

Traditional Lifestyle of the Nationalities in the North and the Economic Activity of the Region: The Case of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)

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Abstract. Yakutia is not only the largest region in the world, but also the northernmost area that people have mastered and where they adapted economic activity to their needs (Such a large region, that there are even 13 Arctic territories). Today the economy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is currently represented by industrial production, construction, transport, trade and agriculture. Agriculture is an indicator of the social climate, social stability of the rural population, and is also the basis of the social well-being of the population. Main types of activity in traditional subsistence of native population are reindeer husbandry, horse herd farming, cattle breeding, agriculture and related processing and marketing. Hunting and fishing are of secondary importance. The leading sectors of the economy are cattle husbandry, horse husbandry and agriculture. The development of the northern peoples is difficult to imagine without these traditionally senile industries. Differences in the geographical area predetermined the presence of areas based on natural resource management features. The population of the northern regions is engaged in reindeer husbandry, since reindeer moss grows here and the territory is sufficient for grazing deer, which cannot be said about the much smaller central regions, where the presence of herbs, flood meadows and drained lakes is suitable for cattle breeding and horse breeding.

1. Introduction

The annual natural cycle (summer-autumn-winter-spring) in the north is associated with certain agricultural activities. The early summer is characterized by moving to Saylyk summer nomad camp. Livestock population emaciated during nongrazing time begins to put on weight eating first green, so the signs of increased productivity appear. Haying begins in the summer, from mid-July, the impact of which on the entire customary lifestyle of the population can hardly be overestimated. According to custom and due to natural conditions, a certain amount of hay was needed for cattle keeping. It was necessary to mow down a large quantity, so the planned head number in the housing period could be fed adequately (approximately 2 tons per head of livestock), since no additional feed was used. Land resources were expanded by means of reclamation work, drainage of lakes, and as a result lands for haying appeared. Tools (braids, rakes, pitchforks) were adapted to the necessary mowing technologies having their own characteristics. For example: the fork handle could reach a length of up to 4m.

Autumn was characterized by preparation for a long harsh winter. The whole population, from baby to adult was engaged in it, since everyone was busy: home preparation, winterizing, gathering wild plants, fishing and hunting.

In winter, hay cocks should be as close as possible to the house using animal hauling, which include draught oxen and dray horses. The cows were hardly milked during precalving management period cause of poor feeding. Basically, only cattle in the winter require daily care, feeding and handling.

2. Relevance, scientific merit and brief review of the literature

In the context of the transition to small-scale production (currently peasant (farmer) farms [1] and private subsidiary farms of the population produce 80% of the gross agricultural output) in traditional sectors where the indigenous people work in large numbers, moreover, if they lose their skills, the experience accumulated over the centuries will disappear without a trace. The northern peoples have made their contribution to the world culture of animal husbandry and agriculture. This experience and skills are threatened with extinction due to the outflow of the population to cities and towns. Agricultural workers who have gained valuable experience from craft professionals according to age have already entered the category of labor veterans, and the new generation has not developed the skills of working on land and caring for farm animals. Therefore, nowadays the need to attract the younger generation to work in these sectors is especially relevant. In the 90s of the last century, all lands were distributed among adult members of farms during the reform, while it was necessary to leave the land reserve stock taking into account the interests of the younger generation. It is difficult to pursue an intensive path of agriculture development in the north, but it is possible, using the possibilities of crop rotation, snow retention and other works, to achieve improved production indicators. In this paper, the author's personal paradigm is determined, namely, using the verbal model to summarize some of the existing shortcomings of economic activity on the basis of traditions.

Research objective: determine the modern factors of economic activity based on the traditional life style adopted in the region.

Theoretical part: it is advisable to look at the traditional way of economy management from 3 points of view:

1. Preservation of skills in traditional sectors;
2. On the basis of the previous point of view, in every way possible to increase the importance of traditions, skills in these sectors;
3. Improving production indicators and, as a result, filling the food market with products manufactured within the region.

3. Practical significance

The main factor determining cattle breeding on the republic territory is the land suitable well-suited for haying, autumn and spring grazing. In this direction, the indigenous population has mastered rotational grazing, namely, do not mow grasslands during the third year of operation, if possible. Cattle breeding accounts for 70% of the gross output of all republic livestock sectors, but in recent years there has been a decrease in livestock numbers and, as a result, a decrease in production indicators in farms of all forms of ownership in the republic. According to the results of 2017, farms of all forms of ownership contain 188.1 thousand heads [1, p. 428], which is lower than pre-reform indicators, when these indicators amounted to 409.2 thousand heads [1 p. 497]. Cattle are kept in enclosed spaces (Khotons), which are insulated with manure in layers to maintain heat in the winter. Not everyone can handle the removal of manure, feed and water supplying, mainly for this reason the number of livestock is declining. Based on long-term observations, we offer to pen livestock cooperatively in the winter; this can contribute to the following:

1. be the basis for agricultural schools that can be created in rural society;
2. rural employment;
3. increase the safety of livestock;
4. improving the quality of products.

In the circumstances, the main reasons can be identified as follows: [3]

- reduction in rural population, keeping livestock;

- high costs of primary and auxiliary production;
- low creditworthiness of commodity producers.

In this regard, the share of beef import from other regions and areas is 62.2% of the consumed beef.

Droving horse-breeding is the main industry working on the principle of non-waste production. Herds of horses graze year-round on grazing land, and in winter they often graze on pasture land after haying eating afterfeed and on farm field, picking up stubble. It is believed that horses spoil farm fields and pasture lands, as they get food with hooves and can damage the roots of plants. Horses of the Yakut breed are easy to keep and hardy, tolerate extremely low temperatures in winter, and therefore droving horse-breeding needs 3 times more territory than cattle breeding. The droving horse-breeding quality is affected by the quality of hay, which should be rapidly digested, and the lack of oats (an essential component of feed) in the diet, caused by the high cost.

Mainly, the horses forage without assistance (except for mares), all year round they are on pasture. The successful adaptation of livestock and horses to harsh climatic conditions proves the ability of a person to train animals based on observations of nature, practical experience, skills and abilities developed over the centuries. No wonder they say that the Yakuts are children of nature.

Reindeer husbandry is considered a young sector of economy, as it appeared in the last century. Previously, deer was as an object of hunting. The economic role of deer in the life of northerners is to be consumed as food or used as a vehicle. Reindeers are outdoors year round, constantly migrating from place to place. Their routes are connected with food, reindeer moss, which is known to grow slowly. A small number of deer in herds and constant moving from place to place does not harm lichen pastures.

Crop growing. Agrotechnology of growing grain and feed crops for additional feed was developed in Yakutia. At one time, such an agrotechnical method was adopted from the Russian peasants and introduced according to the technologies of that time. Arable land was small due to lack of technical equipment. Arable land was small due to a lack of technical equipment. Arable land was located mainly in areas of uprooted forest. Today agriculture in our region is associated with the cultivation of cereals, potatoes, vegetables by released variety.

4. Conclusions

The traditional activities in the region include reindeer husbandry, horse herd farming, cattle breeding and agriculture. The industries operate in difficult natural climatic conditions. According to the results of 2017, 34.4% of the population lives in the village, and therefore, agriculture is an indicator of the social well-being of the rural population. [4] Modern factors transforming the traditional life style of the villagers include small-scale production, as a result mechanization is impossible by reason of the small number of livestock, high costs of production and marketing of products, heavy nonproductive labor and massive outflow of the population to cities and towns subsequently, therefore there is a threat of loss of knowledge and skills acquired over centuries.

References

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