

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCE POTENTIAL OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS IN NORTHERN REGIONS UNDER CRISIS CONDITIONS: DEVELOPMENT BASIS AND PROSPECTS

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***Abstract:** The main purpose of the study is the study of problems and identification of prospects for the development of traditional crafts of the North. The article analyzes development issues of traditional crafts in Northern regions under crisis conditions, economic assessment of resource potential of traditional crafts of indigenous minor peoples of the North and opportunities for goods produced by traditional crafters to get into the all-Russian import substitution mainstream. The potential development assessment of traditional crafts and development forecast for the North region has been carried out. The scientific novelty of the research is represented by the following provisions: systematic statistical data in dynamics, reflecting the natural resource potential of the traditional crafts of the North; development issues of traditional crafts of the North and the ways for solution; development prospects of traditional crafts of the North of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug.*

***Keywords:** traditional crafts of the North, indigenous minor peoples of the North, import substitution, resource potential.*

1. INTRODUCTION

An important role in the changing Russian economy is assigned to the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra (KhMAO –Yugra) with its orientation on export and its focus on extraction of fuel and energy resources. The region's share of gross regional product accounts for 5.2% of the total all-Russian value. The economy of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra is concentrated on oil and gas extraction which is conditioned by geographic and geologic characteristics of the northern area ("The program of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra "Social and economic development of indigenous minor peoples of the Russia's North in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra in 2014-2020", n.d.). The region's economy is considered to be a sector-specific economy which depends on maturity of oil and gas industry followed by typical absence of other equivalent industries.

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The structure of the gross regional product of the KhMAO-Yugra is basically formed by mineral resources extraction which accounts for 62.3%.

The Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra is an export-oriented region, with its export accounts for 95.6% of the total volume in external trade turnover while the import accounts only for 4.4%. Crude oil is 99,4% of the total export volume. The amount of goods and services imported into the region increased by 8,4% within the last year (“The official web-site of public authorities of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra”, n.d.). The Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra is the sector-specific oil-and-gas producing region with a limited number of basic industries represented in its regional economy and well developed additional and auxiliary industries. In a geopolitically volatile environment and applied sanctions a particular importance is given to regions that are able to promptly reorganize their economies in order to develop the resource potential which is capable of providing the population with own-produced goods and services. Due to recent geopolitical developments, the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra has faced new tasks and objectives that involve maintaining the high standard of human welfare based on balanced sustainable economic growth as well as on import substitution of goods, labour and services (Bogomolova et al.,2015).

The Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra possesses abundant deposits of natural resources and raw hydrocarbons. Natural resources are rich in wood, land, aquatic biological resources, wildlife, etc. These particular factors form the life sustenance and traditional way of life of minor peoples of the North and define opportunities to preserve their ethnic identity. The Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra has considerable potential for natural resources, though the region’s economy can base on traditional crafts of the indigenous minor peoples of the North (Kurikov, 2007). Two types of economic management have come together in conditions of northern area with extremely vulnerable environment. The first one is a traditional type characterized by strong relations and dependences between ecological well-being and preservation of ethnic identity, another one is a modern industrial type aimed at natural resources development (“Information to support economic and social development of indigenous peoples in Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra”, 2016).

In order to exercise northern peoples’ rights to their lands, subsoil resources and rights guarantees in the event of forfeiture of land plots for industrial exploitation at the sites of traditional economy management, the Regulation “On status of tribal lands in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug–Yugra” has been adopted. This regulation laid the foundation for reverting to the traditional way of life which provided the background for restoring tribal lands (Araslanov, 2015).

Provisions of the following statutory instruments regulate the fundamentals of the legal status of the indigenous minor peoples of the KhMAO-Yugra (Andrichenko, 2015):

1. The Constitution of the Russian Federation (articles 9, 69, 72);
2. Federal act # 82-FZ of April 30, 1999 "On Rights Guarantees of the Indigenous Minor Peoples of the Russian Federation";
3. Federal act # 104-FZ of June 20, 2000 "On the General Principles of the Organization of Communities of the Indigenous Minor Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation";
4. The list of the Indigenous Minor Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation approved by the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of April 17, 2006 # 536-r.
5. The act of the autonomous okrug # 29-oz of May 5, 2003 "On support provided to organizations of traditional economy management and crafts of the indigenous minor peoples of the North by public authorities of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra".
6. The act of the autonomous okrug #131-oz of December 27, 2006 "On areas of natural resources management".

