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The Role of International Financial Organizations in Supporting Ukraine’s Agricultural Sector During the War

Lytvyn, Inna
Kyiv University of Intellectual Property and Law
(Ukraine)

The war unleashed by Russia against Ukraine has created unprecedented challenges for the agricultural sector—a key branch of the economy that ensures the country’s food security and generates a significant share of foreign currency revenues. The destruction of logistics routes, occupation of territories, mining of fields, shortage of financial resources, and declining solvency of farmers have threatened the stability of production. Under these conditions, the role of international financial organizations (IFIs) such as the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has become especially important, as they have become key donors and coordinators of support for Ukraine’s agricultural sector.

The aim of this paper is to highlight the support mechanisms used by IFIs, analyze the results of their activities in 2022–2024, and outline prospects for further cooperation.

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The World Bank was among the first organizations to respond promptly to the crisis. Within the framework of the Ukraine Agriculture Recovery Inclusive Support Emergency (ARISE) program, financing was provided to stabilize production, support farmers through credit mechanisms, and subsidize seeds and fertilizers. Thanks to the ARISE project, more than 10.6 million hectares of crops were preserved and thousands of small and medium-sized farmers received assistance. This program had a systemic character, aimed not only at emergency support but also at restoring agricultural production in the medium term.

The EBRD has played an equally important role, actively applying its trade and financial instruments. Through the Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP), the bank ensured uninterrupted imports of seeds, fertilizers, fuel, and equipment. In addition, the EBRD opened credit lines for Ukrainian banks, which helped support enterprise liquidity and maintain agricultural exports even during wartime. In 2024, the EBRD reached a record level of project financing in Ukraine, reaffirming its confidence in the Ukrainian agricultural sector as a resilient investment partner.

Meanwhile, FAO has focused on the humanitarian and technical aspects of assistance. The organization is implementing the Emergency and Resilience Plan, aimed at providing rural households with seeds, feed, agricultural kits, and advisory support. In 2023–2024, FAO supported hundreds of thousands of families, contributing to the restoration of their livelihoods and reducing the risk of a food crisis (tbl 1)

Table 1. Instruments and Results of IFI Support for Ukraine's Agricultural Sector (2022–2024)

Organization	Main Instruments	Key Results	Main Beneficiaries
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World Bank	IBRD loans, grants, subsidies. ARISE program	More than 10.6 million hectares of crops supported; assistance to small and medium producers	Farming households. cooperatives
EBRD	Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP), loans, guarantees	Supported import of seeds. fertilizers, machinery; increased financing in 2024	Exporters. processing enterprises
FAO	Humanitarian aid, technical support, Emergency Plan	Seeds, feed, consultations provided to hundreds of thousands of households	Family farms, internally displaced persons

The data presented indicate that the activities of IFIs are complementary. The World Bank focuses on macro-financial stabilization and long-term investment programs, the EBRD ensures liquidity and trade support, while FAO provides direct humanitarian and technical assistance.

The research results show that the combination of financial, technical, and humanitarian tools creates a powerful synergistic effect. Thanks to the joint efforts of international institutions, the production potential of the agricultural sector has been preserved and the basic level of food security has been ensured. However, a number of challenges remain: a

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lack of rapid grant programs, logistical difficulties, and the need for more transparent mechanisms for fund allocation.

Further development of cooperation requires coordinated actions between international organizations and state institutions. It would be advisable to establish a unified coordination center between the World Bank, EBRD, FAO, and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine to harmonize funding priorities and avoid duplication of programs. It is also necessary to expand grant support for small farmers and continue developing trade guarantees for exporters.

Thus, international financial organizations play a strategic role in preserving and restoring Ukraine's agricultural potential during the war. Their activities not only ensure short-term financial stabilization but also create prerequisites for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in the post-war period.

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