FOOD SECURITY AND THE DIRECTIONS OF AGRARIAN POLICY IN AZERBAIJAN

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Abstract

In the article, the necessity of paying attention to food security in the world, including Azerbaijan, the employment of people in the agrarian sphere and the improvement of living standards are investigated. It is believed that establishment of a network of agricultural co-operatives within the framework of sustainable agriculture development and food security policy in Azerbaijan should be one of the priorities in supporting agricultural integration with industry. The essence of food security, to use internal source of stock in agrarian sphere and the role of economic mechanism are investigated. In article the author offers the structure of sowing area, production and conversion technology, to improve the infra-structure, the formation of seed-growing and breeder, the development of cattle-breeding and provision of them with feed, to improve technical provision of agrarian sphere, to improve management mechanism in order to discover internal stocks. In this connection, to be supported local production, to raise competition ability of the product, to reduce prime cost of the product, marketing, credit, cost, investment and to use other economic mechanisms are estimated as priority directions.

The article concludes that the implementation of the measures will be based on high technological development in the post-2025 period, with the competitiveness of the economy based on the efficient structure of the agrarian economy, the 61st for food supply in Azerbaijan’s Global Food Security Index, 86th for quality of food products, and may reach the 40th position on both indicators.

Keywords: agrarian sphere, economic mechanism, food security, priority directions, seed – growing.

JEL Classification: Q11, Q18, F42 , I 31
1 Introduction

The problem of hunger and not to eat one’s fill has been pursued throughout history. In this regard, food security was associated with the population living at different levels and conditions. Food security is a matter of food insecurity. The British economist, Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834), in his work "Experience in the Population Law" in 1798, showed that living means for population can not increase being in numerical range though the number of people increased by 2 times (in geometric range) in every 25 years. Thus, he considered the deficit of foodstuffs to be natural. With regard to population growth, Malthus considered illnesses, defects, and wars as legitimate due to food shortages. While Malthus’s ideas did not fully comply, in any case, to use of natural resources rationally, making changes in the structure of agriculture, conducting reforms, introducing new policies on population growth in some countries and increased responsibility for such problems. During the globalization and development of international relations, this problem is more vivid. The problem of food security at different levels: global, national, regional and household, and its solution is complicated by the solution of economic and social problems.

1.1 Policy directions of food security

In the 20-30s of the last century, the concept of national security was considered as a mutual relationship of prosperity, political stability and defense of the state. Even the last priority was value. The discussion of the food security problem occurred after the post-war era, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) was adopted. However, in 1974, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "International Obligations on Food Security in the World" prepared on the recommendation of FAO. Here, food security was described as "a guarantee that all residents can meet the demand for world food resources at any time for active living conditions." In 1992, at the conference held in Rio de Janeiro, the UN, a Sustainable Development Concept encompassing economic, social and aspects was adopted. According to the decision, this concept was adopted as a general action plan of the twenty-first century for all UN member states. Though, sustainable development is interpreted in various scientific disciplines, it forms a new form of economic development and human capital management, which is essentially the essence of which is capable of meeting people’s demands and does not prevent them from meeting their future needs. These requirements are considered as essential conditions for the provision of food for the people, with the creation of a favorable socio-economic environment for everyone. In
sustainable development, everything must only answer for human development and serve as a background for it. [1, p.134-138]

In modern conditions, the result of international attention to the food problem is that “the Rome Declaration on World Food Security” has adopted in the United Nations initiative in 1996. The main reason for the adoption of the Rome Declaration is the rapid increase of people who are hungry and don’t eat their fill in the world. This world-wide trend, especially political tension and economic downturn, is more prominent in Asia and Africa. The Rome Declaration dwelled on the reduction of the number of abused consumers up to 2 times and improving the food supply of the community members. [6, p.165]

