










“Sustainable Development Goals in agriculture and responsible investment: A comparative study of the Czech Republic and Ukraine”

AUTHORS	Alex Plastun   Inna Makarenko   Tetiana Grabovska   Ricardo Situmeang Serhii Bashlai  
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Tetiana Grabovska, Ricardo Situmeang,
Serhii Bashlai, 2021

Alex Plastun, Doctor of Economics,
Professor, Chair of the International
Economic Relations Department,
Sumy State University, Ukraine.
(Corresponding author)

Inna Makarenko, Doctor of Economics,
Associate Professor, Chair of the
Accounting and Taxation Department,
Sumy State University, Ukraine.

Tetiana Grabovska, Ph.D., Associate
Professor, Department of General
Ecology and Ecotrophology, Bila
Tserkva National Agrarian University,
Ukraine.

Ricardo Situmeang, Master of Art,
Ph.D. Student, Biogas Research Team,
Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech
University of Life Sciences, Czech
Republic.

Serhii Bashlai, Ph.D., Associate
Professor, Chair of Economics and
Entrepreneurship, Sumy National
Agrarian University, Ukraine.



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Alex Plastun (Ukraine), Inna Makarenko (Ukraine), Tetiana Grabovska (Ukraine),
Ricardo Situmeang (Czech Republic), Serhii Bashlai (Ukraine)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AGRICULTURE AND RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND UKRAINE

Abstract

This paper explores some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – 2 and 12) in agriculture for the Czech Republic and Ukraine. The idea is to find out best practices in implementing SDGs 2 and 12 within the responsible investment framework. For these purposes, benchmarking (comparative analysis) is used. Using data over the period of 2017–2020, a general comparative review of global and national targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine and the Czech Republic is provided. The results justify the merely incorporation and compliance of these targets at the national and global levels. The identified problems in achieving SDG 2 and SDG 12 are common for Ukraine and the Czech Republic and relate to unequal access to investment and financial resources. Recommendations and solutions to the most important problems based on the responsible investment instruments are proposed in this paper. The research findings can be useful for regulators (both in agriculture and in the financial market), companies and a wide group of other stakeholders in promoting responsible investment to make more comprehensive progress towards SDG 2 and 12 in Czech Republic and Ukraine by 2030.

Keywords

SDG, hunger, food security, investment, sustainable consumption, global targets, national targets, natural resources

JEL Classification

M40, M41

INTRODUCTION

The UN Global Sustainable Development Goals 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and “12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns” (SDGs) are accelerating targets that contribute to the progress of other goals by 2030. Agriculture is a sector in which these SDGs can have a synergistic effect.

Achieving SDGs 2 and its targets is quite difficult even by 2050, since almost 800 million people in the world are chronically hungry, and 2 billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, and food production should increase by 60% (FAO, 2017a). Scientists also question that these targets will be reached by 2030 (Blesh et al., 2019).

The basis for ensuring progress for SDG 2 and 12, as well as for other SDGs is the formation of a sufficient pool of investment resources. The Addis Ababa Summit in 2015 is dedicated to finding mechanisms and investment tools for financing sustainable development and its Goals.

The required amount to achieve the targets of these goals by 2030 by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Program (WFP) is estimated at USD 265 billion a year by 2030 (Havemann et al., 2020). However, this amount does not cover the destructive impact on supply, production and consumption chains in the agro-industrial complex of the COVID-19 pandemic. This amount can be significantly increased. That is why, the development of investment tools for financing SDGs 2 and 12 in the agricultural sector on a responsible basis becomes particularly relevant.

The Czech Republic and Ukraine are different countries in terms of economic development in general and in the agro-industrial complex in particular. At the same time, both countries have recently joined the UN Global SDGs system and are taking the first steps in achieving them. The idea of this paper is to find common solutions in implementing SDGs 2 and 12 within the responsible investment framework based on the comparison of progress in SDG 2 and 12 in the agricultural sectors of the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

Using data from the Czech Republic and Ukraine over the period 2017–2020, a general comparative analysis of global and national targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine and the Czech Republic is provided. The most crucial problems in achieving SDG 2 and SDG 12 are common for Ukraine and the Czech Republic. Typically, they are caused by a poor access to investment resources. The paper offers recommendations and solutions to the most important problems based on the responsible investment instruments.

