

# Implementation of the State Program “Dalnevostochniy Hectare” and the Regional Aspect of “Yakutskiy Hectare” in the Territory of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia): The First Results (2016-2020)

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## ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the implementation of the state program “Yakutskiy hectare” and its regional counterpart “Yakutskiy hectare” on the territory of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The state program “Dalnevostochniy hectare” is a state social initiative to provide a free land plot to a citizen of the Russian Federation for a period of 5 years. The state provides support measures for each land plot owner to develop it.

Similar mechanisms for providing and implementing it operate in its regional counterpart “Yakutskiy hectare”, only with a difference in the period of development - 6 years, and the type of use - agricultural purpose.

On the territory of the Far East, there are many uninhabited and undeveloped territories that have not been put into economic circulation. Programs can help resolve the socio-economic situation.

This study confirms the prospects for further implementation.

**Keywords:** *Far East, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), “Dalnevostochniy hectare”, “Yakutskiy hectare”, undeveloped vacant land*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the most recent years, the Russian Federation has paid close attention to the Far Eastern region. It is important for Russia due not only to historical and geographical factors, but also to the topical interest to the region for the development of the economy. Its spacious territories and the uneven economic development of the region's subjects require the search for new tools, the invention of new projects for the regional economic evolving [1].

So that one of the solutions to Russia's new strategic course and policy is the state program “Dalnevostochniy hectare”. There are several issues of concern. First of all, it aims to achieve sustained improvement in economic and social sphere in the Far East. Based on this approach, the settlement and assimilation of Far Eastern lands might be a sign of an achievement a new phase of exploration and modernization of land resources in economy. In this regard, the analysis of implementation and the study of the prospects for further implementation of this program on the example of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) is one of the imperative issues to develop. The implementation of the “Dalnevostochniy

hectare” program is a subject which a lot of researchers of different sciences have devoted to their articles. In this regard, in this article we propose to analyze the first results of the implementation of the state program “Dalnevostochniy hectare” and the prospects for its further development on the example of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) [2].

To achieve this goal, we will focus primarily on solving the following tasks: first, to give a General description of the implementation of the program for 5 years, in General, in the Far East, and secondly, to show the dynamics of applications and land plots submitted on the example of Yakutia, to show its regional counterpart – “Yakutskiy hectare” and to assess the prospects for its further implementation.

In the scientific literature, a lot of research has been devoted to the study of the evaluation of the implementation of the far Eastern hectare program. Most scientists view the program as an indicator of public policy evaluation. They believe that the “Dalnevostochniy hectare” has further prospects for implementation with the condition of state support for the owners of the hectare and the creation of infrastructure. Additional support for optimists is the number of applications and signed contracts, as well as success stories. A. L. Mazelis and E. G. Gusev “Analyze various approaches to studying and evaluating the effectiveness of

the program and put forward a model for evaluating its effectiveness" [3].

Some researchers are opposed to both the program and its implementation because I believe that the lack of infrastructure (no roads, electricity, etc.) [4, 5], allocation of quality land (in the distance, in swamps, etc.), poor mechanism for the provision of land (the strip of land, not quality work of Roskadastr, etc.) will not be given to the economic effectiveness and contribution to the economic development of regions of the Far East [6, 7].

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Our research was conducted using the following methods:

1. based on the statistical method, statistics of submitted and accepted applications for land with their total area issued in the period from 2016 to 2020 were collected and processed;
2. the comparative method was used to compare land plots with their area to identify and analyze the dynamics of the far Eastern hectare and Yakut hectare programs in the period from 2016 to 2020;
3. structural functional and system analysis is necessary to study the place and role of the state program "Dalnevostochniy hectare", and the regional program "Yakutskiy hectare" in the socio-economic system of the Far East, as well as finding common development trends.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The state program "Dalnevostochniy hectare" was adopted on June 1, 2016 and determined several targets: increasing the population, attracting the attention of citizens to the development and settlement of empty land of the Far East, securing the workforce, reinforcing the economic activity of citizens, attracting foreign investment, creating the modern infrastructure, creating conditions for the revival of old and/or creating new settlements and turning the Far East into one of the attractive and promising regions of the country.

"Dalnevostochniy hectare" resembles the 1862 Act of Abraham Lincoln, known as the Homestead act - according to the law, unoccupied land in the Western States was granted to us citizens USA for a small fee [1].

There were 76.6 thousand cases when citizens have received land and began their cultivation in the period of 2016 - 2019, only for 2019 year. More than 11.5 thousand people have secured lands under this rule and the total area of land allotted for the year have amounted to 7.1 thousand hectares. There is an unequal interest and quantity of applications for participation by region. It should be noted that applications for the "Dalnevostochniy hectare" are made mainly by

residents of the Far East (85%) [8]. The most attractive area for the participants of this program were lands in Primorye, where approx. 21,000 people have received a plot. The second place took the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), where 13.6 thousand people have obtained their plots and the third position gained Khabarovsk region, where 11.9 thousand participants have received the "Dalnevostochniy hectare". The Sakha Republic (Yakutia) is one of the largest Far Eastern regions, with an area of 3,083,423 km<sup>2</sup>, its population density is 0.32 people/km<sup>2</sup> (2020) [9]. There were 88.5 million hectares which has allocated for the implementation of the state program "Far Eastern Hectare" in the Sakha Republic (29% of the country's territory) [10].

