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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: REGULATION, STANDARDS AND BARRIERS

Abstract. This article presents a comprehensive comparative-legal analysis of the regulation of organic agriculture in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China within the context of global demand for sustainable production and environmentally safe food systems. The study focuses on a comparative analysis of legal norms governing the certification, standardization, and export of organic products in these countries, as well as identifying institutional and procedural barriers hindering effective bilateral trade. Particular attention is paid to identifying institutional and regulatory barriers impeding bilateral trade in organic products between the RK and China.

The authors examine the dynamics of the organic sector's development in Kazakhstan, including state support measures, legislative initiatives, and the growth of certified farming systems. It is revealed that while internal regulation is actively progressing, Kazakhstan faces challenges in adapting to international standards (Codex Alimentarius, IFOAM) and China's strict certification requirements (COPC). The analysis shows that despite advancements in legal framework development, Kazakhstan encounters obstacles, including the need to align with international standards and Chinese certification norms, which are often more rigorous.

China's legislation is analyzed as a highly standardized and digitized system ensuring strict control over the domestic market and import of organic products. Using a comparative approach, the study assesses the specifics of foreign economic operations, the impact of subsidies, the role of national standards, and institutional support. The conclusion formulates practical recommendations for harmonizing legal approaches and eliminating barriers to organic product trade between the two countries.

Keywords: export, import, agriculture, agricultural products, Kazakhstan, China, legal regulation, trade barriers, subsidies.

Introduction

Modern agriculture oriented toward production intensification largely relies on traditional methods that ensure high yields through the extensive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and intensive exploitation of land resources. Although such approaches have proven effective in increasing production volumes, they have

simultaneously led to a series of serious environmental consequences—soil degradation, water source pollution, biodiversity loss, and depletion of natural capital.

In the context of intensifying climatic challenges and growing pressure on global food systems, there is an objective necessity to transition to sustainable forms of agricultural production. In this context, or-

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ganic agriculture is regarded as one of the most promising models that promote ecological well-being, rational resource use, and ensure long-term productivity without harm to the environment. Organic farming is oriented toward restoring the natural balance, rejecting synthetic chemicals, maintaining soil fertility, and ensuring a high degree of product traceability.

Thus, research on the legal, institutional, and trade mechanisms regulating organic agriculture acquires not only academic but also practical significance, particularly in the context of deepening international cooperation and transboundary circulation of environmentally friendly products.

As of today, 303,381 hectares of land resources are allocated to organic agriculture in Kazakhstan. The organic sector produces over 25 types of agricultural crops, with 19 enterprises engaged in processing certified organic products. The total output of organic products amounts to 302,844 tons, including:

Cereals: 161,447 tons

Oilseeds: 84,872 tons

Pulses: 47,845 tons

Fodder crops and medicinal herbs: 8,700 tons and 300 tons, respectively [1, c. 74].

According to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, more than 38 certified organic farms are currently operating in the country. The state actively supports the development of the organic sector through the implementation of special legislation, standards, certification mechanisms, and subsidization. The growing interest among farmers indicates a slow but steady transition to organic production as an integral part of agricultural greening [2].

A brief review of existing research shows that current scientific literature is dominated by fragmented studies focusing on isolated aspects of the organic sector's development, its principles, and influencing factors. At the same time, processes of regionalization of the world economy are intensifying, manifested in territorial integration of states through economic cooperation and institutional convergence [3]. In this regard, research on the legal regulation of organic agriculture within the framework

of bilateral relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China has acquired particular relevance.

In recent years, trade between the two countries has shown a positive trend, particularly in the agro-industrial products sector. According to the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2023, the export of agricultural products to China increased by 25% compared to the previous year, reaching \$1.2 billion. This growth is largely attributed to the high demand for environmentally friendly products among Chinese consumers and the geographical proximity of the countries, which creates favorable conditions for expanding trade cooperation in the organic products segment¹.

The People's Republic of China, previously regarded as a peripheral participant in the organic sector, has achieved significant advancements over the past two decades, transforming into one of the global leaders. This transformation has been made possible by strategic structural reforms, a commitment to environmentally responsible forms of agricultural production, and active state policy. One of the key drivers of this progress is society's recognition of the importance of food security and national health, which is accompanied by a sustained demand for pesticide- and synthetic fertilizer-free products.

