Improving state financial control as a factor in the sustainable development of agriculture in the region (using the example of the Sverdlovsk region)

1 Introduction

To solve the complex problem of maintaining and increasing agricultural productivity in the regions of the Russian Federation, ecosystems, which are a set of economic entities (government bodies and commercial structures) collaborating for the benefit of the entire structure, become important [6, p. 112]. As V.D. Markova and S.A. Kuznetsova note: “At the same time, control on the part of each subject over the entire group is limited. Even the owner of the platform does not have absolute levers of power over the behavior of partners, unlike, for example, a vertical management model” [5, p. 8].

The vertical management model is manifested most clearly in the power activities of government bodies, which, acting within the competence granted to them and based on regulatory legal acts, are able to create conditions for financial support of agricultural producers. These conditions are enshrined in regulatory legal acts of varying legal force: federal, regional and local levels, in various by-laws of executive authorities: strategies, plans, concepts for the long-term development of the agricultural sector.

In its activities, the state strives to ensure a balance of interests between all participants in the agricultural ecosystem: business entities, citizens, government agencies and local governments. To maintain this balance, it is necessary to ensure private interest in increasing
production volumes and the rights of citizens to a favorable environment and safe food products.

At the same time, trying to reduce the use of chemical additives (pesticides, agrochemicals, and other substances that negatively affect the environment and human health) for sustainable development of agriculture, the state must form countermeasures of financial support and incentives, without which small and medium-sized businesses will not be able to be competitive.

The agro-industrial complex budget for 2024 will be 558.6 billion rubles, which is 30% more than originally planned. Its effectiveness is impossible without assessing the formation, distribution and use of budget funds at the stages of forming budget projects, checking the correctness of budget execution, identifying violations and taking measures to improve the activities of the audited objects in order to increase the efficiency of the use of financial resources.

Thus, without proper scientific understanding of the financial control system in the regions of Russia, it is impossible to form a single space for the sustainable development of the state, maintaining a balance of interests of the individual in environmentally friendly products and business entities in increasing competitiveness in the market.

2 Materials and Methods

The methodological basis of the study is made up of general scientific research methods: analysis, synthesis, deduction and induction, abstraction, structural-functional method. When studying the system of state financial control in agriculture in the region, the authors operated with special methods of economics and jurisprudence: formal legal, the method of legal construction; formal-logical, systemic, technical-legal analysis, statistical method, method of determining economic relations between the level of legal regulation and production indicators (using the example of financial state control of business entities in the field of agricultural products).

3 Results and Discussion

While analyzing the financing of the agricultural sector of the Sverdlovsk region, it was revealed that the implementation of the Government of the Russian Federation Decree No. 717 of July 14, 2012 “On the State Program for the Development of Agriculture and Regulation of Markets for Agricultural Products, Raw Materials and Food” is taking place with deviations from the planned indicators of funding volumes.

According to the Law of the Sverdlovsk Region dated December 7, 2023 No. 128-OZ “On the regional budget for 2024 and the planning period of 2025 and 2026.” In 2024, more than 5 billion rubles were allocated to support the agro-industrial complex of the Sverdlovsk region. Of these, 1.8 billion rubles, allocated for subsidies as part of co-financing expenses with the federal budget, the remaining amount is provided exclusively from the regional budget. At the same time, in 2024, for the first time in the region, subsidies will be issued for the development of rural tourism. Funding for 25.0 million rubles is provided for this area, including 17.5 million rubles-at the expense of the federal budget.

Therefore, in terms of financial support for agriculture, the majority is occupied by other sources of financing that do not belong to the regional and consolidated budgets. That is, if it is not possible to attract the necessary amounts of funds from sponsors and investors, then the indicators of development programs will not be achieved.

It seems that the identified problem can be solved by actively attracting additional sources of financing for the agricultural sector.
To this end, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Sverdlovsk Region should be entrusted with the responsibility for introducing investment projects of small and medium-sized businesses in the most popular areas and unoccupied market share.

The business project competition is designed for organizations already involved in agriculture. The rationale of the competition participants is as follows: an operating organization does not need startup investments, such as registration, initial capital, labor and land resources, etc. They have a lower risk of going broke and have the skills to work in agriculture. They will be able to most accurately calculate the required investments and predict the result. It is possible to implement a third-party project based on an existing organization.

The target audience is potential investors, including large commercial enterprises, holdings, and associations. Detailed steps are described below.

First stage. Publish the news on the official website of the ministry on the Internet and include information about the project on the first lines of content.

Second phase. On the investment portal “Invest in the Sverdlovsk Region” (access mode: http://invest.midural.ru/investment_requests/new), provide a link to the competition held by the ministry.

Third stage. Make a newsletter to the target audience with an invitation to participate as spectators.

Fourth stage. Make a newsletter to regional municipalities with information about competitions. Prepare the venue for the competition.

The scale of the project must be designed for various categories of investors, including through investments by individuals. In this way, it will be possible to attract additional funds to the agricultural sector and, as a result, achieve the target indicators of the state program.

