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ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MANAGING AGRO-INDUSTRIAL REGIONS IN IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

The article examines the role of economic management of agro-industrial regions in improving food security in the context of modern socio-economic challenges. The theoretical and practical aspects of the formation of food security as an essential element of the economic and national security of the state are analyzed. The importance of the agricultural sector in providing the population with food resources is considered and key factors affecting the sustainability of food systems at the national and regional levels are identified.

The study analyzed the indicators of agricultural development in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2024, which made it possible to identify the dynamics of agricultural production and determine the contribution of agro-industrial regions to food security. It is shown that the growth of agricultural production is one of the key indicators of strengthening food security, along with the level of self-sufficiency, food availability and the state of agricultural infrastructure. It has been revealed that the effectiveness of economic management of the agricultural sector largely depends on the scale of government support, investment activity and the use of integrated regulatory mechanisms.

The methodological basis of the research consists of methods of abstraction, induction and deduction, statistical and comparative analysis, as well as logical generalization. The official data of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan are used as an information base. It is determined that improving the economic management of agro-industrial regions, the development of agro-industrial clusters and the modernization of the material and technical base of agriculture are important conditions for improving food security. The results obtained have practical significance and can be used in the development of programs for the socio-economic development of regions and strategies for ensuring food security.

Keywords: food security, economic security, agriculture, agricultural sector, self-sufficiency, agro-industrial complex, regional economics.

Кілт сөздер: азық-түлік қауіпсіздігі, экономикалық қауіпсіздік, ауыл шаруашылығы, аграрлық сектор, өзін-өзі қамтамасыз ету, агроөнеркәсіптік кешен, аймақтық экономика.

Ключевые слова: продовольственная безопасность, экономическая безопасность, сельское хозяйство, аграрный сектор, самообеспечение, агропромышленный комплекс, региональная экономика.

Introduction. Food security has become entrenched in scientific and managerial discourse as one of the key elements of the state's economic security. Maintaining its sustainable level has gradually become a priority area for the development of national and regional economies, especially in the face of increasing external and internal constraints. Practice shows that the sustainability of the food system is formed not abstractly, but through specific economic mechanisms embedded in agricultural and regional policies.

Ensuring food security is based, first of all, on the ability of the economy to self-sustain itself with basic types of food through domestic production. An additional role is played by the rational use of external sources - limited purchases of products, the production of which is economically or technologically difficult within the country. This combination is not limited to a formal balance of imports and exports; it is about building a manageable and predictable supply chain that is resistant to price and logistical shocks. Observations of the development of agricultural regions confirm that with a weakening of the domestic

production base, dependence on foreign markets quickly transforms into a factor of macroeconomic vulnerability.

The relevance of the chosen topic is determined by the direct relationship between food security and the state of regional economies and the level of social stability. In agricultural regions, it is agriculture that concentrates a significant part of employment, investment flows, and infrastructure solutions. Consequently, the management of the agricultural sector goes beyond the scope of sectoral regulation and acquires a systemic character. The empirical experience of analyzing regional development programs shows that without purposeful strengthening of agricultural production, the tasks of food sustainability lose their practical content.

The purpose of the study is to comprehensively analyze the current state of the agricultural sector and identify key problems and prospects for ensuring food security. The focus is on the dynamics of agricultural development as a structural element of economic security, as well as the role of agro-industrial regions in the formation of sustainable food flows.

To achieve this goal, a study was conducted on the state of the agricultural sector in 2020-2024 in the EAEU countries, including the Republic of Kazakhstan, from the perspective of its contribution to food security. Based on the results obtained, a search was carried out for economically sound directions for increasing agricultural production and increasing the sustainability of food supply. The analytical part uses tools of abstraction, induction and deduction, methods of statistical analysis and logical generalization, which make it possible to link quantitative indicators with institutional and managerial factors.

The information basis of the study was the official statistical data of the EAEU and the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2024. The findings are aimed at practical application in the development of socio-economic development programs and the adjustment of food security strategies at the national and regional levels.

