

AVAILABILITY OF FOOD PRODUCTS AS A PRINCIPLE OF FOOD SECURITY

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The problem of achieving food security has particularly important sense nowadays. At this time there is rather low standard of living and social protection of large segments of the population, a significant decline in the nation's health, crisis demographic processes(Ukraine is not an exclusion).

Theoretical and methodological basis for the formation of national food security and various aspects of its provision are considered in the works of P.P. Barshcheuski, A.I. Hoychuk, L.V. Deyneko, G.M. Kaletnik, S.M. Kvasha, G.A. Kolesnik, U.Y. Luzan, V.J. Mesel-Veselyaka, T.L. Mostenskoyi, P.T. Sabluk, I.V. Fedulova, M.A. Hvesyka, M.I. Cornet and others.

The main principles of food security are self-sufficiency with main food products, availability, accessibility, balance, quality and ecologicity of food products.

The strategic goal of food security is a reliable supply of population in agricultural products, raw materials and food products. The guarantee of achieving food security is mostly stable domestic sources of food products and raw materials, as well as the necessary reserves, including reserve funds. Physical and economic access based on achieving a certain balance between food production, consumption and their implementation. A consumption of food products depends on consumer income, price dynamics and the physical presence of food products on the market.

It is believed that the availability of food products is determined by economic opportunity to buy this products in required quantity. In terms of the balance between the principles of food security, accessibility should not be limited by quantitative indicators. We must take into account the diversity of the diet and richness of food products.

The availability of food products is found in three forms. Physical accessibility implies existence on the consumer market of essential products. Economic

accessibility includes the financial possibility to get these products. Social, means minimal differentiation in consumption of major food groups among different population groups.

In other words, accessibility should include both physical sufficiency - an opportunity for people to buy produce at the market or in the private sector and essential foodstuffs in the number and range that is required to meet human physiological needs and economic access - access to food resources of all segments of the population by existing effective demand. If an individual is determined by quantitative adequacy of a saturated food market, i.e. the volume of supply, economic availability of food is provided by two factors: the level of income, which determines the purchasing power of the population, and the price of food.

Availability of food - it is not only income, as agricultural and implementation of economic policies that provide people with a wide variety of food at affordable prices throughout the year and especially domestic production.

Considering the principle of physical accessibility an important question arises concerning population growth, both in Ukraine and in the world as a whole. Experts estimate that by the end of the present century the population of the Earth can be increased twice. So the governments of the world have to think about how to provide continuously growing world population with a corresponding amount of food, especially their own production.

The main role in the system of self-sufficiency is played by agribusiness of the country, which determines the volume of deals and value to meet consumer needs of the population and causes the independence of the state from external suppliers of basic food commodities and food products.

According to the State Statistics Committee [1], in 2013 the share of agriculture (including hunting and forestry) in total gross added value of all economic sectors was 9.1%. The volume of agricultural production in all categories of current prices, estimated by the State Statistics Committee, made up 308.1 billion USD.

The financial result from operations of agricultural enterprises (except small) in 2013 totaled 12.5 billion USD, against 24.1 billion USD in 2012, profitability (excluding budget subsidies and surcharges) as a whole was 11.5% versus 20.2% in

the previous year. The index of agricultural production in 2013 compared to 2012 amounted to 113.7%, index of crop production - 118.1%, the index of the volume of livestock production - 104,8% [1].

For Ukraine, the main threats to food security is unbalanced of food consumption by the public; low consumption products with animal origin; a high proportion of household expenditure on food in the structure of total costs; highly differentiated food expenditures for social groups; raw nature of exports of agricultural products; higher prices for agricultural products on the internal market; lack of control over food security.

REFERENCES

1. Державний комітет статистики України. Офіційний сайт [Електронний ресурс]. Режим доступу: <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>