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PROVIDING THE FOOD SECURITY OF UKRAINE

The article substantiates the theoretical and practical aspects concerning the formation of national food security under the conditions of integration into the European community. It is accentuated that according to the rating of the global index of food security, Ukraine is ranked 63rd among the developed countries of the world. The level of physical and financial affordability of the population to safe and high quality food products is characterized, which made it possible to identify key problems of reducing food security. The determinative measures for the provision of food security are outlined at various levels of the hierarchy.

Key words: food security, food products, average annual consumption, economic and financial affordability.

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ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ПРОДОВОЛЬЧОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ УКРАЇНИ

У статті обґрунтовано теоретико-прикладні аспекти щодо формування національної продовольчої безпеки в умовах інтеграції до європейської спільноти. Акцентовано, що за рейтингом глобального індексу продовольчої безпеки Україна посідає 63 місце серед розвинених країн світу. Охарактеризовано рівень фізичної та фінансової доступності населення до безпечних та якісних продуктів харчування, що уможливило визначення

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ключових проблем зниження рівня продовольчої безпеки. Окреслено на різних рівнях ієрархії визначальні заходи щодо її забезпечення.

Ключові слова: продовольча безпека, продукти харчування, середньорічне споживання, економічна та фінансова доступність.

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ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЕ ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ УКРАИНЫ

В статье обоснованы теоретико-прикладные аспекты по формированию национальной продовольственной безопасности в условиях интеграции в европейское сообщество. Акцентировано, что по рейтингу глобального индекса продовольственной безопасности Украина занимает 63 место среди развитых стран мира. Охарактеризованы уровень физической и финансовой доступности населения к безопасным и качественным продуктам питания, что позволило определить ключевые проблемы снижения уровня продовольственной безопасности. Уточнены на разных уровнях иерархии определяющие меры по ее обеспечению.

Ключевые слова: продовольственная безопасность, продукты питания, среднегодовое потребление, экономическая и финансовая доступность.

Relevance of the problem. In order to achieve sustainable social and economic development of the society and active life of the population, the state should take care of the economic access of every citizen to quality and safe food through the implementation of an effective food security policy. In the context of Ukraine's adaptation to the world community this question is especially topical, as there are certain national contradictions regarding the development of the Ukrainian agrarian sector, functioning of the food market and consumption of food.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The conceptual aspects of food supply at all levels are considered in many scientific works of native and foreign scientists, in particular V. Bitov, I. Bodak, V. Vlasova, L. Glubish, Y. Dyatlova, K. Kozak, V. Kopytka, R. Mudrak, V. Nemchenko, Y. Orlenko, O. Skidan and others. However, it should be noted that the research as to the issues of forming a comprehensive system of food security in Ukraine is limited.

Formulation of the problem. The purpose of the article is to substantiate the theoretical and practical aspects of the formation of food security system in Ukraine under the conditions of integration into the European community.

Research results. The physical and financial affordability of the food consumption in the necessary quantity according to scientifically substantiated norms, product safety and quality are preconditions for a high level of food security. Food security is interpreted as the protection of life interests of a human, which are expressed in the state guarantee for safe and high quality food products to support normal life activities of a person [3]. However, the common approach to the concept of “food security” in the legislative documents of Ukraine remains undeveloped due to institutional contradictions and postponement of adoption of the “Food Security” Law. The main document, which was approved in this direction “The state target program of development of Ukrainian village for the period till 2015”, has completed its term of validity [4]. Now there is no

document on food safety regulation. The mechanism for diagnosis of food security needs the revision and approval at the state level, as it is one of the key instruments for identifying food supply problems of the country.

The concept of food security formation in the international spatial requires coherence among all countries in order to increase production volumes. The preference is given to the international division of labor, i.e. production of agricultural products taking into account favorable natural and climatic conditions and the export-import of food at affordable prices. A key vector for development in this direction is the formation of social and economic relations that will guarantee the access to the required quantity of food for population.

The Economist Intelligence Unit developed the Global Food Security Index in 2012 in order to identify the valid food security problems of different countries around the world and to search for their further solution. This complex indicator is estimated by 34 parameters, which makes it possible to determine the level of physical and financial affordability of the population to safe and high quality food products. Thus, according to the results of this index, it was found that Ukraine in 2016 occupies 63rd place among 113 countries of the world and concedes to such countries as Azerbaidzhan (57th place), Bulgaria (50th place), Russia (48th place), Belorussia (46th place), Hungary (34th place), Poland (29th place). According to the aggregate of all indicators, Ukraine scored only 55.2 points out of 100 possible, which is by 0.8 units more than in 2015. Ukraine occupies the last place by the index of food security of 26 European countries [6].

