

## **DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD MARKETS IN THE SYSTEM OF ENSURING FOOD SECURITY**

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The development of food markets is an important aspect of the functioning of the economy of any state. Markets for food, agricultural products, their development are an important task in ensuring the food security of any state. Stability in the food sector is the basis of food security.

The world's population is constantly growing, while resources and production potential are limited. Consumption of food products is growing, the amount of waste and losses is increasing. Therefore, in some cases, consumption exceeds own reserves.

Under such conditions, the main thing is to ensure the food security of the state, that is, the use of its own resources to meet the needs of the population in the most important food products in the required volume and quality.

Ensuring food security is based on three factors: physical and economic accessibility, rational consumption. Physical accessibility is ensured by the availability of food and the ability to purchase it. Economic affordability refers to the sufficiency of income to purchase food. Rational consumption involves planning and spending money at the household level.

Ensuring food security is carried out at the global, interstate, national and family levels. At all levels, problems arise that need to be addressed: demographic, environmental, and others.

To solve various problems, to prevent them, systems of national food security are being developed. In particular, the Republic of Belarus has developed the Concept of National Food Security, which contains the strategic goals of food security, criteria, indicators and parameters.

The current stage of economic development is characterized by a situation where food security and independence are ensured through the following interrelated factors:

- innovative development of the economy, which underlies effective reproduction;
- export orientation of the economy, stimulating competitiveness and improving the quality of products;
- increasing the efficiency of agricultural production, which ensures the excess of the growth rate of labor productivity over the growth rate of the level of costs;
- building up competitive advantages, which contributes to the expansion of sales markets both domestically and abroad;
- raising the professional level of the workforce, which lies at the core of increasing the efficiency of production;
- development of agricultural production, which is the foundation of the entire food security system.

In addition, it is necessary to use a number of levers to minimize the impact of inflationary processes on the real sector of the economy, which is achieved through the use of various financial instruments. The development of food markets is the basis for ensuring food security. Food markets do not function in isolation. They are elements of international value chains that depend on competitive strategies in the global economy. Any state strives for import substitution to ensure the food security of its state.

The existence of an international market for raw materials leads to the fact that it is impossible to determine the nationality of a particular product. The epidemiological situation in recent years has had a significant impact on the development of food markets. Therefore, the development of their own food markets is increasing to ensure security. Some countries face a shortage of labor to run food markets.

The international integration of food markets is influenced by: the demand for agricultural products, the level of concentration of resources, the availability of capital, the policy of state support in a particular country. In modern conditions, the influence of international integration processes on the development of food markets is increasing.

In addition, population growth occurring at different rates around the world also affects the development of food markets. Some countries have a larger food supply, which ensures greater stability and independence from changing conditions, both natural and socio-economic.

In Cameroon approximately 2.6 million people are currently facing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity and are in need of food assistance and increase of the nearly 1.7 million people from the same period in 2019. Food insecurity in Cameroon especially in the Far North, North West, and South West regions are due to worsening conflicts in these regions, over flooding due to heavy rainfall that runs off and destroys agricultural products, drought, poverty, unemployment and low income, poor transportation system.

To achieve food security in Cameroon the World Food Program in collaboration with the government of Cameroon came out with the following measures which help to achieve zero hunger by responding to immediate food and nutrition needs to affected populations in Adamawa, East, Far North, North, North West and South West such as advocating for the policy and regulatory reforms to improve the efficiency and integration of domestic food markets and reduce barriers to food trade, working with the private sector, scientists, and others to strengthen capacities to assess and manage food safety, educate consumers, train farmers to make most of the new technology, create more efficient food chains, adopt more integrated growing practices, providing capital to small scale farmers to boost agricultural production, settling conflicts in the crisis regions and providing good transportation system because a lot of food are damaged because of poor transportation network.

In the course of the study, the main directions for the development of food markets were identified.

Creation of a competitive environment that stimulates the production of domestic products with high quality characteristics, which ensures import substitution. This direction is a catalyst for the development of other related sectors of the national economy, as well as scientific research, trade, innovative production.

Development of a system of state support in case of unforeseen situations related to epidemics, natural disasters, etc.

Search for effective models of interaction in order to optimize the level of costs for the most complete satisfaction of needs. Maintaining the required level of physical and economic availability of food, regardless of market conditions. Improving foreign economic activity is aimed at increasing the efficiency of trade and exchange operations, developing measures and guarantees for activities with minimization of risks. The development of the export potential makes it possible to expand the possibilities for finding sales markets, attracting additional financing and increasing foreign exchange earnings.

Improving the efficiency of trade, which not only stimulates the inflow of foreign exchange earnings, but also expands the markets for agricultural products. The implementation of the directions described above allows not only to increase the efficiency of agricultural production, but also to stimulate the food security of the state.