1. LITERATURE AND REGULATORY REVIEW

In a competitive environment, it is difficult to put into practice environmental and other “irrational” principles that can only pay dividends in the distant future. In particular, this applies to small producers. They are increasingly looking for employment opportunities outside of agriculture. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on the role of small producers in agriculture, on the problems of their competitiveness and, at the same time, their more successful involvement in the process of implementing environmental imperatives in practice. This multidimensional goal covers three interrelated components: 1) ending hunger and improving nutrition (social dimension: 2.1, 2.2), 2) achieving food security by increasing productivity and increasing income (economic dimension: 2.3, 2.a), and, to some extent, 2.b and 2.c; and 3) promoting sustainable agriculture (environmental measurement: 2.4 and 2.5) (Griggs et al., 2017; Mollier et al., 2017). SDG 2.3 offers a doubling of agricultural productivity and income for small farmers, which is extremely important, but does not take into account that large farmers may receive relatively low incomes from agriculture (Blesh et al., 2019). Domestic demand

for basic food products is met by domestic production of up to 97-109%, which corresponds to the optimistic level of food security recommended by FAO, and allows creating a solid basis for agricultural exports (Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine, 2020).

Achieving progress towards SDG 2 will depend on the progress made in meeting others from the 17 goals (FAO, 2016, 2017). However, interactions between SDGs currently have a weak conceptual and scientific basis. SDG 2 integrates and links food security, nutrition and sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture that does not adversely affect the climate system (Griggs et al., 2017). If there is a food shortage in the country as a result of climate change, achieving the SDG goal will be difficult (Mugambiwa & Tirivangasi, 2017). SDG 12 and SDG 2 are related to smarter management of chemicals in terms of increasing production and more efficient use of natural resources. Although SDG 2 focuses more on final production and food outcomes, SDG 12 focuses on the procurement, processing and distribution of food, which provides a certain perspective of the food system (Griggs et al., 2017). Agricultural practices based on the specificities of each country and their priority are-

as should be promoted, especially those contributing the achievement of several sustainability goals simultaneously (Gil et al., 2019).

In Ukraine, the main document governing compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals is the Decree of the President of Ukraine “On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030”. In total, 17 goals and 86 national tasks are incorporated in 145 normative legal acts of the Government, 1,052 tasks and 3,465 measures enshrined in these acts are aimed at the implementation of goals and tasks (Decree of President of Ukraine, 2019). The Government has established an Interagency Working Group on SDGs to coordinate efforts to achieve the goals. According to the 2019 results, Ukraine has generally made progress in 15 of the 17 SDGs. 86 targets and 172 national development indicators were identified (increased to 183) (Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine, 2020). The mechanism for monitoring the SDGs was institutionalized by adopting the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 686-r dated August 21, 2019 “Collection of data on monitoring the achievement of the SDGs”. As part of the implementation of the State Program for the Development of Statistics for the period up to 2023, approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 222 dated February 27, 2019, a special section on Sustainable Development Goals was created. The Ministry for the Development of Economic Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (MDETA) initiated the creation of expert groups, in particular in the economic field (SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12).

The public vision of Ukraine’s development until 2030 focuses on the well-being of the population, which will be provided by innovative economic development based on the sustainable use of natural resources. Moreover, economic growth will be based on the model of “green” economy (Pimonenko & Lushchik, 2017), which can be achieved, in particular, through the intensification of socially responsible investment (Ilchenko-Syuyva & Slyusarchuk, 2019). The viability of investment in agriculture and food systems depends on well-functioning ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources (FAO, 2014).

The Czech Republic adopted the Czech Republic’s Voluntary National Review. It describes the im-

plementation process of the 2030 Agenda and 17 SDGs within The Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 (this long-term process has started in July 2015). The implementation process includes national targets to be achieved by the 2030, as well as starting points in six key areas. The SDGs are classified as follows: the global, national and sub-national context. This will enable them to be successfully implemented in all relevant policies.

The implementation of specific SDGs targets is accompanied by changes in internal structure of the Czech Republic’s ministries.

