ABSTRACT

The ensuring of a high level of food security is believed to be one of the ultimate goals of the economic policy of each state. Currently, as stated by Iranian high-ranking officials, the government of the IRI managed to make some impressive progress in this field during the last 20 years. Thus, since 2004, Iran, allegedly, have been capable to satisfy its domestic demand in wheat, barley, red meat, and poultry relying only on the capabilities of its agricultural sector of the economy. However, a number of analysts (including some Iranian experts) consider that governmental reports on the state of Iranian agriculture do not show the real situation. Moreover, they insist that the recent plans of Iranian authorities aimed at the further development of the agrarian-industrial complex of the economy have never been fully applied and still exist only in a form of a draft.

The study of different sources (first of all, statistic and analytic reports published by Iranian official structures and international organizations) let us conclude that the Iranian government can only partly guarantee the necessary level of food security. Moreover, some economic indicators show that the situation with food supplies in Iran is still far from being called "secure". During the previous two decades (1990 – 2010), the authorities managed to raise the amount of agricultural production. Nevertheless, due to the remaining dependence of the Iranian agriculture on weather conditions, they failed to guarantee the stability of high yields. The labor efficiency is still very low. The labor force used in agriculture is mostly unqualified or of low qualification. The pace of mechanization is slow. There are high losses during the storage and processing of agricultural products. The supply of the urban population with food is carried out at the expense and in the prejudice of the domestic producers. The Iranian government failed to guarantee social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for all population. Tangible differences in nutrition exist not only between different social classes but also between regions as well as between the urban and rural areas.

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