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ISSUES OF ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF THE POPULATION (IN THE CASE OF FERGANA VALLEY)

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Abstract

In the present research article, the role, status, problems and challenges of food security in improving the welfare of the population are highlighted in the Ferghana Valley of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Key words: Food Security, Agriculture, Food Industry, Intensive, Logistics, Collaboration and FAO.

1. Introduction

Improving the welfare of the population is one of the important factors that positively impact the socio-economic and cultural development of each country. Consequently, the state will carry out consistent reforms aimed at further improving the quality and standard of living of the population. However, in recent years, some of the problems that have been taking place in the globalization of the global economy have been becoming increasingly global and negatively affecting the welfare of the population.

Today, food is one of the most important issues. In the history of mankind, the problem of food has been and continues to be relevant worldwide for a variety of reasons. Continuous population growth, climate change, water shortages, natural disasters, urbanization, economic and environmental crises, in turn, have a negative impact on food production. That is why special attention is paid to ensuring food security not only in the region but also globally.

In particular, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is expanding its practical work to further enhance production and cooperation with many countries around the world in the development of agriculture and food industry. The fact that FAO has declared 2014 the "Year of International Family Farming" (Archive of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2014), 2015 - "International Year of Farming" (With the resolution of the UN General Assembly resolution, 2018) and June 7 "World Food Security Day" (The truth of Namangan, 2010). One of the important issues that needs to be addressed.

2. Analysis and Results

Domestic capacity plays a major role in ensuring food security. However, the rapid population growth has led to the need for new housing at the expense of agricultural land. In particular, the average irrigated agricultural land in Uzbekistan was 0.20 hectares in 1990 and 0.15 hectares in 2010, and it is expected that by 2030 the population will grow by 0.12 hectares (Archive of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2014). This results in the fact that from year to year, food production is becoming more and more difficult, especially in the regions of the Fergana Valley, where the population is the most populous. For example, the Ferghana Valley is one of the

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unique regions of the country, living at 28.5 % (at the beginning of 2019) of 4.1 % of the total area of the country. Sq. Km. In the valley regions this indicator was 74.1 people per km², including Andijan region per sq.m. 7132 km/km, Namangan region - 370 people, Ferghana region – 5,449 people (The People's Word, 2014). Naturally, this will increase further due to population growth and will limit the available resources in the region.

This calls for deeper reforms in the agricultural and food industries and more effective use of existing opportunities. In this regard, a lot has been done in the country since then. In particular, during the years of independence, the area under cotton has been reduced to increase the production of foodstuffs, and the areas of grain, potatoes, vegetables, feed crops, oilseeds and other plants for oil consumption have been expanded. In order to increase the volume of agricultural production across the country, unprofitable and inefficient collective farms were liquidated and farms were established in their place.

Increasing the number of farms specializing in livestock and crop production has led to an increase in the output of these types of products. For example, the Chashmai safed farm in Kosonsay district of Namangan region, which started in 1994, produces and breeds 30 heads of breeding stock from the Netherlands, with the use of technological equipment from Germany and Slovenia. milk processing and production of 8 types of meat products. The introduction of breeding cattle from Australia and Germany has contributed not only to the production of meat and milk, but also to breeding. Rohatoi multifunctional farm in Kuva district of Fergana region has been established in such areas as animal husbandry, fishery and beekeeping (Modern warehouse in Kumidon, 2017).

The expansion of dehkan farms and farmland, which is the material basis of the rural population, has led them to become a major producer of gross agricultural products. It was also important for the welfare of the population. In order to increase the production of foodstuffs, some work has been done to develop new lands and improve the reclamation of existing lands.

As a result of the cotton monopoly of the Soviet Union, much of the agricultural land in the republic had worsened land reclamation. That is why during the years of independence a lot of work has been done to improve the land reclamation and soil fertility to increase crop yields. In particular, in Andijan region 215 hectares of new land were cultivated in 1997, 2276 hectares of irrigated lands were reconstructed, and in 1999 190 hectares of new lands were reconstructed, 2190 hectares of irrigated lands were improved, reclamation of 1300 hectares was improved. In the Fergana region, in 2013, the reclamation of 174,000 hectares of irrigated land improved and moderately saline land was reduced to 7,900 hectares, with the reduction of groundwater levels on 10,000 hectares (Abdimuminov, 2018).

