The article is devoted to the elimination of the uncertainty of the economic concept of “mechanism”. Various interpretations of the economic concept of “mechanism” are analyzed. Relationships between the concepts “mechanism”, “economic mechanism”, “economic mechanism” are revealed. Its essence, structure, components and possibilities of formalization are defined. The paradigm of formation of the mechanism of knowledge economy in the agrarian sector is indicated.

Analysis of existing approaches to the definition of the concept of “mechanism” in economic science made it possible to obtain the following results.

On the one hand, an approach based on the methodological principles of mainstream economics has been identified. It is established that in the modern foreign economic science the concept of “economic mechanism” is not used, and the concept of “mechanism” and “economic mechanism” are used as synonyms. As the operational definitions are applied, proposed by the theory of economic mechanisms. Here, the mechanism (economic mechanism), in a broad sense, is a form of play, and the game is a description of how players (economic actors) can act and what any set of their actions will lead to. In a narrow sense, the mechanism is a way of selling. With this approach, the concepts under consideration receive a limited orthodox, neoclassical interpretation.

On the other hand, an approach based on scientific achievements of the theory of the economic mechanism developed within the framework of the national and post-Soviet schools of economic thought was identified. In accordance with it was established that the concept of “mechanism” in itself did not receive a special, economic content. Nevertheless, on the basis of the analysis of the theory of the economic mechanism, the relation of the concepts “economic mechanism” and “economic mechanism” is revealed, their place in the hierarchy of complementary economic categories is shown.

Following the principles of system analysis, which is based on the theory of the economic mechanism, allowed, first, to critically examine the approaches to the definition of the concept of “mechanism” existing in modern post-Soviet economic science, and, secondly, to offer its own, in contrast to the established. In our opinion, the desired definition in economic science must closely correlate with its commonly used meaning, according to which the mechanism is a system or device that determines the order of any kind of activity or process, but at the same time has a specific specific, scientific meaning. Proceeding from this, we propose, from the economic point of view, to consider the mechanism as a way of connecting, resources, and from the point of view of management, as a way of organizing such a connection. Hence, the mechanism is represented by us as an element of the process control system.

This approach will be put in the theoretical and methodological framework for the development of the mechanism for the formation of the knowledge economy in the agricultural sector.