In order to successfully implementation "Dalnevostochniy hectare", the Government of the Sakha of Republic (Yakutia) has been taking an additional measure since 2018 that are aimed at providing effective support to the participants of the program:

1. free legal assistance in the registration and starting their business in agriculture;
2. grants for leasing contracts;
3. providing guaranties and trade loans;
4. giving a special bank credit – "My Hectare" (Almazergienbank) [11];
5. providing an additional plot for participants free of charge: 2.5 hectares - for agricultural needs; 50 hectares - for those who want to develop herd horse breeding; 20 hectares to expand the production in remote and hard-to-reach places [12].

The possibility of sending the collective inquiry for the "Dalnevostochniy hectare" has played a great role in the revitalization of the land development process. On the basis of such applications, the opportunity to create new or renovate abandoned settlements has emerged. This agglomeration area also has a number of preferences. Currently, the country is actively working to build infrastructure and to form three settlements within the republic villages [13]. During the period of four years (2016 to 2019) some results have been achieved in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). Thus, during this period, 22,867 applications for the "Dalnevostochniy hectare" were secured, including 560 applications from other subjects of the Russian Federation.

8,664 contracts of that data have been registered and concluded subject to hand over the plot for the free use, including 88 contracts concluded with residents from other subjects of the Russian Federation [14]. In order to create a more comfortable environment for the participants of the program, 12 territories consist of compact location of 2,285 plots of land, so-called agglomeration areas, were formed [15].

**Table 1 Number of submitted and approved applications for “the Far Eastern Hectare” program in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) for 2016-2019**

Year	Number of applications (thousands)	Signed contracts (thousands)	
		with residents of SR (Y)	with residents from other subjects of the RF
2016/ 2017	9 482	3,402	-
2018	1 960	2,032	
2019	11 425	3,230	96
Total	22 867	8,664	96

Thus, the programme “Dalnevostochniy hectare” in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) has positive trends for further implementation. A regional program, the Yakut Hectare aims to support citizens and entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture [16], has been working as an additional support for the federal program in the country since 2016. According to the Regulation, the land is submitted to the participant of the program for a period of no more than 6 years, but after this period he can lease the plot of land or buy it at the rate of land tax from the cadastral value, and he can lease the land of the forest fund. Minimum and maximum land parcels have also been set at the legislative level [16]. Thus, the participants of this program are provided with measures of support from the republic [17].

The natural and climatic conditions of Yakutia impose a special obligation on the management and development of agriculture. In the spacious area, the main occupation of the indigenous population is cattle breeding and horse breeding, and in the north - domestic reindeer herding. Therefore, for the development of cattle and horse breeding the norm is set no more than 10% of the area of the relevant agricultural land. Plant production, beekeeping, pig farming and poultry farming are not so developed and occupy an area no larger than the size provided in accordance with the norms of urban planning. This feature is reflected in the Land Code of the Sakha Republic, there certain land codes have been established for each category of agricultural production.

**Table 2 Comparison table of the federal program “Dalnevostochniy hectare” and the regional program “Yakutskiy hectare”**

“Dalnevostochniy hectare”	“Yakutskiy Hectare”
The right can be used by any Russian citizen can use the right (q-ty: 1 to 10 people)	the land citizens engaged in farm in Yakutia can use the right
The size of free land is up to 1 hectare per person	Size from 0.2 hectares to the size provided under the rules of urban planning
the territory of provision - the Far East, except buffer zones. In the territory of Yakutia, the buffer zone is located in the territory of the “Neryungri” and 10 km around it and in the territory of the “Yakutsk” and 20 km around it	The territory of Yakutia
Term of use - free rent for 5 years, then free registration in the property or for rent for a long term (49 years)	Term of use - 6 years free rent, then given a choice: to rent the plot further or to take ownership, buying it at the rate of land tax from the cadastral value
Types of activities: business, agriculture, housing	Activities: agriculture and farming

construction and other not prohibited activities	
Result: Test of development in 5 years. In case the non-use of the land for the intended purpose is revealed, the state will confiscate the land	Result: in case within 3 years or more of the date of registration, the non-use of the land for the intended purpose is revealed, the land is seized

As can be seen, the regional program “Yakutskiy Hectare” provides a number of additional measures that contribute to the implementation of the state program “Dalnevostochniy

hectares” in the territory of Yakutia, create conditions for the creation and development of branch of production, especially farms.

**Table 3 The number of plots provided under the “Yakut Hectare” program for 2017-2019**

Year	Number of granted plots	Total area (thousand hectares)
2017	312	7,654
2018	617	2,562
2019	718	2297,7

In the conformity with table 3 there is an annual increase in the number of plots provided for the development and settlement of vacant land in the territory of Yakutia.

**4. CONCLUSION**

Thus, the “Dalnevostochniy hectare” program is considered not only as one of the indicators of stability of the region’s economic development, as a whole, but also from the point of view of improving the state socio-economic policy. The analysis allows us to conclude that the Federal and regional programs for granting free land plots have a demand among the residents of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) for the implementation of economic and other activities, including the construction of a residential building, implementation in the tourism sector. But the main thing is the introduction of empty land into economic circulation, which will contribute to the socio-economic development of Yakutia, namely in agriculture and recreation and tourism.

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