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**FUNCTIONING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL  
SCIENCES UNDER THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES UKRAINIAN SSR  
(1945-1956)**

*This work highlights the process of creation and functioning of the Department of Agricultural Sciences under the Academy of Sciences during 1945-1956. Undoubtedly, Department played a significant role in the postwar period of reconstruction and further development of agricultural science and education in Soviet Ukraine. The operation of Department of Agricultural Sciences of the Academy has contributed greatly to the rapid recovery and development of research scientific work. The article shows the main achievements and challenges in activity of the Department, the personal staff of leading agricultural scientists, reproduced the search for optimal forms of management of Agricultural Sciences in postwar period, which ultimately led to the creation of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences.*

**Keywords:** *Department of Agricultural Sciences, the Academy of Sciences, research scientific work, postwar period, agricultural science, Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences.*

**Presentation of the problem.** To date, it is important to highlight and analysis branch of the organizational processes that took place in the Soviet Ukraine, as well as their consequences. Exploring period 1946-1956 in life of country, it is worth noting the peculiarity and importance in the development of agricultural production and its scientific potential. Relevant questions are comprehensive study of the historical experience of the organization and activities of research institutions

functioning coordinating centers, government agricultural science, namely the Department of Agricultural Sciences under the Academy of Sciences.

**Review of recent papers.** Among the modern works, it is worth noting the fundamental monograph of academician V.A. Verhunov "Agricultural research in Ukraine right from the birth to the academic life: the organizational aspect" (K., 2012), which reveals the activity of the Department of Agricultural Sciences under the Academy of Sciences (further - Academy) of the USSR. According to the author, "the greatest organizational impact in life of agricultural science is played by "The Great "Academy during the 1945-1956. And that was natural, since all aspects of the country needed speedy interaction in the recovery of the economy after the Second World War" [2, p. 208-209]. In the article of A.S. Bilotserkyvs'ka "Features of scientific support of the agricultural sector USSR in the years 1946-1956" also reveals the process of searching for the best forms of coordination within the agricultural science as part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Academy of Sciences of the USSR [3]. However, in our opinion, in the article is not enough reflected the main achievements and personification of Agricultural Sciences. It should also be noted that some aspects of the problems highlighted in the collections of documents and materials "History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (1946-1950)" (2008), "Organization of scientific support of the agricultural sector USSR in the years 1946-1956" (2014) and archival sources on this subject [1, 4–6].

**The Goal of research.** The purpose of writing this publication is to highlight the establishment and operation of the Department of Agricultural Sciences under the Academy of Sciences in the first postwar decade (1946-1956).

**Presentation of basic material of the research.** In the postwar five years the Academy of Sciences entered with legally standardized organizational structure – systems of research institutions and supporting institutions, united in the Departments. By Statute of Academy (1945) in its structure confirmed four departments: social sciences, biological sciences, physicochemical and mathematical sciences, engineering sciences. For the first time a proposal to create a Department of Agricultural Sciences has been accepted by the Presidium of the USSR Academy of

Sciences on April 20, 1945. According to it established a special commission is comprised of : academician of USSR Academy of Sciences N. N. Grishko (Head) and members: academician A. I. Dushechkin, corresponding members of Academy of Sciences of the USSR V. F. Starchenko, P. A. Vlasyuk, P. S. Pogrebnyak, Y. V. Roll, M. I. Rubenchyk and professor O. P. Markevich. May 4, 1945 the Presidium of the USSR approved the Regulation on Agricultural Science Department under the Academy. At the next meeting of the Academy, which was held August 24, 1945, was finally approved decision on the organization of the Department. With the object of creation a single coordinating institutional body of agricultural science for comprehensive and complete solution of theoretical issues related to improving soil fertility, creating new, more productive crops, developing an effective system of power plants as well as to solve problems of agricultural machinery and tractor construction by Resolution of the CPC and the CC CP (b) of USSR on October, 20 1945 was adopted a final decision on the organization of the Department of Agricultural Sciences as a part of USSR Academy of Sciences [2]. Department united following research institutions: 1) Institute of Plant Physiology and Agricultural Chemistry (Director - Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences O.I. Dushechkin); 2) Institute of Genetics and Selection (Director - Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences V. Y. Yuryev); 3) Institute of entomology and plant pathology (Director - Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences V. P. Pospelov); 4) Institute of Forestry (Department of Lviv, liquidated in November 1948) (Director – Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences P. S. Pogrebnyak); 5) Botanic Gardens (from February 1949 - at the Department of Biological Sciences) (Director - Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences N. N. Grishko); 6) Laboratory of Soil Science (Director – Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences O. N. Sokolovsky); 7) Laboratory of Agricultural Engineering and problems of agricultural mechanics (Director - Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences A. A. Vasilenko). Two of these institutions (Institute of Genetics and Selection and Soil Science Laboratory) geographically located in Kharkiv, and others - in the city Kyiv. In fact, Department of Agricultural Sciences began its work in July 1946 under

