

## **INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF FOOD SECURITY AND ITS MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

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### **Abstract**

*The problem of food security of the population crosses all other problems - social, economic and living standards, the development of agro-industrial sector, infrastructure of transportation, storage, distribution, sales, and the import-export policy of the individual state.*

*In this context, the aim of this paper is to show that food security is one of the most important components of the internal economic security, and there are enough reserves on a global scale in order to ensure that food cease to be one of the main problems of the modern world economy.*

*For carrying the research, normative and comparative economic analysis methods were used, empirical analysis, synthesis and statistical grouping.*

*The article reviews the concept of food security from the Individual to National and Global levels, taking into consideration the policies and strategies of the state. Based on the research, there are assessed certain parameters of food security at global scale and presented development forecasts of this important problem which humanity faces.*

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**Keywords:** food security, agricultural production, acces to the food, poverty, export-import of wheat.

### **1. Introduction**

The problem of food security of the population crosses all social, economic and living standards, the development of agro-industrial sector, infrastructure of transportation, storage, distribution, sales, and the import-export policy of the individual state. In the modern economy, the food security is seen as a determinant of the national economic security, in general.

Food security represents an extremely actual concern both on global scale, as well as for the world countries regarded separately, as it addresses one of the fundamental needs of people - nutrition as a source of survival, but also as an essential component of ensuring a decent quality of life at the adequate standards levels of the contemporary world. The main source of food production is agriculture, which is simultaneously considered as industry providing jobs, income and goods for foreign trade.

A variety of factors influence the food security. Among them a decisive role has the most traditional factor - the land resource, agricultural areas, which are widely analyzed in scientific

studies in the field. In addition to agricultural land important factors, influencing the growth of agricultural production, are as use of chemicals in agriculture; irrigation of croplands, pastures, perennial plantations; scientific selection, which allowed the creation of hybrids and varieties of genetically modified agricultural plants.

In this context, the aim of this paper is to show that food security is one of the most important components of the internal economic security, and globally there are sufficient reserves to ensure food has ceased to be one of the main problems of the modern world economy.

Normative and comparative economic analysis methods, empirical analysis, synthesis and statistical grouping were used to carry out research.

The article reviews the concept of food security from the Individual to National and Global levels, taking into consideration the policies and strategies of the state. Based on the research, there are assessed certain parameters of food security at global scale and presented development forecasts of this important problem which humanity faces.

## 2. The investigation degree of the problem

Food security is a relatively a new concept. Starting from its appearance in the 1970s of the twentieth century, the concept of food security has been continuously developed and enriched with new aspects. Below (Table 1) it is shown a comparative analysis of the evolution of food security definitions, which clearly demonstrates the dynamics and the term saturation.

Table 1: A comparative analysis of the evolution of food security definitions

Definition	Source
<i>"availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices"</i>	United Nations. 1975. Report of the World Food Conference, Rome 5-16 November 1974. New York
<i>"ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need"</i>	FAO, 1983. World Food Security: a Reappraisal of the Concepts and Approaches. Director General's Report. Rome
<i>"access of all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life"</i>	World Bank, 1986. Poverty and Hunger: Issues and Options for Food Security in Developing Countries. Washington DC
<i>"Food security, at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels [is achieved] when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life"</i>	FAO.1996. Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action. World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996. Rome
<i>"Food security [is] a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life"</i>	FAO. 2002. The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2001. Rome.

Source: elaborated on indicated sources

Some Romanian authors define food security as "the number of products required to individual in order to meet the physiological equilibrium and 3 types of consumption: to grow, to content and to provide labor activity" [3, p. 23].

A large scientific and practical importance of food security is find in the researches promoted also in the Republic of Moldova [7, pp. 106-117].

We would like also mention the role of agricultural areas as main resource and factor for the food security and safety, which is analyzed in some sources of specialty literature in the field [5, pp. 139-140; 6, pp. 195-206]. So, land resources are the starting point of the process of agricultural production and food security. Global Land Fund (the earth's surface area, from which the area occupied by the glaciers of the Arctic and Antarctic is subtracted) is 134 milion km<sup>2</sup> or 26 % of the total global area of the planet. In turn, on cultivated land (arable land, gardens, plantations) account for 11%; meadows, pastures – 26 %; forests, bushes - 32%; land for residential sector, industry, transport - 3% of low-production or non-production environments (swamps, deserts and areas with extreme climatic conditions) – 28 %. Total agricultural land of use (cultivated areas, meadows, pastures) make up only 37 % of the total land fund, 4.8 billion ha. The areas under arable land in the structure of agricultural land make up 28 % (1.3 billion ha), pastures - 70% (3.3 milliard ha), the area under perennials - 2%. China, Australia, the United States, the Russian Federation are the countries with the greatest agricultural areas.

