FOODSTUFF SECURITY AS COMPONENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Tomáš Ulbrich, Eva Lukášková
College of Business and Hotel Management, Brno, Czech Republic
ulbrich@hotskolabrno.cz; lukaskova@hotskolabrno.cz

Abstract. Recent decades have witnessed a rapid and globalized socio-economic development that has brought many negative and ecologically interdependent problems related to the environmental food production security. Terms defined in the article, foodstuff security, food safety and food self-sufficiency, significantly influence ensures the foodstuff security in the Czech Republic. There are also the problems of food self-sufficiency in the country including the problems which are connected with safety and healthy, harmless food for consumers (for example Methanol case). There are a lot of problems with production of poor quality food and its import to central European region, which could influence sustainable environmental development.

INTRODUCTION. Recent decades have witnessed a rapid and globalized socio-economic development that has brought many negative and ecologically interdependent problems related to the environmental food production security. The environment, together with socio-economic stability, plays a key role in the maintenance of food nation’s production.

In order to ensure national security and economic sustainable development of society it must be understood that ensuring of sufficient supply of food is a basic social need. Equally important is also to ensure food safety in terms of their health because the breach of health standards can cause very serious diseases. Food is an important indicator of economy, agriculture, international agreements and law. It reflects the state of the economy, trends in time, but also the historical development of the region. Consumers are keenly interested in the food quality and health integrity.

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At present, can be seen two fundamental problems on which are especially focused attention in the paper. The first issue is to ensure food security in terms of securing a sufficient number of high-quality and safe food, the other is the possibility of the economic approach to quality food for all consumers. In the context of a number of cases that disrupted one or more aspects of food safety (health risk foods disproportionate price of eggs, food self-sufficient state, and methanol case) becomes the issue up to date and attractive.

1. DEFINITION OF FOODSTUFF SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

"Food security 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." 4

We define food security at two levels. The first level shall be defined as the country's food security, i.e. the required level of productive resources in relation to the domestic consumption in the longer term. It is basically the rate of coverage of domestic consumption, domestic factors in the case of emergencies, unexpected events (wars, natural disasters, and failure of international trade).

The second level of food security refers to various social groups of the country and expresses the degree of risk of certain social groups in terms of quantity and nutritional value of food. 5

The accessibility on the national level (macro level) is influenced by inquiry, which is determined by home production, commercial imports, foodstuff help and foodstuff reserves. On regional level the accessibility is influenced by regional foodstuff production, foodstuff reserves, distribution system and on the household level by foodstuff production on this level, by market and by foodstuff for work acquisition type. Access to the foodstuff is determined by general incomes of the households and usability means foodstuff wholesomeness. 6, 7

In the late 90s of the 20th century, the EU saw several incidents of consumer health, leading to reducing of confidence in the system of protection against the dangers of food. Therefore, the EU has started to address the issue comprehensively protect consumer health from the dangers of food. It began to appear the concept of "food safety", which featured a comprehensive system for protecting consumers from dangers originating from food. As "the safe food" was defined food that will not cause harm the consumer when is prepared or ingested in accordance with the intended effect. The basis of a uniform system of food safety has become a "White Paper on Food Safety" published by the EU Commission in January 2000. At the same time had been established the European Food Safety Authority - EFSA, which

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is focused on the entire food chain and evaluate situations that can directly or indirectly affect food safety, including issues related to health, welfare and plant health. Crucial step in the area of food safety was the decision of the European Parliament and Council Regulation No 178/2002 on the general principles and requirements of food law. The strategy to assure food safety in the Czech Republic after accession to the European Union enshrined in the Government Resolution No. 1277 of December 15th 2004.

![Figure 1 – Basic Dimension of Foodstuff Security](image)

At the national level is the issue of food security generally defined in the Strategy of Security for the EU Common Agricultural Policy. The most important instruments for ensuring food safety are good agricultural practice (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), good hygiene practices (GHP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP).

The strategy of the security from 2011 is the basic document security policy of the Czech Republic to which follows sub-strategies and concepts. This is a government document, which perceives safety issue comprehensively defines the security interests of our country, as well as its security environment. Part of the strategy is also food security. The strategic interests are, including the provision of energy, raw materials and food security of the Czech Republic and adequate strategic reserves. One of the threats to security is defined functionality of critical infrastructure, which is also necessary for ensuring food security. The Security Strategy also mentions the growing importance of food security and access to drinking water. In the strategy of prevention and repression of security threats is explicitly stated that with regard to the cultivation of energy crops creates utilizable Czech conditions for the cultivation of those commodities so as not to compromise food security of the country. It maintains an adequate supply of strategic important agricultural products and food commodities. The Czech Republic pays attention to strategic reserves of groundwater for supplies of drinking water, as well as potential
sources of surface water. Diagram of importance food safety strategy is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Importance of Ensuring Foodstuff security in Security Strategy of the Czech Republic

2. FOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY. In the context of food security, it is necessary to mention the fact that in developed countries is currently a lot of attention paid to food safety with regard to their health. The quantity of foodstuffs in the EU and other developed countries is not a problem so far. To the increased focus on ensuring the safety of foodstuffs contributed recurring problems caused by the spread of unhealthy food and feed (feed safety is an integral part of food security), food accidents (dioxins, PCBs), infections of farm animals (BSE / TSE) and ecosystem contamination by foreign substances, and thus the food chain

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(as a result of environmental pollution and increasing industrialization developed use of chemicals in agriculture).  

