

Theoretical Approach to Territorial Development and Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the Agricultural Sector to Support Agrotourism

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Abstract

The agricultural and productive impulse in general is an inseparable part of territorial development and therefore of human progress. By the way, the Guidelines and the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution, approved in the VIII Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, are strategies proposed to guide the socioeconomic management of the country. The following article shows a reflection on the fundamental concepts and trends related to territorial development and socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector in a way that facilitates its correct operation of agrotourism and guarantees sustainable development. Theoretical methods were used such as analysis and synthesis, historical-logical, structural systemic; and empirical ones such as scientific observation, interviews, study of normative documents, among others. As a result, the foundations were laid for the theoretical-practical deepening of the research and a group of conditions are exposed that allow the identification of socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector as a decisive factor for sustainable territorial development for planning agrotourism. From the reflection carried out in this study and from both the theoretical and practical contribution, the need to identify socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector is demonstrated in order to achieve sustainability of agricultural businesses, as well as economic and social regeneration of the territory in question. harmony with the environment; anywhere in the world.

Keywords

Territorial development; socioeconomic vulnerability; agricultural sector.



I. Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

The agricultural sector constitutes a valuable element to the territorial development that has been affected in its different dimensions as a result of the human progress and its relationship with the nature. One of the main causes associated to this phenomenon constitutes the socioeconomic vulnerability that either forms indissoluble part of the changes and transformations that take place in any sector of the economy, for the development of the productive forces motivated by the globalization or other, in which, the societies and communities hold a predominant paper (Francisco, et to the., 2018; García, 2020; Collazo, 2020).

On the other hand, the experienced crisis at international level during the years 80 of last century that caused uncertainties on the development like process, forced so much to the countries to look for strategies to reach a bigger growth, and initiatives were assumed

to adjust the economy and to mitigate the damages caused by different events that faced, so as to make it more flexible the organization mechanisms and territorial administration in function of creating the necessary material conditions to increase the production of goods and services, to create employments and to favor the local development before the dissimilar structural changes of the different territories.

In the same way, Cuba has looked for alternatives to energize its economy, hence it begins a process of changing and transformations heading for an economic growth from conditions of the underdevelopment starting from January 1st, 1959. It is necessary to qualify that the nation is focused in a national plan of economic and social development up to the 2030, to reach the outlined objective, where the axes and strategic sectors are contemplated to develop like part of the conceptualization of the pattern economic and social development Cuban approved in the VIII Congress of the Communist League of Cuba (CLC).

These changes gestated with a territorial design are developed with the objective of improving the conditions of the population's life, and they have as premise the socioeconomic insert of indicators for the mensuration of the vulnerability in the face of each change. The question is dimensionar to the economy and the society based on an inclusive socioeconomic politics that has as purpose to motivate the internal reservations and the improvement of the municipality like the structure of more weight and autonomy in the direccionamiento of the politicians and the taking of decisions of economic growth.

In this sense, agrotourism emerges as the driving force behind territorial development in several countries to diversify their economy and generate higher income in those localities dedicated to economic activities related to the agriculture and livestock (Chat, P., & Argelia, C., 2018; Rodríguez Alonso, 2019; Oe, H. y Yamaoka, Y., 2021; Pérez Anzardo, L. E., & Cardet Fernández, E., 2022) therefore, a correct management is required, based on the study and analysis of the factors that affect the agricultural sector.

In spite of the indications traced by the maximum address of the country (CLC) it is not achieved at local level a solid implementation of the proposed goals which causes breaches in the operation of the agricultural sector. In interviews carried out to specialists in the theme and in the analysis carried out to comments in social nets and other sources of information, it could note that the lack of knowledge in the productive ways exists about the financings that can be granted by financial entities; a low usage of the technology with agricultural and industrial backwardness, a lower utility of the agricultural insurance before climatological events, it is not fulfilled the rhythm in the payment to the workers, shortage of fertilizers and supplies in the cultural attentions to the cultivations, etc.

