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SOME ASPECTS OF ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract
Achieving food security and independence involves overcoming various risks and threats. The most probable and dangerous risks should be recognized: natural, weather and man-made; economic and industrial; innovative. Macroeconomic risks, including those related to the global market situation, as well as political risks of a national and global scale, have a strong impact on the agri-food complex. Threats to achieving food security are associated with a low-income level of a significant part of the population, underdeveloped infrastructure, depreciation of fixed production assets, a shortage of personnel in agriculture, and an inefficient management system.
The most important aspects of food security are considered, the main criteria and measures for the formation of effective mechanisms for ensuring food security.

Keywords: food security, food independence, food insecurity, self-sufficiency, availability, access, utilization, stability.

Introduction

Food security is a state of the economy in which, on the one hand, regardless of the fluctuations of the world markets, on the one hand, in quantities corresponding to scientifically based indicators, and on the other hand, conditions are created to satisfy consumption at the level of medical standards, and the stable supply of food products to the population is guaranteed. The main goal of achieving food security is to provide processing enterprises with raw materials and the population with food products, regardless of internal and external negative effects. It should not even depend on the lack of foreign currency, embargo (imposing barriers by other countries) on the increase in prices.
In 2022, the share of the population suffering from insufficient nutrition made up 9.8 % and exceeded 828 million people. In 54 countries of the world , the decrease in the level of the financial condition of families was observed, the majority of the population of more than 20 countries is suffering from hunger, in 12 countries, the average life expectancy of the population has decreased. Every year in developing countries, 20 million children are born underweight, malnutrition causes the death of 5 million children, and those who survive suffer from various diseases. 3.1 billion people in the world do not follow a healthy diet [1].

Data and Methods

In the process of research, theoretical methods of induction, deduction, generalization and comparison were used. The necessary materials are investigated on the basis of the methods of typological analysis, the synthesis of statistical data.

Main Results

First proposed at the World Food Summit in 1974, it means that "there are always sufficient reserves in the world of staple foods to sustain a steady increase in food consumption and to cover changes in production and prices" [2]. In 1996, the World Summit on Food Security defined food security as a condition:

"...that all people have material and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their nutritional needs and personal preferences and to lead active and healthy lives."

In 2001, the idea of food security is social in addition to material and economic opportunity the concept of possibility has also been added. The current FAO definition reflects this additional aspect as follows: "Food security means that all people have the physical, economic and social means to obtain sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their nutritional needs and personal preferences and to lead an active and healthy life".

There are four aspects of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability.

Availability of food : supply of the necessary quality food products in the required quantity through domestic production or importation (including food aid). The most commonly used measure of food availability is per capita daily energy expenditure (DEE), measured in calories.

According to the FAO methods, the KES indicator is calculated according to the type of food consumption based on the food balance. FAO calculates food balances using information on different sources of food supply (production, savings, trade) and different uses (or consumption) of products (forage, seed, industrial use, waste) of specific commodities.

Access to food: the material, economic, and social capacity to access the resources necessary to obtain the nutrients necessary for a nutritious diet. In order for the food supply to be uninterrupted, a population, family or individual must always have access to food. They should not be cut off from food due to unexpected events (eg economic or climate crisis) or cyclical events (eg climate food shortages). Food insecurity is a situation in which a population does not obtain sufficient safe and nutritious food necessary for normal growth, development, and an active lifestyle. Failure to meet an indicator results in low food security or food insecurity.

Utilization: the human body's consumption of adequate amounts of nutrients requires good quality and safe nutrition.

The influence of globalization and unstable development in the world economy on the food security of our country cannot be denied. As Sh. Mirziyoev noted, "The global pandemic once again confirmed the need to pay serious attention to ensuring food security" [3]. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in 2021, Uzbekistan was in 78th place in the global ranking of food security, the index was 53.8, and it increased by 2 points compared to 2019. The accumulated score allowed Uzbekistan to maintain its place in a group of countries with an average level of food security [4].