The low level of GDP per capita is the main reason of decline in the food security, as this is almost doubly lower indicator than the world average one. Thus, the GDP of Ukraine decreased by 9.9 % and 6.8 % in 2014 and 2015. Growing unemployment and insufficient wages led to low purchasing power of the population. At the same time, prices for any agricultural products are always higher than the income of the population. Thus, costs for food from average household income amounted to 58.9 % in 2015, although this indicator ranges from 10 to 15 % in the vast majority of countries, in particular such as the US, Germany, Austria, and the EU.

A significant part of expenditure for food in Ukraine is not evidence of a sufficient consumption of food and nutrition of the diet. On average, in 2015 a person consumed by 18 % less protein than the average level of developed countries. The average daily energy value of the human diet has decreased by 4.8 %. The vast majority, namely 72 % of the energy value of the diet was formed at the expense of crop products. It is an imbalance in human nutrition standards, since there should be 55 % of the livestock production in the diet structure [2].

Reducing the energy value of the ration and the volume of consumption has led to decreasing the level of economic availability of the population to food products (table 1).

Table 1

Average annual consumption of the main types of food products (per capita)

Indicator	Recommended norm of the Ministry of Health	Actual consumption in 2015	Indicator of sufficiency consumption for 2015
Meat products, kg	80	55,2	69,0
Milk and dairy products, kg	380	237,6	62,5
Eggs, pcs.	290	228	78,6
Fish products, kg	20	14,4	72,0
Sugar, kg	38	33,6	88,4
Oil and other vegetable fats, kg	13	19,2	147,7
Potatoes, kg	124	79,2	63,9
Vegetables and melons, kg	161	105,6	65,6
Fruit, berries, nuts, grapes, kg	90	37,2	41,3
Bread products, kg	101	102	101,0

Source: calculated according to [1]

Thus, the average annual consumption only of oils and other vegetable fats, as well as bread products, reached the level of the recommended norm of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in 2015. In other groups, an average Ukrainian had a deficit of annual consumption of meat products by 31.0 %; milk and dairy products – 37.5 %; fish products – 28,0 %; fruit, berries and grapes – 58.7 %.

On condition that the population is also provided by safe and high quality food products, a high level of food security can be achieved. Accordingly, after the adoption of the Law “On Production and Circulation of Organic Agricultural Products and Raw Materials”, the number of enterprises engaged in organic production in Ukraine increased. Thus, according to world statistics of IFOAM Ukraine had about 400 “organic” enterprises in 2015, which is by 13 times more than in 2003. However, all manufactured products (90 %) are exported practically to such countries as Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, etc. The percentage of own consumption is insignificant, because the demand for “organic” products is low due to high prices, as it needs special conditions for production. Therefore, under the conditions of low purchasing power, environmentally safe food products are inaccessible to the vast majority of Ukrainians.

Nowadays, Ukraine is on the way to the formation of food safety and quality of products on a European basis, which forecasts introducing of the concept of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Controlpoints in all manufacturing enterprises according to the Laws of Ukraine “On Safety and Quality of Food Products” and “On Infant Nutrition”. The specified food safety management system ensures the prevention of hazards at all stages of the food chain: from the primary producer of raw materials (e.g., farmer) to the last user (e.g., the department) [5]. Its implementation will provide an opportunity to guarantee food safety and increase its competitiveness.

In a transitional period, together with the new food safety management system it a state support for agricultural producers should be strengthened, because most of them face the problems

such as a lack of appropriate information and consulting assistance, an absence of programmatic preconditions and underdevelopment of the corresponding infrastructure. Reorientation of production may involve additional financial costs, which will contribute to rising food prices.

Conclusions. The foregoing gives grounds to assert that the food security level would increase only if incomes of the population increased. Therefore, agricultural commodity producers, taking into account the specifics of their activities, require the increased attention from the state. They need the adoption of laws in relation to pricing regulation, development of measures to involve farmers in organic production, improvement of the food safety management system and the formation of the provisions of the national food security system of the country.

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