State support for organic agriculture in China is at a high level. As noted by Yuwen Yang, the policy to support organic farming is directed, inter alia, toward developing poor rural areas, preserving biodiversity, combating poverty, and transforming natural resources into economic assets: "green mountains are turned into golden mountains." Organic agriculture in China is viewed as a means to build a "Community of Shared Life between Humanity and Nature" [4].

China's legal framework embodies one of the most systematic and centralized approaches to regulating organic production globally. Organic agriculture is integrated into the "ecological civilization" (生态文明) strategy, enshrined in the Communist Party of China's policy documents since 2012. This approach underscores sustainable development, environmental

¹ Комитет по статистике Министерства национальной экономики Республики Казахстан. Внешняя торговля аграрной продукцией с КНР за 2023 год // URL: <https://stat.gov.kz/> (дата обращения: 15.03.2025).

protection, and rational resource use as fundamental principles for modernizing the agro-industrial complex [5; 6].

In practice, this is reflected in a significant expansion of organic land areas, which currently amount to approximately 2.3 million hectares, placing China among the largest producers of organic products. According to the latest report by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), China's organic market has demonstrated stable double-digit annual growth, indicating increasing interest in environmentally safe agricultural production from both consumers and the state².

In particular, China demonstrates strengthened state control and strategic planning within the framework of national food security and sustainable development programs. At the same time, legislation in the field of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan is in an active formation stage, striving for integration with international standards and adaptation to national conditions. These characteristics underscore the need for further research aimed at comparing and harmonizing approaches to regulating organic agricultural production, particularly from the perspective of international trade and sustainable development.

The objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the legal regulation of organic agricultural production in China and Kazakhstan, identifying similarities, differences, and the potential for legal harmonization. Existing legal barriers and differences in regulatory approaches hinder the trade process, reducing its efficiency. Particular attention is paid to the prospects of adapting Kazakhstan's legislation to international and regional standards, as well as the possibilities of applying China's experience in the Central Asian context.

Methods and materials

This study is based on a comprehensive methodological approach that incorporates both general scientific and specialized legal methods. First and foremost, a systematic analysis was conducted of the regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China in the field of organic agriculture,

as well as documents of international organizations governing organic production standards.

The comparative legal method was applied, enabling the identification of similarities and differences in legal regulation, institutional approaches, and certification procedures in China and Kazakhstan, including their interaction with international standards (Codex Alimentarius, IFOAM, COPC, EU Organic Regulation, etc.).

In addition, the study employed a formal-legal method to analyze legal definitions, categories, and regulatory mechanisms for organic products at different levels.

The empirical basis consists of official statistical and analytical materials:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM),
- The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
- The Central Government of the People's Republic of China, and specialized certification authorities.

The theoretical foundation is constituted by the works of domestic and foreign scholars addressing issues of agricultural and environmental law, sustainable development, international trade, transboundary certification, and harmonization of national standards.

The chosen methodological toolkit enabled a comprehensive analysis of the legal regulation of organic agriculture and the development of well-founded proposals for aligning the legal regimes of Kazakhstan and China in this field.

In the course of preparing this article, language support technologies based on artificial intelligence (AI) were used to assist with the translation of selected legal and academic sources, as well as to enhance the structuring of analytical sections. The AI tools served as auxiliary instruments and did not replace the author's critical evaluation, legal reasoning, or interpretation of the materials. All final conclusions and assessments were made by the author independently, in accordance with academic standards. In the course of preparing this article, language support technologies based on artificial intelligence (AI)

² Organic Farming in China: State Policy and Market Growth. // URL: <https://www.biovie.fr/en/blog/organic-farming-in-china-n743> (date of reference: 14.02.2025).

were used to assist with the translation of selected legal and academic sources, as well as to enhance the structuring of analytical sections. The AI tools served as auxiliary instruments and did not replace the author's critical evaluation, legal reasoning, or interpretation of the materials. All final conclusions and assessments were made by the author independently, in accordance with academic standards.

