

Examiner report

doctoral dissertation Ing. Basel A b b a s , titled

"The Effect of European Partnership on the Agricultural Policy of Syria."

The chosen theme of the doctoral dissertation dedicated to assessing the impact of partnership agreements between the EU and Syria in agriculture is certainly an interesting topic. It can be seen as beneficial not only for the specific comparison, but also more generally exploring mutual benefit cooperation and relations on globalizing markets of agribusiness. Its focus covers the issue of the development of the agriculture in terms of internal conditions as well as the influence of external factors, in this case especially in connection with the implementation of the rules adopted by this Agreement.

To the overall concept of the dissertation

In the present thesis, the author focuses on assessing the impact of the adoption of the partnership agreement between the EU and Syria in terms of further development of agriculture, including anticipated changes in agricultural policy of Syria, and its impact on the economy of producers, structural changes and expected response to consumer demand. For concrete evaluation of the impact of expected changes in agricultural policy in a particular commodity - wheat – there is a statistical method PAM (Policy Analysis Matrix) applied.

The issue is processed at 131 pages of text, suitably supplemented by tables related to the presented problems and posed comparison, both in the literature review, as well as in their own part of the work. This work also contains 9 annexes devoted more detailed documentation relating to the issue of foreign trade, including the specification of certain measures in agricultural trade policy.

The main objective of the thesis (page 63) is to determine possible impacts of the Partnership Agreement of Syria and European Union on the Syrian agriculture. These possible impacts will be determined in both, in quantitative as well as qualitative way.

That goal is further decomposed into *three partial goals*, targeting solution (1) the impact of implementation of the agreement on the *farmers and their benefits*, (2) the impact on the *consumer* in Syria, and (3) the effect on *size of the wheat production* due to price changes. In this context, then established the three hypotheses (see the third chapter)

The overall solution *methodologically* is decomposed into four phases (8 chapters). The introduction and first chapter (pp. 3-62) can be evaluated as a starting point for the solution. These are basically paid to an introduction to the issue, in terms of the characteristics of agriculture Syria and the EU in general and its related models of agricultural policy, including the development typical features the past quarter century with the general and specific issues of competitiveness of both partners.

A concrete *approach to solving* issues is explained and presented in Chapter 4 (Data and Methodology, pp. 65-73), where it is presented the statistical method applied PAM, including the substance, context, and interpretation of indicators for evaluation of the anticipated impacts of policy changes.

Related Chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 74-115) presents the production, technological, socio-economic and the policy considerations related to the *application of the PAM* on the example of assessment for selected commodity - wheat. Apart from general features, the processed results of the model calculations with relevant commentary in terms of possible implementation in practice are introduced there.

The knowledge gained from the preceding parts of this work are the essential basis for drafting the Chapter 7 Effects of the Partnership Agreement and formulating **overall conclusions** including evaluation of the hypotheses in the subsequent chapter 8 (pp. 115-128).

The content rating and benefits of dissertation

In terms of the objectives and scope of the problem may be with the overall concept and structure of the work to agree. Some reservation can be pronounced in connection with part of Chapter 2 - Literary Review, where the author reviews the agriculture export is *based on data up to 2004*. The relatively general level is assessed as "potential commercial space" of the EU, which can largely affect the formulation of specific recommendations in the conclusion. In terms of the focus next part is suitable methodological inclusion and methodological sub-chapter 2.7 Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM).

- ✓ *In this context it would be appropriate to justify a more comprehensive the selection of wheat for PAM verification methods, due to the fact that structurally this commodity does not appear to be decisive in terms of both, the structure of arable crops in the agricultural sector of Syria, and in terms of foreign trade (export potential) with the EU.*

Subsequent chapters of this work are elaborated transparently, the author confirms their knowledge in the relevant technological and broader socio-economic context, as well as the theoretical knowledge base, the nature, principles and tools of agrarian policy and its practical implementation in a given territory. Both in terms of methodological-methodological and in particular the implementation of the method chosen, then clearly confirms the ability to work in the field of mathematical and statistical modeling and interpretation of results.

- ✓ *Within this context it would be interesting for the defense to focus on the applicain models of a similar type in the agrarian policy in terms of argumentation in shaping specific strategies for agricultural development, including the choice of aid instruments*

Formal site of dissertation - dissertation submitted meets the requirements for this type of work. The thesis is clearly presented, properly works with the technical terminology. The text part is supplemented by diagrams and tables, there is also rich documentation in the Annexes.

Conclusion

The dissertation meet the stated objective. Work are as good, bringing new knowledge at the cognitive level, methodical-methodological and application. It also raises an interesting basis for educational work and any activities in practice. The above assessment of the content and quality of this work allows me to

recommend

doctoral dissertation of Ing. Basel Abbas to the defense before a committee in the relevant field of study program in 6208 Economics and Management after the successful completion

to admit the author of the title "doctor", abbreviated as Ph.D

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