



## HAFL Master's Thesis Abstract

*Year:* 2020

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*English Title:* **Sustainable Development of Small Farms in Ukraine: Challenges and Approaches**

*English Summary:* Small farms play a crucial role in global food security, national economic growth, as well as local communities' well-being. At the same time, they are classified as the most vulnerable stakeholder group in agriculture, which hardly resists economic crisis and climate change consequences. Despite significant influence on national domestic growth and rural development, small farms and their sustainability in Ukraine have left aside and ignored. This thesis aims at enhancing the scientific basis to improve Ukrainian small farms' development. This research has a holistic approach on sustainable development and implemented through social, ecological, and economic dimensions. Data collection was based on websites and qualitative interviews with farmers, farm organizations, and representatives of international food processing companies in Ukraine. Research analysis was elaborated by using MAQDA software in accordance with the social science research guidelines. Results disclose the current sustainable development challenges for small farms and test non-governmental, and business approaches as a possible solutions to mitigate the situation and to enhance smallholder's reliance. State policy and cultural attitude aggravate the gap between big and small businesses. Knowledge on sustainable development is required for agricultural specialists to address social challenges, maintain the financial state of farms, and to avoid that the ecological aspect is undervalued or ignored. Farm organizations have the power to mitigate small farms' challenges in regards of social aspects; nevertheless, they collaborate rather with big farms due to small farms' insolvency. Cooperation remains potentially viable for farmers and should have a holistic approach over sustainable management and mechanisms to improve agroecology. Big international food companies in Ukraine can enhance the financial stability of a small farm. They have the ability to support smallholders' sustainable development but require a mechanism to integrate them into the supply chain. Besides that, they have the potential to promote sustainable principles.

*Keywords:* small farm, sustainable development, farm organization, corporate social responsibility, Ukraine

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