In order to avoid an increase in the number of economic crimes in agriculture, the mechanism of action with budget funds must be clear and transparent. The fewer objects of control, the less labor costs and the higher the efficiency of control measures. It is possible to reduce the number of controlled organizations only using the “one-window” principle. That is, if you choose one curator over several objects, monitoring financial transactions will become easier. We propose the introduction of an algorithm for such work with agricultural organizations through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Sverdlovsk Region (Figure 1). At the same time, the disbursement of funds allocated for certain purposes should be carried out not by transferring funds to the recipient’s current account, but by the supplier of works, goods or services purchased with targeted financing through the public procurement system. In other words, the proposed algorithm assumes that the agricultural producer submits the necessary documents to receive a subsidy and, instead of receiving funds, places an order for the valuables he needs. The ministry through the public procurement system makes the purchase of these valuables (clause 3 of Figure 1).

Thus, the money of the provided subsidy is sent directly to the bank account of the service provider. This ensures transparency in purchasing from a reliable supplier, and the process is easier to control through a single system. The actual receipt of services is guaranteed by dividing the payment into two periods: before receiving goods or services and after (see points 5–8 of Figure 1). To avoid paperwork and rational distribution of the ministry’s labor
Thus, with an attempt to implement the author’s work scheme for the development of subsidies, it is possible to achieve the following results:

- simplification of quantitative checks on objects of control
- regulatory authorities do not need to request supporting documentation from many organizations; it will be enough to request all the necessary documents from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and selective requests from contractors;
- a unified public procurement database will help avoiding questionable transactions with budget funds;
- the difference between the fixed amount of the subsidy and the actual payment under the public procurement system will allow saving the saved difference in the budget [1, p.48].

Thus, the efficiency of investing budget funds to support agriculture will increase.

The Accounts Chamber of the Sverdlovsk Region, within the limits of its powers, may involve other specialists and experts in its work. Therefore, the authors propose a model of interaction between financial control bodies based on the principle of unity of command: distribution of responsibilities under the leadership of the Accounts Chamber of the Sverdlovsk Region.

The Accounts Chamber of the Sverdlovsk Region was chosen as the coordinator of this system due to the fact that the control carried out by this body is external, and a distinctive feature of the state audit is that it is possible to transfer the results of the audit upon request to interested parties, customers of the audit. All collected information about violations identified during the inspection and transferred to law enforcement agencies in the same way must be posted on a common resource portal. You can also change the status of completed checks and make requests about planned checks by creating such a database.

While analyzing the regulatory framework of the Accounts Chamber of the Sverdlovsk Region, the problem of the lack of methods for assessing the efficiency of using budget funds was highlighted. There are no regulations, standards or guidelines regarding the activities of auditors. The content of the recommendations is not established by calculations of the efficiency of using budget funds. Therefore, we believe that to conduct a state audit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Sverdlovsk Region.
efficiency of using budget funds in agriculture, it is advisable to use the efficiency assessment criteria set out in the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of May 26, 2021 No. 786 “On the management system of state programs of the Russian Federation”.

Moreover, it is advisable to calculate the efficiency of use of federal budget funds as a ratio of the degree of implementation of activities to the degree of compliance with the planned level of expenditures from the federal budget according to formula 2.

\[ E_u = \frac{D_{im}}{D_{cp}} \]

Where:
- \( E_u \) – efficiency of using federal budget funds;
- \( D_{im} \) – the degree of implementation of activities fully or partially financed from the federal budget;
- \( D_{cp} \) – the degree of compliance with the planned level of expenditures from the federal budget.

The program activity can be considered completed in full if the following results are achieved:
- an event, the results of which are assessed based on the numerical values of indicators, is considered completed if the achieved value of the indicator is at least 95% of the planned one;
- an event involving the provision of public services (works) is considered completed if the summary indicators of government tasks in terms of volume and quality of public services (works) are fulfilled by at least 95% of the established values for the reporting year;
- for other measures, the results of implementation can be assessed as the occurrence or non-occurrence of a control event and (or) the achievement of a quality result (the assessment is carried out by an expert).

The effectiveness of program implementation is considered high if the degree of implementation of the state program is at least 0.9; medium if the value is at least 0.8; satisfactory if the degree of implementation of the state program is at least 0.7; unsatisfactory with a value of less than 0.7; at the same time, the responsible executive may establish other grounds for recognizing the effectiveness of the program.

4 Conclusion

The study identified problems and shortcomings encountered in the implementation of state control and audit of the targeted and effective use of budget funds in agriculture in the Sverdlovsk region: the definition of the terms “state financial control” is not legally established.

To solve the identified problems, an integrated approach is required, which involves introducing into legislation the concept of state control as a process during which the state evaluates the formation, distribution and use of budget funds at the stages of forming budget projects, verifies the correctness of budget execution, identifies violations and takes measures to improve the activities of those being audited facilities in order to increase the efficiency of use of national financial resources.

It is necessary to attract additional funds to the agricultural sector to solve the problem of missing budget financing. The essence of the project to receive funds from an investor is a competition among existing agricultural enterprises.

It is proposed to develop a special algorithm for providing subsidies to agricultural producers. The essence of the system is that upon acquiring the right to a subsidy, an agricultural organization does not receive funds to its current account. The Ministry of Agriculture carries out the purchase of material assets.
through the public procurement system at the expense of subsidies allocated to the agricultural organization. The supplier, in turn, provides the goods, works, and services purchased from him directly to the recipient. Creation of an information resource containing a unified database for distributing information on inspections of agricultural organizations. The Accounts Chamber of the Sverdlovsk Region, which has unique functions and powers that are different from other control bodies, could become the curator of a unified information resource.

References

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