For the period 2016-2025, the United Nations has set goals for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition with its member states and has carried out measures in this direction. As a result of efforts to improve food security and nutrition, this figure dropped to 815 million in 2016, from 900 million people suffering from chronic hunger in 2000. The increase of 38 million has been observed compared to 2015. This increase in one year is no longer a danger signal. People suffering from chronic hunger are mostly from Tropical Africa (sub-Saharan Africa), Southeast Asia and Western Asia. In this regard, FAO calls on all countries to "end hunger, to achieve food security, to develop nutrition and to create a sustainable agricultural system," in the second phase of sustainable development, until 2030. [5, p.2-3]

1.2 Global food security and measures taken in the agrarian sector

According to FAO estimates, the volume of production by 2025 should be increased by 2 times in order to provide the population with food products (with relevant standards). This is not so real. According to some economic calculations, food production will change in the increasing direction, even by the year 2030. But in exchange for current nutritional norms and population growth, in the world market 500 million ton grain, 40 million tons meat, 70 mln. tons of fish and fish products and some other products will not be available. The world population is expected to reach 9.0 billion by 2050. There is a need to think about the state of food systems in order to make sure that there is enough food for everyone. There is a need to reduce the impact of food systems on the environment. Because, today, as a result of food production, a large number of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, tension in water resources is being created. It should be a deeper understanding of how food procurement options affect poorer farmers in other parts of the world. The ways of preventing food loss at home
and super-markets, storage, transportation of food chain should be learned. The root causes of insufficient nutrition are more complicated and include a broader economic, social, political, cultural and physical environment. From this point of view, addressing the problem of non-nutrition requires a combination of activities and additional interventions in the agricultural and food systems, natural resource management, public health and education.

As the majority of the population of developing countries are engaged in the agrarian sector, that's why, the problem is calving of poor villagers' lands. In most developing countries, land plots are simply not used. The fact is that those lands are privately owned by the latter, who are not interested in the issue of their agricultural circulation - latifundists, tribal leaders, large agro-companies, officers and officials of authoritarian regimes. Such situation once again proves the necessity of major social changes, including a truly democratic land reform. It is not coincidence that in more than 50 developing countries with an overall population of 1.4 billion, there is an absolute decline in food supply.

On the world scale, 244 million people have been migrated in 2015. Compared to 2000, it has increased by 40%. About 150 million migrants are migrated as workers. Most migrant populations are migrated who moved from villages. The reason is that the socio-economic situation in the villages is inadequate. Research shows that 75% of the poorest and least food-rich population in the world are concentrated in the villages. Problems faced by the rural population should be solved by state and international organizations. They should be provided with credit, tax breaks, technology and facilities and it should be helped in order to form the food market. Otherwise, it will not be possible, to prevent this migration flow. [8, p.6-8]

The international dimension of the problem of food security is particularly evident in the background of globalization. Therefore, international organizations, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund and others, have recently begun to play an active role in resolving this urgent problem.

In the solution of the problem the grain farm is one of the main places. This farm plays a coordinating role for the other sectors of the agrarian one. The state of grain production and its position in the grain market are perceived internationally as a key indicator of the food security of individual countries. From the point of view of socio-economic importance of grain production to the country, reliable bread and bakery products, as important as the product of daily consumption, draws attention to the fact that food is a product. Grain and its processing products form the basis of human life activity.
If there is a part of import in the average incomes of each person of population as the main indicators of food security, the temporary remainder of food grain (60-dayly stock of grains or 17-20% of total volume annual consumption), food resources, now these criteria have expanded and become more sophisticated. This includes the followings: - specific weight of part of food expenditures in total expenditure of individual population groups; - Possibility of Territorial access to food (measured by comparing the retail price of the same goods in different regions of the country); - level of food "comfort" (consumption share of modern types of food that reduces household savings and saves time); - the level of "nature" and quality of the product; - the impact of the quality of the product on the health and life expectancy (also the products received with the help of engineering genetics and biotechnological methods, which began mass commercial commercialization since 1995); The main criterion of food safety of population is characteristic with creation of 75-80% of total main food products volume by national commodity producers and being below 3300 kcal a day of recommended caloric of biological excellent products consumed by population. [6, p.156-206]

