
CURRENT ISSUES IN ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: This article analyzes the current state, problems, and solutions related to ensuring food security in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Scientific studies emphasize that food security should not only be assessed by the volume of production but also by criteria such as physical and economic accessibility, quality, and sustainability.

Key words: food security, agricultural policy, food system, resources, agriculture, sustainability, problems

Introduction

Food security is the condition in which every person has consistent physical, economic, and social access to sufficient and healthy food products. For Uzbekistan, food security is recognized not only as a factor of health and sustainable living standards but also as one of the key components of national security. Although the country is implementing agrarian reforms, digitalization, and scientific-technological innovations, there are still a number of problems that pose a threat to food security.

1. General Overview of the Food Security Situation

In recent years, the volume of food production in Uzbekistan has been increasing. In particular, wheat production has approached 7 million tons, and the volume of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit-vegetable products is growing by an average of 5–6% per year. The production of meat and dairy products partially meets domestic demand. However, due to population growth, urbanization, climate change, and global price instability, the existing potential cannot fully guarantee food security.

2. Analysis of pressing issues

a) Water Resource Shortage

The main branches of agriculture, especially irrigated farming, are suffering from water shortages. Each year, 90% of water is consumed by the agricultural sector, which deprives other sectors of essential resources.

b) Low Productivity and Technological Delays

Many farming enterprises still use outdated equipment and agrotechnologies. This leads to an increase in food prices and a decline in product quality.

c) Insufficient Logistics and Storage Infrastructure

After food products are produced, weak systems for transportation, storage, and processing lead to significant losses. Up to 25–30% of vegetables and fruits are wasted.

d) Dependence on Imports and Price Instability

A significant portion of meat, oil, sugar, and other products is imported. Fluctuations in global market prices directly lead to crises in the domestic market.

e) Low Efficiency of Agricultural Policy and Institutions

There is no adequately coordinated strategy among the institutions responsible for ensuring food security.

3. Scientifically-Based Proposals and Recommendations

- Implementation of digital agrotechnologies: smart irrigation, monitoring with drones, agrometeorological systems.
- Development of a knowledge transfer system for farmers: agronomic training, mobile applications, agro-consulting centers.
- Creating food reserves: establishing strategic stocks and ensuring population protection during emergencies.
- Strengthening cooperation and clustering: uniting farmers and enterprises based on the cluster model.
- Improving the food quality and safety system: modernizing laboratories and ensuring compliance with safety standards.

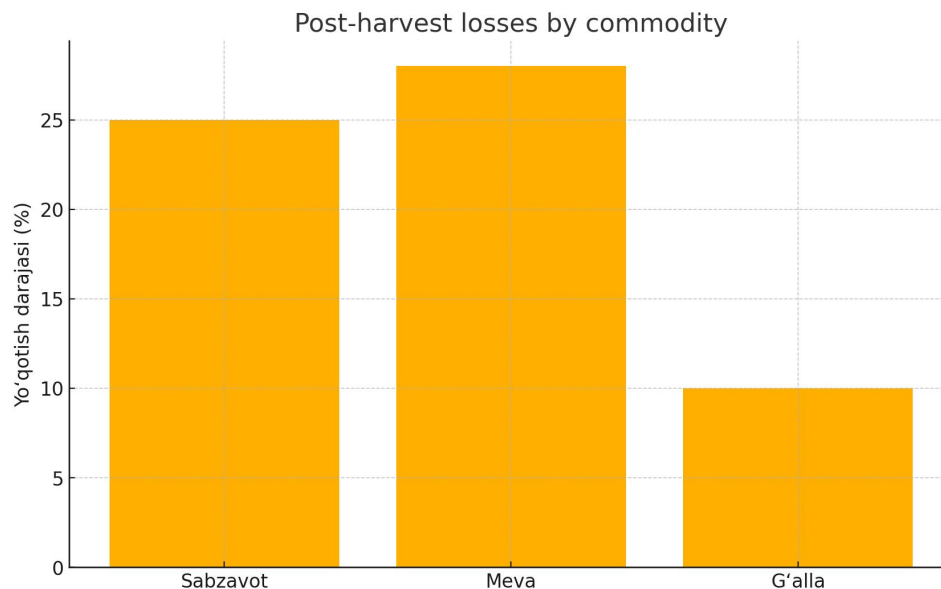
Table 1.

Balance Indicators of Main Food Products (2024)

Product	Production (thousand tons)	Import (thousand tons)	Self-sufficiency (%)
Wheat	7000	800	90
Potato	3000	200	94
Meat	1500	300	83
Fruits and vegetables	6000	350	94

Picture 1.

Level of Losses in the Food Supply



Conclusion

Although significant achievements have been made in ensuring food security in Uzbekistan, the system still faces pressing challenges. Water scarcity, low productivity, infrastructure issues, and dependence on imports are factors that pose threats to security. Addressing these issues requires the integration of science, innovation, and state policy.

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