Results and Discussion

Despite its origins dating back to the 1990s [7], organic agriculture remains a critical innovative direction in the agricultural sector, integrating the latest scientific and technological advancements [8]. This approach prioritizes the preservation of ecological balance and minimizes the negative environmental impacts of agricultural activities through the use of organic resources and sustainable production methods [9].

Organic agriculture reinforces effective practices for minimizing environmental impact within the framework of sustainable development. Global agriculture increasingly embraces sustainability concepts [10], with organic farming recognized as one of the most sustainable and adaptive forms of agricultural production in the primary sector [11, 12]. It is oriented toward using natural farming methods and excluding pesticides and chemical fertilizers, thereby supporting soil health and preserving biodiversity [13].

Against the backdrop of growing international interest in sustainable farming and the need to adapt to global environmental challenges, individual states are integrating organic agriculture principles into their national development strategies. The Republic of Kazakhstan exemplifies this trend, where systematic efforts are underway at the state level to establish the regulatory and institutional foundations for the organic sector.

The key regulatory act is the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Organic Production", which introduced basic definitions, principles, and requirements for organic production, including mandatory certification, labeling requirements, and the creation of a registry of organic producers³. The law was designed to align with international approaches, particularly the standards of the Codex Alimentarius and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). However, in 2024, an updated Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 10, 2024, No. 89-VIII "On the Production and Circulation of Organic Products"⁴ (hereinafter referred to as the Law) entered into force to modernize and expand regulation. It clarified the legal status of sector participants, the list of certifying bodies, and provisions on product control, monitoring, and traceability. Additionally, other documents were approved, such as:

- Rules for the Production and Circulation of Organic Products⁵ (Order of the Minister of Agriculture of the RK dated November 26, 2024, No. 385);

- List of Permitted Tools Used in Organic Production⁶ (Order of the Acting Minister of Agriculture of the RK dated August 22, 2024, No. 286).

Despite the establishment of a basic regulatory framework for organic agriculture development in Kazakhstan, legal regulation still contains a number of significant systemic, institutional, and procedural problems that hinder the sustainable development of the organic sector and its integration into international trade.

While this Law has laid a regulatory foundation, its practical implementation reveals a deficit of subordinate acts and instructional methodologies to ensure the enforcement of key norms. For instance, the following remain unapproved:

- Standardized forms of organic farm oversight;

³ Закон Республики Казахстан от 27 ноября 2015 года № 423-V ЗРК «О производстве органической продукции» // URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z1500000423_ (дата обращения: 17.02.2025).

⁴ Закон Республики Казахстан от 10 июня 2024 года № 89-VIII «О производстве и обороте органической продукции» // URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z2400000089_ (дата обращения: 17.02.2025).

⁵ Приказ Министра сельского хозяйства РК от 26 ноября 2024 года № 385 Правила производства и оборота органической продукции // URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V2400035431_ (дата обращения: 17.02.2025).

⁶ Приказ исполняющего обязанности Министра сельского хозяйства РК от 22 августа 2024 года № 286 Список разрешенных средств, применяемых при производстве органической продукции // URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V2300032869_ (дата обращения: 17.02.2025).

- Procedures for the state registration of foreign certification bodies;
- Inspection audit algorithms for organic product exports.

Moreover, some provisions of the law are declaratory in nature and lack specific enforcement mechanisms. While the law provides for subsidizing part of the costs in accordance with Article 8 of the Law and Article 11, paragraph 6, of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 8, 2005, No. 66-III “On State Regulation of the Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex and Rural Areas” (as amended and supplemented as of March 30, 2025)⁷, broader support measures such as tax incentives or producer training programs are absent.

The law does not fully account for international standards such as the EU Organic Regulation or USDA NOP, which may hinder the export of organic products from Kazakhstan. Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the law stipulates those international treaties ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan shall take precedence over national legislation in case of conflicts⁸. This means that in the presence of international agreements in the field of organic production, their provisions shall have preferential force. In addition, the law provides for the establishment and operation of a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) based on the principles of voluntary participation, internal control, and collective responsibility for product quality, with a view to conforming to international practices and standards in the field of organic production.

