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SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW OF FOOD SECURITY

Abstract. One of the most important socio-economic tasks of a society is to create decent living conditions for its citizens, primarily by satisfying a person's urgent need for food according to rational nutritional standards, in order to maintain public health and regulate demographic processes in the country, as well as create conditions for the reproduction of future generations.

The problem of ensuring food security of the population and food independence of the state is multilevel and multidimensional in itself. This problem affects the whole range of socio-economic aspects, as well as many other points – which determines the relevance of the problem.

The basis of ensuring food security of the population and food independence of the state is the developed food economic system of the country.

The level of providing the population with basic domestic food products depends on its actual condition, effective use and building up of its production and economic potential. The imported food consumed directly affects the food dependence of the state; moreover, an increase in imports negatively affects the state of the country's food economic system, restraining its development.

Achieving a decent level of nutrition according to rational standards, high-quality and safe food products by all sectors of the population is the basis of the vital activity of Kazakhstan citizens citizens and is a process of implementing urgent and urgent tasks, the solution of which depends on the real participation of the entire vertical of the executive and legislative branches, business, the scientific community and society as a whole.

The need for a sociological approach is caused by the interdependence of the social component of providing the population with food and the real need for the development of the food economic system of Kazakhstan.

Key words: food security, socio-economic aspect, efficiency, nutrition, need.

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Социологический взгляд на проблему продовольственной безопасности

Аннотация. Данная статья посвящена исследованию продовольственной безопасности с точки зрения социологической науки. При изучении данной темы авторы исходят из понимания, что одной из важнейших социально-экономических задач общества является создание достойных условий жизни его граждан, в первую очередь путем удовлетворения насущной потребности человека в пище по рациональным нормам питания в целях сохранения здоровья населения и регулирования демографических процессов в стране, а также создания условий воспроизводства будущих поколений.

Сама по себе проблема обеспечения продовольственной безопасности населения и продовольственной независимости государства многоуровневая и многоаспектная, затрагивающая весь спектр социально-экономических аспектов, а также многих других моментов, определяющих актуальность проблемы.

Основой обеспечения продовольственной безопасности населения и продовольственной независимости государства служит развитая продовольственная хозяйственная система страны.

От ее фактического состояния, эффективного использования и наращивания производственно-экономического потенциала зависит уровень обеспечения населения основными продуктами питания отечественного производства. Потребляемая же импортная пища непосредственно отражается на продовольственной зависимости государства, к тому же, увеличение импорта негативно сказывается на состоянии продовольственной хозяйственной системы страны, сдерживая ее развитие.

Достижение достойного уровня питания по рациональным нормам, качественной и безопасной продовольственной продукцией всеми слоями населения является основой жизнедеятельности казахстанских граждан и представляет собой процесс осуществления насущных и актуальных задач, решение которых зависит от реального участия всей вертикали исполнительной и законодательной власти, бизнеса, научного сообщества и общества в целом.

Необходимость социологического подхода вызвана взаимообусловленностью социальной компоненты обеспечения населения продуктами питания и реальной необходимости развития продовольственной хозяйственной системы Казахстана.

Ключевые слова: продовольственная безопасность, социально-экономический аспект, эффективность, питание, потребность.

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Азық-түлік қауіпсіздігінің социологиялық көрінісі

Аңдатпа. Қоғамның маңызды әлеуметтік-экономикалық міндеттерінің бірі – халықтың денсаулығын сақтау және елдегі демографиялық процестерді реттеу, сондай-ақ болашақ ұрпақтардың көбеюіне жағдай жасау үшін, ең алдымен, адамның рационалды тамақтану стандарттарына сәйкес адамның азық-түлікке деген шұғыл қажеттілігін қанағаттандыру арқылы лайықты өмір сүру жағдайларын жасау.

Халықтың азық-түлік қауіпсіздігін және мемлекеттің азық-түлік тәуелсіздігін қамтамасыз ету проблемасы көп деңгейлі және көп өлшемді болып табылады. Бұл проблема әлеуметтік-экономикалық аспектілердің барлық спектріне, сонымен қатар көптеген басқа мәселелерге әсер етеді – бұл мәселенің өзектілігін анықтайды.

Халықтың азық-түлік қауіпсіздігі мен мемлекеттің азық-түлік тәуелсіздігін қамтамасыз етудің негізі елдің дамыған азық-түлік жүйесі болып табылады.

