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FEATURES OF FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD SECURITY IN UZBEKISTAN.

Abstract. The market transformation of the rational economy of Uzbekistan is accompanied by an increase in a certain degree of negative trends in food production, a reduction in interregional exchange and an expansion of food imports, which reduce the degree of food security at the macro and meso levels of the economy. This article presents the main aspects of the development of food security and ways to solve problems related to food security.

Keywords. *Food security, food security, agrarian sector, agricultural production, demography of the country, macroeconomic stability, high economic growth rates.*

The strengthening of the competitive advantages of the domestic food complex due to some depreciation of the national currency - the soum - creates conditions for increasing the degree of food self-sufficiency in Uzbekistan. This sets the task of finding effective methods for regulating interregional and export food flows, primarily from the industrial and agricultural eastern regions (Fergana economic region) to other territories of Uzbekistan. Achieving food self-sufficiency of the country at the macro level is impossible without the restructuring of the agro-industrial complex (AIC) and the formation of a civilized agro-food market. [1].

Acutely arose after the liberalization of prices in 1992, primarily for food, the problem of a lack of high-quality domestic food products was quickly

resolved by aggressive food imports, which until 2000 accounted for more than a third of the food consumed by the population of Uzbekistan, and in the megacities of Tashkent and Samarkand - up to 60 %. In the course of the ongoing reforms, the situation in the agricultural sector has improved significantly, however, many institutional changes have remained incomplete, due to a number of social and political restrictions that contribute to a new increase in imports, including food: with GDP growth in 2007. By 9.5%, exports grew by only 40.7%, while imports increased by 8.5%. [2]. In 2006, there was a significant decline in exports. The reverse effect of the import-oriented food policy on the domestic agricultural producers who remained face to face with the market, who had lost the competitive advantage of massive state support in the planned economy, negatively manifested itself in the destruction of domestic animal husbandry, poultry farming, and a decrease in agricultural production in general. Because of this, the formation of a market economy in the country with its focus on increasing the degree of openness has sharply raised the issue of maintaining the country's food security by the state, the main lever of which is food self-sufficiency.

Protecting the domestic market and equalizing the conditions of production are inevitable components of the economic policy of any state. The agri-food sector has traditionally been a high-level protection zone. The governments of industrialized countries attach paramount importance to ensuring the food security of the state on the basis of achieving self-sufficiency in the widest possible range of food products. Each state determines the permissible amount of import dependence in relation to food, based on the volume of foreign exchange resources and the extent of the unsatisfied effective demand of the population for food. Only after the introduction of a floating exchange rate in 2004 did the situation in the agri-food sector begin to change for the better [1].

At present, it is becoming more and more obvious that the solution of the problems accumulated in agriculture by the methods of liberalization of agri-

food markets without fundamental structural changes in the direction of achieving food self-sufficiency does not allow increasing the level of food security of the country and its regions. This was confirmed by the results of 2007, so, according to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic, [68], - in all categories of farms, 6771.8 thousand tons of grain were threshed in the initial recorded weight, including 6325.9 thousand tons of grain crops, of which 6197.4 thousand tons of wheat. State purchases of grain crops amounted to 2426.2 thousand tons, including 2385.7 thousand tons of wheat; 1188.1 thousand tons of potatoes were dug up (an increase of 16.4 percent), vegetables were harvested - 4669.9 thousand tons (by 8.8 percent), melons - 840.0 thousand tons (by 12.9 percent) , fruits and berries - 1269.1 thousand tons (by 7.3 percent), grapes - 880.3 thousand tons (by 9.6 percent) www.stat.uz Results of social and economic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2007. . Taking into account population growth (in 2007, about 1.5% compared to 2006) and its growing needs, it raises the question of ensuring the economic security of domestic agriculture [3, 4].