For all the above it can be said that ignorance exists on the part of the local agents in the identification of indicators and corresponding dimensions that affect in the socioeconomic vulnerability of the agricultural sector, which causes that they take decisions in an empiric way, without a scientific basement.

The aim that is pursued with this reflection article, is to contribute by means of a coherent exhibition of the different analyzed concepts and built as a result of the investigation process, to the administration of the knowledge about the thematic study object, as well as to offer the necessary information to inform the local managers to the importance of identifying the socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector as one of the main lines of the economy, in such a way that they take right measures to guarantee planning of agrotourism and the sostenibilidad of the territorial development.

II. Research Methods

For the development of the research it combined the use of theoretical and empiric investigation methods; among the first ones they stand out the analysis and synthesis, the abstraction and concretion, the induction and deduction. Inside the empiric methods they are the techniques of summary of the information like interviews, work in group, analysis of normative documents, among others. All they facilitated to reveal the tendencies, regularities, and to establish relationships with the phenomenon study object, starting from the information obtained during the investigation process, what allowed to arrive to conclusions.

III. Results and Discussion

I develop territorial: a journey for their conceptualization

The territory concept is not related alone to the geographical space that takes place the economic or social activities, but rather it is also the group of actors and agents that inhabit it, with its social and political organization, its culture and institutions, as well as the physical means or environment. It is a fellow or fundamental actor of the development, when incorporating the different dimensions of this, that is to say, the institutional, cultural and political development, the economic development, the sustainable development environmental, and the social and human development (Albuquerque, 2014).

The territorial development arose as concept associated to the territory idea, expert as terrestrial surface where a population settles. It was linked, essentially, with geographical scales with different courts: country, region, county, district, municipality.

An unique definition does not exist about what usually understands each other for territorial development, beyond pointing out that it is, naturally, of the process that it tries to achieve an improvement of the entrance and of the conditions and quality of people's life who lives in a certain territorial environment (Albuquerque, 2014).

Also, for (Martínez & Clark, 2015) the territorial development goes beyond the productive development, it involves to the human development that you/they have gone building forms of life and relationships with other human or neighboring groups, with the means given by the nature that you/they have affected to the atmosphere in different dimensions in most of the cases, with what has gone configuring a territory that is the result of a social construction.

In that sense, the agricultural and productive impulse in general is an inseparable part of the territorial development and therefore of the human being's progress, for what it is important that the governments promote its discussion and analysis, since it is limited to foment the agricultural activities, without conceiving this action in the territorial development. From there, the importance of their correct guide and management.

Territorial development in the Cuban context

The behavior of the territorial development in the contemporaneidad has arisen from the institutional and socioeconomic systematizing different to the built in Cuba. Aspects related to the paper of the state or the market in the correction of interregional imbalances have deserved a special attention in the socialist projects and they have been an analysis object in the case of Cuba. Selectively, in certain sectors of the country they have been formed socio-economic relationships with a mixed character and with the decisive influence of socialist principles that is without a doubt the main result of the current Cuban economic reformation and the new economic model's base (Figuroa et to the., 1995).

In the Constitution of 1901 like in that of 1940 and the one approved recently in the 2019, the municipality took a distinctive place. The first municipal law was promulgated in 1902 and in the Constitution of 1940 thought about the necessity to revitalize the municipal activity. The new conditions demand a combination among the potentialities of the territory, the regional competitiveness, the mechanisms of state regulation and of redistribution of the wealth to maintain the purpose of advancing in the reduction of the territorial disparities (González et to the., 2002) as viable alternative to diminish the breach in development terms among the territories and in their interior, because this it is one of the main problems that faces the Cuban economy.

The sustainable development in Cuba

The growing necessity that arises of protecting the nature and its resources has generated the diverse proposals guided to achieve the sustainable development. For decades they take place complex relationships between the development ideas and the environmental alerts.