As the main guarantee of population's food security is the agrarian sector. Therefore, the state's attention to the center of the problem's solution is absolute. Developed countries are well aware of their experience that, with many specific conditions, agriculture is not competitive in comparison with other sectors of the economy. On the basis of this, they constantly increase state support for the area. Statistics show that the support costs for farmers in Europe are 40% of the cost of production. Specifically, the share of state subsidies in the agrarian sector is 30% in the United States, 45% in Canada, 66% in Japan, 59% in Sweden, 71% in Finland, and 77% in Norway. It should be noted that in these countries, the agrarian sector is supported not only with subsidies, but also with comprehensive institutional tools and mechanisms. [5]

One of the ways to ensure sustainable development in agriculture is to develop biotechnology in the agrarian sector. Over the last 200 years, many experiments have been conducted on hybridization of plants and seeds around the world. In the 1960s, the New Revolution, the Green Revolution, created a major turning point in agriculture. In the developing and developing countries, the Green Revolution rapidly expanded its production, the country's economy began to grow by it. Food problems have begun to decline in countries suffering from starvation as a result of genetically modified products such as soybeans, corn. [3, p.2-4]

From world experience it seems that it is necessary to organize global management in this area in order to provide food and nutrition and to develop agriculture in any country. According to Joachim von Braun and Regina Birner, there are five major mechanisms of global governance: firstly, formulating of global
objectives, then to sign compulsory contracts at internationally mandated and get voluntary agreements, establishing organizations at global level, and adopting new standards and specific commitments in this area [11, p.269]

At present, food security is one of the key elements of economic security, which is the basis of the national security of each country. Thus, global food security requires further strengthening of economic measures in the agrarian sector.

1.3 Food security and economic mechanisms of independent Azerbaijan

There was a real threat to Azerbaijan's food supply during the years of independence and reforms. Distributed trade relations led not only to the decline in production and consumption across Azerbaijan, but also to dependence on strong imports from other countries and to ever-increasing foreign trade debt. During this period, the development and application of relevant normative legal documents, projects and programs in public policy was of particular importance.

From this point of view, provision of food security requires from the state a comprehensive implementation of political, socio-economic, scientific-technical, organizational, information and other measures. The crucial role in ensuring food security is to protect the domestic food market and the economic interests of domestic commodity producers from unfavorable competition: 1) increase in real income of the population and increase their livelihoods; 2) Strengthening the agrarian sector in the country's economy; 3) Measures aimed at effective management of agricultural products, commodities and foodstuffs abroad, in particular for their internal market protection. From this point of view, it is impossible without sustainable activity of agrarian production and food market in the safe protection of population's food security.) Thus, food security stipulated the state's food independence being an important factor of political and economic independence of the country. The achievement of food independence by the state directly depends on the regulation of the agrarian sector.

Therefore, in order to ensure the effective functioning of food security, the state pays special attention to its regulation by means of economic and administrative mechanisms. In the conditions of market relations, the economic methods of state regulation are more preferable. These mechanisms include price, finance, credit, budget, tax, planning, customs, insurance, and the like.

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The main task of the state in the agrarian sector is to meet the demand of the country's population for food products mainly from local production. In this regard, it is advisable to approach the agrarian sector in terms of ensuring food security.