the leadership of academician N. N. Grishko (1946-1948) and academician P. A. Vlasyuk (from December 1948). The Bureau of the Department also included such scientists as: A.I. Dushechkin, P.A. Vlasyuk, V.P. Pospelov, S.A. Sapyehin, V.F. Starchenko. These scientists have developed a structure and manning table of Department's institutions, outlined the scientific objectives of each institution and their organizational structure [3]. Furthermore, in accordance with the Resolution of the Presidium of the USSR from 5 October 1948 and CM USSR from 29 December 1948 to further develop areas of agro biological science at the Academy in the structure of the Department created permanent Commissions: Commission on Crop production and Commission on Livestock as Research Institutions. They were tasked with coordination of scientific and thematic plans of institutes and experimental stations, working in the field of plant breeding and livestock on the territory of the USSR. The work of these commissions contributed to a marked improvement in the quality of research [4]. Due to the need for deeper theoretical research on the development of agricultural machinery on the Orders of the CM USSR on 15 January 1950, Resolutions of the CM USSR from January 31, 1950 and the Presidium of the Academy USSR from February 10, 1950 Laboratory of Engineering and problems agricultural mechanics was reorganized into the Institute of Engineering and agricultural mechanics [1]. Consequently, the activities of the Department of Agricultural Sciences was not limited by creation of institutions in 1945, but continued to establish new.

However, some shortcomings were recorded in the functioning of the system of agricultural research institutions, owing to the lack of consistency in the development and implementation of thematic plans between research institutions of Ministry of Agriculture USSR, institutes and stations of republican subordination and agricultural research institutions of various departments [6].

At the beginning of the five-year plan 1946-1950 the question of Academy's staffing was still complicated. Given felt the effects of war - the loss of employees who were on the front and in the occupied territories during the war, some of the researchers were still in the ranks of the army. Poor logistics of Sciences in recovery

period also contributed to the replenishment of new and highly qualified young scientists. In early 1946 five-year plan of staff training through postgraduate school was approved, but on the way to its performance there were some difficulties. Therefore, the Academy appealed personally to M. S. Khrushchev, the head of the CCCP (b) U, CPC USSR, with proposals to rectify them. In order to replenish Academy graduate young scientists from all over Ukraine, not only from Kyiv, and in August 1947 began organizing counseling centers for degree seekers and approved the list of establishments of Academy in which they are formed. Academic Council of the Department of Agricultural Sciences on admission to thesis defense at the appropriate specialties was opened.

Party government Resolutions had certain influence on personnel changes of the Academy in this period (1948), by the decisions of which the managers of academic institutions and departments in biological and agricultural sciences were released. From the duties of Head of the Department of Agricultural Sciences was released academician N. N. Grishko. Then, before the election of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR, in order to strengthen the management of the Institute there were proposed changes in the Bureau's structure, Heads of departments and directors of institutions.

