

# THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION POTENTIAL OF PRIMARY FOOD PRODUCTS IN RA

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**Introduction.** Ensuring the food security of the country is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century which requires a primary focus and attention both at national and international levels. The issue of food sufficiency and malnutrition became more prominent in the middle of the 20th century when food shortages and their consequences became more pressing around the world and the world population started to grow at higher rates.

Food security is closely related to the socio-economic stability and the level of economic development of the country. Food security is considered an integral part of every country's overall economic security, and it is aimed at providing food of sufficient quantity and quality, safe for human health, and at the same time accessible to all members of society.

The country's food security is ensured through local production and food imports. There must be a balance between domestic food production and import volumes to reduce import dependence and provide food security. The primacy of the issue conditions **the relevance** of this article.

**The purpose of the article.** The purpose of this article is to study the state of food security and sufficiency and the import substitution potential of primary food products in RA. The following tasks were set in the scope of the article:

- To study the essence of food security,
- Analyze food security,
- Identify the import substitution potential of primary food products in RA.

**Methodology.** The study of foreign and Armenian economists was the information basis for the solution of the tasks set in the article. Logical, statistical and comparative analysis methods of the research were implemented in the scope of this article.

**Literature review.** Ensuring water, food and energy security is a top priority for all countries. Achieving any security destination requires coordinated approaches, both within and outside of each country<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> SIC ICWC, Water, food and energy security in Central Asia: introductory analysis - benefits of intersectoral solutions, 2021, p. 3, (original in Russian).

In the mid-1970s, the concept of "Food security" was put into scientific circulation, when, unlike in developed countries, where food production problems did not exist, hunger and malnutrition were massive in "third world" countries.<sup>1</sup>:

Today, the fight against malnutrition is one of the main global challenges, and malnutrition is a big obstacle in the path of global food security and sustainable development<sup>2</sup>.

One of the important steps in the country's food security is the provision of primary food products at the expense of local products. That is why having a strong food security system requires finding ways to become food independent. One of the steps of that road is the substitution of food imports. The development of an effective policy of import substitution is undoubtedly a significant stimulus for the development of national agriculture, industry and other processing branches<sup>3</sup>.

Argentinean economist R. Prebisch made a significant contribution to the development of the theory and practice of import substitution by considering import substitution as the only effective area of economic development in peripheral developing countries. R. Prebisch hypothesized that Third World countries lagging in economic development are the result of their increasing dependence on the export of natural resources and the import of high-value-added goods from former colonial countries. The alternative to the existing order was import substitution industrialization, a policy pursued by Latin American nations. R. Prebisch advocated active state intervention in the economy and import restrictions to protect young and developing food-related industries, especially machine building.<sup>4</sup>:

**Analysis.** The state of the economy that provides each member of the population with sufficient physical, social and economic access to safe and nutritious food that meets their nutritional needs and preferences and ensures an active and healthy life at any time is defined as food security. Food security issues are more acute in countries with adverse climatic conditions or with less land. The high population density and low income of those countries do not allow them to meet the demand for necessary food products at the expense of their resources. The RA is one of those countries, for which the successful solution of food security problems is highly relevant.