Халықты негізгі отандық тамақ өнімдерімен қамтамасыз ету деңгейі оның нақты жағдайына, тиімді пайдаланылуына және өндірістік және экономикалық әлеуетін арттыруға байланысты. Тұтынылатын импортталатын азық-түлік мемлекеттің азық-түлікке тәуелділігіне тікелей әсер етеді, сонымен қатар импорттың ұлғаюы оның дамуын тежейтін елдің азық-түлік экономикалық жағдайына кері әсерін тигізеді.

Рационалды стандарттарға сәйкес лайықты тамақтану деңгейіне қол жеткізу, халықтың барлық салалары бойынша сапалы және қауіпсіз тамақ өнімдері Қазақстан азаматтарының өмірлік белсенділігінің негізі болып табылады және шұғыл және шұғыл міндеттерді орындау процесі болып табылады, оның шешімі атқарушы және заң шығарушы тармақтардың, бизнестің, ғылыми қоғамдастықтың және вертикальдың нақты қатысуына байланысты.

Әлеуметтанулық көзқарас қажеттілігі халықты тамақпен қамтамасыз етудің әлеуметтік құрамдас бөлігі мен Қазақстанның азық-түлік жүйесін дамытудың нақты қажеттілігінің өзара тәуелділігімен байланысты.

Түйін сөздер: азық-түлік қауіпсіздігі, әлеуметтік-экономикалық аспект, тиімділік, тамақтану, қажеттілік.

Introduction

One of the fundamental conditions for the viability of any state is agriculture, the successful

implementation and leadership of which affects the stable functioning of the socio-economic development of society as a whole. The specificity of the situation occupied by the agricultural industry

is determined, firstly, by the production of food for the population and the reproduction of labor, and secondly, by the production of raw materials for other sectors of the economy. This implies the conclusion that a high level of agricultural production definitely ensures the economic and food security of the country (Goncharenko, 2015).

It becomes obvious that with an increase in the number of people in the world, states that have the opportunity to export food will become the most successful and influential in the world market. Agriculture is the main and most promising sector of the economy of Kazakhstan. According to the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev, – «The agricultural sector of Kazakhstan has great expertise and high potential for investment. The need for food every year in the world will increase. We must not miss this opportunity» (Status of food insecurity in the world, 2012). Few countries have agricultural development potential comparable to Kazakhstan's potential and significant reserves. Various climatic conditions of the republic favor the cultivation of many crops of the temperate thermal zone and the development of animal husbandry.

Of course, in order to timely resolve the issues of the agro-industrial sector by the state, a set of measures is being taken to improve it – funding volumes are increasing, new programs are being developed, new mechanisms of state support are being formed. From year to year, statistics show positive dynamics in this area, including: an increase in gross output, an increase in foreign investment in domestic production, and the formation of new agricultural facilities. However, the current measures are not enough if the agenda still raises questions about increasing imports of household products, rising food prices, the irremovability of agricultural export mechanisms and structures, etc.

The main leitmotif of the problem regarding the development of domestic agriculture is that most of Kazakhstani agricultural products are characterized by a low level of productivity, competitiveness both in the domestic and world markets.

Therefore, for a deeper understanding of the problems in the agricultural system of the republic, it is necessary to identify important, at the moment, individual reasons that, if they are structurally omitted, could negatively affect the food and economic security of the country.

Relevance

Today, the state of the agro-industrial complex (AIC) of the Republic of Kazakhstan can be characterized as stable, the production of agricultural

goods has formed, and the villagers are mainly occupied on land. However, agricultural producers are concerned about the channels for selling goods, and the selling price of goods on the market. Because, in many cases, public funding does not reach the end of the needy. One can hear from many peasants that they do not need state subsidies, they are more interested in how much, what kind of products, and at what prices the state will buy products.

The socio-economic situation of the agricultural sector of the republic (Aseev, 1993), despite the measures taken and the positive trends of recent years, remains difficult, and in the long term, the strategic priorities for the development of agricultural production should be: ensuring food security through the rational use of land, water and scientific potentials; increase in the production of competitive products, import substitution; improving the efficiency of agricultural production through the introduction of intensive technologies; development of cooperation with large industrial enterprises, improvement of the sales system by organizing sales cooperatives and collection points; the organization of medium and large-scale production in crop and livestock production, export-oriented and more capacious markets for manufactured products; the growth of material and technical and financial support for developing industries; accelerated development of processing, market infrastructure, the formation of organizational structures (Shanin, 1998).