Thus, despite the aspiration to align with international practices, the law does not contain direct references to specific international standards such as the EU Organic Regulation or USDA NOP⁹. This may

pose certain challenges for Kazakhstani producers when exporting organic products to international markets that require compliance with these standards.

Additionally, the absence of a mechanism for mutual recognition of certification with other countries may limit the opportunities of Kazakhstani producers in international trade of organic products.

Addressing this issue is critical, as mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) for organic certification and equivalence agreements for standards are key instruments for promoting organic products on international markets¹⁰. These agreements enable countries to:

- recognize organic certificates issued by each other;
- avoid double certification and laboratory testing;
- reduce costs and simplify export procedures.

Currently, Kazakhstan is not a party to mutual recognition agreements for organic certification, which limits market access for its products in highly regulated markets, particularly in China, the EU, and Japan. Concluding such agreements represents a key step toward enhancing export potential.

Regarding China’s agricultural legal framework, several regulatory acts provide an overview of the country’s agricultural policy structure and priorities, including a focus on food security, sustainable development, environmental protection, and product quality control. Notably, these include the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Agriculture¹¹, the Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China¹², the Product Quality Law of the People’s Republic of China¹³, and national stan-

⁷ Закон Республики Казахстан от 8 июля 2005 года № 66-III «О государственном регулировании развития агропромышленного комплекса и сельских территорий» (с изменениями и дополнениями по состоянию на 30.03.2025 г.). // URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z050000066_ (дата обращения: 17.02.2025).

⁸ Закон Республики Казахстан от 27 ноября 2015 года № 423-V ЗПК «О производстве органической продукции» // URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z1500000423_ (дата обращения: 17.02.2025).

⁹ Регламент Европейского союза по органическому производству (EU Organic Regulation). // URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu> (дата обращения: 18.02.2025).

¹⁰ USDA National Organic Program (NOP). // URL: <https://www.ams.usda.gov> (date of reference: 18.02.2025).

¹¹ Law of the People’s Republic of China on Agriculture. // URL: http://www.npc.gov.cn/zgrdw/englishnpc/Law/2007-12/13/content_1384094.htm (date of reference: 19.02.2025).

¹² Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China. // URL: https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2019-05/01/content_37412345.htm (date of reference: 19.02.2025).

¹³ Product Quality Law of the People’s Republic of China. // URL: http://www.npc.gov.cn/zgrdw/englishnpc/Law/2007-12/12/content_1383923.htm (date of reference: 19.03.2025).

dards governing organic farming (e.g., GB/T 19630-2019)¹⁴, which codify requirements for organic product production, certification, labeling, and traceability.

Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China (2015 Edition, amended 2018 and 2021).

This law serves as the foundational document for regulating all food products in China, including organic goods. It defines concepts such as "safe food," "prohibited substances," and "national standards," and mandates product origin traceability. It establishes a multi-tiered quality control system, including on-site inspections, laboratory analysis, and monitoring of production conditions. The law strengthens the legal basis for the organic sector by introducing an additional layer of oversight for producers. For exports to China, foreign certifications do not exempt compliance with this law's procedures. Labeling violations or lack of origin information may result in import bans and market recalls.

- Product Quality Law of the PRC (2021 Edition)

This law regulates the compliance of all product categories—including agricultural and food products—with mandatory quality and safety standards. It imposes strict liability for adherence to national standards (GB standards) and outlines administrative penalties for substandard products, including license revocation and fines. It also defines the role of state inspection authorities such as AQSIQ (now part of SAMR, the State Administration for Market Regulation). Organic products are classified as a high-sensitivity category subject to stricter control, requiring compliance not only with COPC (China Organic Product Certification) standards but also the general quality requirements stipulated in this law.

- National Standard GB/T 19630-2019 Organic Farming

Developed and approved by China's National Standardization Committee, this standard is mandatory for producers seeking COPC certification. Its key features

include:

- A minimum transition period of 2 years for field crops and 3 years for perennial plantings.
- The use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), chemical fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, and antibiotics is prohibited.
- The principle of spatial isolation is applied: organic fields must be separated from conventional crops.
- Strict requirements for feed and veterinary practices in animal husbandry (only natural feeding and disease prevention without antibiotics are permitted).