The term sustainable development is locked in a wider process of problematic of the global survival, which has generated the reconstruction of the direct relationship between nature and society. This problem arose as answer to the destructive focus that had the development after the Second World War, as well as to the peak that you/they had the movements environmentalists. However, the concept of sustainable development contains great contradiction, since search to reconstruct the relationship society-nature without wondering about the compatibility that exists between atmosphere and development, which can be nonexistent or too limited. This in reason to that he/she would have to be carried out a modification of the economic pattern of growth to achieve the ecological balance and of the lifestyle (Collazo, 2020).

Parallely, the strategy of economic and social development of the Republic of Cuba, is characterized to give priority to the aspirations and the human being's necessities and it has as main objective the constant elevation of the level and the quality of the population's life. The country, at the own time looks for growing economically and the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of their natural resources have always constituted a priority for the Cuban State in a mark of social justness.

The United Nations Organization for the Agriculture and the Feeding has highlighted our advances in the fight against the hunger and the malnutrition. Cuba has become a relating of the alimentary security in Latin America and the Caribbean, since it is one of the eight countries of the region that have been able to eradicate the hunger completely.

Territorial development and its linking with the agricultural sector

In accordance with Albuquerque (2014), the terms local or territorial can be used as synonyms, although, like some authors point out, the territorial concept is usually more habitual in the academic or professional language, while the local term is more frequently used in the daily practice of the local actors. In any event, both they refer to a certain local or territorial space that constitutes the environment of the project and that it defines, equally, to the different participant actors in the same way. It is a community or specific territorial town that it is not only an environmental geographical or physical space but, mainly, the main actor of this development initiative. The territory concept is not limited in this case to the Geography, but rather the main fellow of the undertaken initiative constitutes.

Another of the definitions is the exposed one for Guzón (2006) that it considers the local development as the process that the local actors guide by means of actions of

transformation of the territory in a wanted address and it is of continuous nature, even when it is traced partial goals by way of escalonamiento in hairspring.

Specialists in local development as Madoery (2001) and Of Franco (2000), they outline the importance of negotiating the own territorial resources taking the control of the same one from the base, where the local actors assume the protagonism of their own development process when they convert in dynamic their potentialities; although, so that it is necessarily incurred in factors like the educational level, the population's initiative, to assume challenges and responsibilities and that exists decision and entrepreneurship capacity of the government at the corresponding level; which will contribute to attract investments, in general necessary to develop the local potentialities fully.

The companies can inside their performance environment to favor the local development. The development processes in the forms of cooperative companies, associations etc. play a more and more important paper for the rural and urban municipalities.

Also, the Cuban productive system is characterized by a strong institutional centralization and in the address of the production that one manifests in vertical productive chains and weakness in the articulation of the horizontal relationships. Everything bears that exist in the territories local resources and a social infrastructure and underemployed organizational capacity that it would be convenient to mobilize to achieve a bigger dynamics of the economies in this scale in many occasions.

On the other hand, the local development is conceived as a process where the municipalities look for the most successful form of being inserted directly in the world market and in the case of Cuba, it is focused more as the process by means of which that scale implements the necessary transformations in the environmental, economic-productive and political-social dimensions, starting from an elaborated strategic projection and a plan that it will be changed and it will evolve with the practice of the own agents (I gave Blackish, 1999; Gallicchio and Winchester, 2004; Guzón, 2006; Albuquerque, 2014).

The initiatives of local development should revitalize the bond between the central authorities and the provincial and municipal administration, and to offer bigger protagonism to the local actors in the search of solutions to their own problems, on the base of the national limits. The municipality is the basic unit of the political-administrative organization of the State, and the Municipal Assembly of the Popular Power represents to the Organs of the Power of the State in the base; besides having potentials for the self-management of the development, the decisions are nearer to the community, and they have less complexities than in the county.