The food problem is a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that includes aspects of the economic, social and political plan. The decline in production in many sectors of the economy, the global crisis and natural disasters affects the country's food security.

The UN and Kazakhstani legislation defines food security as: «the state of the economy, including the agro-industrial complex, in which the state is able to ensure the rights and needs of the population in food and drinking water in the quantity and quality stipulated by physiological consumption standards sufficient for physical and social development personality, health and expanded reproduction of the population». Being an integral part of the country's national security, ensuring food security in many respects depends on the development of the country's agricultural sector. The existing uncertainty of world prices for raw materials and oil, which is key for the raw material orientation of the Kazakhstan economy, is another reason for the responsible attitude of the state to the development of the agro-industrial complex. The total area of farmland is 223 million hectares (including 24 million hectares of

arable land), 47% of the rural population indicates an impressive agricultural potential. However, in fact, the proportions are less impressive.

The current situation in the world is characterized by the presence of a huge number of starving people in third world countries (Conway, 1990). On the other hand, the excess production and consumption of food in developed countries, the share of the population of the latter does not exceed 20%. Countries whose inability to provide the population with their own food in accordance with physiological norms of nutrition forces them to import food in exchange for strategic material resources and political concessions (Fakiolas, 1987). According to scientists, food independence can be maintained if the share of imports in domestic consumption does not exceed 20 percent.

In addition, the level of food independence of 20-30%, according to Western experts, is a threshold. Meanwhile, in Kazakhstan, according to the statistics agency, for the first 3 months of 2019, imported \$ 2 billion worth of imported food was imported into the country (according to the forecast, \$ 4 billion per year). The volume of food imports to Kazakhstan only increases every year, varying from 30 to 60% depending on the type of food. For the most part, Kazakhstan imports basic consumer goods, and only in smaller quantities expensive delicacies. This situation is dangerous for the country's economy: dependence on the external market only increases, competition, both in the domestic and foreign markets, intensifies. Kazakhstan provides itself and neighboring countries with few positions, mainly bread and bakery products. Although the production of many of the imported goods can be carried out in the country (canned meat, pasta, margarine, yoghurts, sausages, confectionery, vegetable oils, etc.). However, at the moment, the level of import dependence on basic food products is high.

The provision of food to the population is one of the most pressing global problems, as evidenced by the observed increase in food prices throughout the world and in the Commonwealth states, among others.

Determining the value of work

The emergence of widespread agricultural problems can also be viewed from a psychological point of view – not all agricultural producers are ready for the conditions that the state provides today, not all of them set macro goals (James, 1990). Such «mindsets» of peasants and farmers are associated with a sharp transition to a market economy, which forced most agricultural producers to switch to

commercial footing (Laird, 2016). The problem that almost all countries of the former Soviet Union irrevocably faced was the inability to work in the realities of the market system and the fear of the future, which was supposed to be built independently. For a long 70 years of a planned economy, literally devoid of individualism, many farms went bankrupt, or are on the verge of bankruptcy.

The state of the agricultural sector largely depends on the economic state of the state as a whole, including the food and economic security of the country (Alshanov, 2006). Underdevelopment of the agricultural sector and food production, often leads to the dependence of the economy on other states. Therefore, increased attention to the development of agricultural sector management is considered as one of the most important requirements for all states.

The goal of the state economic policy in the agricultural sector at the level of national-state economic systems is to meet increasing social needs, achieve a certain standard of living for the population, and create the necessary economic, social and environmental conditions for the effective development of the agro-industrial sector of the economy and human life (Apsalyamov, 2006). The degree of satisfaction of economic needs in society depends on the actual content of the socio-economic policy pursued by the state.

The socio-economic policy of the state in the agricultural sector should ensure, in a transitional economy, above all, an increase in the efficiency of agricultural production, support for all forms of entrepreneurship, organizational, institutional and structural transformations in order to overcome inertia and limitations in the process of adapting economic entities to the requirements of a market economy and international integration.