The document's primary advantages include its alignment with the core principles of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) and Codex Alimentarius, ensuring high levels of environmental and consumer safety, and serving as a model for certification systems in other Asian countries. However, for foreign exporters, challenges persist due to the absence of a mutual recognition mechanism with other nations, and certification under GB/T 19630-2019 requires re-auditing by Chinese authorities, including on-site farm inspections.

Another key document is the Regulations on Certification of Organic Products (2020)¹⁵, which establishes procedures and mandates for China Organic Product Certification (COPC)¹⁶. It designates the authority of accrediting bodies (CNCA, SAMR)¹⁷ and imposes penalties for non-compliance (fines, certificate revocation, disqualification of certification bodies).

The most significant barrier is the lack of mutual recognition of national organic product certifications. China requires mandatory certification under its COPC system, based on GB/T 19630-2019, regardless of existing international or national certifications (e.g., EU Organic, USDA, Kazakhstan's "Organic"). As noted by Wang & Zhang, a key distinction is that COPC requires continuous compliance verification at all stages—from planting materials to labeling. Additionally, China enforces spatial

¹⁴ GB/T 19630-2019. Organic products — Requirements for production, processing, labeling and management system. // URL: <https://www.sac.gov.cn> (or <https://openstd.samr.gov.cn>) (date of reference: 19.05.2025).

¹⁵ Regulations on Certification of Organic Products. 2020. 国家市场监督管理总局 (SAMR). // URL: http://www.cnca.gov.cn/xxgk/ggxx/202009/t20200918_59957.html (date of reference: 19.05.2025).

¹⁶ CNCA — Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China. // URL: <http://www.cnca.gov.cn> (date of reference: 19.05.2025).

¹⁷ SAMR — State Administration for Market Regulation of the People's Republic of China. // URL: <https://www.samr.gov.cn> (date of reference: 19.05.2025).

isolation between organic and non-organic plots and demands full supply chain transparency [14].

Zhou et al. emphasize that China's strict standards reflect both a desire to protect its domestic market and a strategy to enhance consumer trust in organic products amid high counterfeiting rates (up to 30%, per CNCA 2020 data) [15]. Chinese regulators are reluctant to recognize foreign certifications without full re-auditing.

According to Kazakh exporters, processing an organic export shipment to China takes 10–15 working days, including sanitary, phytosanitary, certification, and laboratory controls on the Chinese side—significantly longer than export timelines to Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) or EU countries. Li highlights that China strengthened sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) controls after import quality scandals, noting that while customs digitization is underway, electronic certificates remain unintegrated into the export chain for most Central Asian countries [16]. Organic products face stricter checks than conventional goods: laboratory sampling alone takes at least three days, and protocols require translation and notarization.

Obtaining COPC certification and complying with GB/T 19630-2019 entails significant costs: \$5,000–\$10,000 per enterprise, excluding annual inspection audits and laboratory tests. These expenses are not subsidized by the Kazakh government. Liu & Chen observe that Chinese domestic producers receive central and provincial budget subsidies for certification, while foreign exporters must bear all costs independently [17]. This market access disparity disproportionately affects Kazakhstan's small and medium organic farms, which face financial disincentives to enter the Chinese market without institutional support.

Surveys of Kazakh agri-producers reveal widespread ignorance of Chinese market regulatory requirements, including lists of permitted substances, document submission procedures, accredited laboratories, and labeling specifics. Sun et al.'s cross-border trade study notes that access to certification information in China is hindered by linguistic and administrative barriers, with regulations predominantly available only in Chinese. The absence of English and Russian documentation

reduces foreign farmers' readiness to engage with the market [18].

In summary, the People's Republic of China has demonstrated remarkable progress in organic agriculture, showcasing significant adaptation to international standards in both product quality and safety. The implementation of technological innovations, active government support, and collaboration with authoritative certification bodies—including Ecocert—have established China as a reliable and influential participant in the global organic market. The certification system, which ensures transparent product traceability, and the successful practices of local producers vividly confirm the country's consistent agricultural policy orientation and commitment to ethical farming methods.