Along with an increase in population on the earth agricultural area per capitais is decreasing. In 1980, the figure was 0.3 ha of cropland, in 1994 - 0.24 ha, and in 2004 - 0.21 ha. The average per capita - 3.0 ha of arable land in Australia, in Canada - 1.5 ha, Russian Federation - 0.9 ha in the United States - 0.7 ha, Japan - 0.03 ha. With regard to agricultural land, falling per capita employed in the industry, this figure is in Australia - 671 ha, in the United States - 155 ha, in New Zealand - 69 ha. In Latin America the figure is 13.8 ha, in Western Europe - 12 ha. Globally, the average per person employed in agriculture accounts for 3.7 ha of agricultural land.

But the topic of food security is dealt extensively by the international community in various treaties, regulations, laws, especially those developed by FAO, the UN, EC.

Thus, at the present time specialists believe the determining criterion of food security, all people and in all times should have social and economic access to food products - in sufficient quantity and befitting quality - to ensure their needs and food preferences, and in order to maintain an active and a healthy lifestyle.

Based on the above, we can state that the modern concept of food security is a complex concept, with many aspects. And it takes into account not only objective aspects (needs, quantity, quality, accessibility), but also subjective aspects such as preferences, which are consistent with the value system of modern society.

### **3. Methods and materials applied**

The research methodology used in this paper, had as its starting point the qualitative analysis of the literature. Theoretical and methodological basis of research and results consists of the methods and the fundamental principles of economic theory, particularly the systemic methodology, such as analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, historical and logical methods. Also, positive economic methods of analysis were used as well as regulatory, comparative and empirical

analysis. To elucidate the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the researched subject, data was processed using mathematical and statistical methods, using the following processes: data grouping and tabular representation.

In the paper, the authors resorted to existing scientific approaches in economic theory and global economic relations practice, that allow understanding of the content, features and determinants factors of food security.

## **4. Results and discussions**

### **4.1. Levels of food security**

The concept of food security has evolved gradually, accumulating a lot of definitions. Each of these definitions is of some importance for the perception. The original concept of security is derived from the Latin word - securitas, - atis, which has the following definition or description: “to be safe; feel confident and relaxed realizing that no danger awaits for you; security, self-defense”. English term – “food security” - has double translation- as food security and security

The production of grain is considered to be as a reference for the assessment of food safety, as crops provide, directly or indirectly, 50% of the energy consumed by a human. In the scientific literature, food safety is divided into:

- a) food security at an individual level;
- b) food security at the household level;
- c) food security of society within a particular region;
- d) food security at the national level;
- e) food security at global or world level.

**Food security at the individual level** means the ability to have a relatively secure access to adequate and quality nutrition to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In 1963, the FAO notes that the level of food security of individual is identified with the human right to food, and this is nothing but guaranteed access to high-quality and adequate food for everyone, according to individual needs.

The concept of food security of households has parallelly been developed, which is a guaranteed way to access to adequate and quality nutrition for the whole family, including referring to specific consumer needs of each of its members.

**Food security of society** means moving the focus from the individual level and the family level to the integrated level of the regional society, bearing in mind the food possibilities of society, through the inclusion of own resources of local agriculture in economic turnover with the appropriate storage infrastructure, transportation, sale, according to supply and demand proposal, the income of the population of a given society, etc..

**Food security at the national level** is ensuring self-efficiency in food products by developing their own agriculture and related infrastructure for the storage, warehousing, transportation, processing and sale of food products in order to adequately supply the population. The country can ensure its food security by determining the level of self-sufficiency in food products daily necessities and critical levels of food imports, production of which in the the given country is objectively impossible or ineffective. Meeting the food consumption of the population of the country does not mean that the state should necessarily self-satisfy requirements by means of an

integral production of the product in the country, but also using their financial and economic capacity to import from the international market of the missing products that are not produced by its own national economic complex.