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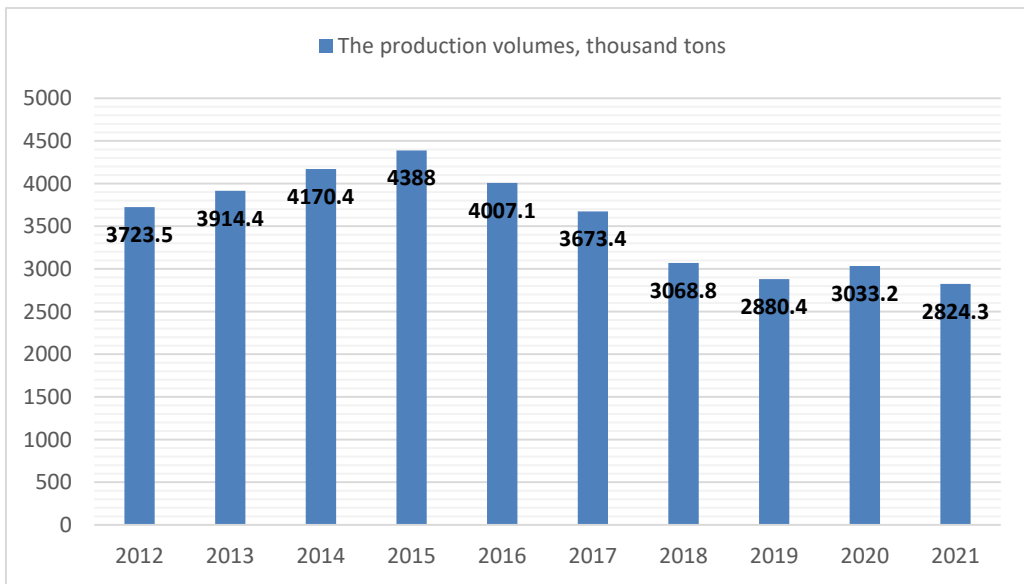
<sup>1</sup> Avetisyan S. , Problems of food security of the Republic of Armenia/. -S.: Economist, 2014 - p.16- ("Amberd" series), (original in Armenian).

<sup>2</sup> Committee on World Food Security, Exposure Draft Recommendations on Food Systems and Nutrition, Forty-sixth Session "Revisiting Food Security and Nutrition", Rome, Italy, 14-18 October 2019, p. 2, (original in Russian).

<sup>3</sup> Ivanova D. G., Ivanova O. E., Sukhinin S. A., Import substitution as a factor of increasing the competitiveness of regional agrarian systems, Competitive, Sustainable and Secure Development of the Regional Economy: "Response to Global Challenges" (CSSDRE 2018), Advances in Economics, Business and Management Research (AEBMR), volume 39 p. 3

<sup>4</sup> Prebisch, R. (1951, May 28). Theoretical and practical problems of economic growth. UN Economic Commission for Latin America, 4th Sess, E/CN.12/221.

To understand the situation in the food market, let's start the analysis with the dynamics of food production in RA.



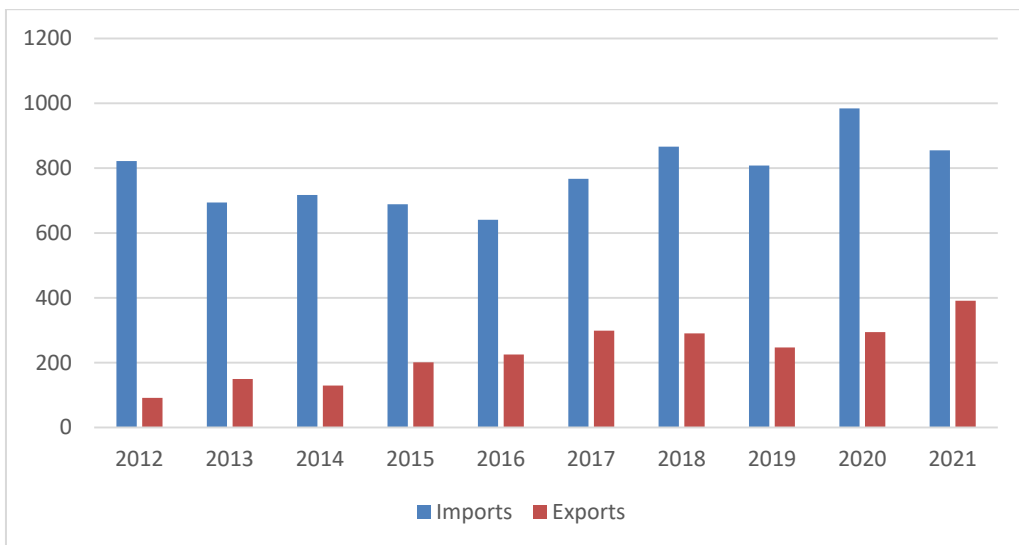
*Figure 1. The dynamics of primary food products in 2012-2021, thousand tons<sup>1</sup>*

Until 2015, the production volumes of primary food products in the RA showed an increasing trend, and in the following years, they decreased, except in 2020 (Figure 1).