As observed, the legal frameworks of Kazakhstan and China exhibit substantial differences in regulating agricultural trade. China imposes stringent requirements on the safety and quality of agricultural products and actively employs non-tariff regulatory measures, such as mandatory HACCP certification and environmental compliance checks for products. Moreover, significant emphasis on customs procedures complicates efficient exports from Kazakhstan.

Contemporary research in international agricultural and trade law underscores that legal fragmentation among states remains a key barrier to the sustainable development of organic product trade [19]. These barriers manifest in divergent approaches to certification, labeling, technical regulations, and customs clearance procedures.

International trade in organic products is governed not only by national and bilateral legal regimes but also by the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Of particular relevance in this context is the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), which grants states the right to set their own standards for food safety and the protection of animal and plant health, provided that such measures are based on scientific evidence and are applied in a non-discriminatory manner. As noted by Gabrielle Marceau and Joel Trachtman, the SPS Agreement and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) establish key requirements for import regulation, including the need for risk assessments,

harmonization with international standards, and the principles of equivalence and mutual recognition of protective measures [20]. These principles directly affect the regulatory mechanisms governing the export and import of organic agricultural products. According to FAO reports, many developing countries face difficulties in complying with SPS/TBT requirements due to technical and financial limitations, which directly impacts their ability to access international markets. This challenge is also relevant for Kazakhstan, where the mechanism for aligning with international phytosanitary standards in the field of organic agriculture still requires further institutional and regulatory support. As Henson and Loader emphasize, “developing countries often lack the technical capacity to comply with SPS measures, which places them at a disadvantage in global food markets, especially for niche products like organics [21].” This observation remains highly relevant for countries with transitional economies, such as Kazakhstan, which continue to experience challenges in aligning their regulatory infrastructure with international phytosanitary and food safety standards.

K. Asanov's work highlights that the absence of unified quality standards for agricultural products within the Eurasian Economic Union and in relations with China leads to repeated testing, redundant certification, and increased transaction costs. He emphasizes the need to develop an integrated technical regulation platform analogous to the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) operational in the EU and ASEAN [22].

Chinese scholar H. Li explores the role of digitization and intelligent solutions in accelerating cross-border logistics and customs clearance, particularly focusing on the application of blockchain platforms in organic trade (e.g., Alibaba Blockchain Traceability Platform) and the potential synchronization of these systems with international traceability standards [23]. His conclusions align with recommendations from the FAO and WTO, which emphasize that introducing electronic origin certificates and integrating sanitary and phytosanitary controls into digital environments could reduce export processing times by 30–40%.

Drawing on Professor Steven R. Jones's theory of cross-border institutional cooperation, successful cross-border trade

requires not only tariff reduction but also institutional alignment of norms, procedures, and standards. Jones identifies three critical conditions:

- mutual recognition of conformity assessments;
- establishment of bilateral dispute resolution mechanisms based on international law;
- harmonization of legal practices through participation in multilateral agreements (e.g., WTO SPS Agreement) [24].

In the context of Kazakhstan-China relations, Jones' theory posits the necessity of concluding a bilateral organic certification equivalence agreement, akin to those signed by the EU with Japan and Switzerland. Such an agreement would eliminate duplicative procedures and facilitate market access for Kazakhstani organic products to China.

Conclusion

The results of the analysis show that harmonizing organic agriculture standards plays a decisive role in international trade. Researchers note that the absence of unified international standards leads to fragmentation of regulatory governance, which limits the export capabilities of producers. Additionally, law enforcement practice reveals the need to strengthen state control over the certification process, which is particularly relevant for developing countries.

Thus, drawing conclusions, it can be noted that the legal regulation of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan remains in a formative stage, while in China it is integrated into national strategies for sustainable development. The Republic of Kazakhstan has established a basis for regulatory governance through relevant laws; however, in practice, there is observed fragmentation in implementation and limited institutional support from the state. This reduces the effectiveness of legislation and hinders the growth of the sector.