Basic rights guarantees of minor peoples are enshrined in the Charter (Framework law) of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra. To keep them in effect, 50 regulatory acts including 10 "personalized" acts to support indigenous minor peoples of the North have been passed. The "Social and economic development of the indigenous minor peoples of the North in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra for 2014-2020" Program has been adopted ("Traditional environmental management of the KhMAO-Yugra", 2016).

Altogether with the downturn in the regional economy and the all-Russian focus on import substitution, the development of traditional crafts is restrained by straight regional factors like development and primary support for oil-and-gas sector and other prioritized materials processing industries which are of a strategic importance for the Russian economy.

One of the most acute challenges in recessionary regional economies of northern areas now is the substitution of foreign products with local products, especially with ones of traditional crafts of the indigenous minor peoples of the North. The basic feature of the traditional crafts of the North is traditional households with their types formed historically. Types of economic management and ways of life of indigenous minor peoples of the North are the following: areal settlements, tribal communities and collectives. They have significantly changed within decades affected by exploitation of mineral deposits. The occupation of the indigenous minor peoples of the North in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra is represented by such industries of traditional household as reindeer breeding, wild crops harvesting and processing, souvenir handicraft, fishing and hunting. The urbanization made changes in the way of life of the indigenous minor peoples of the North, their mentality and life philosophy.

Nowadays reindeer breeding, fishing, wild crops harvesting are becoming profitable businesses as far as the spirit of times changed human food patterns, so organic and good for consuming local products are in demand now.

2. METHODOLOGY

The research work aimed at studying the development of forms of business enterprises, economic assessment of resource potential of traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North and opportunities for import substitution with local products is performed within the Project "Historical, cultural heritage and economic assessment of the governmental support for small enterprises in conditions of political instability in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra". The project has been financed by the Russian State Research Foundation within the Regional contest "The Ural: history, economy and culture" 2015 - the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra # 15-12 86002a (r).

The research reviews a set of approaches to economic assessment of resource potential of traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North, defines the method related to the issue under consideration, provides theories that could lay the foundation for the to-be-formed category for economic assessment of resource potential. The analysis of the economic assessment of resource potential of traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North provides a basis for the forecast of predicted production volumes of traditional industries and their opportunities for the import substitution project.

Methods used in the research:

- Logical: Delphi method, case study and forecasting;
- Formalized: classical method of economic analysis and statistics, namely proportion-based forecasting, traditional methods of economic statistics, decision theory method;
- However it is worth noticing that the northern indigenous peoples live mostly in rural localities, more than 10% of them keep traditional way of life in the territories of traditional nature use.

The traditional economic activities of indigenous peoples of the autonomous okrug include reindeer breeding, fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering, traditional crafts such as making national clothes, utensils, fishing gear, etc.

There are no research methodology, methods and Russian experience in the study of the Russian problems and forms of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial initiatives of traditional crafts of Indigenous Peoples of the North (Bogomolova, Mayakovski, 2015).

3. RESULTS

Under the conditions of the downturn in a regional economy of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra and all-Russian focus on import substitution the

development of traditional industries is restrained by straight regional factors like development and primary support provided for oil-and-gas sector and other prioritized materials processing industries which are of a strategic importance both for the Russian and regional economies.

With all that, traditional industries play an important role in import substitution as wild crops like mushrooms, berries, nuts, products of fishing, reindeer and hunting are in demand on local market and constitute significant 12,5% on consumer market in the region and have a substantial growth potential due to their high demand, quality and environmental compatibility. In this regard, the economic assessment of resource potential of traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North obtains a special importance (Bogomolova et al., 2015).

Table 1.
Wild crops harvest and processing potential (Department of Natural Resources and the Non-primary Sector of the Economy of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra, n.d.).

