
Principles and Directions of the State Policy of the Food System

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Abstract

The globalization of the world economy, which in the 21st century replaced its internationalization in the previous era, has significantly changed the configuration of national economic security, increasing the dependence of national security, on the one hand, on global problems (in particular, food), and on the other hand, on the activities of global monopolies that represent real economic and political power. One of the manifestations of globalization is that the state economic policy is forced to take into account, first of all, the interests of monopolies, to serve them politically, which carries certain risks for national security.

Key words: *economic security, food security, food policy, food independence, levels of food security, principles of food policy, directions of food policy, global problems.*

JEL Classification: H 11, H 49, H 56, J 23, J 62, L 14, O 15

Introduction

Global problems constitute a single system of interconnected elements, one of which is the food problem, which, despite all the efforts of both individual countries and the world community as a whole, continues to be exacerbated by environmental, climate, energy, demographic problems, as well as problems such as the arms race, military conflicts, terrorism, and the problem of refugees.

This raises the need for both theoretical substantiation and development of effective food policy programs for the short and long term.

This requires a deeper theoretical explanation of the essence of the factors, principles, methods and directions of the state's food policy, improvement of the system of food security assessment (indicators), as well as a critical study of the specifics of food policy in different countries.

1. Literature review

The problems of improving the state of food security in the country are addressed by such scholars as V. Bakumenko, B. Balasynovych, O. Lebedynska, E. Libanova, I. Lukinov, P. Sabluk, R. Tronko, M. Khvesyk, and Y. Yaroshevska. The global aspect of the food problem is considered in the works of I. Balabanov, I. Gladkov, Y. Zverev, Y. Kovalev, M. Lysak, Y. Mykhnevych and others.

Problems of regional food security are covered in the works of I. Irtyshcheva, L. Marmul, N. Malyk, L. Rohatina, P. Sabluk, V. Sytnyk. The impact of climate change on food security is considered by O. Goichuk, O. Kochetkov, R. Markov, I. Lukinov, and Y. Odarenko.

However, further methodological support is required for mechanisms for implementing a set of measures of political, legal, socio-economic, environmental, information, communication and organizational nature aimed at forming the food security of the state.

As for the social side of food security, it is still not sufficiently covered in the scientific literature. It is mostly reduced to the development of rural areas, social security of agricultural producers and rural residents, and the development of rural infrastructure.

However, there is insufficient analysis of the socio-economic and socio-political consequences of unresolved or insufficiently resolved food problems for the expanded reproduction of the main productive force - the human being, for ensuring a stable political situation in the country, for the ability to pursue an independent foreign policy, and to protect the state's interests.

2. Research methodology, data and hypotheses

The study is based on the goal to determine the place of the state in ensuring food security at all levels, to characterize the basic principles of state food policy and to show the unity of all its directions.

In doing so, the authors relied on the key techniques of dialectical logic - systematicity, contradiction, scientific abstraction, unity of the general, particular and specific, etc.

Based on the systemic approach, food security is seen as the result of all economic relations of the socio-economic system and is formed in all areas

of this system: production, distribution, exchange and consumption of food products.

The theoretical basis was the theory of the global economy and the theory of foreign trade. The practical experience of food policy of other countries was analyzed.

3. State food security policy

Food security, food policy, food problem, food independence - these are the categories used by researchers. All of them are related, so a food problem means a lack of, a certain violation of, food security. Food independence is considered to be one of the indicators of food security, although reducing food independence to self-sufficiency is quite controversial in today's open economy and global factor markets. In addition, the desire for self-sufficiency is a sign of a country's isolation, its insufficient integration into the global division of labor and world markets, which indicates an underdeveloped, inefficient economy and is often a sign of dictatorial political regimes.

Achieving full food independence is virtually impossible due to differences in the natural and climatic conditions of different countries, so it is only available to countries with a large territory located in different climatic zones. But even for such countries, it is not always feasible, because according to the theory of comparative advantage, domestic resources should be used for production that is most efficient, and some goods are cheaper to import than to produce them themselves. It should be noted, however, that the importance of food self-sufficiency has recently increased due to the risks of sanctions and disruption of traditional trade routes and trade relations as a result of military operations.

Food security means that every citizen of the country is guaranteed physical and economic access to quality food in a quantity and range sufficient for expanded reproduction of the labor force and social development of the individual.

The following levels of food security are distinguished, where food security indicators, goals and directions of food policy will differ.

The first level. Global or world level.

The second level. Subregional level.

The third level. National or state.

The fourth level. Regional level.

The fifth level. Personal or family.

It should be noted that:

a) the state, at any level, is the most important actor in food security;

b) achieving basic food security indicators does not always mean solving the food problem;

c) the state is not identical to the country as a whole, so the state level does not always mean the national level, as their interests may not coincide.

The principles of food security include the following:

- a) complexity, systemicity
- b) stability
- c) dynamism;
- d) scientific validity
- e) sociality
- f) efficiency;
- g) protection of national interests.

