

• REVIEW •

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of a textbook on agrarian law, prepared by the staff of the Department of Land and Agrarian Law of Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, edited by Doctor of Law, professor A. M. Stativka. Kharkiv: Pravo, 2019, 416 p.

The transformational changes that have occurred as a result of Ukraine's transition to a market-based economic system demand new approaches in the organization of agricultural production and streamlining of the social sphere of the villages. Considering the fact that under the administrative-command system, the agrarian sector of the economy was fully controlled by the state, nowadays agriculture faces a number of issues that involve introduction of new organizational, legal and economic measures. That is why, in preparing the textbook, the authors had an objective to provide students with the statutory course "Agrarian Law", factoring in the modern requirements for reforming the system of higher legal education in the country, aimed at changing and revising existing approaches to the study of agrarian law, application of new methodology in teaching the said course, including accessibly and systematically teaching students the basics of agrarian legislation, which are related to the features of agricultural activities.

Structurally, the textbook consists of three parts and 17 sections. Part I "National Agrarian Policy and the Field of Agrarian Law" contains five sections: National agrarian policy. Public law regulation and public-private partnership in the agrarian sector; Agrarian law as an independent branch of law; Features of legal regulation of agrarian relations; Agrarian legislation; Legal support for food security. In this part of the textbook, the authors gave pride of place to the definition of the national agrarian policy and its legal support, clarified the specific features of the legal regulation of public-private partnership in agriculture and the legal regulation of investment and innovation

activities in the agricultural sector. The authors reveal the essence of the field of agrarian law, prove its independence in the national system of law. Furthermore, the textbook offers a wide list of special principles of agrarian law, thoroughly analyzes the features of agrarian legal relations, describes the agrarian legislation and its system, provides analysis of foreign agrarian legislations. The authors factored in the issue of food security. The authors revealed its essence, including identification of indicators and criteria for food security.

Part II “Legal Forms of Agrarian Production” consists of 6 chapters, which deal with clarification of the legal status of subjects of agricultural production. It is methodologically correct to provide both a general description of the legal status of agricultural producers and a description of the legal status of individual entities – farming, agricultural cooperative, national and communal agricultural enterprise, agrarian holding company, personal farming.

Part III “Sectoral legal regulation of agricultural production and economic activity” consists of 7 sections: Production and economic activity of agricultural producers and its legal regulation; Legal regulation of crop production; Legal regulation of livestock production; Legal regulation of aquaculture production; Legal support for agricultural production in the context of EU and WTO requirements; Legal regulation of sustainable development of rural areas.

Within this section, the authors review the legal regulation of the functioning of particular agricultural sectors and analyze the state of implementation of national agricultural legislation in accordance with the EU requirements, including research of the legal regulation of relations regarding crop and animal production within the WTO. Individual attention is paid to the legal groundwork for the sustainable development of rural areas.

However, apart from the positive aspects of the textbook, there are certain points to be made:

1. Considering the fact that land in agriculture is considered as a means of production, the textbook sufficiently cover the legal regime of agricultural lands. It would be appropriate to describe the subjects of ownership and use of agricultural land, the legal grounds for the lease of agricultural lands, the rights and obligations of land owners and land users and guarantees for their implementation;

2. The textbook authors also superficially considered the issue of contractual relations in agriculture. These issues appear to be relevant in the current context and demand additional attention. Particular attention should have been paid to both the general description of contractual relations in agriculture and the characteristics of individual contracts, namely: the contracting of agricultural products; insurance in agriculture; transportation and storage of agricultural products, etc.

With that, the remarks are for guidance only and do not diminish the high level of work accomplished. The textbook is prepared with consideration of the achievements in jurisprudence, the pedagogical experience of the authors, the use of educational,

educational-methodical, scientific works on agrarian law. The structure and methodology of presentation of topics, the formation of questions for self-control, allowed the authors to reveal the main institutions of agrarian law, features of their legal regulation. This, factoring in the current scientific research, reflects the conceptual provisions regarding further development of agrarian law as an independent branch of law and study.

This textbook can be used not only by students, postgraduate students, lecturers of law, agricultural, economic higher education institutions, but may also be of use for scientists, practitioners in the field of agrarian, environmental, land and other branches of law interested in clarifying the matters of agrarian law.

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