The second version of the Voluntary National Review draft evaluates the implementation SDGs targets and assesses target achievement in the Czech Republic. The results of the assessment are more optimistic than those from the previous analysis. The implementation of SDGs in the Czech Republic is still under threat without proper EU financial support. To reduce this risk, responsible investment can be used as a tool to achieve and support sustainable development. Intergovernmental and regional organizations play a key role in promoting responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (FAO, 2014).

According to FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Program (WFP), additional USD 265 billion a year are needed to reduce hunger by 2030 (Havemann et al., 2020). Eradicating poverty and hunger require USD 140 billion per year in agriculture and rural development. Up to 85% of that investment should be directed to African countries. These investments should be responsible, sustainable and benefit local communities, farmers and investors while adhering to environmental principles (FAO, 2019).

The starting point in determining how responsible investment in agriculture and food systems can contribute to food security and nutrition is the recognition and respect of human rights (according to CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems – known as RAI). Another important issue is the use of mixed financing. It allows improving the risk/return ratio of investment by mixing capital flows with different expectations in the investment portfolio. In the situation of limited government budgets, this

approach allows mobilizing more private sector's funding to support SDGs. For the case of agriculture, this means using public funding to enable private investors to invest without risk. For these purposes, national guarantee funds, subsidized lending, forced lending, and interest rate caps can be used.

Investments in agriculture require higher returns due to bigger risks and lower liquidity. Successful implementation of the SDGs needs the mobilization of significant private investment in sustainable agriculture. According to Havemann et al. (2020), a combination of public and private capital sources can increase the size of public investment and attractiveness of private capital (Havemann et al., 2020).

In 2017, Ukraine joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on international investment and multinational enterprises and is implementing a policy of socially responsible business (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2017, 2020). The Government has established an Interdepartmental Commission on Public Investment Projects. To simplify the procedure for attracting foreign investment, on May 31, 2016, the Law of Ukraine No. 1390-VIII "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Abolition of Mandatory State Registration of Foreign Investments" was adopted. On May 23, 2017, the Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Elimination of Barriers to Attracting Foreign Investments". On May 26, 2017, an Agreement on Investment Promotion and Protection was signed between Ukraine and the International Development Fund (Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine, 2021). It has been found that the influence of investors is geographically distributed as follows: 39% are investors headquartered in the United States and Canada, up to 25% – in Western, Northern and Southern Europe. The majority of investors in this sample are based on developed markets (72%), almost half of the respondents invest more than 75% of their portfolio in emerging markets. About 42% of investors are focused on private capital, while 19% – on private debt and only 11% – on real assets (Hand et al., 2021).

The purpose of the study is to develop common possible solutions for regulators, countries, companies etc to the problem of introducing SDGs 2 and 12 and the financing problem within the framework for responsible investment.

2. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

A key method for comparing progress in achieving SDG 2 and 12 in the agricultural sector of Ukraine and the Czech Republic, as well as the role of responsible investment in this progress, is benchmarking (comparative analysis). The practical experience in implementing SDGs 2 and 12 is analyzed in the following dimensions:

- General comparative review of the compliance of global and national targets of SDGs 2 and 12.
- The degree of target incorporation into the national policy.
- The progress of SDGs 2 and 12 at the level of Goals and Indicators according to global and national reviews.
- Problematic fields on the way to achieving SDGs 2 and 12 and prospects for its intensification.

Information and statistical sources are the basis for the comparative analysis (The Czech Republic's Voluntary National Review (2017), Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine. Voluntary National Review. (2020), abovementioned normative sources on SDGs and the database of Sachs et al. (2020).

3. RESULTS

Ukraine joined the Global SDGs system in 2017, forming national targets and progress indicators for each of them. SDGs 2 and 12 national targets' progress both in Ukraine and the Czech Republic do not fully take into account global targets and focus only on the most significant ones.

Simultaneously, such an essential target of SDG 2, which connects responsible agriculture with re-

sponsible investment mechanisms in its development, is overlooked in Ukraine. It is the target 2a – Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, particularly least developed countries”.

Regarding SDG 12, it should be noted that Ukrainian national targets’ system includes only 36% of global targets. They are related to reducing the national economy’s resource intensity, lowering food losses in supply chains, sustainable use of chemicals and shortening waste formation. Targets that create information and analytical support for responsible investment at the national level (12.6 and 12.8) and the basis for responsible investment by authorities at all levels (12.7) were left out of consideration.