The specific implementation of these principles is carried out through the state food policy in all its directions. As for the state's activities in ensuring food security, they can be divided into external and internal, although, of course, they are closely related and intertwined.

The external direction of food security policy covers the global and subregional levels, where the state seeks to protect national interests, the national economy, strengthen its position in the world market, protect national producers from unfair competition, and national consumers from low-quality products.

This is done by:

- 1. Participation in the activities of international food organizations.
- 2. Coordination and development of a common agricultural policy in interstate economic associations.
- 3. Implementation of a policy to support the interests of national producers and exporters in bilateral international economic relations
- 4. Ensuring food independence and protecting the domestic market.

All these areas of foreign food policy have a direct impact on achieving food security within the country, but the division into external and internal areas is used only to classify the state's actions.

At the global level, it is not a question of food security, but rather a food problem that affects the least developed countries and regions of the world with a large population. The international community began to address the problems of food insecurity in the second half of the 20th century. The uneven socio-economic development of the world's countries continues to this day.

Of the manifestations of the food problem, such as hunger, malnutrition, and unbalanced nutrition, the fight is being waged at the global level against hunger as a consequence of the growth of the world's population in the face of limited and depleting resources. Thus, the main task is to overcome physical food shortages. This is also reflected in the indicators used to assess food

security at the international level. International organizations such as the FAO coordinate this work.

The sub-regional level of food security covers several neighboring countries that have similar natural and climatic and/or socio-economic conditions, share a common historical and cultural (mental) past, or are at a certain level of economic integration.

At the sub-regional level, the agrarian and food policies of the members of regional international associations are coordinated. At the same time, there is some competition between countries, which causes conflicts of interests that the state must protect.

The national level of food security is the main one, but it is necessary to note the unity and complexity of all levels. Regional food security is a component of state food security. The state plays a leading role in the formation of personal food security, providing it with all areas of economic policy - foreign economic, social, fiscal, employment policy, etc.

The state policy of food security within the country thus ensures national and personal food security of citizens. This is where its main principles are revealed.

The principle of comprehensiveness stems from the fact that food security is a system of economic relations that develop in the areas of production, distribution, exchange and consumption of food products. Accordingly, food policy should cover all these areas, from the formation of needs to the culture of consumption. A significant role in this should be played by educational activities, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, and rational use of limited resources (in particular, the fight against product spoilage and losses). Consumer organizations, state certification of products, the education and healthcare systems, and the media play a significant role here.

Experience has shown that the world's leading countries have long gone beyond supporting national agricultural producers by providing subsidies, tax breaks, and customs policies. Much attention is now being paid to the problems of social development of rural areas, attracting and retaining people of active working age in the agricultural sector, creating conditions in rural areas that are no different from urban ones, and addressing environmental issues, in particular, minimizing the negative impact of agricultural production on the environment.

However, the principle of socialization of food policy, in our opinion, is manifested not only in efforts to promote social development of rural areas. The food policy should cover three levels: agricultural producers, processors, and consumers. A policy is needed to stimulate both supply and demand for food. Consumer support, which ensures the economic affordability of food,

goes beyond purely food policy and covers such areas as income policy, pricing policy, anti-inflation policy, labor market policy, and education policy. In this way, both the principle of systematic, comprehensive and social nature of food policy is implemented.

The food industry plays an important role in ensuring food security. The positive impact of the food industry, as well as the entire processing industry (the third sector of the agro-industrial complex), is as follows:

1. Reducing the loss of agricultural raw materials contributes to an increase in the output of final consumer products.

2. Increasing the level of approximation to a nutritious diet.

3. Increasing the level of food security (self-sufficiency).

4. Growth of export potential.

5. Increased supply of jobs.

Thus, the food industry has a positive impact on almost all food security indicators. It has a direct impact on the quality of food products and the balance of the food supply. Indirectly, the food industry contributes to increasing the physical availability of food, as the processing and storage of agricultural raw materials helps to reduce its losses and spoilage, and thus increases the percentage of final products that reach the consumer. This is also facilitated by the development of specialized vehicles, optimal packaging, and integrated processing of raw materials.

The creation of jobs, especially in small towns, indirectly increases the economic affordability of food.

Thus, state support for food producers will have a positive impact on the components of national wealth and will contribute to the growth of the population's welfare, improve health potential, and enhance the quality of labor potential.

Conclusion

The state's food policy cannot be sporadic, reflexive, triggered only by crisis situations, and implemented from time to time. It should be systematic and consistent, based on constant monitoring - not for the sake of publishing shocking figures or statistical reporting, but for the development of specific programs to improve food security.

It is important to note that achieving food security is an important component of the highest goal of society - human improvement and self-development. Food security is not an end in itself, but a means of satisfying the first and most fundamental human need for a complete and balanced diet, which is the material basis for human health and development, well-being, and confidence in the future.

However, humans are social beings, and therefore they can only satisfy their needs within the confines of this society. Achieving food security is impossible without an active state policy. A state that is not able to provide this to its citizens cannot count on social stability within the country or on the invulnerability of its position in external relations.

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