It is necessary to note the absence of harmonized international standards. In the field of organic agriculture, the absence of harmonized international standards remains a significant barrier to the development of cross-border trade in organic products. Each country employs its own certification criteria, leading to duplicated procedures, increased transaction costs, and reduced competitiveness of producers. Addressing

this issue is possible through active participation of countries in international initiatives (e.g., IFOAM, Codex Alimentarius) and the harmonization of standards at the level of regional integration associations, including the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Mechanisms for law enforcement and certification require strengthening of institutional infrastructure.

In this regard, a necessary step is the establishment of a transparent, digitized, and independent system for monitoring and certifying organic products, involving accredited private and state centers. It is crucial to ensure open access to registers of certified producers, thereby enhancing consumer trust and the confidence of foreign partners.

Moreover, the financial and economic support mechanisms in Kazakhstan are insufficiently developed,

Which limits farmers' engagement in organic production. Measures are needed to implement a flexible system of subsidies, tax preferences, access to preferential lending, and reimbursement of certification costs. The example of China shows that systematic support, including at the regional level, contributes to the accelerated growth of the organic sector.

The integration of organic agriculture into agricultural policy requires a cross-sectoral approach. This involves coordination among the ministries of agriculture, environment, trade, and education. Support for scientific research, personnel training, and information provision should become integral components of national agroecological policy.

It is recommended to develop a "roadmap" for the development of organic agriculture by 2030, including legal reforms, incentive mechanisms, targets for expanding cultivated areas and exports. Such a program could be integrated into Kazakhstan's food security strategy and "Green Economy" and supported by in-

ternational organizations (FAO, UNEP, UNDP).

The study confirmed that removing legal barriers and harmonizing standards between Kazakhstan and China are key factors for increasing trade volumes. The recommendations proposed in this article can be used to develop national strategies and bilateral agreements that promote the growth of agricultural trade. Both theoretical and empirical findings herein confirm that successful organic product trade is impossible without institutional convergence of legal norms. Harmonization must address not only technical standards but also certification procedures, traceability, and dispute resolution.

The legal regulation of organic agricultural products continues to evolve, adapting to new challenges of the global food market. However, unresolved issues persist, including the incompatibility of national standards, the absence of effective certification mechanisms, and the lack of economic incentives for producers. For the further development of organic agriculture, it is necessary to improve international legal norms, standardize criteria, and strengthen state support for producers. In the context of deepening regional cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, it is advisable to initiate:

- signing a Memorandum on Mutual Recognition of Organic Certification;
- establishing a joint digital platform for exchanging certificates and product origin data;
- aligning national regulatory acts with the equivalence of GB/T 19630–2019 and IFOAM standards.

Future research in this field may be directed toward assessing the effectiveness of law enforcement practices in various countries and developing recommendations for harmonizing the regulatory framework of organic agriculture.

Contributions of the authors

Wang Dalin – data collection, research conduct, structural outline development and article writing.

Nyissanbekova L.B. – objective and task formulation, content analysis of the article, text structuring, text evaluation, methodological analysis, approval of the final version of the article for publication, and compliance checking with technical standards.

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ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ МЕН ҚЫТАЙ ХАЛЫҚ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ ҚҰҚЫҚТЫҚ КЕҢІСТІГІНДЕГІ ОРГАНИКАЛЫҚ АУЫЛ ШАРУАШЫЛЫҒЫ: РЕТТЕУ, СТАНДАРТТАР ЖӘНЕ КЕДЕРГІЛЕР

Аннотация. Мақала Қазақстан Республикасы мен Қытай Халық Республикасында органикалық ауыл шаруашылығын құқықтық реттеуді жан-жақты салыстырмалы-құқықтық талдауға арналған. Зерттеу қазіргі таңда тұрақты агроөндіріс пен экологиялық қауіпсіз азық-түлік жүйелеріне жаһандық сұраныстың артуы жағдайында жүргізіліп отыр. Негізгі назар екі елде органикалық өнімді сертификаттау, стандарттау және экспорттау салаларын реттейтін құқықтық нормаларды салыстырмалы талдауға, сондай-ақ екіжақты сауданың тиімділігіне кедергі келтіретін институционалдық және рәсімдік тосқауылдарды анықтауға аударылады.