Food security at global or world level depends on a number of factors, it is fragile and difficult to implement. With the exception of developed countries and some developing countries, where certain categories of the population with high incomes can afford even the consumption in terms of the amount of food, the practice of food security at the global level indicates, as a rule, even in the most productive years, on the qualitative and quantitative differences. In cases where food production is not sufficient, it does not have adequate quality structure. In fact, when the volume of the necessary products, as well as the computed reserves are available, food security at the global level is provided only with respect to, in general, the detriment of many regions and poor countries.

#### 4.2. Trends in food security at the global level

The dynamics of grain production at the global level was not sufficiently satisfactory in 2004-2007. According to FAO data, in 2004 the volume of grain amounted to 632 million tons, in 2005-626 million, in 2006 - 602 million and in 2007 - 612 million. The food crisis in 2007-2008 complicated the situation even more due to the rise in prices due to the reduction of wheat reserves in the world. This is explained by the production of grain lower than consumption level in 2004-2007, 2010-2011, 2012-2013 (Table 2).

Table 2: Wheat production, consumption, reserves at the global level, million tonnes

	2007/ 2008	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/2015 estimate	2015/2016 forecast
<b>Production</b>	607	679	653	697	654	710	729	733
<b>Consumption</b>	603	652	656	693	682	692	711	723
<b>Reserves</b>	132	199	196	196	172	182	199	205

Source: elaborated on FAO data [10, 11]

We can see that immediately after the crisis, in 2009-2010, global wheat reserves increased by 50.8%, while prices decreased by 54%. The following year, 2010-2011, the price suddenly rose again (+ 79%), primarily due to the reduction of global production (- 4%) and an increase in consumption, which led to a deficit of 3 million tonnes. FAO forecasts for 2011-2012, did not come true because of the catastrophic drought of summer 2012. Therefore, production of wheat increased only by 6.7%, a global wheat reserves remained at the same level as in 2010-2011. Due to the increase in global production in 2013-2014 and in 2014-2015 production of wheat and reserves increased again. Projections for the 2015-2016 years are more optimistic, and show an increase in production by 6.5%, increase in reserves at 7.7% and the decline in prices by 20.4%.

Therefore, we can conclude that if the global economic crisis led to a deepening of poverty and reduce the income of the population, while food crises hit by higher prices, which poses a threat to food security of 1/7 of the world's population, which, according to the FAO and the WB, itself estimates as the most vulnerable in the context of poverty and ensuring food supply. The statistics relating to the first 10 countries - the largest wheat producers in the world, are of interest (Table 3).

Table 3: 10 leading countries of wheat production in 2009 and 2014

Country	Quantity, million tonnes	
	2009	2014
<i>China</i>	115.11	126.21
<i>India</i>	80.68	94.48
<i>Russian Federation</i>	61.74	59.71
<i>USA</i>	60.36	55.4
<i>France</i>	38.33	38.97
<i>Canada</i>	26.85	29.28
<i>Germany</i>	25.19	27.78
<i>Pakistan</i>	24.03	25.98
<i>Australia</i>	21.66	25.3
<i>Ukraine</i>	20.99	24.11
<i>Total 10 countries</i>	474.95	507.22
<b>Global production</b>	<b>686.96</b>	<b>729.0</b>

Source: elaborated on FAO data [8, 11]

According to the FAO data, it can be noted that these 10 countries produced 474.9 million tons of wheat, or 69.1% of global production in the amount of 686.96 million tonnes in 2009. China, the biggest producer of wheat, reached 16.8% of the world total production, India - 11.7%, the Russian Federation and the United States - 8.8%, France - 5.6%. It should be noted that the first 5 largest producers of wheat produced 51.7% of the total world's annual output. During 2014 these 5 states also lead in wheat production: China - 17.3% of the world total production, India - 13.0%, Russia - 8.2%, USA - 7.6%, France - 5.3%.

In addition, the production of wheat in large quantities allows these countries to export surplus wheat without risk to national food security. Excluding China and India, which produce the largest amounts of grain in the world, but their domestic consumption is also high due to the large number of people. Others are the largest producers of grain - exporting in large volumes. From the foregoing, it appears that States which produce the greatest amount of grain are also the most prosperous in terms of food, as these states create their own large reserves and do not depend on imports and changes in world prices. Table 4 shows the top 10 countries - the largest wheat exporters. As noted above, most major grain producers are not the largest exporters because of high domestic consumption (for example in China and India). In this context, we can not say that the food security of these countries is provided, in spite of the fact that they occupy the first two places in the world production of products. Other countries, producing in smaller amounts, can export more due to lower internal consumption. Australia, for example, according to data in Table 2, ranks 9<sup>th</sup> among the leading producers of wheat, however, according to the data in Table 3, takes 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the export volumes. Ukraine occupies 10<sup>th</sup> place among the producers and the 5<sup>th</sup> place in 2009, 8<sup>th</sup> place in 2011 among exporters.

