

7. Ukraine's food security under martial law

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Introduction. Food security of any country depends on its agriculture. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2014, a number of human-made factors have affected Ukraine's food security. Investigating current and forthcoming trends in agricultural production can help to remedy the situation.

Materials and methods. Based on a review of media and scholarly sources, an assessment of Ukraine's current food security and a forecast of forthcoming trends are provided. Some measures aimed at mitigating the ramifications of the war are proposed.

Results. The active phase of the full-scale war with the Russian Federation, which started in 2022, is marked by Russian occupation of a number of most productive agricultural regions, by environmental destruction, by ruining the regions' industrial and agricultural infrastructure, by blocking domestic and international transportations routes, etc. Consequently, the falling level of Ukraine's agricultural production jeopardizes not only its food security, but also other countries' economies. Dependent on Ukrainian agricultural exports, many African countries have to find other suppliers to avoid food shortages. The war's negative impact on Europe will last predictively for a decade. The European Union countries will experience a decline in economic growth and a fall in living standards partly because of increasing defense expenses and humanitarian assistance to war refugees. Compelled to shorten supply chains, the USA and the rest of the world will be affected to a lesser degree.

Ukraine's food security index demonstrated a negative dynamic in 2012-2022. Its four indicators were smaller than those calculated for the EU countries. According to the forecast [1], the food security index will continue to decline in 2022-2027, which indicates a threat to economic and national safety of Ukraine. Along with streamlining the state policies in the military sphere, a number of measures should be undertaken to improve the country's food security, namely rethinking the logistics of agricultural supply, modernizing Ukraine's agricultural production with the help of international grants and credits, reforming the market mechanisms by enhancing their transparency.

The analysis of the Ukrainian legislation [2] reveals that it needs more specific regulations of the legal relations in the sphere of food security under martial law. Particularly, the national food security strategy has to consider current threats affecting the wellbeing of people, society and the country. In response to the Russian aggression, a special law "On Food Security of Ukraine" has to be passed. This law should account for Ukraine's course on European integration, strategic reforms in greening agricultural processes, sustainable development, and climate change.

Conclusions. Current war realities have to be analyzed scientifically and systematically in order to assess possible future trends accurately and mitigate adverse consequences of the war.

References

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