

In 1857, the German researcher Ernst Engel formulated and proved the thesis that, with the increase in incomes, falls the share of expenditures on food in them. After some time it was named after the author as the Engel's law. This seemingly simple dependence has serious consequences. One of them is moving along with the economic growth the means of production from agriculture related to food production to other sectors. This causes a total change in the social fabric, fewer and fewer people work in agriculture for other professions. However, one cannot forget that food is indispensable to man, which raises the question whether at a certain level of development the theorems contained in Engel's law may cease to be true and what real influence the changes in food consumption have for the agri-food sector. At the same time, as revenue grows, people start looking after not only what they eat, but also how they eat. At the moment when food is enough to satisfy hunger, they also pay attention to its quality or ease of preparation, therefore in the production of food the branches indirectly involved in the whole production process become more and more important. These are all branches of the national economy supplying production means and production services for agriculture and the food industry (supplying sphere). Agriculture surrounded by well-functioning agri-food processing as well as supplying sphere and service sectors can be called agribusiness.

The aim of the research project is therefore to answer the question, what is the relationship between changes in consumption and those that can be observed in the process of agricultural and agribusiness development. One of the important elements of the analysis will be the assessment of the strength of the relationship between the results of the share of agribusiness GVA in the national economy, on one side, and the results of the share of food expenditure in the population's income, on the other depending on the level of socio-economic development of the country. Whether stabilization is possible at a certain level of society, or even an increase in the share of food expenditure, remains a matter of debate. In the long run, at the same time it would mean an increase in the share of whole agribusiness in creating gross value added of the national economy. To determine the share of agribusiness in the national economy in terms of production potential, revenue and production results of agribusiness, as well as inter-branch flows, the input-output analysis will be used. At the same time, the path of changes in food intake will be tracked in these countries. An important element of the analysis will be the forecast of the development of the above-mentioned dependencies.

The research will be carried out due to the necessity of greater emphasis on the relationship between the transformation of the agribusiness structure and its share in the national economy with the consumer's behavior on the market of food products. This will allow to determine the place and role of the consumer in the food chain and in the development of agribusiness.