

Environmental and Economic Assessment of Agricultural Land Degradation in the Central and Western Zones of the Republic of Tyva

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Abstract—The presented ecological and economic assessment of agricultural land in the Republic of Tyva was developed taking into account the theoretical foundations of the economic assessment of the cost of land and the methods for valuation of environmentally significant factors. According to the agricultural and natural-economic zoning of the East Siberian region, the Republic of Tyva is assigned to the steppe sheep-breeding and cattle-breeding zone. For the purpose of a more rational distribution and scientifically based specialization of agricultural production, the territory of Tuva is divided into four agricultural zones (Economics of the Tuva ASSR, 1973). The agricultural lands of the study area are included in the Central agricultural zone, mainly agricultural subtaiga, livestock-grain steppe and in the mainly livestock-grain Western agricultural zone. These are the largest, developed and densely populated parts of the republic, where most of the arable land, two-thirds of the hayfields and pastures, and more than 80% of the population of the republic are concentrated. Territories of agricultural lands are located within the dry-steppe, steppe and forest-steppe natural and climatic zones. The climate is characterized by the highest degree of aridity. The main types of soils on arable land are chestnut sandy loamy soils that are subject to wind erosion (60%), chernozems (23%), and alluvial soddy soils (15%). The performed assessment shows that the total damage from soil degradation for the Central and Western agricultural zones of the republic is estimated at more than 3.5 bln rubles, which is about one-third of the cost of agricultural land of the republic. A decrease in the cost of land for the period from 2012 to 2017 was revealed for the Tandinskii (54.1%) and Chedi-Kholskii districts (47.2%), which is due to soil degradation.

Keywords: environmental and economic assessment, soil degradation, agricultural zone, basin, Tyva Republic

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INTRODUCTION

Ecological and economic assessment of land degradation is a new developing area at the intersection of natural and economic sciences. Land degradation is a global problem that leads to consequences such as the decline in the gross domestic product of countries, the deterioration of the economic situation of the local population, the decline in food security, climate change, and loss of biodiversity (Lee et al., 2014). Fundamental studies of land degradation in Russia are the subject of many works by employees of the V.V. Dokuchaev Soil Institute (Sobolev, 1948, 1970; Bazilevich and Pankova, 1967; *Nauchnye osnovy ...*, 2013; Karmanov and Bulgakov, 2012; Yakovlev et al., 2016). Research on the development of methods for the environmental and economic valuation of land in the country has been carried out for more than 20 years, and at present there are more than 10 methods of land valuation within the framework of three approaches adopted in international practice: comparative, cost and profit approaches (*Otsenka ...*, 1999; Kust, 2020). The basis for eco-

nomical methods of land management is the cadastral value, which is determined in the course of the state cadastral valuation of agricultural land by capitalizing the estimated rental income. Depending on the impact of various types of environmental factors in Russia, there are various methods for assessing damage. To make the ecological and economic assessment of the degradation of agricultural lands in the republic, we used the “Metodika opredeleniya razmerov ushcherba ot degradatsii pochv i zemel” (1994).

The goal of this study was an ecological and economic assessment of agricultural lands in the Central and Western agricultural zones of the Republic of Tyva, taking into account their degradation and environmental damage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Tuva is a mountainous country with altitude fluctuations from 520 to 3970 m a.s.l. BS, as a result of which there is a large landscape heterogeneity of the