Activitycategory	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Potential	Potential fulfillment, %
Mushrooms (t)	51,2	64,9	81,2	-	-	39,790.6	0,2
Berries (t)	287	472	631	-	-	62,331	1,01
Pine nuts (t)	66	154	174	-	-	21,11.4	8,2

Analysis of fulfillment of natural resources potential in a single type of traditional industry – wild crop harvesting and processing – exposes the substantial growth reserve for traditional industries and its use as a component of import substitution in the region (Table 1). In fact, Yugra possesses nearly absolute growth potential for traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North. Increasing demand for natural, organic higher value added goods sets up the market outlook for wild crop harvesting and processing both in Russia and abroad (“Development of wild crop procurement and processing system in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra in 2013-2020”, n.d.).

Nowadays the whole world is experiencing growing interest to use wild medicinal plants, berries and mushrooms in pharmaceutical, food and beauty industries. There is a mounting demand for organic products too. Being a holder of abundant reserves of organic raw materials Yugra could become one of the top suppliers of these materials (Yugra Export Support Center, 2014).

The Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug–Yugra is a natural habitat for 58 mammals species and 191 birds species of which elks, reindeers, lynxes, sables, martens, ermines, Siberian weasels, otters, minks, muskrats, Arctic hares, squirrels, red foxes, badgers, wolves, bears, wolverines, water fowl (ducks and geese), upland fowl (grouses, ptarmigans, capercaillies, hazel hens) are of commercial importance.

As of February 1, 2015 the National Hunting Industry Register of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra counts for 65676 hunters among which there is a number of the indigenous minor peoples of the North.

(contd...Table 3)

Species	2012			2013			2014	Accession rate, %	
	Species, number	Actual production, number	% of development	Species, number	Actual production, number	% of development	Species, number	Actual production, number (2014, 2012)	% of development
Ermines	9487	0	0,0	9158	10	0,1	12104	27,6	-
Lynxes	176	0	0,0	159	1	0,6	185	5,1	-
Foxes	13206	192	1,5	16533	361	2,2	16591	25,6	50,2
Arctic foxes	650	1	0,2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wolves	240	11	4,6	265	11	4,2	192	-20,0	-9,4
Squirrels	247240	3482	1,4	231383	4175	1,8	270572	9,4	28,1
Arctic hares	102620	966	0,9	104334	1033	1,0	91691	-10,6	5,2
Muskrats	1286270	506	0,04	492611	3815	0,8	838082	-34,8	by a factor of 20
Capercaillies	199142	2669	1,3	190457	3189	1,7	194618	-2,3	24,9
Grouses	794343	4467	0,6	1178397	8470	0,7	867030	9,2	27,8
Hazel hen	576223	7662	1,3	514588	10234	2,0	440787	-23,5	49,6
Ptarmigans	917339	3868	0,4	1088043	6578	0,6	2192870	139,0	43,4
Ducks	3601340	41861	1,2	9978121	48167	0,5	4686831	30,1	-58,5
Geese	5076	1055	20,8	25948	972	3,7	53964	963,1	-82,0
Hooded crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	3587870	-	-
Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	1833416	-	-

population growth is primarily seen in fowls. The issuing dynamics are ahead of the development dynamics of this industry.

The negative factor is a significant reduction of valuable hunting resources like minks, weasels, sables. The hunting development's dynamics has a multidirectional nature as well. The most significant growth is accounted for by such hunting resources as otters, minks, muskrats and foxes ("Performance Statement of the Service for Control and Supervision in Environmental Protection, Wildlife and Forest Affairs in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra in the Sphere of Environmental Protection and Ecological Security in 2014", 2015).

Despite this the overall situation in hunting resources' development points at substantial potential growth prospects of this particular traditional industry. The average development rate does not exceed 5%.

The Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra provides active governmental support for the production (fishing) of low value and predatory water bioresources in the amount equal to 18.000.0 thousand rubles in 2014.

Prominent areas for commercial and traditional fishing can contribute to the import substitution in the region (table 4). Against this background 32% of all grounds are accounted for by traditional fishing of the indigenous minor peoples of the North.

Table 4
The list of fishing grounds in the KhMAO-Yugra, units (Department of Natural Resources and the Non-primary Sector of the Economy of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra, n.d.)