Table 1  The production and consumption, import and export by main types of products in Azerbaijan

| Stock of wheat (ton) at the beginning of year | 2010  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| production                                  | 1272340 | 1841307 | 1407405 | 1639830 | 1799859 |
| import                                      | 1330017 | 1451257 | 1195656 | 1353072 | 1599599 |
| Total of resources                          | 3504097 | 4360140 | 3832713 | 3849706 | 4274706 |
| Export                                      | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
| Consumption                                 | 2754534 | 3130488 | 2975909 | 2974458 | 3249075 |
| Stock at the end of year                    | 749563 | 1229652 | 856804 | 875248 | 1025631 |
| Total of utilization                        | 3504097 | 4360140 | 3832713 | 3849706 | 4274706 |
| Stock of potatoes (ton) at the beginning of year | 590617 | 553153 | 580842 | 541666 | 534264 |
| production                                  | 953710 | 992780 | 819319 | 839795 | 902396 |
| import                                      | 64998 | 78054 | 143634 | 139239 | 191204 |
| Total of resources                          | 1609325 | 1623987 | 1543795 | 1520700 | 1627864 |
| Export                                      | 69853 | 53942 | 49476 | 36713 | 38248 |
| Consumption                                 | 987270 | 989203 | 952653 | 949723 | 997364 |
| Stock at the end of year                    | 552202 | 580842 | 541666 | 534264 | 592252 |
| Total of utilization                        | 1609325 | 1623987 | 1543795 | 1520700 | 1627864 |
| Stock of all types of cattle and poultry meat (ton) at the beginning of year | 8858 | 9998 | 9896 | 9279 | 4139 |
| production                                  | 244897 | 286879 | 291189 | 298613 | 302227 |
| import                                      | 36019 | 25144 | 25418 | 17567 | 41719 |
| Total of resources                          | 289774 | 322021 | 326503 | 325459 | 348085 |
| Export                                      | 1519 | 1581 | 1387 | 831 | 134 |
The provision of Azerbaijan’s food security can be achieved by state regulation that does not contradict international trade in credit, taxes, insurance, pricing, planning, management, stimulation, food resources formation, socio-economic policy, in the sphere of protection of the environment and land resources. Improving the economic mechanism being an important factor in the increase and expansion of production, require the seasonality of jobs in agriculture, dependence on external factors, and the input of production in the production.

As a result of effective measures undertaken in the early years of independence, in our Republic, though production of agricultural products has been continuously developing every year, there were difficulties in meeting normally the population’s demand for many basic products, including grain, eggs, vegetable oil and other products. Taking this into account, with that end in view, 100 million manats (55-60 million dollars) has been taken from the state budget by the Presidential Decree of August 25, 2008, after approved the "State Program on Reliable Provision of Foodstuffs in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015".

“The State Program on Socio-Economic Development of the Regions of the Azerbaijan Republic (2004-2008)” approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 11, 2004, On April 14, 2009 “Socio-Economic Development State Program of Azerbaijan’s regions in 2009-2013", February 27, 2014,” State Program on Socio-Economic Development of the regions of the

Source: Statistical yearbook of Azerbaijan. 2017. State statistical commitee of the republic of Azerbaijan. Baku. 814 page [9, p. 504-506].
Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018 "was identified as one of the main priorities of the country's agricultural development. [4, p.57-58]

State programs have led to the sustainable development of the regions and the creation of infrastructure for radical reforms in the agrarian sector in order to provide the population with essential foodstuffs and industry raw materials in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Extensive technical and financial support by the state to agricultural producers and processing facilities plays an important role in the development of the agrarian sector. The measures taken in the field of state regulation have contributed to the development of agriculture, entrepreneurship, increased production of agricultural products, increased production in the country's domestic consumer market and significantly improved the demand of the population. In accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "On state support for agricultural products producers" dated January 23, 2007, paying an average of 50 per cent of the cost of fuels, motor oils and mineral fertilizers by the state has given a strong boost to agricultural production. It is envisaged to increase the amount of assistance 25 percent provided by the Decree of 15 April 2015, and the subsidy given for the sale of mineral fertilizers for recycling (interim) seedlings. As a result of consistent measures, in 2015 compared in 2005 grain production increased by 41.1%, potatoes by 40.1%, vegetables by 13.1%, melons by 33.2%, fruits and berries by 41.9%, grapes 97, 1 percent increase. During the comparable period meat production increased by 50.8 percent, milk production by 53.7 percent, eggs production by 77.5 percent, wool production by 29.7 percent, and the total product of agricultural increased by three times. [2]