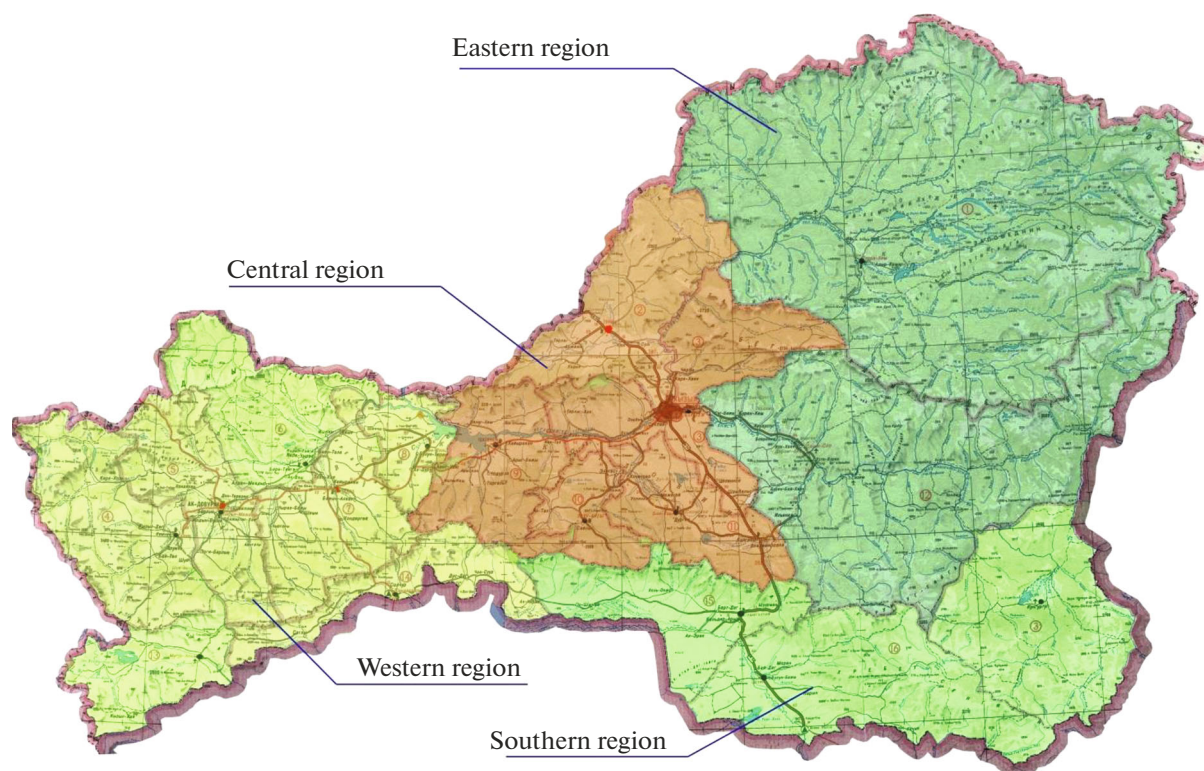


Fig. 1. The scheme of agricultural zoning of the territory of Tuva.

territory. According to the predominance of certain landscapes, the territory of Tuva belongs to two latitudinal geographical zones of Eurasia: taiga-forest and steppe zones (Nosin, 1963). The manifestation of latitudinal zonality is expressed in intermountain basins located at approximately the same hypsometric levels. Due to the same zonal-climatic reasons, various series of vertical natural zones are created on the mountains.

The object of the study is the agricultural land of the Republic of Tyva. According to the grouping of regions and farms of Tuva by similar natural and economic conditions (Soldatov, 1967), the studied areas of agricultural land are included in the Central zone, mainly agricultural subtaiga, livestock-grain steppe, as well as mainly livestock-grain Western zone (Fig. 1). The zones are located mainly in the Central Tuva Basin that is the most extensive of the intermountain basins of Tuva with a predominance of plain, hilly, low-mountain relief elements, including low foothills along the edges of the basin. Territories of agricultural lands are located within the dry-steppe, steppe and forest-steppe natural and climatic zones. The climate is characterized by the highest degree of contrast: winters with little snow, hot and dry summers, and a large amplitude of absolute and daily temperatures are characteristic features of the climate of the basin (*Agroklimaticheskie resursy ...*, 1974; Table 1).

The soils of the intermountain basins of Tuva belong to the steppe zone of the sub-boreal belt of Eurasia with predominantly steppe and desert-steppe soil formation groups predominating (Nosin, 1963). The main types of soils on arable lands of the Central Tuva Basin are chestnut sandy loam soils that are subject to wind erosion (60%), chernozems (23%), and alluvial soddy soils (15%).

The land fund of the Republic of Tuva as of January 1, 2021 is 16860.4 thou ha, the total area of agricultural land is 3363.9 thou ha (19.9% of the total area of the land fund of the republic). Of these, 2653.6 thou ha (78.9%) are agricultural land, 710.2 thou ha (21.1%) are non-agricultural land. As part of agricultural land, the area of arable land is 135.5 thou ha, the area of fallow land is 61.4 thou ha, the area of hayfields is 54.8 thou ha, and the area of pastures is 2401.9 thou ha (*Statisticheskii ...*, 2021).