Of the existing 279,000 hectares of irrigated land in the Namangan region, 17513 hectares are poorly saline, 6550 hectares are medium salinity, and 789 ha are heavily saline, resulting in improved reclamation of 88,000 hectares (Abdimuminov, 2018). In general, over the period of 2008 through 2017, 1.7 million people were disbursed. hectares of irrigated land and 2.5 mln. In 2013, 1 trillion 328 billion soums will be spent on irrigation facilities in the country, 645 billion soums will be spent on irrigation facilities, 590 km of canals, 126 km of haul networks, 67 hydraulic structures, 7 pump stations and 106 upright irrigation wells. , 1 thousand 72 km of collector-drainage networks were built and reconstructed (New experience in fisheries, 2018). As a result, the water supply and reclamation condition of 302,000 hectares of irrigated land has been improved. As a result of the work done there was an increase in the volume and productivity of agricultural products (Modern warehouse in Kumidon, 2017).

The widespread introduction of scientific achievements in the country has ensured the return of positive results in these areas. To date, more than 170 varieties of vegetables, melons and potatoes, fruit and berry crops and grapes have been created in Uzbekistan (Modern technologies in agriculture, 2018). Despite the fact that Uzbekistan has great potential for agricultural production, there are important issues to consider. For example, at present



Uzbekistan is one of the countries that imports potatoes. Exports from the importer of potatoes may be included in the list of exporting countries if they take into account the natural climate and conditions of the country, and in the most efficient way. That is why special attention has been paid to this issue and a number of practical steps have been taken. In particular, the implementation of the EU-funded Sustainable Rural Development Program in Uzbekistan aims to address these problems, and in February 2018, 19.5 tonnes of potato seeds from France were delivered to the Andijan region (Aral Sea lessons and lessons, 2019). Productivity is higher than in France and yields are twice a year. This suggests that potatoes production, along with many agricultural products in Uzbekistan, is quite promising.

As a result of research in recent years, a new method of growing aerial seed potatoes has been introduced in Namangan region. This method yields 6 times higher yields than the traditional method. Therefore, special programs on potato seed production and supply of high-quality seeds throughout the Republic were developed based on this experience. Of course, the support of this project will reduce the import of potatoes and seed potatoes to the country due to high costs from foreign countries, and such successes will help to ensure food security in the country.

Attention was also paid to the storage of agricultural products, which is one of the most important components of food security and is constantly being used to meet the needs of the population. Modern refrigerators with storage capacity of 3,000 tons, 600 tons and 1,200 tons of agricultural products in Altaarik district of Ferghana region, including 1,000 tons in Andijan, 500 tons in Asaka, 3,000 tons in Akhachin, and 800 tons in Shakhrikhan. According to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of April 7, 2011 "On measures to develop and strengthen the material and technical basis for the storage of fruit and vegetable products for the period of 2011-2015" in the region 700 tonnes of refrigerators with total capacity of 3 projects the bee is activated (Abdimuminov, 2018).

"Golden Valley Agroinvest" with a capacity of 3,000 tons of high-tech fruit and vegetable storage in Namangan region, and the "Earthquake", with a capacity of 2.5 thousand tons of fruits and vegetables at the same time in 2017 in Turakurgan district. refrigeration and freezing warehouses. Warehousing and quality storage are essential for maintaining the market with products and, most importantly, to prevent food shortages, sharp price increases, and constant supply of food on the domestic market.

In particular, Uzbekistan joined the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on November 2, 2001. During the period of 2001-2015, 8 national and regional projects were implemented in Uzbekistan. In recent years, a number of national and regional projects have been implemented. This shows that Uzbekistan is developing partnerships with this organization. On June 5-6, 2014 at the initiative of Uzbekistan, an international conference on "Important Resources for Food Programming in Uzbekistan" was held in Tashkent. It was attended by over 200 people from 40 countries and 20 international organizations. At the conference it was noted that the country has favorable opportunities for ensuring food security and practical work in this direction.

At the FAO Regional Ministers Conference in Rome in June 2019, the initiatives of the 32nd Regional Conference of the Organization for Europe in Uzbekistan were supported by the FAO and the Ministers of Agriculture of 51 European and Asian countries. This regional conference will be held for the first time in Central Asia on May 5-7, 2020 in Uzbekistan. The FAO signed the FAO Framework Partnership Program for Uzbekistan on August 28, 2014, which provides the organization with practical assistance in the following areas:

- Establishing high value agricultural products for domestic and export markets through crop diversification and improved production.
- Introduction of effective pest management systems and systems, implementation of agriculture that promotes environmental protection.



- Fight against brucellosis and other infectious diseases of livestock by improving the productivity of livestock and poultry, the prevention of livestock diseases and the development of beekeeping.
- Development of national fisheries, increase of their productivity.
- Efficient natural resource management, forestry development, promotion of rural population income generation, application of economical and advanced technologies in land and water management, and prevention of drought related risks.