Import and export volumes of food products also increased during the studied period (Figure 2). The volume of imports in the republic exceeds the volume of exports. However, it should be noted that export is mainly characterized by growth rates.

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<sup>1</sup> The data presented in the figure was obtained from the data of Th Statistical Committee of RA.



*Figure 2. The dynamics of exports and imports of primary food products in 2012-2021, thousand tons<sup>1</sup>*

The assessment of the level of food security in RA is determined by the food balance. The food balance is a system of aggregated and analytical indicators that shows the sources of formation of supply of the main types of food products of the country: production and import, as well as comprehensive information on the use of these food products. The balance sheet is presented on an annual basis, which is necessary to characterize the state of food security in the given period. The level of self-sufficiency of the primary food products is determined through the balance sheet. By the level of self-sufficiency, we understand the degree of satisfaction of the country's demand for a given product at the expense of its resources, which is determined by the following formula<sup>2</sup>.

$$\text{Self - sufficiency level} = \frac{\text{Production}}{(\text{Production} + \text{Imports} - \text{Exports})} \% ^3,$$

The indicators of Table 1 shows that the level of wheat self-sufficiency in Armenia is 23.2%, which means 76.8% dependence on imports and the amount of wheat in reserves (last year self-sufficiency of wheat was 24.4%, in 2019 it was 25.9% , which means the trend of wheat self-sufficiency is declining). Regarding vegetables, the self-sufficiency level is 105.6%.

<sup>1</sup> The data presented in the figure was obtained from the data of Th Statistical Committee of RA.

<sup>2</sup> Statistical Comitee of the RA, Publiactions, Food security and poverty, 2022թ. January-December, National food balance of the RA, page 77-78 [https://armstat.am/file/article/f\\_sec\\_3\\_2022\\_3.pdf](https://armstat.am/file/article/f_sec_3_2022_3.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Same place.

Table 1

The RA food balance in 2022<sup>1</sup>

	Production	Import	Total supply	Export	Utilization	Self-sufficiency, %
Wheat	138.6	441.7	845.1	13.0	845.1	24.4
Barley	75.4	60.8	144.0	1.1	144.0	55.8
Potato	351.4	19.4	543.3	13.7	543.3	98.4
Vegetables	735.2	81.6	954.7	96.2	954.7	102.0
Fruits (except grape)	346.3	107.1	496.2	113.8	496.2	102.0
Legumes	2.8	8.1	13.3	0.0	13.3	26.0
Vegetable oil	0.0	34.4	37.9	0.6	37.9	0.1
Sugar	66.7	11.4	107.7	5.0	107.7	91.2
Egg	41.2	0.5	42.1	0.1	42.1	99.2
Milk	623.1	207.7	880.9	83.3	880.9	83.4
Beef	65.6	8.1	74.1	0.7	74.1	89.9
Pork	14.9	17.3	32.4	0.7	32.4	47.3
Mutton	10.8	0.0	10.9	0.0	10.9	100.4
Poultry	11.9	42.0	56.8	0.5	56.8	22.3
Fish	25.0	7.4	34.9	15.5	34.9	148.0
Grape	225.8	4.8	235.7	18.9	235.7	106.6

Among vegetables, a relatively low level of self-sufficiency had carrots, which was 75.6%. In terms of fruits (except grapes), the level of self-sufficiency in RA is 114.4%. Although it should also be noted that subtropical fruits will always be imported, RA being a "fruit country" can satisfy the domestic demand. For example, the self-sufficiency level of apricots was 102.0%, in other fruits, it was mainly over 100%<sup>2</sup>.