After reforming the country's agriculture in 1991, the transfer of agricultural land to self-sufficiency in Tuva led to the exclusion from circulation of 284.6 thou ha of arable land. The transition from a planned economy to a market economy led to a sharp decrease in the area of agricultural land. Thus, from 1990 to 2020, the area of agricultural land decreased from 3.9 mln ha to 2.6 mln ha (*Kozhuuny i goroda ...*, 2016; *Gosudarstvennyi doklad ...*, 2021). The reduction in the area of arable land is due to the increase in fal-

Table 1. Meteorological and agrochemical assessment of the Central Tuva Basin

Indicator	Dry-steppe zone	Steppe zone	Forest-steppe zone
Altitude above sea level, m	600–800	500–900	900–1100
Sum of effective temperatures above 10°C	2158	1795	1725
Annual amount of precipitation, mm	150–220	200–250	300–350
Hydrothermal coefficient (HTC)	0.7	1.0	1.3
Reserves of productive moisture in the 0–100 cm layer by the beginning of vegetation, mm	26	33	45
Number of dry wind days	52	43	27
Duration of the frost-free period, days	100–120	100–110	90–100

low lands and partially the transfer of arable land to the lands of the state land reserve (Belek et al., 2017). At present, pastures predominate among all types of agricultural land (Fig. 2).

Ecological and economic assessments of agricultural lands were made for a number of regions of the country (Makarov et al., 2016, 2017a, 2017b, 2018, 2019, 2020; Yakovlev et al., 2016; Bondarenko, 2016; Badmaev, 2016; Tsvetnov et al., 2019; Makarov et al., 2021). For the Republic of Tyva, such an assessment has been carried out by us for the first time (Dabiev and Sambuu, 2020). The assessment of soil degradation of agricultural lands of districts (kozhuuns) of two zones of the republic (Fig. 3) was carried out according to the “Methodology for Determining the Amount of Damage from Soil and Land Degradation” (1994). The methodology is available in the use of calculated data: binding to the cadastral and economic assessment of agricultural land, the use of environmental coefficients, which depend both on the ecological situation in the territories and the degree of change in soil degradation. The source of information is literary data, regional reports on the state and use of land, statistical data (*Kozhuuny i goroda ...*, 2016; *Doklad o sostoyanii ...*, 2020; *Gosudarstvennyi doklad ...*, 2021; *Sotsial'no-ekonomicheskie pokazateli ...*, 2019; *Statisticheskii ezhegodnik ...*, 2019, 2020, 2021; *Statisticheskii sbornik ...*, 2021).

The following formula is used for assessment (*Methodika...*, 1994):

$$Ad = Cs \times S \times Ce \times Cd \times Ci + Ai \times S \times Cr,$$

where Ad is the amount of damage from soil and land degradation (thou rubles); Cs is the cost standard (cadastral or market value); Ai is the annual income per unit area (thou rubles); S is the area of degraded soils and lands (ha); Ce is the coefficient of the ecological situation of the territory; Cr is the conversion factor depending on the period of time for the recovery of degraded soils and lands; Cd is the conversion factor depending on the change in the degree of soil and land degradation; and Ci is the coefficient for specially protected areas.

In the case of degradation of soils and lands within specially protected areas, regional authorities may

introduce increasing coefficients (Ci) for the cost standards: 3.0 for the lands of the natural reserve fund, 2.0 for the lands of nature protection, recreational, and historical and cultural purposes, 1.5 for the lands of recreational purposes, 1.0 for other lands (*Metodika opredeleniya ...*, 1994). To assess the environmental damage to agricultural lands, we used the coefficient of the ecological situation and the significance of the state of soils of 1.1 and the coefficient of recovery of soils and lands of 0.9 (*Metodika opredeleniya ...*, 1994; *Postanovlenie pravitel'stva RF ...*, 2014).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The central and western agricultural zones of Tuva are the largest, developed and densely populated parts of the republic, where 63% of arable land and two-thirds of the hayfields and pastures are concentrated and more than 80% of the population of the republic lives.

We performed preliminary assessments of agricultural land degradation for the administrative districts of the Central and Western agricultural zones of Tuva. When calculating the cadastral value, account was taken of summary data and correction factors (Tables 2–5), which are necessary as derivatives in the above for-

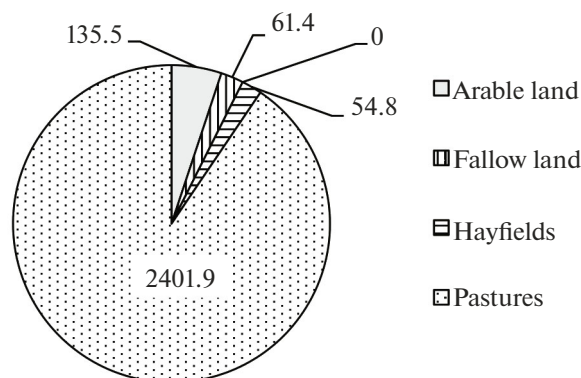


Fig. 2. The structure of agricultural land in the Republic of Tyva, thou ha (*Doklad ...*, 2020).