At present, agrarian policy in Azerbaijan has been directed to the implementation of complex measures aimed at dynamic development of production. Therefore, one of the main goals is to achieve sustainable development of the non-oil sector, stable macroeconomic situation of the country, efficient regulation of the economy and stimulation of its dynamic development. For the purpose of it, it is planned to expand production, to create a competitive economy, infrastructure, favorable investment environment and to increase the share of domestic resources in the country in investments involving to the economy. At the same time, to increase direct subsidies for agriculture, attraction of investments to the establishment of processing facilities, and implementing of the development of non-oil fields are considered as priority directions.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I. Aliyev said that great work has been done in the sphere of entrepreneurship development and food security in the Republic at the conference dedicated to the results of the second year of implementation of "the State Program on Socio-Economic Development of Regions
for 2014-2018”. In Azerbaijan per capita is 0.55 hectares of land suitable for agriculture. It was noted that we provide us with 64 percent of grain, 90 percent for potatoes, 100 percent for melons, 110 percent for fruits and berries, 92 percent for meat, 80 percent for milk and 99.6 percent for eggs. The President of the country has shown specific facts to reduce the level of self-sufficiency in basic food products and the dependence on imports of raw material, and has identified trends to reduce this dependence. President I.Aliyev noted that "Now we have been able to provide us a great deal of self-sufficiency. Because the policy of diversifying the country's economy is being successfully implemented. However, at the same time ... there are still many things to make ... a key document for businessmen, government agencies and local authorities - a road map must be and we must do it soon. " (Republic Newspaper, 27.01.2016).

The dynamics of agricultural products of Azerbaijan are differ related to changes in production rate. It means associated with decreasing producer prices of some products it is observed sudden increase in other products prices. We can see it from the table given below.

| Table 2 Producer price index of agricultural products (as per cent to previous year) |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture products | 104.2 | 103.2 | 102.3 | 101.2 | 97.4 |
| Annual plants - total | 104.5 | 103.6 | 102.8 | 97.2 | 87.4 |
| Cereals (except rice), leguminous crops and oil | 103.2 | 104.2 | 102.5 | 100.2 | 90.0 |
| Seeds - total | 103.2 | 104.2 | 102.5 | 100.2 | 90.0 |
| Wheat | 104.1 | 106.6 | 101.4 | 96.7 | 84.2 |
| maize | 110.8 | 96.3 | 96.6 | 105.9 | 101.0 |
| Vegetables | 96.8 | 101.5 | 102.2 | 98.2 | 96.2 |
| Water-melon and melon | 92.7 | 99.6 | 78.9 | 88.1 | 66.5 |
| potatoes | 109.2 | 95.0 | 106.8 | 103.5 | 100.7 |
| crude cotton | 112.1 | 99.4 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.4 |
| Prennial plants – total | 102.1 | 98.2 | 96.3 | 114.6 | 102.0 |
| Vineyard | 97.6 | 91.3 | 101.8 | 106.3 | 92.8 |
| Subtropical fruits | 99.2 | 105.3 | 103.4 | 121.7 | 106.6 |
| Seedy and stone fruits | 101.5 | 95.4 | 83.2 | 99.3 | 97.7 |
| Other fruit trees, bush fruits and walnut, hazelnet | 110.6 | 94.7 | 106.5 | 131.9 | 120.4 |
From the table it can be seen that, increased production of plant products affects producer prices. However because of the high cost of imported technical material (machinery, device, equipment, fertilizer, etc.) of raw materials also affects the producer's price.