In the period of monetary classification, the Strategy economic local settled down for the impulse of the economy and the confrontation to the world crisis caused by the COVID-19 that contains 497 measures approved by the government and that it embraces all the sectors of the society. The strategy takes fundamental principles of the operation of the economic pattern and power the autonomy of the municipalities, settled down in the article 169 of the constitution of the Republic.

One of the prioritized key areas is the production of foods, which is negotiated by the agricultural sector of each town, being the main source of feeding of the town and of linking for the development, and it is necessary to revolutionize the administration forms and financing of the Agroindustry.

In the same way, it must be matched the common economic interests of all the administration forms for investments, to achieve a maximum use and to improve the lands, technologies and the equipment. It is necessary that the agricultural producers have the necessary autonomy to sow and to harvest, as well as potenciar all the forms of property

and administration in the production of foods, as he/she settles down in Tabloid Special Socioeconomic Strategy.

In the VIII congress of the CLC developed on April, 2021, 30 measures were indicated to energize the agricultural production at local level, which are focused to guarantee a new model of state and managerial agricultural administration, based on financings with benefit of interest rates and of policies of for sure it facilitates the investments in productive programs with more impact in the substitution of imports and the exports, to create opportunities for the investment extracted, to reorder the operation of the agricultural cooperative system, to carry out the completamiento and formation of the human resources and the squares, to redraw the science activity, technology and innovation in function of the production of foods, among others.

In agreement with the politics traced by the maximum address of the country, the Strategy of Municipal Development approved by the People Power Local Administration (PPLA) for the period 2020-2030 that has as mission to contribute to the obtaining of growing and sustainable significant impacts in the economic, social and environmental development of the municipality.

Conceptualization and analysis of the socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector

The economic vulnerability is the inability that the communities, people's group and people show of facing the impacts that cause the occurrence of extreme events, motivated by its inability of being able to neutralize their effects, starting from the lack of forecast of the necessary economic and financial material resources for it. Maybe it is the most significant axis in the global vulnerability (Wilches-Chaux, 1993; Collazo, 2020).

As Wilches-Chaux he/she refers (1993), for economic vulnerability he/she understands each other, also, that in which an indirect relationship is observed among the revenues in the national, regional, local or populational levels and the impact of the extreme phenomena. That is to say, the poverty increases the vulnerability of the most depressed sectors, unemployment, inadequacy of revenues, exploitation, labor uncertainty, access difficulty to the education services, health, leisure.

For this, the social vulnerability is defined as a latent situation characterized by the convergence of circumstances that the probability of people and homes increase of suffering contingencies that diminish its well-being dramatically. It is a multidimensional concept that looks for to identify factors that reinforce the reproduction of processes that the level of life of homes and individuals deteriorate (Otto et to the., 2014).

In general, any program type that it allows to enlarge the economic base of the local community, it constitutes a successful form of mitigation of the socioeconomic vulnerability. In the measure in that, without ignoring the necessary interrelation among the markets, the communities will be able to advance toward the autonomous satisfaction of their basic necessities, they will depend on the outside less and less of external factors on their own control and it is here where the chains of values, cooperative, etc. like tools of decentralization of the economic power appear as effective vehicles toward the self-management and the democratization of the decisive abilities of the different municipal actors.

Also, the agricultural activity is characterized by its exhibition to diverse factors of risk that are presented from the production until the commercialization. Also, they exist other related with the administration in yes of the agricultural sector that you/they favor their good operation and profitability like they are the use of machineries, teams and

technology in general, economic and financial resources, legality of the earth and contracts, politicians directed to the sector, national and international prices, among others.

It proves that, at the present time, with the global heating, the meteorological phenomena are manifested with bigger intensity and frequency, as hurricanes, floods and droughts, which cause disasters in the productive infrastructure and in the population. In accordance with the FAO, in the period 2006-2016, in the world, the drought was the most severe climatic phenomenon, to the being responsible for 83% of the damages and losses in the agriculture; in that same lapse the subsectors that more they felt the effect the damages they were the agricultural one and the cattle one with 49% and 36%, respectively. Besides the natural conditions, the agricultural producers are also exposed to the actions made by the own humans as fires, bad practical agricultural and cattle, as well as the contamination of the environment.

