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## PROBLEMS OF STORING GRAIN PRODUCTS AND WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM

**Annotation:** The relevance of the article is determined by the fact that after the new grain harvest is completed, the most important question is how to preserve it in order to avoid losses and unnecessary costs. Therefore, grain is subject to storage, possibly for a long time. Granaries or elevators are used for this purpose. All producers and consumers of this type of product - agricultural firms, farmers, private entrepreneurs and their associations, industrial plants, factories - have a need for high-quality grain storage services. The purpose of the article is to substantiate the problem of forming grain receiving and grain processing enterprises. To achieve this goal, the following tasks were solved: to analyze the technical modernization of existing and construction of new production facilities for storing grain and other agricultural crops; to consider the issue of creating a highly efficient elevator industry in the region with long-term, including export, potential for economic growth.

**Keywords:** competitiveness; grain market infrastructure; business structures.

**Introduction:** The regulation of the agricultural products, raw materials and food market is carried out in order to increase the competitiveness of Russian agricultural products, raw materials and food in order to maintain the profitability of domestic agricultural producers.

The main objectives of this area are to increase the share agricultural products, raw materials and food in the domestic market, smooth out seasonal fluctuations in prices for agricultural products, raw materials and food, as well as create conditions for increasing the export of agricultural products and developing the commodity distribution infrastructure in the domestic market.

Grain producers are forced to sell most of their harvest immediately after harvesting, i.e. during the period of lowest prices. And unsatisfactory storage conditions lead to quantitative and qualitative losses of grain, reducing the efficiency of using budget support funds.

The current scheme of grain storage capacity allocation was formed during the period of the planned economy. At that time, agricultural producers were required to transport grain to specific elevators, and significant capacities were created based on the condition of subsequent centralized distribution of grain. After privatization, elevators took a de facto monopoly position in relation to agricultural producers and, as a result, sharply increased rates for their services.

Agricultural producers began to use elevator services to a minimum. And the declining supply of grain to elevators led to an increase in fixed costs and a further increase in tariffs for their services. And as a result, the costs of storing and processing grain at most existing elevators are not economically profitable for agricultural producers. They prefer to store a significant part of their products in grain warehouses on farms, exposing the grain to high risks of loss of both its quality and quantity. Meanwhile, many participants in the grain business have grain storage facilities. Among them are elevators, grain receiving points, grain processing plants, storage facilities of grain-producing farms and grain-processing business entities (cereal shops, flour mills, feed mills, pig-breeding complexes, poultry farms, beer-producing enterprises).

The main storage capacities are concentrated in agricultural organizations (86%). But in peasant farms, although they are actively increasing, they do not correspond to the contribution of the latter to the gross harvest and sale of grain. A significant part of agricultural producers do not have the necessary equipment for post-harvest processing of grain and dryers for post-harvest drying of grain before placing it in storage.

The low technological level of existing storage capacities is also indicated by data on the storage of grain of the intervention fund, 30% of its volume is stored in floor storage warehouses. And at every fourth of the inspected elevators, violations of storage conditions were found (soaking of grain, infestation of grain with granary pests, non-compliance with the temperature regime for storing grain, penetration of birds into the storage, etc.). A consistently negative dynamics of the qualitative state of the grain of the intervention fund is observed.

Modernization of old grain storage facilities, especially floor storage, is not economically feasible. The design of such warehouses does not correspond to modern technologies and cannot provide competitive cost and quality of grain storage for agricultural producers. The infrastructure should be developed in such a way as to reduce the dependence of agricultural producers on the policy of linear elevators. And this implies a focus on the priority creation of grain storage facilities specifically for agricultural producers. This path will ensure the safety of grain and the possibility of its sale during the period of the most favorable prices.

The main problems facing the elevator industry of the region can be identified:

- high degree of physical and moral depreciation of the main production assets of most elevators and grain processing plants in the region;
- technical lag behind the world average, which explains the low competitiveness of the elevator industry of the region;
- insufficient mechanization of technological processes;
- high level of resource intensity of the main technological processes and insufficiently effective application of energy-saving technologies;
- lack of own working capital;
- difficulties in the process of ensuring the quality parameters of grain during storage;
- insufficient equipment with modern equipment (consumables) of production and technical laboratories (PTL) of most elevators and grain processing plants in the region;
- outdated, and in some cases unusable, elevator infrastructure: access roads, communications, warehouses, weighing equipment, etc.;
- low level of wages in the industry;
- shortage of qualified personnel in the following specialties (areas) "Technology of processing, storage and processing of grain crops", "Technology and equipment for grain processing industries", "Operational accounting at grain storage and processing enterprises", "Organization of work of production and technical laboratories at modern grain storage and processing enterprises", etc.; absence in the region of secondary and higher vocational educational institutions training personnel for the elevator (grain processing) industry [5]. Despite the positive dynamics of individual indicators

of the elevator industry development over the past 4-5 years, the problem of developing grain storage capacities remains unresolved. In order to ensure the irreversible nature of the development of this area of the agro-industrial complex, it is necessary to apply the program-target method.

**Conclusion.** When conducting purchasing interventions and collateral transactions, it is assumed that only grain producers will participate in the sale (collateral) of grain of their own production.

When conducting commodity interventions, it is assumed that individuals and legal entities will participate as grain buyers, regardless of their organizational and legal form .

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