Czech Republic is ahead of or in line with the OECD average for every SDG including SDGs 2 and 12. Protection of biodiversity and creation of favorable conditions for terrestrial ecosystems are close to the target levels. One of the key challenges for the case of SDG 12 is the implementation of appropriate measures to improve the management of wetlands and other natural bodies of water, and gradually revise certain agricultural and forest practices so as to prevent quick water runoff and soil erosion. An important issue for the case of achieving SDGs 2 and 12 in the Czech Republic is the development of urban areas and infrastructure in order to comply with the environmental standards and contribute to sustaining and strengthening ecosystem services.

The source of the SDGs system progress in Ukraine is the national system of legislation in strategic planning. As of 2020, it has 162 documents that cover 1,394 tasks, and they are specified in 4,296 measures to achieve all 17 SDGs. As for SDG 12, the number of tasks and activities has increased over the last two years, but it has decreased for SDG 2. At the same time, SDG 2 has a high integration level into state strategic documents, while SDG 12 has a medium level (Institute of Socio-Economic Research, 2017.)

Table 1. Incorporation of tasks for achieving SDGs 2 and 12 into state strategic documents

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine. Voluntary National Review (2020). State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (2019).

Goal	Ukraine			
	2019		2020	
	Tasks	Measures	Tasks	Measures
SDG 2	52	66	44	48
SDG 12	47	230	59	283

Despite the high and medium level of incorporation of the goals into the state strategic documents of Ukraine, the key challenge for their progress at the national policy level is the lack of responsible investments, primarily by the state. According to the World Bank and the IMF, responsible public investments, specified in the SDGs, can become a stimulus for responsible investment, if it is in line with the concept of “billion to trillion”. It should be based on public-private partnerships and involve the “pay for success” mechanism, and the latest instruments for responsible investment (green, social bonds, impact investments, etc.).

In Ukraine, SDGs 2 and 12 are not integrated into the budget cycle and budget programming. Even the latest “Public Finance Management Strategy” does not contain guidelines for sustainable development or target indicators of SDG progress. Moreover, the specification of tasks and measures in the sectoral state strategic documents (Agrarian, Energy Strategies of Ukraine) is not linked to the relevant SDG targets and indicators. Thus, there is a significant gap between the formulation of tasks and measures for their progress and direct budget funding in the regulatory and legal support of SDG in Ukraine.

Also, no attention is paid to responsible investment. Responsible investment is defined in SDG 17 as the mobilization and allocation of external and internal investment resources and government and business partnership to ensure SDG progress. It is the next step, after the formation of a results-oriented budget (specific SDG), investing in SDG within a public and private partnership is possible, but only after the full SDG incorporation into the budget cycle at all levels.

From the side of the SDG 2, special attention needs to be paid to the development of investing mech-

anisms in government support of the agricultural sector to raise food standards of the population. As for SDG 12, it is the investment mechanisms in the formation of less expensive production and distribution chains in the agro-industrial complex.

In the Czech Republic, responsible investment as defined in SDG 12 aims to maintain genetically diverse populations of native species and restoring natural habitats. For these purposes, grant aid both at European and national levels should be directed to support ecosystem services and achieve adequate food security.

Comparing the progress (Table 2 and 4) in achieving SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine within the national and the United Nations global reviews framework allows us to conclude the inconsistency of these monitoring data. Thus, according to the Voluntary National Review in 2019, Ukraine has advanced on 15 of the 17 Goals. In particular, out of 11 SDG 2 indicators that show progress, 7 have a positive trend; out of 5 SDG 12 indicators, the achievement of 3 is realistic by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine. Voluntary National Review. (2020).

At the same time, the data of global monitoring of these goals in Ukraine indicate a different trend and are not entirely consistent with the data of national monitoring.

The situation with SDG 12 is reversed. According to global monitoring, there are some existing chal-

lenges to the achievement of SDG 12 in Ukraine. As a whole, its progress remains more significant compared to SDG 2. This might be related to incomplete data (there is a lack of data on target 2.3). The low level of waste processing in Ukraine, including post-harvest waste in the agro-industrial complex, casts doubt on this assessment.