Wheat, vegetable oil, sugar, poultry, pork, etc., are the heaviest part of our food balance. The level of sugar self-sufficiency is 91.2.0%. In 2019, the republic was able to provide 53.24% of sugar at the expense of domestic production, and only 25.2 tons of

<sup>1</sup> Statistical Committee of the RA, Publications, Food security and poverty, 2023p. January-December, National food balance of the RA, page 74-76 [https://armstat.am/file/article/f\\_sec\\_3\\_2022\\_3.pdf](https://armstat.am/file/article/f_sec_3_2022_3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Same place, page 75.

sugar was imported, which was 22.4% of the total demand. Meanwhile, in 2020, we were able to provide only 25.7% of sugar at the expense of domestic production.<sup>1</sup>

The self-sufficiency level of poultry was 22.3%, in this area it is easy to adopt such a policy that RA develops domestic poultry farming. The level of self-sufficiency in pork is 47.3%, and with the help of state support, the level of procurement of this easily bred animal can be doubled. These are the problems that are not insoluble. Milk imports can also be reduced. Although it should be noted that we have a level of self-sufficiency above 83.4% in terms of milk, the rest must be provided at the expense of internal resources.

Now let's try to evaluate the possibilities of import substitution in individual areas of food production. There are various interpretations of "import substitution" in the economic literature. In one case, it is characterized as "the process of replacing imported products with products produced by domestic producers", as "the process of reducing or stopping the import of certain products through the production of the same or similar products" (RA Burko, E. Lukyanchuk), in another case it is characterized as "a type of state economic strategy and industrial policy aimed at replacing imported products with locally produced products"<sup>2</sup>.

The issue of import substitution is not something new, in the 20th century, many nations tried to solve the issue of meeting their needs through domestic production. Attempts have been made at various times to protect the domestic market from foreign products by countries such as Germany, the United States and Japan. Import substitution was previously seen as a way to get rid of colonial dependence or to overcome backward development in the climate of foreign countries dominating the global market<sup>3</sup>.

According to import statistics, almost 166 named food products are imported to RA, and the first 36 out of them that have 80% share of total food imports are presented in Table 2<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical Comitee of the RA, Publiactions, Food security and poverty, 2022թ. January-December, National food balance of the RA, page 7 [https://armstat.am/file/article/f\\_sec\\_3\\_2022\\_3.pdf](https://armstat.am/file/article/f_sec_3_2022_3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Gabrielyan S., Matinyan A., Import substitution as a condition for effective development of meat and meat products sub-sector, "Alternative" scientific journal, 2017, p. 145 (original in Armenian).

<sup>3</sup> Nikolai Ivanovich KUZNETSOV, Irina Fedorovna SUKHANOVA, Mariya Yuryevna LYAVINA, Igor Leonidovich VOROTNIKOV, Import Substitution as the Basis for Ensuring Russia's Food Security, ISSN 0798 1015, Revista Espacios, Management, Vol. 39 (Nº27) Year 2018. 29

<sup>4</sup> Harutyunyan K. et al., Food Security Assessment and Modeling in Short and Long Term Sectors, - Yer. Economist, "Amberd Series 48" 2021, page 101-102 (original in Armenian).