Obviously, the solution to the problem of food security begins at the mesolevel of the national economy, where it manifests itself in the level of food security of the region's population. Because of this, there is a need to implement the principles of a systematic approach to developing a mechanism for ensuring food security based on maintaining the self-sufficiency of the country in food and the security of the population of its regions. In this regard, the theoretical understanding of the transformation of the agrarian sector and the development of a concept for reforming the regional agrarian policy based on a comprehensive assessment of indicators of food security and security, and for industrial-agrarian and agrarian regions - self-sufficiency is of particular relevance. In addition, the issue of using customs and tariff regulation of food flows from abroad becomes relevant.

In recent years, the country has been actively implementing agricultural reforms aimed at diversifying production, improving land and water relations,

creating favorable conditions for agribusiness and high value-added production chains. These reforms are also aimed at supporting the development of cooperation, the widespread introduction of market mechanisms, information and communication technologies, as well as the effective use of scientific achievements and increasing the potential of human resources. The "Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030" was approved, the main directions of which generally correspond to the goal of sustainable development. The main goal of this Strategy is to fundamentally improve the state policy aimed at deepening the ongoing reforms aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, and covers the following strategic priorities: - ensuring food security of the population;

- creation of a favorable agribusiness climate and value chains; □
reducing the role of the state in the management of the sphere and increasing investment attractiveness;

- ensuring the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection;

- development of modern public administration systems;

- gradual diversification of public spending in support of the sector;

- development of science, education, systems of information and consulting services in agriculture;

- rural development;

- development of a transparent system of sectoral statistics. It is envisaged to achieve the following indicators in the development of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 by implementing the tasks outlined in the Strategy:

- creation of a transparent system for the allocation and withdrawal of land, prevention of corruption and other forms of subjective attitude, creation of a system that guarantees the rights of land users;

- achieving a sharp reduction in cases of illegal allocation and irrational use of land;

- increasing the efficiency of the use of 1.1 million hectares of agricultural land, including: 298.6 thousand hectares due to the introduction of irrigated lands not used in agriculture; 155.1 thousand hectares through the use of groundwater; 50.0 thousand hectares at the expense of other water sources; 535.6 thousand hectares due to the placement on rainfed, pastures and other lands of crops that do not require water; 72.5 thousand hectares due to the introduction of forest land into use;

- increase in the total area of land irrigated using water-saving technologies in the regions of the republic and improvement of assistance mechanisms that promote the introduction of these systems; □ gradual abolition of state participation in the production of raw cotton and cereals;

- free placement by producers of highly productive crops based on the type of land;

- support for small agricultural producers and creation of conditions for the rational use of land;

- growth of average labor productivity in agriculture by 1.7 times;

- creation of additional capacities for processing agricultural products for 3.4 million tons;

- increase in the indicator of processed products up to 30% (increase in exports up to \$20 billion by 2030);

- reduction in the proportion of the population experiencing food insecurity from 6.3% to 0%.

- increase in the average yield of cereals from 43c/ha in 2018 up to 75c/ha in 2030;

- increase in the average cow's milk yield from 2320 kg per cow to 3500 kg. By 2030, the goal is to ensure a balanced and high-quality diet in the required volumes with access for all segments of the population, especially socially vulnerable segments of the population, including infants, year-round access to vital and safe food. In recent years, Uzbekistan has taken effective measures to ensure food security, including in 2018 a draft law "On Food

Security” was developed in the country. According to the first essential, vital foodstuffs, Uzbekistan fully satisfies the internal need for grain, salt, vegetable oil, eggs, sugar, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, melons and grapes. Of these, due to own production, over 70% - grain and eggs; over 100% - vegetable oil, milk, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, gourds, grapes, salt, sugar. The sustainability of the food supply system is above 85%. The prevalence of undernourishment, according to FAO estimates, has declined. However, despite such significant progress in the fight against hunger, the prevalence of malnutrition is still a concern in Uzbekistan, with an obesity rate of 15.3%

It should be concluded that food security, as one of the sectors of economic security, characterizes the ability and readiness of the state to meet the needs of its citizens in food, in an amount sufficient for normal life, and evaluates its political independence and economic stability to a greater extent due to its own production.

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