security, quality of life.

Түйінді сөздер: ауыл шаруашылығы, инвестициялар, инвестициялық стратегия, негізгі капитал, инфрақұрылым, ауыл халқы, азық-түлік қауіпсіздігі, тұрмыс сапасы.

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### Introduction

In modern conditions, the integrated development of rural areas in Kazakhstan is given special importance. The need for scientific research is justified by the fact that without a systematic approach and state support it is impossible to solve the complex problems of ensuring physical and economic accessibility of food products to broad sections of the population, the migration outflow of youth from rural settlements, and obtaining competitive qualities for domestic agrarian sector.

According to official statistics which were represented by special government body in Kazakhstan, in accordance with the administrative-territorial division in 2022, there were 29 settlements and 6 295 villages, which is 5 and 609 units less than in 2012. The largest number of villages are located in the Turkestan, North Kazakhstan, Akmola and Kostanay regions (13.12%; 10.08%; 9.35% and 8.21% respectively).

During the period from 2012 to 2022, the population of Kazakhstan increased from 16 909.8 thousand people to 19 766.8 thousand people. The urban population increased by 1.3 times. At the same time, the rural population, on the contrary, decreased by 75.3 thousand people and, accordingly, its share decreased from 45.13% to 38.23% (Bureau of National Statistics of Agency for Strategic...) [1].

The main reasons for the outflow of the working-age population from rural areas are restricted opportunities to get as high salary as city dwellers, the lack of good roads, undeveloped necessary infrastructure related with industrial and social security of local population, remoteness of schools and medical institutions from villages, the problems related with proper functioning of rural labor market and the provision of alternative options of employment.

Meanwhile, as Ibragimkhalilova T.V., Ovchinikova K.O. [2] note, Rural development is a national task that must be addressed at all levels of government and by all interested parties. The quality of life of the country's population and the overall food security of the state depends on the solution to this problem.

In Kazakhstan the Concept of Rural Development for 2023-2027 has been approved, the basic reason of its emergence and further implementation is to increase living standards and create a comfortable environment in rural areas (On the approval of the Concept ...) [3]. All pressing issues of local population should be carefully considered and solved, otherwise it is imposable to control migration flows and creating more attractive images of rural life style.

### Literature Review

Transformation all aspects of social life due to transition from socialism to market economy, mostly affected to rural settlements. The liquidation of large state and communal farms, mass self-employment, and lack of government support for agriculture sector, worsened the socio-economic situation, which lead to massive migration of capital and labor resources, primarily from remote and abandoned villages.

According to Kovalenko E.G., Krapchina L.N., Knyazkina A.A. [4], planed economy provided the development of social infrastructure in countryside by financing from agricultural companies, which had social facilities on their jurisdiction. Because of that, every rural settlement, has basic options for residents, in the form of schools, medical centers, libraries and clubs operated, cultural events were systematically held, film screenings and meetings with famous compatriots were organized. Enterprise managers promptly resolved social problems, showed concern for employment and material security, the well-being of each member of the team.

After the collapse of the USSR, the agricultural management system changed dramatically. Instead of collective and state farms, private farms became the main producers of agricultural products. As a result of such transformations, a decline in production and degradation of rural areas were observed. Social infrastructure facilities were destroyed and went out of use.

The same tendencies are common for other post-Soviet countries. In Russia, as Lazhentsev V.N., Ivanov V.A. [5] declared long term crisis, in the form of demographic decline, poverty, unemployment and deterioration of social infrastructure. Over the years of market reforms, the standards of living of the rural population tended to decline and these tendencies still remain unattractive. The difference in quality of life between city and rural areas get widened.

The scientific research conducted by Suchova N.V. [6], the analysis of socio-economic characteristics of the situation of the rural population allows us to conclude that there are a number of negative trends that prevent rural areas from entering the trajectory of sustainable development. In particular, the consequences of demographic changes have been identified, which leads to a reduction in the number of rural settlements and rural residents. Agricultural enterprises are still an unattractive area for employment due to the discrepancy between the level of wages in rural areas and in cities and urban-type settlements.

To summarize, we can conclude that the current socio-economic situation in the countryside is very difficult due to the subjective and objective reasons listed above, and urgent measures need to attract investment in the agricultural sector. Without financial support, it is impossible to improve the rate employment, form a convenient living environment, improve the living standards of villagers and develop rural areas.

In his publication Kireenko N.V. [7] mentions that the foundation of rural development, their economic basis, is agricultural production. The agricultural sector occupies a special place because of necessity in regular production of agricultural products and food as primary needs for population and reproduction of main elements of human capital.