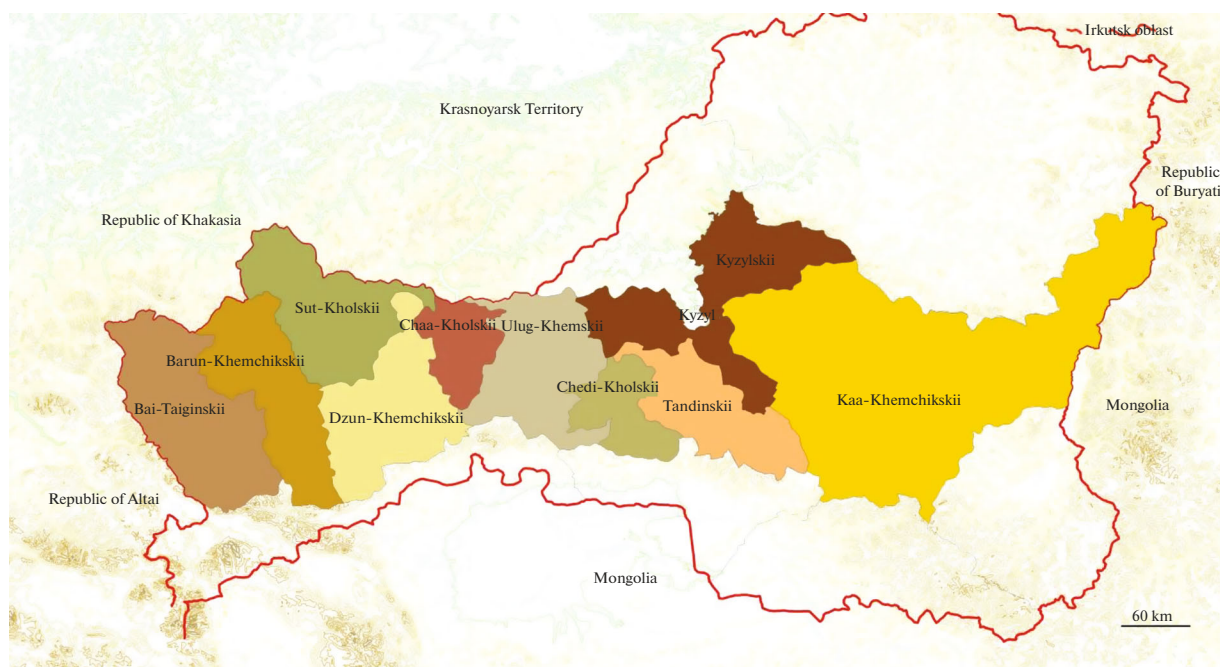


Fig. 3. The map-scheme of the regions of the Central and Western agricultural zones in the Republic of Tyva.

mula. The calculation of damage (in rubles) was made according to the above formula. For example, let us take the Bai-Taiginskii district: C_s , the cost standard is the cadastral value (Table 2), is 3500 rub/ha, S , the area of degraded agricultural land, is 63630 ha, and C_e , the coefficient of the ecological situation of the

territory of the Republic of Tyva, which is part of the Eastern-Siberian economic region of the Russian Federation, is 1.1. The coefficients are introduced to take into account the total impact of soil and land degradation on the ecological situation. The territorial bodies of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia

Table 2. The cadastral value and area of agricultural land (including degraded land) for the districts of the Republic of Tyva

Districts (kozhuuns)	Districts (kozhuuns) (<i>Statisticheskii ezhegodnik...</i> , 2020)	Cadastral cost, rub/ha (<i>Postanovleniye ...</i> , 2017)	Water erosion	Deflation	Mixed manifestation of erosion and deflation	Salinization	Area of degraded agricultural land, ha (according to the FSBI State Station of Agrochemical Service "Tuviniskaya" for 2019–2021; <i>Gosudarstvennyi doklad...</i> , 2020)	Degree of degradation, %
Bai-Taiginskii	248 559	3500	1900	56 500	5000	230	63 630	25.6
Dzun-Khemchikskii	254 241	3400	1000	99 700	500	1100	102 300	40.2
Kyzylskii	235 292	7400	1100	160 000	1990	2000	165 090	70.2
Sut-Kholskii	122 040	3900	1000	64 550	770	1880	68 200	55.9
Tandinskii	118 100	4800	1000	81 970	640	790	84 400	71.5
Chaa-Kholskii	166 665	4500	2280	98 940	270	310	101 800	61.1
Chedi-Kholskii	116 081	3900	33 000	35 000	1000	1200	70 200	60.5