Literature Review. In the works of Kazakhstani researchers G.K. Kurmanova, B.B. Suhanberdina and B. Urazova, the emphasis is placed on identifying key factors of agricultural production in the Republic of Kazakhstan [1]. The authors consistently consider the agricultural sector as a significant element of resource potential, capable of having a significant impact on macroeconomic dynamics. This approach seems to be justified, since agriculture, in conditions of spatial heterogeneity of the country's economy, forms not only the volume of production, but also the stability of regional economic systems.

In a number of studies, agriculture is interpreted as one of the drivers of economic growth, the functioning of which is based on a combination of labor resources, natural and climatic conditions and entrepreneurial activity [2]. This interpretation expands the traditional view of the agricultural sector, shifting the focus from industry-specific to the systemic interaction of development factors. The analysis of publications shows that it is the combination of natural and institutional conditions that determines the differences in the effectiveness of agricultural production between regions [3].

Special attention in the scientific literature is paid to the state of the agricultural market in recent years. The researchers identify the structural constraints of development and justify the need to increase investment flows as a tool for technological renewal and productivity improvement. Such conclusions are largely consistent with practical observations of the implementation of industry programs, where the investment factor is directly related to the sustainability of production results.

In the works of A.A. Satybaldin, the agricultural sector is viewed through the prism of state support as a system-forming element of economic policy [4]. The author reasonably shows that a comprehensive mechanism for stimulating agriculture has been formed in the republic, focused on increasing production efficiency. The focus is on instruments of preferential financing, tax incentives and institutional conditions that ensure the reproduction of agricultural potential. This logic reflects the practice of countries with developed agricultural policies, where government regulation is perceived as a factor in stabilizing the industry.

The research of A.S. Narynbaeva and E.T. Shahman complements this approach, considering the agricultural market in the context of the competitiveness of the national economy [5]. The authors draw attention to the raw material orientation of the agricultural sector and associate it with the limitations of export development. Based on the analysis, a conclusion is formulated about the need to move to deeper processing and expand export potential. This thesis is significant from the point of view of food security, since the diversification of agricultural production enhances the stability of both the domestic market and the country's foreign economic position.

Main part. Food security is consistently considered in the scientific literature as a key component of national security and at the same time as an indicator of the effectiveness of economic policy. In practical terms, it reflects the ability of the State to maintain a stable supply of food to the population under conditions of external and internal constraints. Economic and agrarian policy in this context is focused on achieving a high level of self-sufficiency, in which a significant proportion of consumed products is formed by domestic agricultural production. In expert assessments, the 80% threshold is often used as a guideline that allows us to talk about an acceptable level of food sustainability.

Strengthening food security is directly related to the development and structural modernization of the agricultural sector. Agricultural enterprises are the basic element of the food system, and their production stability determines the dynamics of supply in the domestic market. Observations of the evolution of agricultural policy show that in conditions of economic turbulence, the agricultural sector is one of the first to experience financial constraints. The global crisis phenomena of recent years have clearly manifested themselves in the Republic of Kazakhstan, where a significant part of agricultural producers are faced with a shortage of working capital and rising costs.

The specifics of agriculture determine the special role of the state in regulating agro-industrial production. Dependence on natural and climatic conditions, the use of living organisms in the production process, as well as the key role of land as the main means of production create increased risks that are unusual for most other sectors of the economy. In such conditions, market mechanisms without institutional support lose their ability to ensure long-term sustainability of production.

The impact of agriculture on the level of food security is manifested through a set of interrelated factors. Among them, the degree of provision of the domestic market with products of its own production and the level of dependence on imports is of particular importance. The availability of strategic food reserves, formed taking into account short- and medium-term risks, plays an essential role. This system is complemented by production volumes, economic and physical accessibility of products for the population, as well as the quality of products. Practical analysis shows that ignoring at least one of the listed elements leads to asymmetries in the food supply of the regions.

At the present stage, the priority of state policy is related to the development of the agricultural sector as a highly efficient and competitive sector of the economy. Financial support for agricultural producers is considered as a tool not only to compensate for industry risks, but also an incentive for technological renewal. Various regulatory mechanisms are used in the framework of agricultural policy, among which preferential tax and credit regimes, subsidies and other forms of institutional incentives occupy a prominent place. Empirical experience in the implementation of such tools confirms that their greatest effect is manifested when used in a comprehensive manner and linked to regional development programs.

