



Review of dissertation thesis

Doctoral candidate: **Sergey Yurik**
Topic of dissertation thesis: **Analysis of Czech agricultural exports
based on mirror statistics of Russian imports**
Reviewer: doc. Ing. Artan Qineti, PhD.

Foreign agrarian trade in general is a frequently debated issue in academic circles these days. An even more interesting question is the analysis of foreign agrarian trade in the context of the current global economy and also in relation to changes in the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU, anti-globalization tendencies in the world and the increase of protection measures in an attempt to prevent further liberalization of world trade. I highly appreciate the choice of the topic of the dissertation and consider it very important in connection with the ongoing processes in the globalized world economy and the agrifood sector of the Czech Republic. Dissertation thesis of Ing. Sergey Yurik on the topic " Analysis of Czech agricultural exports based on mirror statistics of Russian imports " is therefore relevant and can represent a contribution to the existing literature. The work is developed on 173 pages (259 with appendices) and is divided into 6 main chapters, including a list of used sources and an appendix.

In the first chapter the author presents motivation, objectives as well as description of research questions. The purpose of the study is to determine the possibilities of mirror statistics of Russian imports to analyze and identify problems of Czech agricultural exports to the Russian market, including unobserved by Czech national statistics. The dissertation thesis aims in solving the following research tasks:

- to study the problems of using mirror statistics to analyze foreign trade of goods, as well as specifically make sure of the admissibility of using mirror statistics of Russian APF-imports from the Czech Republic to analyze Czech APF-exports to Russia;
- to study the international methodology and practice of maintaining FTI statistics in order to identify new opportunities for using FT indices "value-quantity price" for an expanded

analysis of the dynamics and structure of foreign trade in goods of countries, as well as to propose a set of algorithms for calculating FTI using 1 IP – Intellectual Property; PGI – Protected geographical indications (see list of abbreviations) methods of aggregation and disaggregation by groups of selected goods (for subsequent analysis of statistics of Czech APF-exports to the Russian market);

– conduct an extended analysis of the supply of Czech APF goods to the Russian market with a selection of the list of main products, as well as groups of active goods and the three leading products;

– to study the dynamic characteristics of the growth of goods taking into account value, price and quantity indices, assess the state of trade and formulate recommendations on expanding the presence of Czech goods on the Russian APF market, surrounded by similar imported goods from other countries;

– to make an additional comparison of the mirror data of the natural deliveries of the Czech trade leader - beer, analyze possible causes of data inconsistencies (asymmetries) and develop practical recommendations on expanding trade for business, statistics and trade policy.

In the second chapter the author presents the literature review, where he brings various aspects of studies of mirror trade statistics that are considered from the point of view of a comparative analysis of the relevant data and the study of the factors of their asymmetry (data mismatch) and foreign trade indices as tools for analyzing the dynamics of indicators of foreign trade in goods. Here the reviewer starts losing the point as one gets the first literature review, materials and methods out of many. In fact the formal setting of the task is unconventional and confusing, makes the thesis in certain moments unreadable. Another issue is formal arrangement of subchapter (different fonts and formatting).

In the third part the author presents methodology providing information and methodological support for calculations and quantitative analysis, analytical insight on informational and methodological support of the analysis based on mirror statistics, methodological support of FT-indices calculations for quantitative analysis of research tasks, as well as modifications of methods for calculating FT-indices to analyze the dynamics and trends of trade or the assessment of the dynamics of the country's trade: calculation of the general FT-indices for the goods of the general sample using the A-method, and similar. This chapter interestingly also ends up in conclusions.

In the fourth part the author presents results regarding predefined research stages: . Proof of the acceptability of using Russian import statistics to analyze Czech APF export ,

benchmarking APF supplies to Russia and initial positioning of V4 countries after Russian counter-sanctions and trade decline, benchmarking related to overcoming the APF trade decline – Czech Republic surrounded by other V4-countries, Czech APF exports in the mirror of Russian statistics: top 3 leading goods and prospects for expanding trade.

In the fifth and sixth chapter author presents discussion resp. recommendation.

Based on the last two chapters I have two basic questions:

- We appreciate the study claims to be original. However the theoretical and methodological approach has not gone through a process of rigorous process of reviewing and there are several studies on similar problems regarding China trade with trade partners like Hong Kong etc. Did the author consider the comparison with similar cases? How can the results translate into serious considerations for policy making?
- Given the current situation, wouldn't it make sense to look for substitution of lost market than calculating hypothetical trade trends that nobody sees in the near future?

The presented dissertation is up-to-date, contains an extensive description of the current situation regarding the foreign trade of the Czech Republic (V4) with Russia, presented exhaustive factual material and offers some options for solving the optimal structure of the foreign agrarian trade of the Czech Republic (V4) with Russia. The analysis is quite original and tries to be innovative, even though this might not automatically mean it is accurate. The formal arrangement and discussion is often chaotic and often reduces the quality of the thesis which otherwise could have been very interesting and much appreciated. On the basis of the above facts, I **recommend** that the dissertation, upon meeting all required requirements and answering questions, be **accepted** for the final defense and **awarded** to Ing. Sergey Yurik academic title "Philosophiae Doctor - PhD."

Nitre, Feb. 8, 2023

doc. Ing. Artan Qineti, PhD.