In the conditions of economic instability in the world community, there is a need to precisely define the principles and tasks, rights and obligations of state bodies (local authorities) in the field of agricultural development management (Pryor, 2015). Along with economic interests, it is necessary to strengthen the role of organizational and managerial methods, to ensure vertical management, contractual, technological and executive discipline of producers, to develop a new approach and mechanism of interaction between government bodies. This all indicates that the development of the theoretical aspects of improving the system for managing the development of the agricultural sector as a whole and improving its effectiveness on this basis are timely and highly relevant.

Materials and methods

The methodological basis of the study is the general scientific methods of cognition – deduction and induction, analysis and synthesis, content – analysis of the media, sociography, a system and comparative-historical method that allows to reveal the genesis, sequence and functioning of the process of ensuring food security of the country and its population.

The theoretical source of the research was the scientific works of Russian and foreign scientists and specialists on the problems of food provision for citizens, food independence of the state, rationally optimal human nutrition, and the system of consumption of high-quality and healthy food.

Literature review

Over the long history of the development of mankind, the problem of food supply of the population has been the subject of numerous works by domestic and foreign scientists and specialists, representatives of various branches of science.

The agrarian aspects of the problem of ensuring food security of the country are reflected in the writings of many learned economists.

Many domestic scientists studying the socio-economic aspects of ensuring the national food security of the Republic of Kazakhstan note its insufficient development.

Most domestic scientists who study the socio-economic aspects of the food security of the Republic of Kazakhstan express an unambiguous point of view on the relevance of this area of research.

The theoretical validity of the concept of «food security» is currently insufficient. Despite a significant amount of research on this issue, many authors do not sufficiently disclose the essence of food security and do not determine how to achieve it, since they represent this phenomenon on a global scale without taking into account the specifics and structure of the economies of individual countries, demonstrating a one-sided approach in identifying its fundamental foundations.

The problem of national food security should be considered in close connection with the ongoing reforms in the agricultural sector and in conjunction with the mechanism for solving the problem of economic security.

In ensuring food security, the key areas of agricultural policy are concentrated in the context of the country's integration into the global economic space.

Comparing the interpretations of the category «food security» by foreign, Russian and Kazakhstani scientists, we revealed that basically all the authors

are unanimous in their opinion that «this is self-sufficiency within the country, the availability of food resources in the required volumes».

More recently, one could agree with this definition. Today, when a country has entered a new phase of its development, it no longer seems exhaustive.

First, in ensuring the food security of the country, in addition to the efforts of the state, the efforts of society as a whole, its individual layers and groups, and each of its members are of considerable importance.

Secondly, ensuring food security is not limited only to direct nutrition of the population, but also includes:

- Creation of strategic food reserves;
- The formation of the optimal ratio for the country in the provision of food through its own production and imports;
- Development of the agricultural production base and service, the creation of a network of enterprises for processing agricultural raw materials (Johnson, 1991);
- Expansion of transport networks for the speedy and uninterrupted supply of raw materials to food industry enterprises, and food to consumers;
- Phytosanitary and veterinary control in agriculture, food industry and food trade;
- The formation of affordable food prices for the bulk of the population (Bergman, 1988).

Based on the foregoing, we offer the following interpretation of food security: «Food security of Kazakhstan is an economic category that guarantees food independence for the population, the availability of food resources from domestic sources of the national economy, necessary to ensure the vital interests of the individual, society and the state in accordance with growing food needs, which ensure the normal functioning of citizens».

Results and discussion

When analyzing the capacity of the domestic food market of the Republic of Kazakhstan, one can observe the following picture: the degree of provision of solvent demand with domestic products is canned meat – 51.5%, sausages – 62, condensed milk and cream – 20.6, dried milk – 44.5, butter – 66.4, cheese – 44.5, dairy products – 77.2, sugar – 69.7, confectionery – 45%, juices – 68.5, canned tomatoes – 46.3, canned fruits and vegetables – less than 10%.

The domestic flour market is fully provided by domestic production. Economic affordability of food is defined as the opportunity for the population to purchase food products at the current level of

prices and incomes in the amounts laid down in the minimum consumer basket.

The share of expenses for the purchase of meat and fish occupied 23.4%, dairy, oil and fat products and eggs – 16.8%, fruits and vegetables – 9.6%, cereals and bakery products – 8%, sugar, tea and spices – 2.2 % (Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics, 2019). The average per capita nominal cash income of the population in January 2019 amounted to 119,198 tenge. Compared to January 2015, the increase was 18.1% in nominal and 11.5% in real cash income. At the same time, the largest part in the structure of consumer spending in the republic's population is spent on foodstuffs (43.8%), while in economically developed countries this indicator averages 25%.

