

## ISSUES OF FOOD SECURITY IN UZBEKISTAN

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### Abstract

The measures to ensure food safety in the republic of Uzbekistan are analyzed.

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The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been promoting advanced initiatives on global problems and their solutions at various international forums and summits. In particular, the issue of food security is a priority among the initiatives of the head of state. This shows that the issue of food safety is in the center of attention even at the national level. Such initiatives and proposals of the head of our state to ensure food safety are important in eliminating the problems and obstacles in this field and mitigating threats to food safety, which are becoming more and more serious.

In a word, environmental and other problems such as drought, desertification, water scarcity, and other problems, in turn, threaten food security all over the planet. Continuous attention to food problems and long-term programs and plans in this direction, and cooperative efforts are crucial. The concept of food security was first proposed at the World Food Summit in 1974 and means "the availability of sufficient reserves of staple foods in the world at all times to ensure a sustainable increase in food consumption and to cover changes in production and prices."<sup>1</sup>

Food consumption directly affects the health of people and nations. Unsatisfactory nutrition erodes human health and causes enormous economic costs to society. Many studies show that poor nutrition has hindered the economic development of many countries.

Measures taken to achieve food security in different countries can be divided into four groups: production support, trade, consumption and micronutrient supply.

In recent years, the concept of food safety has expanded to include the safety and nutritional value of food products, as well as personal preferences.

In 2001, in addition to physical and economic opportunity, the concept of social opportunity was added to the concept of food security. The current Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) definition reflects this additional dimension as follows: "all people have access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their nutritional needs and personal preferences and to lead an active and healthy life." having physical, economic and social opportunities to be food security is ensured.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations. 1975. Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974. New York (United Nations). 1975. Report of the World Food Conference, Rome 5–16 November, 1974. New York).

According to FAO experts, the situation in terms of food security is determined by indicators of food security, the possibility of obtaining stability of supply and health. They are defined in detail below:

- **Stability:** a population, family or individual must always have access to food so that the food supply is not interrupted. They should not be cut off from food due to unexpected events (such as economic or climatic storms) or cyclical events (such as climatic food shortages).
- **Food availability:** supply of the necessary quality food products in the required quantity through domestic production or importation (including food aid). The most commonly used measure of food availability is per capita daily energy expenditure (DEE), measured in calories. According to the FAO methods, the KES indicator is calculated according to the type of food consumption based on the food balance. FAO calculates food balances using information on different sources of food supply (production, savings, trade) and different uses (or consumption) of products (forage, seed, industrial use, waste) of specific commodities.
- **Access to food:** the physical, economic and social capacity to access the necessary resources in order to obtain the nutrients necessary for a nutritious diet. Physical food supply implies that food products are available in the market in the quantity and choice demanded by consumers, and that there is an infrastructure for providing food products to the population. Economic opportunity means that all social strata of the population can afford to buy enough food. In other words, economic opportunity means that households have enough income to buy food and the country has enough foreign exchange to import food. Social opportunity means that the entire population, regardless of culture or religion, is fairly provided with food.
- **Utilization:** achieving a state in which all physiological needs are met with food consumption through adequate nutrition, clean water, sanitation and health care.

Failure to meet an indicator results in low food security or food insecurity. Food insecurity is a situation in which people do not get enough safe and nutritious food for growth, development, and an active lifestyle. Food insecurity or low levels of food security lead to poor nutrition among the population, which in turn has serious consequences for individuals, families and the nation as a whole.

Agriculture plays an important role in ensuring food security. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoev, in his speech at the joint meeting of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, said, "The issues of agricultural reform and ensuring food security, without a doubt, remain one of the most important tasks for us. First of all, a lot of attention is paid to the consistent development of the agro-industrial complex and its locomotive, i.e. multi-branch farms, which are the driving force"

Since the first years of independence, food safety issues have been in one of the central places in the socio-economic policy of Uzbekistan. Now, the issues of further improving the welfare and quality of life of the population, providing the population with food are closely related to the problem of ensuring food safety.

Sustainable development of agriculture and food chain of the Republic of Uzbekistan requires conducting state policy on the basis of new approaches. The strategy of agricultural development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, adopted in this regard, serves to implement these tasks.

The main goal of this Strategy is to fundamentally improve the state policy while deepening the reforms aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the agriculture and food industry, and covers the following priority areas:

ensuring food safety of the population;

creating a favorable agribusiness environment and value chain;

reducing state participation in industry management and increasing investment attractiveness;

rational use of natural resources and environmental protection;  
 development of modern systems of public administration;  
 gradual diversification of state expenditures directed to support the network;  
 development of the system of science, education, information and consulting services in agriculture;  
 development of rural areas;  
 development of a transparent system of network statistics.

Food security depends on a wide range of socio-economic, demographic and environmental factors and is one of the main components of the country's development.

The implementation of measures defined in this strategy made it possible to develop agriculture at a rapid pace. In particular, during the last 20 years, the area of agricultural crops decreased by 13.7%, but in 2019, 216.3 trillion soums, 250.3 trillion soums in 2020, and 303 trillion soums were produced in 2021.

Population growth, increased demand for land, water and energy resources, as well as climate change are the main factors affecting food security.

In recent years, as a result of the implementation of a number of measures to strengthen food safety in our country, Uzbekistan has managed to strengthen its position in the world and has gradually improved its position in global rankings.

In particular, as we know, every year the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announces the ranking of the best countries in the Global Hunger Index, which is one of the most important indices representing the food security of countries.

This index is determined by summing four indicators for each country:

- the share of the population that is undernourished;
- the percentage of underweight children under the age of five;
- the share of children under the age of five;
- the mortality rate of children under five years of age.

According to this indicator, the Republic of Uzbekistan took 52nd place among 119 countries in 2018 and reached a "moderate" level with a score of 12.1. In 2019, it took 48th place with a score of 10.7. and ranked 21st out of 116 countries in 2021 with a score of 5.9.

However, achieving the stability of the supply of food products for the population in need of social protection, increasing the purchasing power of low-income families, and preventing sudden changes in the price and quantity of products are among the problems that need to be solved.

Therefore, the main goal of this priority direction is to develop and effectively implement a state policy aimed at ensuring food security for all residents of the republic.

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