Municipal unit (district)	Commercial fishing		Traditional fishing	Amateur and sport fishing		Fishing for sale	Total grounds
	Number	Reserved		Number	Reserved		
Beloyarskiy district	104	41	35	2	2	-	141
Bereзовskiy district	209	151	108	7	7	-	324
Oktyabrskiy district	90	83	18	6	6	1	115
Sovetskiy district	3	0	7	-	-	-	10
Kondinskiy district	458	425	32	3	3	16	509
Khanty-Mansiyskiy district	441	380	175	3	3	14	633
Nefteyuganskiy district	23	23	58	4	4	2	87
Surgutskiy district	91	56	287	10	10	4	392
Nizhnevartovskiy district	161	66	73	3	3	1	238
TOTAL	1580	1225	793	38	38	38	2449

Table 5
The fishing industry growth potential in the KhMAO-Yugra (Department of Natural Resources and the Non-primary Sector of the Economy of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra, n.d.).

Activity/Category	2012	2013	2014	Accession rate, %	
				2013/2012	2013/2013
Conclusion of contracts on water bioresources use (quotas)	1280	1141	1232	-10,9	8,0
Conclusion of fishing grounds contracts for commercial fishing in water reservoirs of Yugra	22	161	22	631,8	-86,3
Volume of water bioresources for commercial fishing, tons	14245,2	13576,6	15174,6	-4,7	11,8
Actual commercial fishing, tons	8456,9	8515,1	10470,04	0,7	23,0
Quota used, %	59,4	62,7	69,0	5,6	10,0
Governmental support for fishing industry, thousand rubles	125092	132332	134463	5,8	1,6

The fishing industry is characterized by prominent reserves growth with the investment attractive market prospects. Reasonably the highest percentage of development of water bioresources accounts for commercial fishing as it is easier for medium business enterprises to make the production profitable due to their advanced technological equipment as against small business enterprises which are mainly left for traditional fishing. The average take-up of quota by commercial fishing is 64% which means the growth potential is over 35%. In these conditions traditional fishing has slower pace of production of water bioresources and as a consequence substantially greater development potential of fishing industry. According to the expert estimates of the Department of Natural Resources and Non-Resource Economy of the KhMAO-Yugra this potential can be up to 50-60%.

The positive factor is a growing dynamics of fish caught and quota used by commercial fishing which promotes development of traditional and amateur fishing (table 5). These trends obtain a special importance amid the reduction in governmental support for fishing industry.

Despite these facts fishing industry has negative factors restraining the fishing growth:

- Poor quality of material and technical base among fishery sector and fish processing enterprises;
- High physical deterioration and progressive aging of river fleet's basic facilities;
- Absence of special protection areas (fishing industry preserved areas) involving river heads where valuable fish species of the Ob-Irtysh fishing industry basin reproduce;
- Underdevelopment of both aquaculture and water bioresources recovery measures;
- Absence of authorities to organize and regulate the recovery of water bioresources that create barriers to fund these events;
- High rate of illegal fishing;
- Water reservoirs' pollution;
- Absence of the comprehensive transregional fishing industry development program for all entities of the Ob-Irtysh basin.

With a purpose of partial solution of appeared challenges the "road map" named "Reconstruction of the "Fish plant for breeding valuable fish species in Khanty-Mansiysk" is adopted". Hereupon the plant released in the Irtysh river young species of valuable fish: 2,400 whitefish species and 2,700 tугun species (Department of Natural Resources and the Non-primary Sector of the Economy of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra, n.d.).

Reindeer breeding is the absolute leader in establishing basic conditions for import substitution and traditional lifestyle of the indigenous minor peoples of the North (table 6).

Table 6
Reindeer population by categories of farmsteads, thousand head ("Report on the results of the Government of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug – Yugra", n.d.).

