

ENSURING FOOD SAFETY – A REQUIREMENT OF THE TIME.

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Abstract: Food security is one of the most urgent challenges facing countries around the world. Today, the world needs to radically change its approach to food production and distribution.

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Food security is one of the most urgent tasks facing countries around the world. In general, “Food security” is understood as the economic condition of a state that fully covers the consumption needs of all segments of the population, taking into account their physical, social, and economic capabilities, ensures compliance with safety indicators, and guarantees conditions for the production of food products with high nutritional value, taking into account their physical, social, and economic capabilities. According to the United Nations, currently 815 million people in the world are hungry, and by 2050 this number will reach 2 billion. people. 12.9 percent of them live in developing countries. 45 percent of deaths among children under five years of age are caused by malnutrition. Currently, 3.1 million children die from this cause every year. According to UN statistics, the world produces about four billion tons of food annually. If they were used and distributed rationally, this would actually reach all the inhabitants of the planet. Due to the above factors, prices in world food markets are rising. In particular, the global financial and economic crisis observed in the last decade has led to a sharp increase in this problem. Its consequences are still being felt.

Food security is an important component of security at the global, national and personal levels. The evolution of society and the environment makes adjustments to the food security system. If in the past natural disasters and adverse climatic conditions,

military-political events were the main threats, in modern conditions the main factors of the food problem are related to economic and socio-cultural reasons. In the modern world, a food system has been developed in which the following contradiction has not been resolved: on the one hand, hunger is the cause of the annual death of many millions of people on Earth; On the other hand, today's global food production usually meets food needs. In this regard, achieving a sustainable state is a prerequisite for maintaining human potential and sustainable development.

In Uzbekistan, the production of high-quality food products, their affordable and sufficient supply are also one of the main factors of public satisfaction. In order to ensure food security in our republic, over the past 3 years, 28 trillion soums of credit funds have been allocated for the development of food, livestock, fruit and vegetable growing and other sectors of agriculture. Projects worth 11 trillion soums have been implemented in the livestock sector alone. Our esteemed President has set priority tasks and adopted decrees and resolutions on measures to ensure food security and maintain price stability in the domestic market in our country, including the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-36 dated February 16, 2024 “On Additional Measures to Ensure Food Security in the Republic” which sets out the tasks of coordinating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) the allocation of 100 million US dollars attracted within the framework of the project “Development of the Creation of a Value Added Chain in the Fruit and Vegetable Sector (Phase 2)” by July 1, 2024 to finance food projects, and directing 45 million US dollars from funds attracted from international financial institutions to provide food manufacturing and exporting enterprises with working capital in the prescribed manner.

Also, the proposal of our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to hold a summit dedicated to the urgent problems of ensuring food security in today's crisis situation was approved in his speech at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. At the initiative of the Head of our state, in accordance with the SCO's proposal to hold an international conference on food security in our country, Samarkand, an international scientific and practical conference on the topic "Food Security: Global and National Issues" was held at Samarkand State University in October 2022. At this forum, organized under the auspices

of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), issues such as the creation of an integrated food security monitoring system in Asia, the formation of sustainable food production systems and optimal food supply chains, and the harmonization of technical regulations for the growth of intra-regional trade were discussed.

Climate change, water scarcity and land degradation were also the main topics of the international conference on food security. The conference was organized by the Government of Uzbekistan with the technical support of FAO and brought together more than 620 participants from 32 countries of the world. In general, ensuring food security is a guarantee of food security in Uzbekistan, socio-economic and political stability in the country. In ensuring food security, the solution and implementation of these problems and tasks, it is important to train highly qualified personnel in the field, and to implement scientific achievements in practice.

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