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Theme 3: Observing in Support of Indigenous Food Security and Related Needs

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Poster title (brief) Food Self-Sufficiency of Rural Households in the Russian Arctic. The case of Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

Abstract - text box

Yakutia is the largest northern region of Russia, whose economic specialization is the extraction of natural resources, including diamonds, gold, coal, oil and gas. Despite the rapid urbanization over the past 30 years, the rural population is 101.7 thousand people (34.4% of total population in 2018). The structure of rural employment is close to urban one; over 70% of workers are engaged in public and communal services, state management, etc. However, one of the important features of Sakha (Yakutia) is the significant share of subsistence economy. In 2017, the number of private subsidiary farms was 97631. It means that 83 % of rural households and 6 % of urban households were involved in food self-sufficiency.

The farm's area is limited to 2.5 hectares, including a vegetable garden, greenhouse, berry bushes, stable and barn. According to state statistics, in 2017 the volume of private subsidiary farms production amounted to 11,652.3 million rubles (200,0 million EUR). The share of private households in agricultural production reached 46%.

Peasants trade the surplus of their product which is the only opportunity to earn ready money. In conditions of significant prevalence of poverty, it is extremely important. Average annual proceeds are about 120,000 rubles (2050 EUR) per household. Due to private farming, traditional types of economic activity including deer, cattle and horses breeding, are still rooted in Yakutia.

Results of the sociological survey conducted as a part of the project of Russian Foundation for Basic Research № 17-02-00619-OGN (2017-2019) will be presented. The sample includes 383 rural households from 12 districts of Yakutia, Arctic area among them.