As can be seen from Table 3, the progress in achieving the targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in the Czech Republic for the most cases is significant and has significant probability of achievement. The most problematic targets are 2.5 and 12.1. These aspects require additional attention because their achievement can be failed.

The existence of significant challenges in achieving the SDG 2 targets (Table 4) offsets the conclusions about their feasibility by 2030.

Observing the progress for each indicator of SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine identified problem areas and prospects for overcoming these problems, in particular in terms of responsible investment, as well as indicators (Table 5).

Although the agro-industrial complex is a vital branch of the Ukrainian economy and its exports (44.3% of exports of goods in 2019), and there is a growth in capital investment and modernization in this area (increase in investment by 2 times over the past five years), the achievement of initial targets of SDG 2 is hardly realistic. First of all, there

Table 2. Assessment of progress in achieving the targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine based on national monitoring data

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine. Voluntary National Review (2020).

Dynamics of indicators by targets	Characteristics of progress	SDG 2	SDG 12
Almost unfulfilling	< 20% cannot be achieved with such dynamics (it is not achievable until 2020)	2.1.2	12.4.1
		2.3.3	12.4.2
Low probability of achievement	20% ≤ and < 60% needs significant acceleration	2.1.1	–
Medium probability of achievement	60% ≤ and < 80% needs some acceleration	2.3.2	–
High probability of achievement	≥ 80% on the way to achievement	2.1.3	12.1
		2.1.4	12.2.1
		2.1.5	
		2.2.1	
		2.2.2	12.2.2
		2.3.1	
		2.4.1	

Note: Data for 12.3 is not available.

Table 3. Assessment of progress in achieving the targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in the Czech Republic based on national monitoring data

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Czech Republic. Voluntary National Review (2020).

Dynamics of indicators by targets	Characteristics of progress	SDG 2	SDG 12
Almost unfulfilling	< 20% cannot be achieved with such dynamics (it is not achievable until 2020)	2.5	12.1
Low probability of achievement	20% ≤ and < 60% needs significant acceleration	2.5.b	12.2 12.3
Medium probability of achievement	60% ≤ and < 80% needs some acceleration	2.5.a 2.5.c 2.5.d	12.4 12.5
High probability of achievement	≥ 80% on the way to achievement	2.1	12.6
		2.2	12.6.a
		2.3	12.6.b
		2.4.	12.6.c
		2.5.b	

Table 4. Assessment of progress in achieving the targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine and the Czech Republic according to global monitoring

Source: Sachs et al. (2020).

Country	2020 SDG Index Score	2020 SDG Index Rank	SDG 2			SDG 12		
			Score	Status	Trend	Score	Status	Trend
Czech Republic	80,58	8	94,09	Significant challenge	↗	70,39	Significant challenge	–
Ukraine	74,24	47	91,73	Significant challenge	↗	64,78	Challenges remain	–

is a problem with the low level of food security and purchasing power of households in Ukraine, associated with farmers' unequal access to investment resources. Also, there is a lack of food standards; deformation of the agro-industrial complex structure with the predominance of raw material industries with less added-value than the processing industries and the disordered sphere of organic agriculture and production.

The state should formulate the basic principles of responsible investment to intensify progress in achieving SDG 2 targets within the strategy of government support for agriculture, clustering and cooperation of rural areas, and effective use of public-private partnership investment mechanisms with providing transparency and anti-corruption policy.

The significant waste intensity of Ukraine's GDP and the increase in the amount of waste generated compared to the volume of utilized (less than a third) remains extremely problematic in case

of SDG 12 (up to 104% in 2018). The solution to overcoming these problems might be the formation of investment incentives for Ukrainian companies' environmentally friendly activities, improving the legislation in waste management and recycling, and the transition of the economy to a circular basis.

Overall, in most cases, SDG-2 and 12 in the Czech Republic are ready for their implementation, or have been partially implemented. More detailed information regarding the progress in SDGs should be provided in the first official report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. But it was delayed due to the COVID-19 state of emergency. This report should serve as a basis for the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) planned for 2021.