It goes without saying that the introduction of innovative technologies in the agro-industrial complex, increasing the volume of production and export of agricultural products to countries near and far abroad will directly affect the income of the rural population and the formation of financial resources for the revival of villages.

Investments provide further impulse on new technologies and digital systems. Especially considering the fact that in Kazakhstan there is a high degree of wear and tear of the main types of equipment and machinery in agricultural production (Smagulova Sh.A.) [8].

Esina Yu.L., Stepanenkova N.M. [9] believe that investing in the development of the agro-industrial complex is a condition for the economic and social well-being of territorial entities.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that investments are the driving force behind the development of national economic sectors and directly affect the rate of economic growth and volume indicators of production (Akhmetzaki Ye.Zh., Mukhamediev B.M.) [10].

According to Kaldiyarov D., the investment attractiveness of rural areas is influenced by many factors that must be taken into account when making management decisions and developing important strategic planning documents for the prospects for regional development (Kaldiyarov D., Kasenova A., Dyrka S. et al.) [11].

> Investments in the development of social, transport and production infrastructure will improve the well-being of rural workers, solve the problem of providing the country's population with high-quality food products and take an active part in the global task of eradicating hunger on the planet (Stukach V.F., Saparova G.K., Sultanova G.T. et al.) [12].

> Rural economic development largely depends on the social environment and requires regular financial support. Investments become a tool for the socio-economic development of rural areas (Dyba M., Gernego Iu) [13].

> By analogy, it can be assumed that there is a close relationship between investment in fixed capital and volume indicators of gross agricultural output. Boosting of investment activities leads to modernization and digitalization of manufacturing process, obtaining competitive advantages by reducing manufacturing and labor cost.

> In turn, the extra financial resources generated from the intensification of agriculture will give impulse to the development of rural areas, which will be expressed in the form of additional jobs, increased incomes of farmers, and an increase in financial resources for the construction and operation of production and social infrastructure facilities. For this reason, a competitive agricultural sector is a driver of rural development.

## Materials and methods

During the research, the following methods were used: scientific abstraction, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, economic-statistical, comparative and correlation analysis. The method of scientific abstraction allowed us to study the main economic categories and highlight the specific features of rural development based on investment in the agroindustrial complex.

The method of analysis and synthesis allowed us to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between investment in the agro-industrial complex and rural development. Using the method of induction and deduction, we constructed a hypothesis for the scientific research and formulated general provisions. The economic-statistical method was used to analyze statistical data characterizing the dynamics of investment in fixed capital and gross output of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The comparative analysis method compared the results of

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Finally, correlation analysis was performed to determine a direct linear relationship between investment in fixed capital of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and gross output of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, calculate the correlation coefficient and interpret the results.

The theoretical part of scientific research, were the publishes of domestic and foreign scientists whose scientific interests focused on problem of rural development, investment in the agro-industrial complex. The empirical part includes official statistics which were provided by the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. To construct dynamic series and calculate the correlation coefficient, the following indicators were used: volumes of investment in fixed capital of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and volumes of gross

The scientific novelty of the research based on quantitative methods of determination of statistical relationship between investments in fixed capital of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the gross output of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the correlation coefficient was calculated and the prospects for the development of rural areas based on investment in the agro-industrial complex and agro-towns were substantiated.

### Results

Agriculture is the primary sector of the national economy system [table 1]. Since exactly agricultural sector provides the entire population of Kazakhstan with domestic healthy and high-quality food products and the standard of living of rural residents depend on its development. When the level of well being of rural residents continuously declined, massive migration flows to big cities, as well to foreign countries, become more active.

Table 1 – Fundamental indicators representing the production of agricultural sector of Kazakhstan	for
2012-2022	

Indicators	2012	2022	Deviation (+,-)		
Gross output of agricultural products (services) in cur-	1 999 046.6	9 481 179.8	7 482 133.2		
rent prices, million tenge					
Gross crop production, million tenge	981 190.0	5 808 259.8	4 827 069.8		
Gross livestock production, million tenge	1011 191.9	3 658 757.6	264 7565.7		
Agricultural services, million tenge	6 664.7	14 162.5	7 497.8		
Structure of gross agricultural output (services) by					
farm categories, %					
Agricultural enterprises	19.8	29.3	9.5		
Individual entrepreneurs and peasant or farm house-	27.5	32.7	5.2		
holds					
Households of the population	52.7	38.0	-14.7		
Adjusted sown area of agricultural crops, thousand	21 190.0	23 162.1	1 971.4		
hectares					
Number of livestock and poultry at the end of the year, thousand heads:					
cattle	5 690.0	8 538.1	2 848.1		
sheep and goats	17 633.3	21 786.0	4 152.7		
pigs	1 031.6	705.0	-326.6		
horses	1 686.2	3 856.0	2 169.8		
camels	164.8	259.1	94.3		
poultry	33 474.0	497 87.7			
			16 313.7		
Note: compiled based on data from the (Bureau of National Statistics of Agency for Strategic) [1]					

According to the data from table 1, agriculture in Kazakhstan is facing obvious transformations. Covering period from 2022 to 2012, the gross output of agricultural products (services) increased by 4.74 times. In 2022, gross crop production amounted to 5 808 259.8 million tenge, which is 4 827 069.8 million tenge more than in 2012. There are obvious trends

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towards an increase in the volume of livestock output and the volume of services provided.