The integrated application of mechanisms for the development and regulation of the agricultural sector has a direct impact on the level of food security as a structural element of national security [6]. In this context, quantitative indicators of production acquire analytical significance, allowing us to assess the real state of the food system.

One of the basic indicators of food security is traditionally the volume of agricultural production. Its dynamics reflect both the production potential of the agricultural sector and the results of the economic management of agro-industrial regions. Table 1 presents data on agricultural production in the EAEU countries and in Kazakhstan for 2020-2024, allowing us to trace general trends and identify the features of national dynamics.

Table – 1

Agricultural Production in the Eurasian Economic Union Countries, 2020-2024 (million USD)*

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in 2024 (compared to 2020-2023)			
						2020	2021	2022	2023
EAEU (total)	119 936,6	137 972,1	163942,1	135 054,8	132 302,2	12 365,6	5669,9	31639,9	2752,6
Including:									
Kazakhstan	15 441,0	17 721,3	18 252,2	16 710,4	17642,1	2201,1	-79,2	-610,1	931,7

* compiled based on source [7]

Analysis of the data in Table 1 allows us to record a steady positive trend in agricultural production in the EAEU countries during 2020-2024. The total volume of agricultural production in the association increased from USD 119,936.6 million in 2020 to USD 132,302.2 million in 2024. During the period under review, the increase amounted to \$12,365.6 million, reflecting the overall expansion of the agricultural sector and confirming its role as one of the stabilizing elements of the economies of the participating States.

A similar, albeit more volatile trajectory can be traced in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 2020, the volume of agricultural production was estimated at \$15,441.0 million, in 2021 there was a noticeable increase to \$ 17,721.3 million, and in 2022 the maximum level for a five-year period was recorded at \$18,252.2 million. The subsequent decline in 2023 to \$16,710.4 million was followed by a recovery in 2024, when the figure reached \$17,641.1 million. Such dynamics indicate the sensitivity of agricultural production to external economic conditions and internal structural factors, while maintaining an overall upward trend over the period under review.

The growth in the cost indicators of agricultural production reflects not only an increase in the physical volume of output, but also price shifts in agricultural markets. The price increase is largely due to the rise in the cost of raw materials, material resources and associated production costs, which is especially noticeable in the context of global inflationary processes [7]. In practical terms, this situation requires careful interpretation of growth indicators, since a nominal increase in volumes is not always equivalent to a real expansion of production potential.

The assessment of the population's food supply involves taking into account a wider range of macroeconomic parameters. In this context, the key indicator is gross domestic product per capita, the dynamics of which is presented in Table 2. GDP accumulates the results of economic activity, including the production of goods and services, and allows us to correlate the development of the agricultural sector with the overall level of economic well-being. The analysis of this indicator provides the basis for a deeper understanding of the relationship between the growth of agricultural production and the possibilities of sustainable food supply.

Table – 2

Gross Domestic Product per Capita in the Eurasian Economic Union, 2020-2024 (USD billion)*

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in 2024 (compared to 2020-2023)			
						2020	2021	2022	2023
EAEU (total)	1 750,1	2 119,1	2 657,4	2 457,6	2 581,6	831,5	462,5	-75,8	123,4
Including:									
Kazakhstan	171,1	197,1	225,3	261,8	286,0	114,9	88,9	60,7	24,2

* compiled based on source [7]

The analysis of the data in Table 2 reflects the steady growth of the total gross domestic product per capita in the EAEU countries over the period under review. In 2020, this figure was 1,750.1 billion US dollars, while by 2024 it reached 2,581.6 billion US dollars. The cumulative increase over five years was estimated at \$831.5 billion, which is equivalent to an increase of 32.2%. The most pronounced expansion of economic activity was recorded in 2022, when the indicator reached \$2,657.4 billion. Such dynamics indicate the recovery processes and adaptation of the economies of the Union countries to external shocks, which creates a more favorable macroeconomic environment for solving food sustainability problems.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the dynamics of GDP per capita is characterized by more intensive growth. In 2024, this figure exceeded the level of 2020 by 114.9 billion dollars, which corresponds to an increase of 40.1%, and reached 286.0 billion dollars. For comparison, it should be noted that in 2017 its value was 171.1 billion dollars. The data obtained reflect the expansion of the country's economic potential and the growth of total incomes, which creates additional opportunities to support the agricultural sector and increase food availability.