At the same time, the share of expenses for the purchase of food products from 20% of the poorest segments of the population exceeds 50% of consumer spending, while 20% of the most affluent residents of the republic – 36.8% (Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics, 2019).

According to the FAO methodology, the proportion of the population whose caloric intake is below the minimum acceptable level, that is, the level of food deprivation is one of the indicators of food security.

A country is considered protected from the point of view of food security, when the proportion of people suffering from hunger is very low (less than 5%). In the case when the level of food deprivation exceeds 35%, the country faces the problem of combating hunger. For the period from 2013 to 2019, the share of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose caloric intake was below the minimum acceptable level, decreased by 5.2 times and amounted to 3%.

Thus, at present, the problem of hunger is not relevant for Kazakhstan, which is one of the countries with a very low level of food deprivation.

The energy value of food consumed increased during the period under review by 720 kcal and amounted to 3140 kcal in 2019, which is 29.7% higher than in 2013 and 33.5% higher than the average regulatory requirement (2353 kcal).

The increase in the energy value of food consumed indicates an increase in the consumption of food products containing healthy and nutritious substances. During the period under review, minor changes occurred in the structure of food consumption. Despite the downward trend, the largest share in the overall structure of food consumption is occupied by cereals, whose share in 2019 amounted to 39.4% (in 2013 – 45.7%).

Oils and fats are the second largest share in the structure of food consumption (11.4% in 2013 and 14.9% in 2019), followed by sugar and syrups (9.7% in 2013 and 11.7% in 2019), milk and cheese (9.6% in 2013 and 8.5% in 2019), meat (6.3% in 2013 and 8.4% in 2019 d.), other food products (17.3% in 2013 and 17.1% in 2019) (Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019).

According to the FAO methodology, inequality in consumption is measured using the coefficient of variation in the energy value of food consumed.

This indicator consists of two main components: the first reflects the inequality of food consumption due to income; the second reflects inequality associated with biological factors (gender, age and weight of household members). With a high value of the coefficient of variation (about 30), the uneven distribution of energy among the population manifests itself primarily due to income (or expense). With a low value (about 20), the unevenness is mainly due to biological factors.

In Kazakhstan, the coefficient of variation increased from 25.2% in 2013 to 27.8% in 2019. This indicates uneven access to food among the population due to differences in income levels.

A balanced diet is determined by international standards of the World Health Organization (WHO), according to which the proportion of proteins should not be lower or higher than 10-15%, the proportion of fats should be within 15-30%, the proportion of carbohydrates – 55-75%.

In Kazakhstan, the average republican intake of proteins and carbohydrates (11.3% and 55.4%) meets WHO standards, but fat consumption increased from 28.5% in 2013 to 33.3% in 2019, exceeding the normative level.

The energy value of food consumed depends on income level, area of residence and gender. The energy value of food increases as population incomes increase. Therefore, in 2019, 20% of the poorest population of Kazakhstan consumed 1.7 times more energy than 20% of the poorest population of the republic (4300 kcal versus 2540 kcal). In addition, in the group of the most prosperous, there was the greatest increase in the daily calorie content of food consumed.

The energy value of food in rural areas exceeds that in urban areas. Women consume more kilocalories than men. The average cost of 1000 kilocalories consumed in 2019 increased by 2.4 times compared to 2013 (61.9 tenge) and amounted to 150.3 tenge.

At the same time, the highest indicator of the average cost of 1000 kilocalories in 2019 was

recorded in Almaty (208.1 tenge), the lowest – in Turkestan region (109.4 tenge). As a result of the fact that in Kazakhstan during the period under review the increase in prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages amounted to 88.2%, the average per capita food expenses increased 3.1 times (from 149.6 tenge in 2013 to 471.9 tenge in 2019).

In 2013, the average per capita food expenses for 20% of the poorest residents of Kazakhstan amounted to 91.64 tenge per day, for 20% of the poorest – 287.37 tenge. In 2019, these expenses amounted to 251.59 and 806.89 tenge, respectively.

Thus, during the period under review, there was an increase in the difference in the level of expenditures on food products between the least and most affluent population of the country from 3.1 times to 3.2 times.