In recent years, numerous projects have been implemented in the Ferghana Valley to promote food production in the country and its regions, expand the range and range of products. In 2015, 2017, 393 cattle, 95 poultry, 125 fisheries, 149 beekeeping farms, 92 greenhouses, 187 intensive gardens, 30 refrigerated warehouses, new gardening and viticulture farms will be established in Namangan region. was made (Abdimuminov, 2018). In addition, intensive gardens have been established in many regions of the country for the effective use of low-yield land. Such reforms will not only fill the domestic consumer market with quality products, but will also significantly increase the export potential.

As a result of the special attention paid to the development of fishery, the number of products and the volume of products operating in this sphere increased. In particular, in the Yazyavan district of Ferghana region Bohodir Teshaboev, head of Ferganabaliqsanoat LLC, has 200 fish nets in the reservoirs. In order to localize fish feed supply, a small intensive feed mill of up to 4-8 tons per hour was established. And at the Kokand Mechanical Factory, they are made of grid cages. The goods were delivered not only to the region, but also to other regions of the country. The Kokand Mechanical Plant has established advanced technology for agriculture, poultry farming, fisheries and livestock sectors. This is important for the development of local production in these areas.

Decree of the President of the Republic of July 19, 2019 "On the measures for the implementation of the project" Development of rural entrepreneurship in the Fergana Valley "with the participation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In line with the Decree, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development will provide a five-year grace period for further deepening of the economic system in the agricultural sector in Andijan, Namangan and Ferghana regions, expanding production of agricultural products and services. 200 million for 20 years. US dollars. This has had a positive impact on the increase in production and employment in the valley regions.

One of the main problems in ensuring sustainable agricultural production is the low level of rational use of water resources. This is because traditional irrigation methods are used in the country. Water consumption in this method is much higher. In many countries, the vast majority of irrigated land is using drip irrigation. Because drip irrigation is more profitable than traditional methods and drastically reduces water consumption.

The benefits of drip irrigation are that it reduces water consumption, labor and resource costs, increases productivity, and also reduces soil erosion, groundwater levels and salinization. For example, the traditional method uses 12 or more thousand cubic meters of water per hectare and 3800 - 4000 cubic meters per hectare of drip irrigation. The lack of extensive use of intensive irrigation (water-saving technologies) in agricultural land irrigation has led to the problem of water resources for years to come. One of the important issues to consider in this regard is the long-term use of the existing irrigation infrastructure and the radical reconstruction of pumping stations. The World Resources Institute predicts that by 2040, Uzbekistan will become one of the 33 countries with the highest water scarcity if radical reforms in agriculture are not implemented.

The Ministry of Water Resources has been restructured (in 2018) to address these challenges and ensure efficient use of water resources in domestic capacity. The Ministry's



reorganization is important, improving the existing system of efficient use of water resources, including the widespread use of modern irrigation technologies, the gradual re-use of abandoned land, the modernization of internal irrigation networks, and the use of water. to achieve drastic reduction.

In addition, the Presidential Decree of October 25, 2019 has played a significant positive role in improving the system of rational and efficient use of water resources in the country. Because of this decision, starting from January 1, 2020, subsidies for water-saving irrigation technologies will be provided. For example, subsidies have been introduced to cover part of the costs of implementing water-saving technologies, as well as to subsidize interest expense on bank loans for their purchase and construction. Widespread use of these benefits will help systematically address problems in the sector. As a result of the efforts made over the past years, many of the products required for the population's consumption have been produced in Uzbekistan and the volume of imports has sharply decreased. For example, the share of foodstuffs in the country's total imports was 48.9% in 1990, 12.3% in 2000, and 8.1% in 2018, while many agricultural products were exported.

Uzbekistan's reforms in this area and the contribution of foreign countries to food security through the export of agricultural products are highly recognized by the international community, and Uzbekistan has achieved its MDG (Millennium Development Goals) award in 2015. Recognized as one of 14 states. It can also be seen that Uzbekistan's international food security rating is improving year by year. According to a report by the British Economist Intelligence Unit in 2019 on the Global Food Security Index (GFSI), Uzbekistan was ranked 71st among 113 countries surveyed. It examines three indicators: food availability and availability, availability and sufficiency, quality and safety.

3. Conclusions

In conclusion, we can say that over the past years, Uzbekistan has accomplished a number of positive steps in agricultural

development and food security. However, given today food security is a global concern, it is possible to make the following recommendations to ensure sustainable development of the sector:

- Expanding intensive methods of land use.
- Further strengthening of international relations in the agricultural, food and other sectors.
- Strengthening the localization of imported foodstuffs.
- Wide application of scientific achievements in production. Modernization and expansion of material and technical base of agricultural and food industry enterprises in accordance with modern requirements.
- Development and popularization of scientific recommendations on agricultural and other issues of land use.
- Expansion of branches of higher education in the developed countries, including agriculture, food industry and veterinary science in Uzbekistan, particularly in the Ferghana Valley.

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