Against the background of macroeconomic changes in the republic, measures aimed at increasing the production of livestock products have intensified. This area traditionally occupies an important place in the structure of agricultural production, since meat and its processed products are among the basic elements of the food ration. Special attention is paid to the production of livestock and poultry intended for slaughter,

as one of the most representative segments of the industry. The dynamics of meat production for 2020-2024 is presented in Table 3, which makes it possible to assess the contribution of animal husbandry to food security and to trace structural changes within the agricultural sector.

Table – 3

Livestock and Poultry Slaughter Production in the Eurasian Economic Union, 2020-2024
(all categories of farms, thousand tons)

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in 2024 (compared to 2020-2023)			
						2020	2021	2022	2023
EAEU (total)	14 010	14 172	14 361	14 747	14953	943	781	592	206
Including:									
Kazakhstan	1 169	1 231	1 045	1 120	1 169	0	62	124	49

* compiled based on source [7]

Interpretation of the data in Table 3 makes it possible to link the growth in livestock production primarily with changes in the structure and use of livestock. In a generalized form, the relationship between the scale of meat production and the intensity of reproductive processes in the industry is traced. At the same time, quantitative changes in livestock do not always directly correlate with the final output results, which indicates the increasing role of technology, productivity and organizational factors.

According to the data for the five-year period, multidirectional dynamics is recorded in the EAEU countries: with a decrease in the number of cattle, the total volume of meat and poultry production shows growth. In 2024, production reached 14,953 thousand tons against 14,010 thousand tons in 2020, which corresponds to an increase of 943 thousand tons, or 6.3%. The least pronounced expansion of production was recorded when compared with 2023, when the increase was only 206 thousand tons. This configuration of indicators indicates a gradual transition from extensive development factors to more intensive forms of animal husbandry organization.

In Kazakhstan, the dynamics of meat and poultry production in all categories of farms is relatively stable. Since 2020, the maximum increase has reached 124 thousand tons, which is equivalent to 10.6%, while the increase in volume in 2024 compared to the previous year was limited to 49 thousand tons, or 4.1%. This slowdown in the pace of expansion reflects the impact of external economic constraints affecting the agricultural sector along with other sectors of the economy. Practical experience in analyzing the industry confirms that in the context of the global crisis, animal husbandry remains inertial, but loses some of its dynamics, which increases the importance of targeted economic management measures and production support.

Conclusion. The conducted research confirms that food security occupies a central place in the system of socio-economic development of countries and regions, and agriculture is its key material basis. An analysis of the dynamics of agricultural production in the EAEU countries and in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2024 showed that, despite the impact of global economic shocks, the agricultural sector retains the ability to restore and form a sustainable food supply. It is revealed that the growth in the cost indicators of agricultural production and livestock products reflects both the expansion of output and the change in the price environment, which requires a comprehensive interpretation of the results. The scientific novelty of the study is to substantiate the relationship between the economic management of agro-industrial regions, macroeconomic dynamics and the level of food security. The practical significance of the findings is shown in the possibility of their use in the development of regional programs for the development of the agricultural sector, the adjustment of government support measures and the formation of strategies for food sustainability. The prospects for further research are related to an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of individual agricultural policy instruments and an assessment of their impact on the long-term sustainability of food systems.

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АЗЫҚ-ТҮЛІК ҚАУІПСІЗДІГІН АРТТЫРУДА АГРОИНДУСТРИЯЛЫҚ ӨНІРЛЕРДІ БАСҚАРУДЫҢ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ АСПЕКТІЛЕРІ

