



26 – 29 May 2013, Kyiv, Ukraine

Potential of Ukraine's Food Industry to Ensure Food Safety

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KEY WORDS: food safety, capacity, food industry, food

The concept of food safety contains several aspects:

1. Physical availability of food – a systematic flow of food to the consumer in the scope and range that meet science-based standards of consumption. In 2000-2007, food production demonstrated growing steadily (8-20% per year). Slight downturn in 2008-2009 and 2011, was partially offset by rising production in 2010 and 2012 (by 3,2 and 1,5%). Thus, according to the State Statistics Service the level of provision by main types of food as a percentage of science-based standards was: grain and its derivatives – 192,9%, meat and meat products – 91,4, milk and dairy products – 106,7 eggs – 109,5, potatoes – 110,0, vegetables and melons – 105,3, fruits, berries and grapes – 74,0%.

2. Economic availability of food – every citizen should have sufficient income to purchase a minimum set of food. In 2012, food prices remained virtually unchanged (CPI varied by month within 99,1-100,3%). On the other hand, the growth of nominal income (about 14%), the share of food in consumer spending Ukrainian average is 54%, which is the highest among all countries with emerging markets.

3. Stability of access to food, namely socio-economic system of the country should ensure the availability of food for every citizen in the long run. Special role in solving the food problem in any country plays a food industry, which is not only the final link in the production of finished food products, but also an organizer and integrator for the effective functioning of the food complex in the state. Available potential of the food industry in the country is almost completely can meet the needs of the population in the major foods that are competitive in quality and price. Sector has considerable export potential (one-third of exports of agro-industrial complex and more than 10% of total exports in 2012 accounted for the food industry), which provides a positive balance of foreign trade in this commodity group.

4. Food safety – guaranteed the minimum requirements for safety and quality of food products and raw materials.

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