According to this table, the share of US exports in world exports was 14.7% in 2009 and 22.1% in 2011; Canada - 13% and 11% accordingly; Australia - 11.7% and 11.9%; France - 11.3% and 13.7%; Russian Federation - 11.2% and 10.2%. It should be mentioned that the first five states that are the largest exporters in 2011, carry out 69% of total exports (61.9% in 2009). According to the data of 2014, the share of the 10 largest of the cereal-exporting countries accounted for 82.8% of the world total. These countries are the United States, Canada, Russia, France, Australia, Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Kazakhstan and India.

Table 4: 10 leading countries exporting wheat in 2009, 2011 and 2014

2009		2011		2014	
Country	Quantity, mil. tonnes	Country	Quantity, mil. tonnes	Country	Quantity, mil. tonnes
USA	21.9	USA	32.8	USA	25.6
Canada	19.3	France	20.3	Canada	24.1
Australia	17.5	Australia	17.7	Russian Federation	22.1
France	16.9	Canada	16.3	France	20.4
Russian Federation	16.8	Russian Federation	15.2	Australia	18.2
Ukraine	12.9	Argentina	8.4	Germany	11.0
Germany	9.7	Germany	6.2	Ukraine	10.5
Argentina	5.1	Ukraine	4.1	Romania	5.0
Kazakhstan	3.2	Kazakhstan	2.9	Kazakhstan	4.2
Great Britain	2.5	Great Britain	2.3	India	3.9
<b>Global export total</b>	<b>149.3</b>	<b>Global export total</b>	<b>148.3</b>	<b>Global export total</b>	<b>175.2</b>

Source: elaborated on FAO data [9, 10]

In this context the largest importers of wheat may be noted too. These countries do not produce sufficient quantities to meet domestic consumption, for various reasons, both natural (due to lack of the necessary conditions for the cultivation of wheat and other crops) and feasibility (because of the low level of productivity, production organization, poor management, that is, under conditions where more profitable to import). States in this category are more vulnerable and strategically dependent on other countries exporters. And they can not isolate themselves from changes in world prices, jeopardizing their food security. However, underdeveloped states are the most vulnerable. Any price increase affects primarily the poor, as they spend most of their income to the obtain food products, which is typical of the Republic of Moldova [7]. Table 5 shows the countries that imported the largest quantity of wheat in 2009, in 2011 and in 2014.

Table 5: The leading countries importing wheat in 2009, in 2011 and in 2014

2009		2011		2014	
Country	Quantity, mil. tonnes	Country	Quantity, mil. tonnes	Country	Quantity, mil. tonnes
Egypt	9.1	Egypt	9.8	Egypt	9.5
Italy	6.5	Algeria	7.4	Italy	7.5
Spain	6.4	Italy	7.3	Indonesia	7.4
Algeria	5.7	Japan	6.2	Algeria	7.4
Iran	5.5	Brasil	5.7	Iran	7.1
Brasil	5.4	Indonesia	5.6	Brasil	5.8
Netherlands	5.0	Turkey	4.7	Japan	5.7
Japan	4.7	Germany	4.4	Turkey	5.3
Indonesia	4.7	Spain	4.4	Marocco	5.1
Germany	4.1	Mexic	4.0	Spain	4.8
Nigeria	3.8	Nigeria	4.0	Mexic	4.5
Belgium	3.6	Netherlands	3.9	Netherlands	4.5
Turkey	3.4	Marocco	3.7	Germany	4.3
Mexic	2.8	Belgium	3.4	Bangladesh	2.9
Bangladesh	2.4	Bangladesh	3.1	Nigeria	2.6
<b>Global import total</b>	<b>146.3</b>	<b>Global import total</b>	<b>147.2</b>	<b>Global import total</b>	<b>163.3</b>

Source: elaborated on FAO data [9, 10]

It is important to note that the advanced countries, such as Italy, Spain, Japan, Germany, Holland, although they are in the top importing countries, in some years they are wheat exporters too. These states are better off with a food point of view. And first of all, due to the fact that the population of these countries has a high income compared with the underdeveloped countries, and agriculture is highly developed. In this context, referring to the incomes of the population and the level of development of agriculture, the most vulnerable are such countries as Algeria, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and others. According to international practice, in the evolution of food security, it is considered to be the optimum import quota at a level of up to 30% of total consumption. A larger quota increase strategic dependence on other countries.

