

Current Issues of Ensuring Of the Food Safety

¹Sadikov Zafar Turgunovich and ²Ugilbegi Otakulova Otabekovna Otakulova,

¹Associate Professor, Customs Institute

²4th-year cadet of the Customs Institute

Abstract: *In today's era of globalization, food safety is at the top of the agenda. As supply chains and international trade become more complex, ensuring food safety and quality becomes an important issue. Food counterfeiting, especially at customs, is a serious threat to public health, consumer confidence, and fair trade. The purpose of this article is to examine food safety and food adulteration issues at customs and potential strategies to mitigate these risks.*

Keywords: food adulteration, adulterated ingredients, foodborne illness, adulteration, mislabelling, public safety, substitution.

Introduction

On 7-8 September this year, an international conference on hunger and food security was held in Samarkand with technical support from the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and FAO.

Food security means that people have the opportunity at any time to consume food rich in the elements necessary for an active and healthy lifestyle (in quality, quantity, and variety). Therefore, it should be noted that in the process of globalization, the provision of food of adequate quality and within the purchasing power of the population has become an important issue. In our opinion, measures aimed at ensuring food security are directly related to the activities of the state not only in the agricultural sector but also in the political and economic direction.

The concept of this economic category was first proposed at the World Food Summit in 1974 to ensure sustainable consumption and the amount of food production necessary to compensate for price fluctuations, indicating that there is always sufficient food in the world. Today, as the world's population increases, the demand for food also increases dramatically. This in itself causes an increase in food production facilities. In such a situation, there is a likelihood of an increase in the production, preparation, or cultivation of food products of poor quality that pose a threat to human health. Large-scale work in this area has been carried out in our country since the early days of independence. In particular, the adoption in 1997 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Quality and Safety of Food Products" is a clear example of this. The overall stability of food products is ensured by such factors as the preservation of food quality the level of its provision, and the availability of reserves. That is, measures to regulate the negative impact of food on human health are the priority, and the second is to prevent dependence on other countries in the field of food.

Relevance of the topic and analysis of literature on the topic.

FAO (International Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) uses several indicators to formally determine the state of food security. These include:

- ✚ a measure of world cereal stocks relative to consumption;
- ✚ the average demand for food security in the world (17-18 percent);
- ✚ a measure of savings requirements for the five major exporters;
- ✚ domestic consumption and export reserves of the five major exporters;
- ✚ annual harvest of cereal crops in the three main importers (China, India, and CIS countries);
- ✚ the number of cereal crops grown in low-income and food-deficit countries ;
- ✚ The product grew, excluding China and India.

Uzbekistan's reforms in the food sector have been widely recognized by the international community. In particular, during the 39th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2015, Uzbekistan was awarded for achievements in the Millennium Development Programme (efficiency in the food sector). The economic reforms implemented in Uzbekistan, measures to ensure food security, such as radical reform of agriculture and development of the food industry, should be consistently continued in the following directions:

- prepare food products at the level of world market requirements
- modern technologies, new standards of quality management at enterprises introduction;
- creation of trade and logistics centers;
- production of semi-finished and finished products, tare, and packaging materials;
- creation of new production enterprises;

- vacuum packaging of food products at the level of international requirements;
- expansion of the packaging method, etc.

This, in turn, ensures food security as an integral part of socio-economic development, and creates all the necessary conditions for the rapid development of the agro-industrial complex, which has a huge production potential, and thus serves as a guarantee of well-being and welfare of the population. stability of our country. In our republic the market is being saturated with goods, a stable structure and infrastructure of the market are being formed, the independence of economic entities is expanding, and a favorable environment for the development of entrepreneurship is being created. All this testifies to the fact that objective legality and democratic bases of market relations are being strengthened and, as a consequence, conditions for transition to a new stage of market relations are being created. This new stage of the market is the buyer's market and the market of quality, where the whole content of the product is evaluated with the help of concepts corresponding to the consumer's imagination.

If the consumer considers a product to be of quality, it will be bought. The consumer compares the quality of a particular product, the special features important to him with the same features of the same product of another manufacturer or seller and concludes its importance and value. This is the biggest achievement for the company. Thus, the market is the main criterion for assessing whether the goods produced, offered, and sold meet the current demand and whether the costs spent on them are worthwhile.

In 2021, an agreement was signed between FAO and Uzbekistan on cooperation in food and agriculture until 2025.

The Round Table was dedicated to the official launch of the Country Programme between FAO and Uzbekistan for 2021-2025. In line with national sustainable development priorities, FAO supports governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and food systems in the agri-food value chain to help achieve stability.