Changes are also noticeable in the structure of gross agricultural output (services) by farm category. The share of agricultural organizations increased by 9.5% while the share of households decreased from 52.7% to 38.0%. The sown area of agricultural crops and the

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number of livestock and poultry (except for pigs) also increased during the analyzed period. In 2012, there were 5 690.0 thousand animals of cattle in Kazakhstan; 17 633.3 thousand animals of sheep and goats; 1 686.2 thousand animals of horses; 1 031.6 thousand animals of pigs; 164.8 thousand animals of camels and 33 474.0 thousand animals of poultry. In 2022, the number of cattle increased Table 2 presents indicators providing information on the contribution of agriculture to the country's GDP and the distribution of investment in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Table 2 - Dynamics of indicators representing the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in GDP and the amount of investment in fixed capital (in percent)

Year	The percentage of agriculture, for-	Share of investment in agriculture, forestry and		
	estry and fisheries in Kazakhstan's	fisheries out of the total volume of investments in		
	GDP, %	fixed capital, %		
2012	4.3	2.45		
2013	4.5	2.29		
2014	4.4	2.63		
2015	4.8	2.33		
2016	4.6	3.26		
2017	4.3	3.97		
2018	4.3	3.27		
2019	4.4	3.93		
2020	5.4	4.61		
2021	5.4	5.83		
2022	5.2	5.58		
Note: c	Note: compiled based on data from the (Bureau of National Statistics of Agency for Strategic) [1]			

According to the data from table 2, the percentage of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the country's GDP grew by 0.9% in 2022 compared to 2012. Simultaneously, the proportion of investments increased by 2.27 times over the analyzed period and amounted to 5.58% in 2022. In other words, the share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the country's GDP is growing at a slow pace. Structural shifts are observed in the distribution of investments by areas of use.

For a more detailed research, table 3 shows the absolute indicators of investment in fixed capital and gross output of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Table 3 - Dynamics of indicators of investment in fixed capital and gross output of products (services) in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Kazakhstan (for the period from 2012 to 2022)

Year	Investments in fixed capital in agriculture,	Gross output of products (services) of			
	forestry and fisheries, million tenge	agriculture, forestry and fisheries, billion tenge			
2012	133 945	2 407.9			
2013	139 627	2 963.9			
2014	173 281	3 158.8			
2015	163 907	3 321.7			
2016	253 691	3 701.4			
2017	348 481	4 092.3			
2018	365 001	4 497.6			
2019	494 976	5 177.9			
2020	565 369	6 364.0			
2021	772 475	7 549.			
2022	850 346	9 521.0			
Note: o	Note: compiled based on data from the (Bureau of National Statistics of Agency for Strategic) [1]				

Base on the analysis of dynamic series, we can conclude that over the period from 2012-2022, investments in fixed capital in agriculture, forestry and fisheries increased by 6.34 times and amounted to 850 346 million tenge in 2022. The indicators of gross output (services) of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

A brief overview of the data in table 3 represents that there is a visible tendency of gradual growth in both indicators under consideration, which lead us to conclude that a linear relationship between two observed indicators exists.

To quantitatively evaluate the degree of the relationship between investments in fixed capital of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and the gross output of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, the processing of observation results and calculation of correlation coefficients were performed using the "Data Analysis" package in the Excel program.

The value of the calculated correlation coefficient of 0.98 allows us to state that there is a strong linear relationship between the numerical sets under consideration. In other words, the results of the correlation analysis can be interpreted as follows: the more investments are attracted to the industry, the greater the volume of output. Investments due to the introduction of innovative technologies, advanced equipment, and automation of the production process allow for a faster increase in production volumes while simultaneously ensuring the economic and physical availability of food products to the country's population.

