

## INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE

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**Abstract.** The study analyzes modern international food security standards and features of their implementation in Ukrainian legislation and economic practice. Key elements of FAO and WTO standards are considered, and problematic aspects of their implementation in the context of post-war reconstruction are identified. Ways to harmonize domestic approaches with international food security standards are proposed, taking into account national characteristics and global challenges.

**Keywords:** food security, international standards, FAO, post-war recovery, agricultural sector, sustainable development.

Food security is one of the key elements of national security of every state. This issue is of particular relevance in the context of post-war reconstruction of Ukraine. International standards form the basis for creating an effective system for providing the population with high-quality and affordable food products, which meets the challenges of today and contributes to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector of the economy.

According to the definition of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life [1]. This definition is based on four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability.

One of the most important international standards in the field of food safety is the Codex Alimentarius, developed jointly by FAO and WHO. This report of international food standards is aimed at protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. In Ukraine, the implementation of the Codex Alimentarius standards began with the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Basic Principles and Requirements for the Safety and Quality of Food Products”, however, the process of full implementation of these standards into domestic practice is still ongoing [2].

In the context of the globalization of food markets, the implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) standards is also of great importance. The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPM) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) establish rules for international trade in

agricultural products and food. These agreements stipulate that countries can set their own food safety standards, but they must be scientifically sound and not create unjustified obstacles to international trade [3].

Given Ukraine's European integration aspirations, the harmonization of domestic legislation with European Union standards in the field of food safety is of particular importance. EU Regulation No. 178/2002 establishes the general principles and requirements of food legislation, establishes the European Food Safety Authority and defines procedures in matters of food safety. In Ukraine, the implementation of European food safety standards is carried out within the framework of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, which provides for the gradual approximation of domestic legislation to EU standards [4].

A key element of the implementation of international food safety standards in Ukraine is the HACCP system (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points). According to the requirements of the Law of Ukraine “On Basic Principles and Requirements for Food Safety and Quality”, the use of the HACCP system is mandatory for all food market operators. This system provides control at all stages of food production, where hazardous situations may arise [2].

In the context of post-war reconstruction, the implementation of international standards for sustainable development, as set out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, is of particular relevance. Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural development” defines key areas for ensuring food security on a global scale. In Ukraine, these standards are implemented through the National Economic Strategy for the period up to 2030 and other policy documents relating to the development of the agricultural sector and ensuring food security [5].

Analysis of the implementation of international food safety standards in Ukraine reveals a number of problematic aspects. First, there is a discrepancy between legislative requirements and the practice of their implementation. Although the regulatory framework is generally harmonized with international standards, the actual implementation of these standards at the enterprise level remains insufficient, especially in the small and medium-sized business segment.

Secondly, there is a problem of insufficient institutional capacity of state control bodies in the field of food safety. Limited resources and insufficient qualification of personnel lead to ineffective control over compliance with international food safety standards.

Thirdly, military actions in Ukraine have created new challenges for ensuring food security, including disruption of supply chains, damage to infrastructure and contamination of agricultural lands. In these conditions, the implementation of international standards requires additional efforts and resources.

For the effective implementation of international food safety standards in Ukraine in the context of post-war reconstruction, it is necessary to: improve the system of state control over food safety by strengthening the institutional capacity of relevant bodies; ensure adequate funding for programs to support the implementation of international food safety standards at the enterprise level; develop a research

infrastructure for assessing risks in the field of food safety; and raise the level of awareness of producers and consumers about international food safety standards.

Thus, the implementation of international food safety standards in Ukraine is a necessary condition for providing the population with safe and high-quality food products, as well as for integrating the domestic agricultural sector into the world food market. In the context of post-war recovery, this process requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account both global challenges and national peculiarities of the development of the agri-food sector of Ukraine.

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**Анотація.** У дослідженні проаналізовано сучасні міжнародні стандарти продовольчої безпеки та особливості їх імплементації в українське законодавство та економічну практику. Розглянуто ключові елементи стандартів ФАО та СОТ та визначено проблемні аспекти їх імплементації в умовах післявоєнної відбудови. Запропоновано шляхи гармонізації вітчизняних підходів із міжнародними стандартами продовольчої безпеки з урахуванням національних особливостей та глобальних викликів.

**Ключові слова:** продовольча безпека, міжнародні стандарти, ФАО, післявоєнне відновлення, аграрний сектор, сталий розвиток.