The newly created Department of Agricultural Sciences launched his scientific work on the study of fundamental problems of agrobiological science, particularly studied the questions, such as: supply of crops and their means of combating pests and diseases; creating new hybrid plants; increasing soil fertility and the development of new structures of agricultural machines. Institute of Genetics and Selection investigated the relationship between plants and the environment in development, distant hybridization of plants. Work was carried out to create new varieties of winter and spring wheat and other cereal crops. In particular, under the direction of academician V. Y. Yuriev created high-yielding wheat variety "Lyutestsens 266" and barley "Jubilee", L. Delone displayed a new variety of winter wheat "Harkivchanka." The new high corn hybrids received. It was made the investigation research on increasing yields of food crops on irrigated south land of Ukraine. The Institute of

Plant Physiology and Agricultural Chemistry studied physiological processes in crops, in particular, actively explored the question of plant nutrition. A system of power plants with the most rational use of organic fertilizers in grassland rotations depending on soil and climatic conditions, particularly in the forest area of the USSR, was developed under the leadership of academician P. A. Vlasyuk. Developed and offered by academician A. I. Dushechkin method of using Ukrainian phosphate with simultaneous application of organic and mineral fertilizers allowed to significantly increase the sugar content of beets. Institute of entomology and plant pathology conducted research of chemical and biological methods of pest control in agriculture. The proposed new method of creating temporary poisoning of plant gave positive results in beet weevil control; developed the methods of serological diagnosis and control of potato diseases.

To increase the protective properties and productivity of forest shelter belts and forest steppe and steppe zones of the USSR, Institute of Forestry, headed by academician P. S. Pogrebnyak conducted the development and proposed practical measures to create strips of forest areas for USSR climate. Laboratory of Soil Science of Ukraine performed Soil Research System. It conducted a detailed soil survey of several regions of Kharkiv, Poltava and Mykolaiv regions, and compiled soil maps of these regions for their further development and the most rational use. According to research led by academician O. N. Sokolovsky were proposed methods of chemical reclamation of salt licks and saline soils by gypsum in combination with agrotechnical measures of grassland farming systems; the method of salt soil during the construction of reservoirs, storage facilities and the roadway, which was widely used in the construction of irrigation systems. In 1948-1949 Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Mechanics was developed and began to be implemented in production technology for new construction material - modified heavy-duty cast iron, and production of details for tractor internal combustion engines and other agricultural machines. Towards the development of technology modified cast iron academicians A.O. Vasilenko and I.S. Grigoriev were awarded the Stalin's Prize in 1950 [1].

According to archival data, as of 1951 Department of the agricultural sciences included: 5 research institutes and laboratory of soil sciences, which employed 7 acting Members of the Academy of Sciences USSR, 7 corresponding Members, 5 doctors, 58 PhDs, 65 junior researchers without scientific degree and 92 persons scientific and support staff, namely: Academicians P. A. Vlasyuk (1905-1980), N. N. Grishko (1901–1964), O. I. Dushechkin (1874–1956.), B. L. Isachenko (1871–1948), N. N. Kuleshov (1890–1968), T. D. Lysenko (1898–1976), P. S. Pogrebnyak (1900–1976), I. M. Polyakov (1905–1976), V. P. Pospelov (1872–1949), A. O. Sapyehin (1883-1946), P. A. Sviridenko (1893-1971), O. N. Sokolovsky (1884–1959), V. Y. Yuriev (1879–1962) and Corresponding Members: M. O. Tyulenyev (1889–1969), V. F. Starchenko (1904–1948), P. A. Sviridenko (1893–1971), L. J. Rubenchyk (1896–1988) and others [5].

So, founded in 1945 Department of Agricultural Sciences, in connection with the transfer of agricultural research institutions from agencies of Academy of sciences USSR, was eliminated in 1956. At Ministry of Agriculture USSR remained Administration of Agricultural Sciences, but it is due to limited staff, could not exercise sufficient methodological guide of research and educational agricultural institutions, provide direct financing and supply, and control over their work. The requirement to improve the management of science, the further development of research led to the need of organization new managing and coordinating center in the field of agricultural science. This issue is beginning to be considered among the representatives of the government of USSR in late 1951, as evidenced by the treatment of D.S. Korotchenko, head of Ministry USSR, to J. V. Stalin, head of the Council of Ministers USSR, in reference to creation of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences in the USSR. [7]

According to the Resolution of Council of Ministers of USSR № 1566 of December 30, 1956 was established Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (UAAS) headed by Academician of the Academy of Sciences USSR P. A. Vlasyuk [4].

**Conclusions.** Summarizing the research of operation of the Department of Agricultural Sciences under the Academy of Sciences in 1946-1956, it should be noted the singularity of this period, which was in search of the best forms of management of Agricultural Sciences, and ultimately led to the creation of the Ukrainian Academy of Agriculture Sciences.

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