Categories of farmsteads	2012	2013	2014	Accession rate, %	
				2013/2012	2014/2013
Agricultural organizations	19,2	19,4	19,4	1,04	0,00
Private households	14,8	14,7	15,3	-0,68	4,08
Peasant farm enterprises and private entrepreneurs	3239	4004	3905	23,62	-2,47
Total	37,3	38,1	38,5	2,14	1,05

The reindeer population in the region is tending to increase due to significant governmental support:

- Subsidies provided to refine areas of traditional environmental management, to purchase facilities and supplies, reindeers in the amount equal to 26 million rubles (based on 60 thousand rubles\tons of live weight). These supportive measures were granted to 99 individuals from among the indigenous minor peoples of the North, 6 legal entities;
- Subsidies provided for traditional industries products in the amount of 5,3 million rubles, 15 organizations-grantees;
- Veterinary treatment in 25 peasant farm enterprises and communities, in 470 private households of the indigenous minor peoples of the North and large reindeer breeding enterprises.

4. DISCUSSION

Production growth of traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North is closely related to the employment growth number of enterprises performing traditional activity (figure 1).

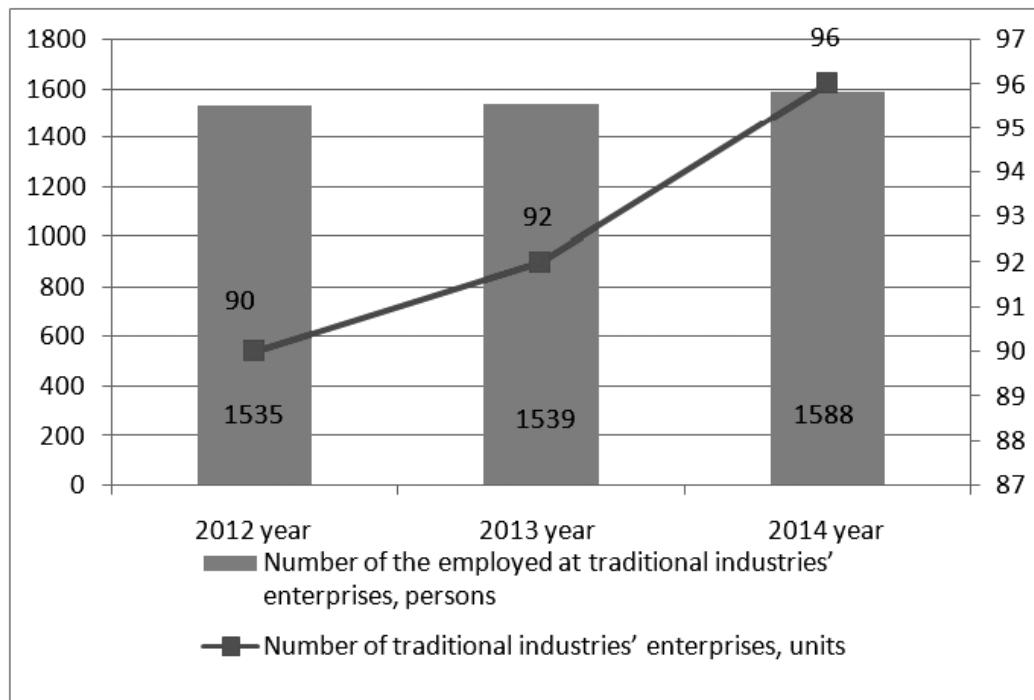


Figure 1: Employment dynamics of the indigenous minor peoples of the North. (Araslanov, 2015)

The employment of the indigenous minor peoples of the North is growing sustainably what actually induces enterprises associated with traditional activity to grow. The governmental support provided to the traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North plays an essential role in increasing production performance.

For the purpose of preserving and developing the areas of traditional environmental management of the indigenous minor peoples of the North and types of traditional economic activity the Government of the autonomous okrug, apart from measures mentioned above, grants individuals and legal entities subsidies allowing them to refine areas of traditional environmental management as well as grants organizations of traditional industries subsidies to store products of traditional industry.