The validity period of the introduced privileges for certain types of goods has been extended until 1 January 2024;

Zero rates of customs duties are set for 23 types of goods imported from abroad (the list includes foodstuffs consumed almost every day, such as meat, fish, tea, various oils, flour, and bananas);

It is determined that the double rate of customs duty will not be applied to goods produced in countries that do not have the most favorable regime in trade and economic relations;

The export of sunflower, corn, and soya oil outside the customs territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is temporarily prohibited. Based on this decree in 2022 and the previous period of the current year, customs duty benefits worth 905.4 billion soums were applied to 301.2 thousand tonnes of goods imported by 431 economic entities. However, if these privileges were not available, naturally, this amount would have been added to the cost of imported goods and would have reached the buyer.

Some statistical analyses on the topic

According to the analysis, the per capita production growth of the main types of food products in Uzbekistan in 1991-2023 corresponds to their rational needs established by the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. somewhat closer to the commodity norms, but the per capita production of the main types of food products: potatoes, milk and dairy products, eggs, fruits, and berries is somewhat below the level of their rational consumption norms.

In recent years, imports of foodstuffs and live animals have been increasing in our country. In particular, in 2008 these products were worth 0.5 billion dollars. If imported in US dollars, this figure will be 3.4 billion in 2022. It shows that it is more than the US dollar, that is, it has increased almost 8 times.

The increase in these indicators is due to the growing demand for food products in our country, as well as Uzbekistan's liberalization of tariff preferences in international trade.

Export of food products and live animals in 2021

1371.8 million roubles. In terms of US dollars in 2022, it will be 1631.6 million. in US dollars accounted for 8.4 percent of total exports.

In 2022, 1,743,700 tonnes of horticultural products were exported, an increase of 1.9 times or 839,600 tonnes compared to 2017. The main export markets for horticultural products were the Russian Federation (42.5 percent), Kazakhstan (18.9 percent), PRC (9.1 percent), and Pakistan (8.8 percent).

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 23 March 2023 "On additional measures to ensure price stability in consumer markets" No. PF-41, 36 types of goods are exempted from customs duty until 1 January 2024.

According to the analysis, thanks to the adoption of the decree, more than 1,200 business entities will receive 500 billion rubles.

Also, the application of zero rates of customs duties until 1 January 2024 has been extended until 1 July 2023 for 23 types of goods. In 2022 and for the previous period of this year 905.4 billion of customs duties on these 23 types of goods (weight: 301.2 thousand tonnes) were imported from abroad by 431 economic entities.

Another important aspect is that Uzbekistan has introduced the most favorable regime in trade and economic relations with 47 countries of the world. When goods produced in countries not included in this list are imported into our republic, a double rate of customs duty is established. This Decree abolishes this practice from 1 January 2024.

Prices will be reduced for more than 1,000 goods in 36 groups. Previously, priority was given to citrus fruits. That is, in this decision, customs duties were levied on 36 types of goods, as well as preferential treatment on the previous 25 types of goods. In general, the number of goods imported under the concession reached 60-70. The prices of apples and pears will go down, as well as a wide range of goods - cheese, dairy products, meat, tinned fish, confectionery, and baby food. When the duty rate on baby porridge becomes zero, it will be reduced by 20 percent.

Summary

Several measures need to be implemented to address food security issues and provide quality food to our citizens. These include:

Create an effective system of procurement, distribution, and processing of food products.

By 2025, the transition of Uzbekistan to the group of countries with higher average income, taking into account the corresponding changes in the composition of the diet is necessary, ensuring an increase in the share of processed food products in several goods. To comply with these changes, the share of processed meat will be 30 percent (now equal to 6.9 percent), milk - 50 percent (equal to 11 percent), and fruit and vegetable products - 30 percent (now equal to 13.3 percent).); grapes should reach 35% (now equal to 15%).

The realization of produced, prepared, and processed products; creation of an effective marketing and distribution system, increasing the size of livestock, horticultural, and vegetable farms, and substantial reforming of the marketing and distribution system. It is necessary to improve the transport and logistics system and build powerful cold storage facilities.

Improving the system of tariff regulation in the export-import of food products, taking into account best foreign practices, international principles, and norms;

It is known that Uzbekistan is now preparing to become a member of the World Trade Organisation. Member countries of this organization set uniform tariff rates based on the requirements established by the WTO.

Therefore, reducing tariff rates for food products in Uzbekistan will ensure price stability in the domestic market and accelerate the integration of our country's economy into the global economic system.

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