At present, the problem of ensuring the country's food security is related to the development of the entire agri-food sector, which provides the food market with basic foodstuffs.

Ensuring food security of the country and expanding export potential is possible provided that competitive products are produced in the agricultural sector, which is a priority sector for the effective and sustainable development of the economy, saturation of the domestic market with high-quality food affordable for all groups of the population.

To date, a number of issues to ensure the safety of food products remain unresolved. A system of risk analysis and critical control points of the chain from production to consumption of food products, which is necessary for effective risk management, is not sufficiently developed at all levels (macro and micro levels).

The situation is complicated by an insufficient level of control over compliance with technical regulations and a weak laboratory base of the republic, which leads to the admission to the market of poor-quality and / or counterfeit food products, food poisoning of the population, to the presence of counterfeit food products.

Lack of public awareness of food safety. As a result, the bulk of the population prefers to purchase cheaper, but less useful products. This not only poses a threat to public health, but reduces the demand for high-quality domestic agricultural and food products.

Also, in connection with closer integration within the framework of the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union, it is necessary to strengthen measures to ensure national food safety.

In general, the strategic vision of ensuring food security in the Republic of Kazakhstan is to ensure

the security of the economy of Kazakhstan until 2050, including the agro-industrial complex, in which the state is able to provide physical and economic access to the whole population of high-quality and safe food products sufficient to meet physiological consumption standards and demographic growth.

For modern Kazakhstan, the problem of food security is a reflection of a qualitatively new state of non-compliance of food production with the needs of society, which is determined by:

Firstly, a sharp drop in agricultural production, due to a reduction in the material and technical base of the agro-industrial complex, degradation of the social sphere of the village, and a decrease in the level of scientific and technical services for agricultural labor;

Secondly, the growth of differentiation of incomes of the population;

Thirdly, a sharp deterioration in the quality of food products due to their environmental pollution, which has a devastating effect on the health of the population of Kazakhstan (Fudina, 2017).

The reasons that caused the loss of food independence in Kazakhstan can be divided into two groups: internal and external. Internal causes directly affect the functioning of agriculture: insufficient level of development of agricultural machinery; poor development of product processing; neglect of non-productive sphere in agriculture. External form the external environment for the functioning of the food sector, create certain conditions in which it develops. The formation of the external environment was decisively influenced by economic processes, the crisis of non-payments, the growth of the budget deficit.

Consequently, ensuring food security depends not only on the direct effectiveness of food policies and the results of production activities of agribusiness entities, but also on the successes or failures of macroeconomic policies in general.

In a generalized form, the assessment of the food security of the population is determined by:

- Physical availability of food;
- The availability of food products throughout the country at any given time and in the necessary assortment;
- Economic affordability of food;
- The level of income, regardless of the social status and place of residence of the citizen, which allows you to purchase food, at least at the minimum level of consumption;
- Food safety for consumers;
- Prevention of the production, sale and consumption of low-quality food products that can harm the health of the population.

The role of state economic regulation in ensuring the country's food security is determined by creating the conditions for stable production growth in the agricultural sector of the economy, as well as using state functions to neutralize the danger of the country's food dependence. The importance of food security has particularly grown in recent years. Among most residents of the state, there are a number of negative trends in the culture of food consumption.

Defining problems are the following:

- Imbalance in the consumption of nutrients, especially irreplaceable, and food energy to the physiological needs of the body;

- Deficiency of complete animal protein, vitamins, trace elements, dietary fiber, polyunsaturated fatty acids and an excess of simple carbohydrates and animal fats.

If we evaluate the nutritional status of the country's population, the following violations of nutritional status come to the fore:

- Protein deficiency, reaching up to 15% of the recommended values of consumption among population groups, mainly with low incomes;

- Deficiency of polyunsaturated fatty acids against the background of excess intake of solid animal fats, which is noted in the diet of all population groups;

- deficiency of vitamins, which is found year-round and everywhere in more than half of the population and is 70-100% for vitamin C; 60–80% – for B vitamins and folic acid; 40-60% for β -carotene.

Along with this, the problem of food contamination by foreign compounds (pesticides, heavy metals, drugs, etc.) remains relevant. The most modern food production technologies are not able to completely clean the raw materials. When evaluating food supply, it is necessary to rely on quantitative and qualitative characteristics. The quantitative characteristic consists of two groups of indicators:

- the first group is characterized by the level of consumption of basic products, taking into account their differentiation by population groups with different incomes and the amount of consumption;

- The second group is characterized by the level of self-sufficiency of the country with food.