Table 3. The annual income per unit area for the districts of the Republic of Tyva

Districts (kozhuuns)	Income from agricultural products, thou rub (<i>Statisticheskii sbornik ...</i> , 2021)	Agricultural land area, ha (<i>Statisticheskii ezhegodnik ...</i> , 2021)	Annual income per unit area, rub/ha
Bai-Taiginskii	355922	248559	1431.94
Dzun-Khemchikskii	551541	254241	2169.36
Kyzylskii	533254	235292	2266.35
Sut-Kholskii	452654	122040	3709.06
Tandinskii	378679	118100	3206.43
Chaa-Kholskii	440651	166665	2643.93
Chedi-Kholskii	198646	116081	1711.27

Table 4. The values of the conversion factor (Cr) depending on the period of time for the recovery of soils and lands (*Metodika opredeleniya ...*, 1994)

Duration of the recovery period	Conversion coefficient	Duration of the recovery period	Conversion coefficient
1 year	0.9	8–10 years	5.6
2 years	1.7	11–15 years	7.0
3 years	2.5	16–20 years	8.2
4 years	3.2	21–25 years	8.9
5 years	3.8	26–30 years	9.3
6–7 years	4.6	31 and more years	10.0

Table 5. The cadastral valuation of agricultural land in the districts of the Central and Western zones of the Republic of Tyva, taking into account soil degradation and environmental damage

Districts (kozhuuns)	Cadastral cost, thou rub/ha	Damage calculated according to the formula, thou rub	% of loss
Bai-Taiginskii	869956.5	143192.8	16.4
Dzun-Khemchikskii	864419.4	352740.6	40.8
Kyzylskii	1741160.8	1277367.3	73.3
Sut-Kholskii	475956.0	388576.3	81.6
Tandinskii	566880.0	559926.4	98.7
Chaa-Kholskii	749992.5	549536.7	73.2
Chedi-Kholskii	452715.9	288795.7	63.7
In total for the Central and Western zones	5721081.1	3560135.8	63.9

and Roskomzem adjust the coefficients by a joint decision and also introduce the necessary indicators for the types of soil and land degradation based on natural and climatic conditions (*Metodika opredeleniya ...*, 1994); Cd, the conversion factor depending on the change in the degree of soil and land degradation (from 0 to 1); in the Bai-Taiginskii district the degree of soil degradation in agricultural land is 25.6%, i.e. the correction factor is 0.26; Ci is 1.0 (in this case, we consider agricultural land, i.e. other lands); Ai, annual income per unit area, rub/ha (Table 3), is 1431 rub/ha; Cr, the conversion factor depending on the period of land recovery on the example of the Bai-Taiginsky district, is 0.9 (1 year; Table 4). We make a calculation: damage (Bai-Taiginskii district) = 35.0 thou rubles \times 63630 ha \times 1.1 \times 0.25 \times 1.0 + 1.431 thou rubles \times 63630 ha \times 0.9 = 61243.8 thou rubles + 81949.0 thou rubles = 143192.8 thou rubles (Table 5).

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of calculations, the environmental damage to agricultural lands in the Central and Western agricultural zones of the Republic of Tyva is estimated at more than 3.5 bln rubles, which is 62.2% of the cadastral value of agricultural land. The greatest damage in percentage terms was revealed in the central agricultural regions: Tandinskii district (98.7%), Kyzylskii district (73.3%) and old agricultural Chaa-Kholskii district (73.2%). The greatest damage in monetary terms was observed in the Kyzylskii district (1.2 bln rubles), Tandinskii district (0.5 bln rubles) and Chaa-Kholskii district (0.5 bln rubles). The least damage both in percentage terms and in monetary terms is observed in the livestock-breeding Bai-Taiginskii district (16% and 0.1 bln rubles, respectively).

These cost losses must be taken into account to calculate the market value, which directly depends on the

cadastral value. Using this method, it is possible to calculate the damage for other categories of land by changing the correction factors.

Thus, the development of the agricultural sector of the republic requires not only capital investments in fixed assets of enterprises of the agro-industrial complex, which include buildings and structures, equipment, agricultural machinery, etc. We carried out preliminary assessments for some areas of the Central and Western agricultural zones of the republic; nevertheless, the results of the assessment show that it is necessary to further study the processes of degradation of agricultural lands in order to carry out scientifically based measures to improve their quality.

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COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS

Conflict of interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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