In the commercialization stage, the agricultural activity faces the oscillations of the prices, to the nonfulfillment of the payments or the delays of the same ones; and when being in a world globalizado, the agriculture in its group is subject to international regulations that affect the forms of to take place or to market. Finally, in the economic and financial part, the exchange fluctuations and interest rates condition the dynamism of the international markets and of the credit.

The Economic Comission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2013) it points out that the agricultural sector shows resulting vulnerabilities of its own development, as the location of the areas of agricultural production and cattleman; the distribution of the wealth, the alimentary security, the education, the health, the emigration, the flows of remittances and the feminización. Also, factors of weight that favor exist or they harm the covering in the agriculture like the capacity of the public sector and private of recovering after disasters that it takes implicit the readiness of emergency funds and reconstruction, financial services, as credits, deposits and sure agricultural, just as it is shown in the Chart 1.

Table 1. Threaten and vulnerabilities in the agricultural sector

Origin	Threats and y Vulnerabilities
Naturals	Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, droughts, hailstorms, heavy rains, floods, avalanches, river overflows, strong winds, diseases and pests.
Socionaturals	Floods, reduced pollination, changes in microclimate due to deforestation of basins, degradation and lost of soil moisture because of an inadequate agricultural practice, careles fires, contamination of water resources due to waste
Technological	Machinery and equipment, production techniques, handling of technology and toxic waste, crop varieties unsuitable for local production conditions
Economic and financial	volatility of international and domestic prices of consumer products, volatility of Exchange rates, variation in domestic and international demand, tariffs or market restriction for products, insufficient liquidity
Anrhropogenic in the same unit	Accidents, diseases and deads, damage to third parties, loss and damage to lands, crops, equipments, facilities and raw materials due to thefts
Anthropogenic in the social,	Changes in policies, laws and regulations of the

political and institutional context	agricultura and use of the land and wáter, restrictions of impot of domestic products, disturbances, wars, strikes, crimes, state of right
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Source: ECALC, 2013

On the base of the approaches exposed by the analyzed authors can affirm that the dimensions of the socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector are subject, among other, to the economic, social, environmental, legal and government; for what are required of mechanisms of prevention, evaluation and control of the vulnerability in the face of the diversity of factors that you/they affect to each one of them, through the intervention of the State by means of political public, as well as the permanent work of the producers to prevent or to mitigate the effect of the disasters, the losses and the damages caused by events climatic ends and to adapt under better conditions to the markets of goods and services.

Causes that cause socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural activity and its relationship to agroturism

The socioeconomic vulnerability is the result of a multitude of causes that can group in three categories or superimposed levels: the causes roots or structural, the crisis processes to half or I cut term, and the personal determinant.

In the agricultural sector several causes that cause socioeconomic vulnerability exist and they are associate equally with the risk that a person, system or object can suffer in front of imminent dangers, be already natural disasters, economic, political, social or cultural inequalities for what becomes necessary to protect to the sector by means of the integral and coordinated administration of the diverse actors that participate in it, to reduce the risks associated to this sector of the economy.

In the case of Cuba, the causes that have generated socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector have been given because the historical one carries out exporter from the previous agriculture to 1989 it was knocked down by the loss of the sugar agroindustry, which was for many years the locomotive of the Cuban economy. In their group, the value of the exports of products represents less than the fourth part of the one generated in 1989.

Between 1989 and 2017 the imports of agricultural products multiply as a result 1,7 times of the inability of the sector to provide the necessary foods for animal and human consumption and also of the upward tendency of the international prices, mainly between 1999 and 2013. The Cuban agricultural sector contributes 60% of the calories and 45% of the daily total proteins that the population consumes approximately, while the satisfaction of the rest of the alimentary necessities is subject to this imports, as García refers (2020).