As for the challenges, the main problem is the lack of attention from government authorities to the Sustainable Development issues. Other problems related to the progress in achieving SDGs 2 and 12 in the Czech Republic are presented in Table 6.

Table 5. Problems arising in the process of achieving SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine, and solutions to come up with them

Source: Author's development.

Target	Problem	Solution
SDG 2		
2.1.2. Consumption of milk and dairy products per capita, kg/year	Low level of food security and purchasing power of the population	Providing microcredit to SMEs in the agriculture field to diversify the market and reduce the production cost
2.1.1. Consumption of meat per capita, kg/year		
2.3.2. Share of the food industry and agricultural raw materials processing production in exports of UCGFEA groups 1–24, %	Low share of value-added of agricultural processing production in distribution chains	Using investment tools of a public-private partnership to support agricultural processing companies
2.3.3. Share of agricultural land under organic production in the total area of agricultural lands of Ukraine, %*	Inconsistency of the legislation on the regulation of organic production and the formation of its market	The incentive of responsible investments in organic production, taking into account environmental factors of agricultural companies screening, completion of the formation of operational (markers, benchmarks, circulation technologies) and regulatory infrastructure of this market
SDG 12		
12.4.1. Volume of waste generated by all economic activities per unit of GDP, kg per USD1,000 PPP in 2011	Significant wear of production capacity in energy, metallurgy, which cause high carbon content of products, lack of real data on waste	Mandatory reporting on companies' environmental criteria; attracting investment in the modernization of production capacities, the formation of investment incentives for such modernization and the developing of low-waste technologies
12.4.2. Share of burned and recycled waste in the total waste generated, %	Lack of waste disposal capacity, low share of recycling processes in all sectors of the economy, including raw materials (agro-industrial complex, metallurgy)	Increasing the companies' investment attractiveness in the field of waste processing within the state investment policy; investment resources allocation in the circular economy technology; raising consumers' environmental awareness

Table 6. Problems arising in the process of achieving SDGs 12 in the Czech Republic, and solutions to come up with them

Source: SDG Watched Europe (2020), Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 (2020).

Target	Problem	Solution
SDG 12		
Priority 1. Landscape conservation as a prerequisite for biodiversity conservation	1. The current condition of the landscape and biodiversity is not satisfactory: landscape is exposed to the inadequate intensification of agricultural and forestry production, and excessive and inappropriate urbanization	1. Planting of hedgerows, tree lines, solitary trees, windbreaks, water elements and territorial systems of ecological stability to prevent the landscape's ecological stability disruption
Objective 1.1: Maintaining and enhancing the ecological stability of the landscape and supporting its functions, especially through sustainable landscape management	2. The absence of suitable living conditions for wild species of flora and fauna in landscape is a threat to biodiversity	2. Promotion of construction within or with links to existing settlements, promotion of the use of brownfields, minimization of ecosystem fragmentation
Objective 1.2: Conserving the open landscape Objective 3: Halting the decline in biodiversity	3. High percentage of arable land, erosion and degradation risks (both chemical and biological), the use of fertilizers and pesticides, excessive hunting makes development of agro-ecosystems disproportional	3. Protection of surviving sites with natural communities and land management based on the needs of specially protected and endangered species and specific communities 4. Implementation of rescue program for the most critically endangered species of flora and fauna; restriction of new invasive species and the expansion of those already present based on appropriate legislative and financial mechanisms
Priority 2. Responsible farming and forestry	1. Intensive farming has disturbed landscape water regime, caused water pollution and soil degradation, decreased biodiversity and reduced ecological stability of the landscape	1. Preservation of genetic resources, including agricultural crops, trees and animals

Table 6 (cont.). Problems arising in the process of achieving SDGs 12 in the Czech Republic, and solutions to come up with them

