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**Assessment of the Current State of Ensuring Food Security
in the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Food security plays a key role in ensuring the health and well-being of the population, as well as in sustainable societal development. Regarding food security as an element of national security in the Republic of Kazakhstan, one could say the following:

- currently, every seventh inhabitant of the Earth suffers from lack of nutrition, or according to experts, this is from 800 million to 1 billion 200 million people;
- by 2030, the planet's population will reach 8.5 billion people;
- by 2050 will be 9.7 billion people.

The natural resource potential of Kazakhstan can be characterized as follows:

- the land area in Kazakhstan is 272 million hectares, of which 215 million hectares are agricultural land.
- this is more than 4% of global resources.
- over the past 10 years, the volume of production in agriculture has increased almost 4 times.

When it comes to the export of grain in the Republic of Kazakhstan, it is one of the ten largest grain exporters in the world. Every year, up to 6 million tons are exported to Central Asian countries, and up to 2 million tons of grain are exported to the European Union. Generally, Kazakhstan's export geography includes 70 countries, and it holds one of the leading positions in the world in terms of flour exports.

In the ranking of the world's countries on food security for 2022, Kazakhstan took 32nd place out of 113.

In 2022, the country's food security index amounted to 72.1.

The conducted research indicates the following main problems of the agro-industrial complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- increasing labor productivity by 2.5 times;
- saturation of the domestic market with socially important food products at the level of 80%;
- increasing exports of agro-industrial complex products by 2 times;
- irrational use of resource potential, including land, water, labor resources;
- small-scale production;
- low level of technical equipment;
- low investment attractiveness;
- a low level of state support;
- an import dependence of the country to provide the population with agricultural products;
- the share of processed agricultural products remains low.

There are four levels of living of the population in the country:

- critical - daily consumption per person must be at least 2200 kcal;

- minimum – average daily consumption per person must be in the range of 2300-2800 kcal;
- rational (normal) - average daily consumption per person in the range of 2800-3600 kcal;
- comfortable - daily consumption = rational nutrition standards, and the consumption of environmentally friendly food.

Regarding the structure of gross domestic product by type of economic activity in 2022, industrial sector accounted for almost 30%, other sectors - 21%, trade - 16%, Agriculture, water, land, and forest resources - 5.2%.

Gross agricultural production in Kazakhstan for 2018-2022 indicates growth in agriculture both overall and in terms of specific sectors, namely crop farming and livestock.

The main trends in the production of the main types of agricultural products in Kazakhstan, in thousand tons are:

- the production of cereals has shown significant growth, increasing by 34.5% in 2022 compared to 2021, and by 9.7% compared to 2020;
- potato production has remained relatively stable, with a slight increase of 1.2% in 2022 compared to 2021, and 1.8% compared to 2020;
- vegetable production has seen a slight increase of 0.5% in 2022 compared to 2021, and 4.4% compared to 2020;
- production of melons and gourds has decreased by 8% in 2022 compared to 2021, but increased by 5.6% compared to 2020;
- oilseed production has shown significant growth, increasing by 25.5% in 2022 compared to 2021, and by 18.9% compared to 2020. Sunflower production, which is included in oilseeds, has increased by 26.4% in 2022 compared to 2021, and by 54.5% compared to 2020;
- sugar beet production has decreased by 7.5% in 2022 compared to 2021, and by 34.5% compared to 2020;
- meat production has seen a slight increase of 0.8% in 2022 compared to 2021, and 6.3% compared to 2020;
- milk production has increased by 1.9% in 2022 compared to 2021, and by 5.2% compared to 2020;
- egg production has increased by 4.4% in 2022 compared to 2021, and remained relatively stable at 99.7% compared to 2020.

All of the above suggests that there is a need for...:

- implementation of strategic priorities of food security;
- increasing the volume of import-substituting products;
- increasing the level of safety and quality of agricultural products.

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