In the structure of GDP (GVA), the share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in 2022 amounted to 25.1 %. Despite the fact that the share of agriculture in the total volume of gross domestic product tends to decrease, high growth rates of agricultural production are observed. At the end of 2022, agriculture, forestry and fisheries showed a positive growth rate of 3.6% (in 2021 - 4.0%, 2020 - 2.9%, 2019 - 3.1%, 2018 - 0.3%) [5]. Positive dynamics in this industry is due to the growth of livestock by 3.4% (in 2021 - 3.5%, in 2020 - 2.1%, in 2019 - 1.6%, in 2018 - 5.7%) and crop production by 3.8% (in 2021 - an

increase of 4.3%, 2020 - an increase of 3.2%, 2019 - an increase of 4.8%, 2018 - a decrease of 4.2%). Total volume of products (services) agriculture, forestry and fisheries in January-December 2022 amounted to 364.5 trillion sum , including in crop and animal husbandry, hunting and the provision of services in these areas - 352.1 trillion. soum , forestry - 9.2 trillion sum , fisheries - 3.2 trillion. sum .

Studies of agricultural development trends in the republic show positive dynamics in the production of the main types of crop and livestock products. Positive growth rates of agricultural sectors were achieved mainly due to high growth rates of meat, milk, eggs, vegetables, melons, fruits and berries, grapes, and fish.

The consistent implementation of measures to further increase the potential of the livestock industry, as well as the systemic state support provided, contributed to the growth in the number of livestock and the saturation of the domestic consumer market with livestock products.

In 2021, Uzbekistan provided 6.6% of food production in the Eurasian region in terms of energy value [6]. The share of Uzbekistan, which is significant in the Eurasian food market in the production of fruits and berries (38.4%), as well as vegetables, including gourds (30.5%), is relatively high in the production of meat of all kinds (10.4%) and potatoes (9.9%). Export growth rates increased by 2.1 times from 2015 to 2021.

At the same time, despite the positive trends in the agricultural sector, the discrepancy between the level of production and marketing of agricultural products in the republic and the potential and economic opportunities of the industry necessitates the introduction of a system of interrelated measures aimed at the effective management of available resources, cost optimization, profit maximization, increasing the profitability of production and industry competitiveness. It is possible to solve these problems, first of all, by providing conditions for the creation and implementation of resource-saving, innovative technologies. It should also be noted that the low solvency of farms, poor management of scientific and technical progress, unpreparedness of personnel, low marketing work, lack of mechanisms that stimulate the development of the innovation process in the agro-industrial complex are factors that hinder and impede the introduction and development of innovations in the agricultural sector.

At the same time, despite the high rates of self-sufficiency in key types of agri-food products, today significant volumes of high-tech production means for crop and livestock production are imported from abroad to the domestic market.

For most agricultural crops, the yield in the country is at least 1.5–2 times lower than in developed countries. Such a lag is explained not only and not so much by difficult agro-climatic conditions, but by a relatively low technological level of production, its insufficient power supply, and low indicators of chemicalization.

The agriculture of Uzbekistan also depends on the import of resources for investment and current production consumption. This creates high political, economic, logistical and other risks to maintain the achieved levels of production, as well as to provide resources for new investment projects and modernization of existing agro-industrial enterprises.

Significant difficulties in the process of intensifying crop production may arise due to interruptions in the supply of imported agricultural machinery and components. Another significant problem is the high dependence on seed imports from other countries.

For a country with an arid climate like Uzbekistan, the development of land reclamation will be of great

importance. Uzbekistan, although it has a high proportion of irrigated lands, retains significant reserves for their more efficient use and the introduction of water-saving technologies. The country currently has one of the world's lowest levels of agricultural water use efficiency and a high level of unrealized economic benefits in the water sector.

It is also necessary to ensure national food security through alternative mechanisms, for example, through the formation of stocks and commodity interventions, targeted social assistance, etc.