Target	Problem	Solution
SDG 12		
Objective 1: Promoting sound and close-to-nature farming methods and developing the non-production functions of farming	2. Agro-ecosystems in production areas are characterized by a high percentage of arable land, erosion and degradation risks (both chemical and biological), the use of fertilizers and pesticides, excessive hunting etc	2. Increasing the proportion of natural regeneration, promotion of biological diversity in forests
Objective 2: Conserving and enhancing biological diversity in forests through promoting sound, close-to-nature farming methods in forests and reinforcing the non-production functions of forest ecosystems	3. The loss of natural fertility, a significant reduction in water retention capacity, reduced biodiversity and declining populations of native species caused by the changes in the forest ecosystems	3. Promotion of closer-to-nature management that is based on the maximum utilization of natural processes 4. Replacement of the original forests (have low ecological stability and an unsuitable species, age and spatial composition) with conifer monocultures
Priority 3. Adaptation to climate change	Floods pose serious direct risk for the Czech Republic because of substantial material damage, life losses, damage to the landscape and ecology in general. The reasons for this high vulnerability include inappropriate urbanization and construction in floodplains.	Implementation of close-to-nature and technical flood-control measures (natural overflows, dry polders, etc.) while also ensuring that these measures help achieve a maximum improvement of the landscape water regime
Objective 1: Ensuring readiness to deal with emergencies related to climate change	Increasing temperatures might cause dry periods in some agricultural areas. The problem is deepening because of the drying of surface and subsurface water	Implementation of retention elements both technical (reservoirs and polders) and natural or close-to-nature (wetlands, pools, floodplain forests) will help to retain rainwater in the landscape, and to revitalize the existing retention elements including the floodplains of watercourses and their natural overflows
Objective 2: Achieving a good quantitative condition of groundwater and surface water		
Objective 3: Improving the water regime in the landscape		
Objective 4: Reducing the impacts of expected global climate change and extreme weather events on forest and agricultural ecosystems		

CONCLUSION

An overall comparative review of global and national targets of SDGs 2 and 12 in Ukraine and the Czech Republic justifies simply including and adhering to these targets at the national and global levels. Some tasks are skipped in both countries. There is also inconsistency between data of global monitoring of these goals in Ukraine and the Czech Republic. This inconsistency, in the absence of some SDG tracking data, does not provide a real picture of progress in both countries.

The identified problems in achieving SDG 2 and SDG 12 are common for Ukraine and the Czech Republic and relate to the gap between SDGs tasks and their investment farmers' unequal access to investment resources, effective use of public-private partnership investment mechanisms with providing transparency.

Eliminating a gap in funding for SDGs 2 and 12 is relevant for both developed countries (the Czech Republic) and developing countries (Ukraine). The same challenges arise for these countries in achieving the SDG targets by 2030, comparing their progress and tools of responsible investment aimed at intensifying such progress.

Common possible ways to solve the problems of SDGs 2 and 12 implementation include the alignment of the system of national and global targets of SDG 2 and 12 in Ukraine and the Czech Republic to ensure their full coverage; deepening the system of monitoring targets, tasks and indicators for the studied

goals in both countries (vertical approach); expanding the range of stakeholders to contribute to reporting, tracking and progress towards these goals (horizontal approach); inclusion in national budget cycles, programs and strategies for the development of the agricultural sector of the SDGs – focused budgeting and coverage of all targets and tasks of the SDG 2 and 12; creating a common base of the most effective responsible investment tools at the level of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine and The Office of the Government and the Ministry of Environment Czech Republic, as well as financial market regulators for both countries to provide sufficient investment resources of SDGs 2 and 12. Among them are private-public partnership, impact investment, microcredit; encouraging responsible behavior of producers and consumers of agro-industrial products in order to create better value along supply chains; strengthening the investment attractiveness and transparency of companies on the principles of a circular economy.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: Alex Plastun, Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Grabovska.

Data curation: Tetiana Grabovska, Ricardo Situmeang.

Formal analysis: Serhii Bashlai.

Funding acquisition: Alex Plastun, Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Grabovska, Ricardo Situmeang, Serhii Bashlai.

Investigation: Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Grabovska, Ricardo Situmeang.

Methodology: Alex Plastun, Inna Makarenko.

Project administration: Alex Plastun.

Resources: Tetiana Grabovska.

Software: Ricardo Situmeang.

Supervision: Alex Plastun.

Validation: Inna Makarenko.

Visualization: Ricardo Situmeang.

Writing – original draft: Alex Plastun, Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Grabovska, Ricardo Situmeang, Serhii Bashlai.

Writing – review & editing: Alex Plastun, Inna Makarenko, Tetiana Grabovska, Ricardo Situmeang, Serhii Bashlai.

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