Table 7
Resource potential fulfillment forecast of traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra (import substitution) (Araslanov, 2015)

Figures	2016 (forecast)	
	Production volume of traditional industry	% of resource potential fulfillment of traditional industries(import substitution)
1. Wild crop harvest and processing, including, tons:		
mushrooms	102,2	0,25
berries	940,2	1,5
pine nuts	301,0	14,25
2. Hunting, items.	115802	0,53
3. Fishing, tons	5853,9	74,5
4. Reindeer breeding, including, thousand heads:		
Agricultural organizations	19,5	
Private households	15,6	
Peasant farm enterprises and private entrepreneurs	4317,9	28 – depends on reindeer pasture fertility

The potential fulfillment forecast of traditional industry of the indigenous minor peoples of the North for 2016 is made allowing for the production rate of traditional industry of the indigenous minor peoples of the North in the Khanty-Mansiysk autonomous okrug-Yugra i.e. import substitution(table 7).

Amid the increasing crisis the governmental support and regulation of the import substitution in the regional economy provide means forboosting the following:

- production volume of traditional industry of the indigenous minor peoples of the North by 50% (“Traditional environmental management of the KhMAO-Yugra, 2016);
- number of communities and organizations associated with traditional industry by 27,7%. (up to 92 items) (Araslanov, 2015)

- reindeer population in all forms of ownership by 3,2% (up to 38500 animal units) (Araslanov, 2015).

5. CONCLUSIONS

The KhMAO-Yugra is distinguished by significant natural and resource potential good for developing traditional industries in the North. Undeveloped resources with high development potential appear in such industries as wild crop harvesting and processing and hunting. Undisputed advantage in the development of the Northern natural resources is the governmental support provided to the traditional industries by the region. It is directly reflected on production volume growth in fishing, hunting, reindeer breeding, wild crop harvesting and processing, indigenous population employment and enterprises performing traditional activities and economic management. Today, amid increasing downturn and geopolitical instability it remains hard to predict possible consequences of the renewed economic crisis but the only one thing obvious is that Russia needs breakthrough changes and new opportunities for economic upturn which, first and foremost, could be based upon import substitution and local production.

Promotion of small and medium enterprises in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra assumes more and more political, social and economic sense. This is a main concern of the regional Government as far as establishing the middle class of property owners promotes the creation of basis to develop stable regional economy in general terms and creation of new jobs, expansion of tax base and improvement of living standards of the regional population in the end.

Measures taken by the local authorities of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra to develop small enterprises have become one of the factors that made it possible to minimize losses considerably caused by financial and economic crisis. The infrastructure's support for small enterprises at the beginning of 2015 provided aid to a total of 2 193 business entities. Financial support was granted to 81 small and medium business entities, property support was granted to 119 small and medium business entities; training support was provided to 1 013 individuals; consulting service is for 644 people; 336 representatives of the business community took part in events promoting entrepreneurship. The measures provided by means of the governmental support to small business amid the crisis let entrepreneurs stay at the same level (Bogomolova, 2015). The increase of basic figures that characterize the economic development of traditional industries as well as substantial undeveloped bioresources in the KhMAO-Yugra define sufficiently sustainable growth prospects both for the traditional industry of the indigenous minor peoples of the North and the basis for substitution with local goods.

Balanced development of the traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North based on the governmental support will allow:

1. Creating conditions for sustainable development of the indigenous minor peoples of the North based on the overall resource potential development of

traditional industries and crafts, spiritual, national and cultural development, rise of education and training level;

2. Developing economic set-up of the based on increased governmental support and overall development of economic structure in areas of traditional environmental management provided that the ecological balance is kept;
3. Improving living standards of the indigenous minor peoples of the North, establishing life support systems and social conditions to meet their essential needs (Araslanov, Bogomolova, 2011);
4. Enabling investment and business activities, re-establishing financial, trading and economic relations and integration in the regional economy;
5. Multiplying production volume and products trading of traditional industries and crafts commercially successful on international markets (Yugra Export Support Center, 2014);
6. Improving the employment rate (creating new jobs) of the indigenous northern peoples due to involving the traditional industries and crafts into production ("The Yugra Export Bulletin, volume #2.", 2014);
7. Developing export orientation of the traditional industries of the indigenous minor peoples of the North ("The Yugra Export Bulletin, volume #3", 2014);
8. Providing the development of a trading stations chain in areas of residence of the indigenous minor peoples of the North ("The act of the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra "On trading stations in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrug-Yugra", 2010).

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