In Uzbekistan, the priority direction of the food security policy is to ensure the physical availability of food while reducing the risks associated with importing from third countries both the food resources themselves and elements of current material costs and equipment for the agro-industrial complex. The "green" agenda of food security policy is also gradually expanding, which implies ensuring various aspects of the sustainability of agri-food systems, including reducing their negative impact on natural ecosystems and climate.

For Uzbekistan, insufficient levels of self-sufficiency are observed for sugar, vegetable oils, and grain.

In terms of energy value, average diets according to the FAO are generally sufficient: current indicators exceed the level of 2800 kcal / day (corresponding to the upper limit of the state of food well-being, in which the risks of hunger are minimized, but the diet is insufficient) and are comparable to those in developed countries (over 3000 kcal/day).

At the same time, the imbalance of the diet in terms of the main nutrients remains - cheaper products of plant origin predominate.

In terms of economic availability of food in the country, the situation is less favorable. The share of expenditures on food in the total volume of consumer expenditures of the population exceeds 30% (despite the fact that the actual level of consumption of certain types of food is below the accepted rational norms).

In particular, in 2022, compared to 2021, the poverty rate decreased from 17% to 14%. 1 million people have been lifted out of poverty through vocational training and promotion of entrepreneurship. In 2022 , 200,000 business entities were created, the activities of 10,000 enterprises were expanded, and the capacity of 11,000 enterprises was restored .

The Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan assessed the change in the level of well-being of the population of Uzbekistan for 2021-2022. based on household budget survey data across the country [6].

If about 10 thousand families participated in the 2021 survey, then in 2022 the coverage exceeded 14 thousand households. At the same time, the households participating in the survey were divided into ten groups according to the amount of expenses, and from these families the households with the lowest expenses (income) were singled out.

The study revealed that the greatest reduction in the level of poverty was noted in the Syrdarya, Tashkent, Kashkadarya and Jizzakh regions. At the same time, in Navoi, Surkhandarya and Ferghana regions, there has been no significant improvement in poverty reduction indicators.

The most important role in ensuring the economic accessibility of food is played by the regime of socio-economic development and the corresponding growth and differentiation of real incomes of the population. It is because of this that food security policy has a general economic and not a sectoral nature. In 2022 compared to 2021 in Uzbekistan, the average per capita income increased by 8.8%. Gini coefficient decreased from 0.329 to 0.327. In 8 regions, per capita income growth was below the

national average, including Andijan, Bukhara, Kashkadarya, Navoi, Syrdarya , Khorezm, Surkhandarya and Fergana regions. In the following 6 regions, per capita income growth was noted at a level above the average for the republic, including in Jizzakh, Namangan, Samarkand, Tashkent regions, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as in the city of Tashkent. It should be noted that during this period , in the structure of the population's income, the share of income from small businesses increased by 2 times, and the share of the population's income from agriculture increased by 3 times.

CONCLUSION

In Uzbekistan, the priority direction of the food security policy is to ensure the physical availability of food while reducing the risks associated with importing from third countries both the food resources themselves and elements of current material costs and equipment for the agro-industrial complex.

Despite the positive trends in the agricultural sector, the discrepancy between the level of production and marketing of agricultural products in the republic and the potential and economic opportunities of the industry necessitates the introduction of a system of interrelated measures aimed at the effective management of available resources, cost optimization, profit maximization, increasing the profitability of production and industry competitiveness. It is possible to solve these problems, first of all, by providing conditions for the creation and implementation of resource-saving, innovative technologies. It should also be noted that the low solvency of farms, poor management of scientific and technical progress, unpreparedness of personnel, low marketing work, lack of mechanisms that stimulate the development of the innovation process in the agro-industrial complex are factors that hinder and impede the introduction and development of innovations in the agricultural sector.

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Incentive measures should also be directed to the development of knowledge and innovation infrastructure, to subsidize scientific and technical research, expenditures and finance purchases, due attention must be paid to the training of scientists, technologists, engineers to conduct high-quality research and development, so that national brands can compete globally in both price and quality.

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