

GLOBAL FOOD SCARCITY AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY: AS A RISK FACTOR IN THE CUSTOMS ASPECT

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the importance and indicators of ensuring food security, as well as the activities of customs authorities to ensure the safety of food entering our country. Also, scientific proposals and practical recommendations for the prevention of food shortages are formulated.

Keywords: *food, food security, UN, FAO, customs, export, import and offenses.*

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье анализируются значение и показатели обеспечения продовольственной безопасности, а также деятельность таможенных органов по обеспечению безопасности продовольствия, поступающего в нашу страну. Также сформулированы научные предложения и практические рекомендации по предупреждению дефицита продовольствия.

Ключевые слова: *продовольствие, продовольственная безопасность, ООН, ФАО, таможня, экспорт, импорт и правонарушения.*

INTRODUCTION

Today, the growing population, the unstable global situation, and disruptions in logistics are presenting us with even greater challenges in increasing food production [1]. The sharp political changes worldwide and the economic instability occurring in many countries are directly threatening global food security.

Food security is dependent on a wide range of socio-economic, demographic, and ecological factors, and is one of the main components of a country's development. The state policy on food security is developed and implemented based on its four components (*food availability, purchasing ability, utilization, and sustainability*).

According to the data from the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as the UN), currently, more than 7.6 billion people live on our planet, and *this number is projected to reach 9.3 billion by 2050* [2]. This situation is likely to cause a shortage of food, especially meat products, in the future.

Analysis of the literature on the topic

According to the data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (hereinafter – FAO) on global food security and nutrition, the information for 2022 confirmed that the world is moving further away from achieving the goals of ending hunger, food insecurity, and all forms of malnutrition. Despite the short time remaining until the established deadline (2030), humanity is, on the contrary, moving further away from solving the many tasks required to achieve sustainable development goals year by year [3].

According to researcher A.Yu. Belugin, ensuring the population's stable access to necessary food products is one of the most important tasks of the state. Depending on the division of labor, technological development, the general standard of living of the population, and national characteristics, the understanding of this task and the approaches to solving it in different countries, based on their specific circumstances, have unique characteristics over different periods [4].

According to N.V. Tarasova, the food security of a country is the product of its social, economic, and ecological policies and has a significant impact on the political, military, and demographic components of national security [5].

Research Methodology

During the research, the synthesis of statistical data and empirical research methods were used. Additionally, as part of the research methodology, methods such as comparative analysis of literature, logical and structural analysis, classification, and comparative comparison were employed. The results obtained were concluded through the method of induction.

Analysis and Results

Along with ensuring its own food security, Uzbekistan is making a significant contribution to the food supply of foreign countries by exporting fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products. This is highly recognized by the international community. In particular, the recognition of our country as one of the 14 countries in the world that received a special award from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2015 for achieving the "Millennium Development Goals" in the field of food security is a deserved appreciation of our consistent policy in this area.

According to FAO experts, the indicators of food security are as follows [6]:

- Stability
- Food availability
- Access to food
- Utilization

Ensuring the population's adequate access to food products is considered part of the country's food security. Meeting the population's needs for essential food items, ensuring the balance between food price and quality, and guaranteeing food security by the state are among the fundamental conditions for socio-economic development.

The components of food security are divided as follows:

I.	Physical Access to Food:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Efficient functioning of agriculture and processing industries; -Development of food product and raw material markets; -Development of trade networks; -Creation of new jobs; -Supporting employment for the population.
II.	Economic Access to Food:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Supporting a stable level of population income; -Ensuring economic stability in the country; -Regulating price levels; -Creating conditions for acquiring land plots; -Growth of budget payments.
III.	Safe Nutrition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitoring the quality of products and raw materials; -Creating and certifying quality management systems; -Improving public health; -Promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Figure 1. Components of Food Security

Food Security Criteria:

- Highly ensured food security;
- Stable food security;
- Food security;
- Threats to food security;
- Catastrophic threshold in food supply;
- Catastrophe in food supply.

From the perspective of implementing the components of food security in the country, in recent years, the issue of ensuring food security has become one of the most urgent tasks in our country. At the same time, systematic reforms are being carried out to ensure food security, fill the domestic market with high-quality food products, and strengthen the purchasing power of the population.

Additionally, the customs authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, within their powers, also work to ensure the safety of food products entering the country, fill the domestic market with high-quality food products, and strengthen the purchasing power of the population. Stopping and preventing goods from entering the country through illegal means is one of the main tasks of the customs authorities.

The analyses show that in the last two years, global food inflation has not decreased by more than 15-20% annually, and the world price of vegetable oil, milk, and meat has reached its highest level in the last 30 years, while the price of grain products and sugar has risen to its highest level in the last 10 years. The rising costs of logistics, fertilizers, and fuel in export-import activities are also impacting food prices. According to the analyses, this situation is expected to persist in the coming years.

In particular, in order to guarantee the population's access to essential food products, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.145 of May 31, 2022, "On additional measures to ensure price stability in consumer markets and increase the effectiveness of anti-monopoly measures," starting from June 1, 2022, the export of the following food products from the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been temporarily prohibited (Table 1):

Food products temporarily prohibited for export

Product Name	HS Code of the Product
Sunflower oil	1512 11 910
Cottonseed oil	1512 21
Corn oil	1515 21
Corn oil	1507 10
Sunflower seeds	1206 00
Other oily plant seeds and fruits	1207

**In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.145 of May 31, 2022, "On additional measures to ensure price stability in consumer markets and increase the effectiveness of anti-monopoly measures," Author's development.*

The growth of food prices worldwide and the risks of inflation clearly indicate that food security will remain the most urgent issue in the coming year. Currently, achieving stability in the supply of food products for the socially vulnerable segment of the population, increasing the purchasing power of low-income families, and preventing sharp fluctuations in the price and quantity of products are among the issues that need to be addressed.

The main goal of this priority direction is to develop and effectively implement state policies aimed at ensuring food security for all citizens of the republic. The priority direction is focused on providing the population with safe and high-quality food products at stable prices. This serves the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as SDGs), including the UN's 2nd SDG, which aims to *"End hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture."*

In conclusion, it can be stated that, at a time when global food shortages are increasing, it is advisable for Uzbekistan to more effectively implement measures that will allow for meeting domestic demand and minimize dependence on foreign markets for food products. Additionally, considering the current complex political situation in the world and the imposition of mutual sanctions between participating countries, it is also advisable to effectively capitalize on the opportunities to increase the export of our national products by making the most of potential disruptions in the global supply chain.

The additional income generated from such measures will not only create conditions for the recovery of sectors of the economy that have faced disruptions for various reasons but will also make a significant contribution to the country's economic growth. By focusing on increasing the production of substitute products, it will be possible to ensure national food security against potential disruptions in the supply of products like sugar and vegetable oils (*for reference: the main exporters are Russia and Ukraine*) [6] that could arise in the region in the future.

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