Андатпа

Мақалада қазіргі әлеуметтік-экономикалық сын-қатерлер жағдайында азық-түлік қауіпсіздігі деңгейін арттыруда агроиндустриялық өнімдерді экономикалық басқарудың рөлі қарастырылған. Мемлекеттің экономикалық және ұлттық қауіпсіздігінің маңызды элементі ретінде азық-түлік қауіпсіздігін қалыптастырудың теориялық және практикалық аспектілері талданды. Халықты азық-түлік ресурстарымен қамтамасыз етудегі аграрлық сектордың маңызы қаралды және ұлттық және өңірлік деңгейлердегі азық-түлік жүйелерінің тұрақтылығына әсер ететін негізгі факторлар айқындалды. Зерттеу барысында Еуразиялық экономикалық одақ елдерінде және Қазақстан Республикасында ауыл шаруашылығын дамытудың 2020-2024 жылдардағы көрсеткіштері талданды, бұл ауыл шаруашылығы өнімі өндірісінің серпінін анықтауға және агроиндустриялық өнімдердің азық-түлік қауіпсіздігін қамтамасыз етуге қосқан үлесін айқындауға мүмкіндік берді. Ауыл шаруашылығы өндірісі көлемінің өсуі өзін-өзі қамтамасыз ету деңгейімен, азық-түліктің қолжетімділігімен және аграрлық инфрақұрылымның жай-күйімен қатар азық-түлік қауіпсіздігін нығайтудың негізгі индикаторларының бірі болып табылатыны көрсетілген. Аграрлық секторды экономикалық басқарудың тиімділігі көбінесе мемлекеттік қолдау ауқымына, инвестициялық белсенділікке және реттеудің кешенді тетіктерін қолдануға байланысты екені анықталды. Зерттеудің әдіснамалық негізі абстракция, индукция және дедукция, статистикалық және салыстырмалы талдау, сондай-ақ логикалық жалпылау әдістері болды. Ақпараттық база ретінде Еуразиялық экономикалық одақ пен Қазақстан Республикасы Ұлттық статистика бюросының ресми деректері пайдаланылды. Агроиндустриялық өнімдерді экономикалық басқаруды жетілдіру, агроөнеркәсіптік кластерлерді дамыту және ауыл шаруашылығының материалдық-техникалық базасын жаңғырту азық-түлік қауіпсіздігін арттырудың маңызды шарттары болып табылады. Алынған нәтижелер практикалық маңызға ие және өнімдердің әлеуметтік-экономикалық даму бағдарламалары мен азық-түлік қауіпсіздігін қамтамасыз ету стратегияларын әзірлеу кезінде пайдаланылуы мүмкін.

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ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ УПРАВЛЕНИЯ АГРОИНДУСТРИАЛЬНЫМИ РЕГИОНАМИ В ПОВЫШЕНИИ ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ

Аннотация

В статье рассмотрена роль экономического управления агроиндустриальными регионами в повышении уровня продовольственной безопасности в условиях современных социально-экономических вызовов. Проанализированы теоретические и практические аспекты формирования продовольственной безопасности как важнейшего элемента экономической и национальной безопасности государства. Рассмотрено значение аграрного сектора в обеспечении населения продовольственными ресурсами и определены ключевые факторы, влияющие на устойчивость продовольственных систем на национальном и региональном уровнях.

В ходе исследования проанализированы показатели развития сельского хозяйства в странах Евразийского экономического союза и в Республике Казахстан за 2020-2024 годы, что позволило выявить динамику производства сельскохозяйственной продукции и определить вклад агроиндустриальных регионов в обеспечение продовольственной безопасности. Показано, что рост объемов сельскохозяйственного производства является одним из ключевых индикаторов укрепления продовольственной безопасности, наряду с уровнем самообеспеченности, доступностью продовольствия и состоянием аграрной инфраструктуры. Выявлено, что эффективность экономического управления аграрным сектором во многом зависит от масштабов государственной поддержки, инвестиционной активности и применения комплексных механизмов регулирования.

Методологическую основу исследования составили методы абстракции, индукции и дедукции, статистического и сравнительного анализа, а также логического обобщения. В качестве информационной базы использованы официальные данные Евразийского экономического союза и Бюро национальной статистики Республики Казахстан. Определено, что совершенствование экономического управления агроиндустриальными регионами, развитие агропромышленных кластеров и модернизация материально-технической базы сельского хозяйства являются важными условиями повышения продовольственной безопасности. Полученные результаты имеют практическую значимость и могут быть использованы при разработке программ социально-экономического развития регионов и стратегий обеспечения продовольственной безопасности.