The Cuban agricultural sector began to be delineated starting from 1990, and it completes in very little measure the functions linked to the economic development of the country. Far from offering a surplus in foreign currencies for the development of other activities, it requires on the contrary of the contribution of other sectors, only to complete the task of feeding the population. This is evidenced in that it diminishes their participation in the GDP, and equally it happens to the agroexportaciones and the investment volume in the sector, even in a context of improvement in the international prices of agricultural implementos. Only starting from the 2010 a better dynamic is revealed in its administration, but even insufficient in comparison with the necessities of the country and with reservations to be able to guarantee the territorial development. On the other hand, the women are responsible for almost the half (46%) of the rural tasks (Martínez, I. and Baeza, M., 2017).

In the means where they act, the effect transformer is very deep. The fact of being a manager or of working in a very masculinized activity it is a transgression of the gender stereotypes and, therefore, it is a factor of change because it generates a relating one that will be able to be imitated by other women (I Behave, Villarino, & Baylina, 2015).

In synthesis, some of the causes or manifestations of the vulnerability in the agricultural sector are:

- Productions and infrastructure in areas of potential threats.
- The lack of economic, financial resources, of autonomy and of capacity of the individuals' decision, the families and the communities.
- The absence of institutions or organizations that promote the reduction and control of the socioeconomic vulnerability.
- The drought, the erosion of the floor, the desertificación and the alkalization.
- The environmental degradation, since it reduces or it harms the genetic materials of the earth, as well as the industrial contamination of the air or of the water.
- The exhaustion of genetic natural resources.
- The gender inequality and the populational exodus.
- Impacts caused by the Covid-19 in the social and conomic environments.

It can be said that there is an explanatory chain that goes from the exists macro and structural to the micro one in all the productive sectors, from the global social relationships until each individual's specific conditions. It is for that reason that, the will and capacity of each person's decision, the impacts of the mentioned factors; they can be modified partly by the own capacity of this, in more or smaller grade according to the circumstances and for the determination of the elements that you/they impact in the socioeconomic vulnerability that allows him to take certain performances so much to the leaders of the sector like the municipal actors.

In this sense, the role that corresponds to the public administration in the management of territorial development is essential to activate endogenous resources as the basis of agrotourism and put them in function of increasing the socioeconomic development based on mitigating the factors that cause socioeconomic vulnerability in the agricultural sector, in such a way that the quality of life of the population is also increased and the potentialities are taken advantage of premises at the service of society.

This modality of alternative tourism has become the guiding axis of policies that has been fully integrated into spaces where it is viewed as an instrument for multifunctionality and variety of the rural economy, since it interacts with the territory, with the population and with the environment where it develops. It has been considered an opportunity to generate income, reduce poverty and reduce socioeconomic inequalities between the rural and urban world; as long as the factors that affect its planning are taken into account.

IV. Conclusion

The evolution of the concepts of socioeconomic vulnerability and territorial development evidence the high grade of existent relationship between both definitions and its relationship to agrotourism, since fellows that condition that the socioeconomic vulnerability becomes raw matter of growth and development like global concept of well-being and respect toward the human race intervene. Additionally, natural, technological, economic, financial, political factors exist, etc. that put in risk the agricultural activity the one that changes vulnerable result of its own development, for what tools are required that allow their prevention, evaluation and control by means of political public and the constant work of the direct ones of the sector to prevent or to mitigate the effect of the disasters, the

losses and the damages caused by events climatic ends and to adapt under better conditions to the markets of goods and services. Starting from the carried out analysis approaches common with the consulted authors could settle down, with the purpose of persuading as much to the investigators as to the agents of the towns to continue the deepening in the topic in such a way that the socioeconomic vulnerability can be evaluated in the agricultural sector and it is achieved taking of strategic decisions that energize the sector, that favor the planning of agrorurism and guarante a sustainable territorial development.

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