Connected with it, "Strategy Roadmap for the National Economic Outlook of the Republic of Azerbaijan" was prepared and approved by the Decree of December 6, 2016, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 16, 2016,. The Strategic Roadmap covers the economic development strategy and action plan by 2020, a long-term vision for the period up to 2025 and target views for the period from 2025. Major changes and challenges that may occur in economic, social, demographic, natural and technological fields in the post-2025 period will be taken into account in order to ensure the country's food security. Expansion of the application of new food chain technologies for the formation of adequate food security systems (increasing the level of use of biotechnology and nanotechnology, increasing food production by using other production technologies, medicalization of nutrition and the creation of new food types) and the formation of new agro-food chain structures (expansion of organic production, formation of regional, local and alternative food chains, reduction of food chain waste and expanding of recycling opportunities) are intended to formate the system of adequate food security. [10, p.49]

The researches show that priority directions in the agrarian field consist of provision of using land and water resources efficiently; rehabilitation of irrigation and melioration in agriculture; to support relating development of production of raw material and treatment spheres in the agrarian sector; stimulation of increase of production of competitive products; to improve the financial status of agrarian production and service sectors; improvement of the scientific and methodological support of the agrarian sector and personnel training system, etc.
At the same time, the level of food security requires improvement of planting structure, development of cattle-breeding and provision of them with feeding, production and processing technology, improvement of infrastructure, organization of seeding and breeding, improvement of technical support of the agrarian sector, improvement of management mechanisms. Establishment of a network of agricultural co-operatives within the policy of sustainable farming development and food security policy in Azerbaijan should be one of the priorities of supporting industry and agricultural integration.

2 Data and Methods

Information related to food security and agrarian policy has been taken from FAO reports, Statistical yearbook of State statistical committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2017, the State Programs on Socio-Economic Development of Regions, from international articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers, and scientific researches of Azerbaijan and foreign scholars. Essays, dissertations and books related with article were analyzed as well. Moreover to conduct an in-depth study were used analysis, induction, deduction, economic - statistical and other methods.

3 Result and Discussion

As a result of the generalization, we come to the conclusion that in the market economy, the following issues must be solved by approaching to the improvement of the economic mechanism of food security with a comprehensive and systematic:

- Local producers should be supported by all means. Attention should be increased to the quality of agricultural products;
- The level of provision of food security is rising as the production of basic agricultural products increases in the country. The state must achieve such the development of local agrarian production that even though the external environment may deteriorate, but the population’s food consumption is not threatened;
- Growth trends in the structure of food products in our republic should be adequately intented in the increasing impact of urbanization and environmental factors; ecological regulation of economic activity in agrarian sphere should take place in the background of the involvement of various financial sources;
- The competitiveness of domestic products should be increased, the product cost should be reduced, the marketing and information services should be expanded, a state investment policy should be carried out that promotes the
development of leasing and infrastructure in order to improve the economic mechanism of food security;
– Measures of creating a favorable economic environment, modernization of technical means complex in all levels of delivering food products to the final consumer should be carried out for the application of resource-saving technologies that keep quality in the production, processing and storage of food products;
– Local stimulation measures should be carried out to regulate imports and exports of agricultural products.

4 Conclusion

Thus, an active regulatory policy should be implemented in different sectors of the economy, and should be used more flexibly in terms of finance, credit, tax, price, investment, insurance and other means in order to ensure food security in Azerbaijan. This is connected with the fact that, as noted at the conference held on February 5, 2014 by President Ilham Aliyev, "... strengthening of domestic production, reducing of dependence on imports and raising of export-oriented products is a priority ... Food security in Azerbaijan should be ensured by 100% inner production. As one of the development directions of the agrarian sector, to develop the agrarian tourism in rural areas in order to ensure rural development and employment, and to stimulate ecological organic agricultural products along with the production of traditional agricultural products should be intented. The implementation of the measures will be based on high technological development in the post-2025 period, with the competitiveness of the economy based on the efficient structure of the agrarian economy, the 61st for food supply in Azerbaijan's Global Food Security Index, 86th for quality of food products, and may reach the 40th position on both indicators.

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