Strategy to Assure Food Safety in the Czech Republic is a strategic document approved by the Government of the Czech Republic (Government Resolution No. 1320/2001) in accordance with the principles of the White Paper on Food Safety of the European Union. The main aim is to ensure the effective protection of the health and promoting the interests of consumers in relation to food, through the production of safe food and feed. The original document of the Ministry of Agriculture "Food Safety Strategy in the Czech Republic" (Prague 2002), briefly describes national strategy to achieve goals through science-based health risk assessment, management, development of communication between the components of our society and to promote awareness and education of all interested parties.  

Especially since the beginning of 2012 can be seen obvious trend of increasing concern about food quality and affordability. On the Czech market is also criticized poor quality both high price of food and offer of supermarket chains with category of very cheap food in a low quality that is unacceptable in Western countries. In the last years is the consumer at a disadvantage for his declining purchasing power. Meanwhile the food is more expensive and many of foodstuffs are indeed harmless but their quality is low. A consumer purchasing other types of foods than three years ago, this is not the substitution of higher quality, but on the contrary, lower price accompanied by low quality food. The proof of the above is the increasing falsification of food with the intention to harm consumers. Examples are the substitution of more expensive raw materials for cheaper to obtain a competitive advantage in the market.  

While the food safety in terms of their health is for a long time in the Czech Republic on a very good level and frequency of defects found is relatively small, in the case of food quality control are some of the results of Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA) in 2011 quite alarming. Among the most problematic foods include spirits, wine, jams and honey, meat products and fish products.  

Among the most serious violations of food safety in recent months is for example selling Polish food containing technical salt, as well as poor chicken also from Poland and German pork. As for the economic availability of food, then we can mention a case of inadequate egg prices supposedly linked to the introduction of changes in the breeding cage hens and failure to comply of European standards,

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12 MAŘÍK, M.: České jídlo 2012. Drahé. Špatné. A bude hůř. Ekonom, r. LV, č. 50, s. 7 – 12. ISSN 1210-0714


which consequently caused a temporary lack of eggs in the Czech market and the extreme increase their prices.

Sadly positive example could be seen in 2012, when the very serious case occurred in the Czech Republic. More than 30 people died and many others were seriously injured of poisoning by bootleg spirits. These poisonings have raised questions about the effectiveness of EU and Czech safeguards against bootleg alcohol, which still has plagued the Czech market.

However, as illustrated research from November 2012, the Czechs access to hard alcohol after the methanol case has changed significantly. Nearly 70 percent of Czech liquor drinkers are now more interested in its brand and origin. 81 percent of consumers especially hard liquor purchases for reliable merchants. Over 61 percent buys only proven brand from traditional Czech and foreign producers, which represents about one-third increase compared to the situation before the methanol scandal. From a health point of view it is positive that almost a quarter of consumers (24.2 percent) from a concern about their health rather hard liquor denies completely.15 Nowadays customers are more interested where and how alcohol is purchased. Rather also give priority to proven brand from traditional Czech and foreign producers, than less expensive alcohol of unknown origin.

CONCLUSION. The issue of food safety and food quality is extremely broad. In the article were identified fundamental factors that affect food security in the Czech Republic at present. It is possible to say some positive effects: food security is seen as an essential part of security of the Czech Republic, is currently sufficient quantities of healthy food. However, it is possible to say some negative phenomena such as harmless to health food does not always mean good food, access to quality food in terms of their prices are more difficult for some groups of consumers. New is necessary to define the concept of food - not to confuse the terms "harmless to health" and "good food". Furthermore, it is necessary to evaluate a wide range of factors that affect food safety the Czech Republic.

REFERENCES

THE COMPETITIVENESS OF UKRAINIAN REGIONS IN EUROPEN CONTEXT

Sergiy Zapototskiy
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

Abstract. The paper is dedicated to the creation of regional competitive development, which would be provide through the effective use of territorial competitive advantages, highlight just “unique” advantages of each individual territory and provide their combination in virtue of international competitiveness taking into account requirements of the market. The analysis of level of the Ukraine regional competitiveness was carried in the context of integration into the European Economic Area. The types of regions were characterized by the criteria of competitiveness and the prospects of competitiveness increase of the Ukraine regional economy.

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