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FOOD SECURITY A GUARANTEE OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY

***Abstract.** Food security is a direct guarantee of the country's strategic development and security. It is in this article, which is a summary of the dissertation research, that the theoretical and practical aspects of determining food security are presented.*

***Keywords.** guarantee of safety, food, agricultural sector, food industry, foodstuffs.*

The food industry, being one of the main sectors of the economy, protects and supports the population in the social aspect, constantly creates new jobs, and often forms the budgets of small and large regions. As you know, the food industry includes enterprises for the production of meat and dairy, oil and fat, fish products, flour-grinding, bakery and confectionery products, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, tea, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, soft drinks and other goods. The food industry of our country, which has serious potential and significant experience, occupies one of the leading positions in the national economy. This area is mainly engaged in the processing of local raw materials. During the first stage of Uzbekistan's economic reforms, much attention was paid to the processing of agricultural products in order to provide the population with food products. The food industry of Uzbekistan is characterized by the presence of both large companies producing various types of food products, and small enterprises engaged in the production of only a certain type of product¹.

¹ <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2021/06/06/kak-nakormit-stranu-problemy-pishchevoy-promyshlennosti-uzbekistana-i-puti-ix-resheniya> Bakhodir Umirshaykhov, Chairman of the Association of Food Industry Producers

The government pays great attention to the legislative regulation of this area. Even at the dawn of independence, on November 29, 1991, the decree of the first president of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the further strengthening of dekhkan (farm) farms and state support for entrepreneurial activity in the republic” was adopted, which became the basis for the development of the farming movement in the country [1,2].

It should be noted that the food industry is closely interconnected with the agricultural sectors and it should also be emphasized that these two areas cannot be separated from each other. Currently, Uzbekistan is pursuing a policy of further diversification of the agricultural sector, including:

- Increasing the sown area for fruits and vegetables by reducing more than 135 thousand hectares of land under cotton and grain crops;
- Development of farming by stimulating diversified activities;
- Cultivation of non-traditional crops (soybean, saffron, pepper, medicinal herbs, etc.);
- Creation of clusters for effective development of agriculture.

The food industry has become one of the important segments in terms of its contribution to the economy of Uzbekistan, as it contributes 13% of GDP.

The number of registered food industry enterprises increased from 8,050 in 2014-2015 to 12,065 in 2017-2018 [3,4,5].

Fixed asset investment in the registered food processing sector increased from US\$102.0 million in 2015-2017 to US\$495.7 million in 2018, with a growth rate of 485%.

This sector accounts for 6.4% of all Uzbek exports and 9.8% of total industrial investment. In addition, the sector is considered the 4th largest FDI acceptor in Uzbekistan.

- Provision of land plots with infrastructure (gas, electricity, water, transport system) for lease for up to 50 years (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 30.04.1998 N 598-I);
- Provision of tax and customs privileges and preferences;

- Cost-competitive raw materials and labor force.

Banks of Uzbekistan have opened credit lines for projects in the agricultural sector with an interest rate of 3.5% to 14%.

The government annually allocates a credit line at the expense of the Fund for Reconstruction and Development and the National Bank (NBU) to provide affordable credit to food industry enterprises and individual food producers.

Uzbekistan has credit lines from the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other credit lines for the development of the food industry and agriculture.

HC "Uzbekozikovkatholding" together with the Ministry of Agriculture developed a comprehensive document defining the national policy in the food industry, and distributed among interested organizations to receive proposals and recommendations. The document is aimed at creating a national food network of Uzbekistan and a single national information center [6].

By Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan UP-3594 dated April 11, 2005, enterprises attracting direct private foreign investment and specializing in the production of products (rendering services) are exempt from paying corporate income tax, property tax, single tax payment for microfirms and small enterprises, as well as mandatory contributions to the Republican Road Fund.

The specified tax benefits are provided for the volume of direct private foreign investment:

- from 300 thousand US dollars to 3 million US dollars - for a period of 3 years;
- from 3 million US dollars to 10 million US dollars - for a period of 5 years;
- more than 10 million US dollars - for a period of 7 years.

The following preferences for investors are also currently provided:

- the minimum size of the share of foreign investments in the authorized capital of an enterprise with foreign investments has been reduced from 30 to 15 percent in order to classify an enterprise as a joint venture;

- the requirements for the mandatory participation of a foreign legal entity as a participant in an enterprise with foreign investment have been abolished;

- the minimum size of the authorized capital of an enterprise with foreign investment was reduced from 600 million soums to 400 million soums (about 50 thousand US dollars, at the exchange rate of the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the day of the investment);

- the size of the state duty for the state registration of enterprises with foreign investments has been reduced by three times;

- the obligatory procedure for concluding export contracts for fruit and vegetable products at prices not lower than the prices published by Uzagroexport JSC was cancelled;

- turnover from the sale of goods (except for precious metals) for export for foreign currency is subject to value added tax at a zero rate;

- property imported into the Republic of Uzbekistan for own production needs is exempt from customs duties;

- technological equipment, spare parts for them, etc., not produced in the republic, are exempted from customs duties;

- Agricultural producers implementing a drip irrigation system are exempted from paying the unified land tax for 5 years.

Based on the information made public during presentations at the recently held industrial fair and cooperation exchange in Tashkent, the Uzbekozikovkatholding company announced the following figures: the republic's annual demand for sugar is 633 thousand tons (local production - 464.7 thousand tons), for butter - 264 .3 thousand tons (local production - 12 thousand tons), in confectionery - 195.8 thousand tons (local production - 69.6 thousand tons), in cheese and cheese - 124 thousand tons (local production 12.5

thousand tons) . Judging from the published information, the growing population of Uzbekistan is experiencing the greatest need for baby food. With a demand of 71.8 thousand tons, the local production of this product is only 0.7 thousand tons.

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