According to these groups, criteria indicators are identified that are threshold, minimum (or maximum) allowable values of these indicators. For the first group of indicators, threshold values can be considered medical standards and scientifically based socio-economic standards.

For the second group of indicators, the threshold value is the level of food imports to the country.

The following specific weights of domestic agricultural, fish products and food products in the total volume of commodity resources of the domestic market of the corresponding products (not less than) were taken as threshold values of food security for certain types of food products: grain – 95%, sugar – 80%, vegetable oil – 80 %, meat and meat products (in terms of meat) – 85%, milk and dairy products – 90%, fish products – 80%, potatoes – 95%, food salt – 85%.

The national nutrition policy is based on the formation of food demand in accordance with rational consumption standards, but the regions of Kazakhstan are characterized by unbalanced nutrition of the population. Securing the supply of agricultural products and influencing demand is the main function of the state and regions in the field of food security and the formation of a culture of consumption of the population.

The level of food security of a country can be characterized, in addition, by a number of other interrelated indicators. These include: the state's self-sufficiency in food, the independence of food supply and agricultural resource supply from imports; sizes of strategic and operational food stocks in accordance with regulatory needs; the volume of food production, especially of its basic types, per capita; consumption of vital foods; the level of physical accessibility of food for various categories of the population; stability and affordability of basic foodstuffs; quality and environmental friendliness of food.

When assessing the state of food security and its threshold values, indicators such as internal and external threats (dangers) of the country are used.

The main indicators characterizing internal threats to food security and the deterioration of the food situation in the country are:

- Depletion of land resources;

- Underdeveloped branches of processing and storage of agricultural products;

- Reduction of sown areas and livestock;

- A combination of natural factors unfavorably developing in some years (drought, floods, etc.) affecting the reduction of crop yields or leading to large losses;

- Violation of the conditions of reproduction in agriculture and other sectors of the agro-industrial complex due to the moral and physical depreciation of fixed assets;

- Migration of the economically active part of the population to large cities, deepening and stratification of society, in which the incomes of the least protected part of the population are sharply reduced.

The food market of any country is subject to the influence of not only internal, but also external threats. An external threat to the country's food security arises as a result of increased dependence on imports of the main types of food of the republic as a whole, its individual regions, cities, industrial centers from exporting countries. As Kazakhstan, seeking to become a WTO member, enhances the openness of its domestic market, there is a threat of large-scale expansion of food imports, crowding out domestic producers and, as a result, curtailing their production.

Summary and Conclusion

To ensure food security, it is necessary to protect the domestic producer, create preferential conditions (subsidies, taxation system, pricing mechanism) for the release of food products from domestic raw materials as economically cleaner.

A prerequisite for the functioning of the agro-industrial complex is the immediate creation of market infrastructure in the agricultural sector, a modern system of storage, processing and delivery of agricultural products to the consumer. In order to mitigate the competitive pressure on the domestic producer from the global market, there is a need to introduce protective and protectionist measures.

Ensuring food security requires the use of all factors necessary for the implementation of strategic national economic interests in the production and promotion of agricultural and food products to consumers.

Accordingly, an effective strategy and tactics in this area are needed, which are expressed in the state agrarian policy, the purpose of which should be to create favorable conditions for the stable satisfaction of the population's demand for food products through the efficient use of the country's production and economic potential.

Such a policy involves the implementation of a number of comprehensive long-term measures to monitor conditions that pose a threat to the provision of food to the population; addressing destructive trends in food security; developing a national food security strategy; meeting the demand of the population for food products, and the demand of industry for agricultural raw materials through the release of high-quality products and the establishment of favorable prices for both consumers and producers.

The experience of leading countries shows that the main focus of the problem of food security in most European countries is now more and more being transferred to the tasks of protecting consumer rights, ensuring the environmental safety of food, and preserving the environment.

Today, the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan are aimed at increasing the investment attractiveness of the agro-industrial complex, increasing its effectiveness, which should have a beneficial effect on the level of food security and the macroeconomic situation in the country. At the same time, Kazakhstan has great opportunities to meet the demand for agricultural products both in the domestic market and increase production for export to world markets.

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