Авторлар Қазақстандағы органикалық сектордың қалыптасу динамикасын, мемлекеттік қолдау шараларын, қабылданған заңнамалық және нормативтік актілерді, сондай-ақ сертификатталған шаруашылықтардың өсу қарқынын қарастырады. Ішкі құқықтық реттеудің белсенді дамуына қарамастан, Қазақстан Codex Alimentarius, IFOAM сияқты халықаралық стандарттарға және Қытайдың қатаң сертификаттау талаптарына (COPC) бейімделуге қатысты бірқатар мәселелерге тап болып отыр. Құқықтық базаны қалыптастырудағы ілгерілеушілікке қарамастан, Қазақстан халықаралық стандарттарға және жиі неғұрлым қатаң болып келетін Қытайдың сертификаттау талаптарына бейімделу қажеттігін қоса алғанда, бірқатар қиындықтарға тап болып отырғаны көрсетілді.

Сонымен қатар, Қытай заңнамасы ішкі нарықты және органикалық өнімдердің импортын тиімді реттеуге мүмкіндік беретін жоғары деңгейде стандартталған әрі цифрландырылған жүйе ретінде сипатталады. Салыстырмалы тәсіл арқылы экспорт-импорт операцияларының ерекшеліктері, құқықтық база және мемлекеттік субсидиялардың саудаға әсері талданады. Екі ел арасындағы тауар айналымы бойынша өзекті деректер қарастырылады, негізгі құқықтық кедергілер айқындалып,

оларды барынша азайту бойынша ұсыныстар ұсынылады.

Түйінді сөздер: экспорт, импорт, ауыл шаруашылығы, ауыл шаруашылығы өнімдері, Қазақстан, Қытай, құқықтық реттеулер, сауда кедергілері, субсидия.

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ОРГАНИЧЕСКОЕ СЕЛЬСКОЕ ХОЗЯЙСТВО В ПРАВОВОМ ПОЛЕ РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН И КИТАЙСКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ: РЕГУЛИРОВАНИЕ, СТАНДАРТЫ И БАРЬЕРЫ

Аннотация. Статья посвящена всестороннему сравнительно-правовому анализу регулирования органического сельского хозяйства в Республике Казахстан и Китайской Народной Республике в контексте глобального спроса на устойчивое производство и экологически безопасные продовольственные системы. В центре внимания — сравнительный анализ правовых норм, регулирующих сертификацию, стандартизацию и экспорт органической продукции в указанных странах, а также выявление институциональных и процедурных барьеров, препятствующих эффективной двусторонней торговле. Особое внимание уделено выявлению институциональных и нормативных барьеров, препятствующих эффективной двусторонней торговле между РК и КНР. Авторы рассматривают динамику становления органического сектора в Казахстане, меры государственной поддержки, законодательные инициативы и развитие системы сертифицированных хозяйств. Выявлено, что при активном развитии внутреннего регулирования, Казахстану предстоит решить ряд задач, связанных с адаптацией к международным стандартам (Codex Alimentarius, IFOAM) и строгим требованиям китайской сертификации (COPC). Показано, что несмотря на прогресс в формировании правовой базы, Казахстан сталкивается с рядом вызовов, включая необходимость адаптации к международным стандартам и китайским требованиям сертификации, которые часто являются более жесткими.

Законодательство КНР анализируется как высокостандартизированная и цифровизированная система, обеспечивающая жесткий контроль за внутренним рынком и импортом органической продукции. На основе сравнительного подхода проанализированы особенности внешнеэкономических операций, влияние субсидий, роль национальных стандартов и институциональной поддержки. В заключение сформулированы практические рекомендации по гармонизации правовых подходов и устранению барьеров в торговле органической продукцией между двумя странами.

Ключевые слова: экспорт, импорт, сельское хозяйство, сельскохозяйственная продукция, Казахстан, Китай, правовое регулирование, торговые барьеры, субсидия.

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