In 2000, in New York, 147 heads of states and governments signed the “Millennium Declaration of the United Nations: the development of mankind - a goal of paramount importance”, which briefly stated development goals for the next millennium (MDGs). The first objective is to reduce by half the number of hungry people in the period of 2000-2015. However, this number is not only not decreased, but even increased by 15% (about 150 million people) and the first time in the history of over 1 billion people. The main reason for hunger and malnutrition in the world is poverty. According to World Bank statistics, 20% of the world population is considered particularly poor; their incomes are spent mainly on obtaining food products (more than 70-80% of the total income in the poorest countries).

## 5. Conclusions

The main conclusion is that the lack of food security on a global scale is not a consequence of the depletion of the world's agricultural potential, and is due to the lack of adequate modern industrial and financial resources for social and economic development of underdeveloped countries. This development makes hundreds of thousands of people suffer hunger and malnutrition. On the other hand, the industrialized countries, which spend huge funds for agriculture, are interested to maintain high prices on the world market, in order to obtain the expected profit. Such prices are unacceptable for many poor countries. The contradictions between developed and poor countries lead to support and development of food security in many countries. In addition, the actual situation of the deterioration is due to the negative impact of environmental problems, as a result of the intensive development of agriculture, such as the erosion of the land fund, accumulation in the soil of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, other substances and chemicals, reducing the groundwater level, landslides and others. We can therefore conclude that the level of food security on a global scale in the period up to 2050 will probably not have been improved.

Based on these realities, contemporary concerns related to food security, regardless of geographic location, it is a complex issue and joint efforts to resolve it can bring a significant contribution to the overall goal of improving the quality of life.

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### **Rezumat**

*Problema securității alimentare a populației tangențiază cu un ansamblu larg de alte probleme - sociale, economice, standardele de viață și dezvoltarea sectorului agroindustrial, infrastructura de transport, depozitarea, distribuția, vânzările, politica de import-export a unui stat.*

*În acest context, obiectivul acestei lucrări este de a arăta că securitatea alimentară este una dintre componentele importante ale securității economice interne și la scară globală există suficiente rezerve pentru ca asigurarea cu produse alimentare să înceteze a fi una dintre principalele probleme ale economiei mondiale contemporane. Pentru realizarea cercetării au fost utilizate metode de analiză economică normativă și comparativă, analiză empirică, sinteză, gruparea statistică.*

*Articolul analizează conceptul de securitate alimentară de la nivel individual la cel național și global, luând în considerare politicile și strategiile statului. În baza cercetărilor, sunt apreciați anumiți parametri ai securității alimentare la nivel global și sunt prezentate pronosticuri ale evoluției acestei probleme importante cu care se confruntă omenirea.*

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**Cuvinte-cheie:** securitate alimentară, producție agricolă, acces la hrană, sărăcie, export-import de grâu.

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### **Аннотация**

*Проблема продовольственной безопасности населения пересекается с множеством других проблем - социальных, экономических, уровня жизни, развития агропромышленного комплекса, инфраструктуры транспорта, хранения, распределения, продажи, политики импорта-экспорта государства.*

*В этом контексте, целью данной работы является показать, что продовольственная безопасность это один из важнейших компонентов внутренней экономической безопасности, а в глобальном масштабе существует достаточно резервов для того, чтобы обеспечение продовольствием перестало бы быть одной из основных проблем современной мировой экономики.*

*Для проведения исследования авторы использовали нормативные и сравнительные методы экономического анализа, эмпирический анализ, синтез и статистическую группировку.*

*В статье рассматривается понятие продовольственной безопасности, от уровня отдельного человека до уровня национального и глобального, принимая во внимание политику и стратегии государства. На основании исследования, оценены некоторые параметры продовольственной безопасности в глобальном масштабе и представлены прогнозы эволюции этой важной проблемы, с которой сталкивается человечество.*

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**Ключевые слова:** продовольственная безопасность, сельскохозяйственное производство, доступность пропитания, бедность, экспорт-импорт пшеницы.

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