On this point, the unique experience of Belarus for the implementation of methodological recommendations for the development of rural areas is of great interest among the Eurasian Economic Union countries. The share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in gross value added in the economy of the Republic of Belarus in 2022 was 8.6%, which is 3.0% higher than the same indicator in Kazakhstan. The share of investments in agriculture, forestry and fisheries of the Belarusian economy in the total volume of investments in fixed capital in 2022 was 16.2%, which exceeds the figure for Kazakhstan by 10%. In the structure of gross output of Belarus by category of farms, 76.3% came from agricultural enterprises (Agro-industrial complex...) [14].

The main strategic directions for the development of agriculture and, at the same time, rural areas of Belarus are concentration, specialization, mechanization, automation of agricultural production and the widespread construction of agro-towns.

Fomenkova S.F. [15] notes that one of the reasons for the transformation of settlements is the demographic situation in the country, associated with the migration of the rural population to cities, as well as the level of socio-cultural development and modernization in the

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The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2035 notes that not only the capital and regional centers, but also medium-sized, small towns, and rural areas will become attractive for living. The population, regardless of their place of residence, will be provided with opportunities for high-income employment, entrepreneurial, intellectual, creative, and social activity, and receiving high-quality services.

It should be noted that the strategic task was set to create comfortable living conditions based on improving the quality of the environment and landscaping, transforming rural settlements into qualitatively new types of rural settlements - agrotowns (National Strategy for Sustainable Development...) [16].

At present, rural areas in the Republic of Belarus have noticeably changed. In agrotowns kindergartens, schools, community centers, libraries, medical and obstetric stations, service centers, shopping centers, banks, post offices and other social infrastructure facilities operate. The rural population lives in comfortable, well-appointed houses and apartments.

Agrotowns have a number of advantages over traditional rural settlements (villages, towns, villages). Firstly, due to the fact that comfortable living conditions have been created, it was possible to solve the problem of population outflow to cities. Secondly, social infrastructure facilities operate in the agrotown, which has significantly reduced the difference in the living standard between rural and urban population. Thirdly, the emergence of integrated agro-industrial complex enterprises which deal with the production and processing of agricultural products has provided employment, which further lead to an increase in the income of farmers and the sustainable development of rural areas.

It worth considered that rural areas are the locations where a certain part of the country's population lives. At the same time, food products essential for any person are produced here, agricultural and processing industries are located. In recent years, agrotourism has become a popular type of entrepreneurship.

Thus, strict and obvious relationship exists between the development of rural areas and the agro-industrial complex of the country. When investing in human capital, creating infrastructure, agro-holdings are provided with

As the study of the Belarus experience has shown, the agrotown has allowed not only to significantly increase the volume of production through the concentration of production and the creation of agro-holdings, but also to solve the social issues of the rural population.

### Discussion

The results of the conducted scientific research showed that there is a high correlation between investments in fixed capital of agriculture and quantitative and qualitative indicators of the level of development of agricultural production. In other words, it can be noted that without investment it is impossible to quickly introduce innovative technologies, mechanize and automate production processes, reduce food production costs, and increase labor productivity in agricultural enterprises.

In modern conditions, the role of investment in increasing the competitiveness of agricultural production and the development of rural areas has increased significantly. The production of high-quality food products in sufficient quantities directly affects the health, performance and life expectancy of every Kazakhstani. Moreover, with an increase in production volumes and sales of products, prerequisites are created for increasing wages for workers in the agro-industrial complex, building and modernizing social infrastructure facilities.

It should not be forgotten that providing domestically produced food products at affordable prices to wide sections of the population is a priority task that must be addressed by the efforts of the entire community.

Export of food products to countries of the near and far abroad will increase the income of farmers, stabilize migration processes and create comfortable living conditions in rural areas.

Investments are a key factor in the simultaneous development of agricultural production and rural areas, solving problems of food and national security of the state, creating jobs and solving the problem of unemployment, increasing the share of the agricultural sector in Kazakhstan's GDP.

# Conclusion

1. Improving the quality of life of the rural population is a priority task for state and local government bodies. Due to the fact that villages lag behind cities in terms of amenities, transport links, employment opportunities, and the availability of social infrastructure, there is

an outflow of population and degradation of remote villages.

2. To solve the social issues of the rural population, special efforts should be directed to the development of the agro-industrial complex in purpose to reduce unemployment, increase incomes, and create a comfortable living environment in rural areas.

3. In order to develop the agro-industrial complex, special efforts should be made to increase the investment attractiveness of rural settlements. There is a certain direct correlation between investments in the agro-industrial complex and the gross output of agricultural products.

4. Agrotowns appears as the most attractive form of organization of agricultural production and the basis of improving of living conditions in countryside. The study of the Belarus experience confirmed that making a living condition in country side more close to urban conditions, setting large-scale production will allow optimizing migration processes from the village to the city, solving such demographic the problems as declining and aging rural population.

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