Table 2

Foreign trade of the first 36 imported product groups in RA (2022)<sup>1</sup>

Products	Exports		Imports	
	Weight, thousand tons	Value, thousand USD	Weight, thousand tons	Value, thousand USD
Beef (frozen)	-	-	4 949,2	15 761,7
Poultry	192,8	227,5	38 362,2	58 218,6
Milk and cream	16,2	27,5	10 959,6	25 538,7
Butter and other dairy oils	2 980,7	17 848,9	4 291,4	25 097,4
Cheese and curd	1 879,3	12 537,4	2 636,3	13 543,5
Furs and other parts of birds with feathers or down. feathers and their parts	-	-	78,1	7 132,6
Nuts except coconut, brazil & cashew, fresh or dried	2 420,4	9 725,5	4 299,0	21 705,1
Banana	387,8	275,5	23 944,3	20 273,1
Citrus fruits	1 112,6	797,0	38 750,3	24 602,2
Strawberry, blackberry, blackberry, mulberry, currant, kiwi, pomegranate	4 140,6	19 172,8	15 056,1	9 868,0
Wheat	3 592,9	729,8	364 693,8	102 254,2
Corn	0,3	0,5	98 588,8	24 635,0
Rice	1,2	2,1	11 644,5	9 929,5
Flour wheat or wheat bran	5,9	4,0	31 546,0	11 263,3
Sunflower seed	319,5	199,4	4 981,6	6 572,9
Vegetable juice and concentrate	1,8	21,3	644,9	13 249,2
Sunflower, cottonseed oil	358,5	774,1	31 753,3	49 769,8
Margarine	355,5	4 275,1	21 590,9	44 173,4
Sweets (candy, white chocolate), chewing gum	506,0	1 313,2	6 014,1	18 005,4
Cocoa raw materials	2,9	23,4	619,3	2 146,8
Chocolate (containing cocoa)	2 971,0	22 982,9	12 890,1	62 956,2
Malt extract, flour, dairy preparations, low cocoa	52,4	245,1	3 278,1	11 857,8
Pasta	700,1	1 460,5	15 027,1	12 795,5
Bread, pastries, pastries, cakes, waffles and other baked goods	815,9	3 205,3	9 993,3	34 527,5
Canned other vegetables (frozen without vinegar)	146,6	305,9	2 505,9	2 982,5
Coffee, tea and mate concentrate, instant coffee	403,2	4 283,3	1 693,6	11 059,9
Mineral water and drinks (with sugar)	11 480,5	8 888,8	32 096,7	26 303,3
Ethyl spirit	243,9	360,0	393,6	527,5
Cusp and other soybean oil processing residue	-	-	27 191,7	17 132,4

<sup>1</sup> The table was composed by the authors according to the data of Statistical Comitee of RA.

Among the imported food products, only selected ones have import substitution potential. The exclusion of other food products is due to the public's taste and preferences for their individual types, as well as their difficult substitutability. Such products include chocolate, alcoholic beverages, sweets, beverages, pasta, etc. In this regard, Armenia has its own place in the domestic market, and its growth can become possible only in case of a significant change in the quality of domestic products. Import substitution does not discuss products that are not produced in Armenia, such as coffee, citrus fruits, bananas, rice, etc<sup>1</sup>.

The largest group of imported food products is wheat and meslin. Although the studies have shown that there are the necessary conditions in RA, both for increasing the sown area and productivity, it must be noted that all that can be ensured only with a strict and targeted state policy. This implies the need to introduce price subsidies and cost reduction tools for large wheat producers.

The next major imported product is poultry. It should be noted that the customs value of one kilogram of imported poultry is 1.05 USD<sup>2</sup>. This means that due to the low cost of imported poultry, local production becomes uncompetitive, which is why there is a strong need to promote domestic production of poultry. The same problem exists in the case of the import of beef and pork. In the case of these products, import substitution is directly related to the improvement of the population's standard of living.

There is a significant potential for the import substitution of vegetable oils in RA. According to experts, RA has enough potential for the formation of local soybean oil production. The studies carried out by the "Scientific Center of Agriculture" SNOC prove that it is possible to ensure a soybean yield of 28-36 tons/ha in the republic. Although significantly inferior to the neighboring countries, it will allow us to increase the level of self-sufficiency of vegetable oil to a certain extent<sup>3</sup>.

The import substitution of walnuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts and pistachios also has great potential. In recent years, many orchards of these crops were planted, which will reach their maximal yield in 2-3 years<sup>4</sup>.

The creation of state support tools for producers and investors is important for butter import substitution. The development of the sector requires large investments and expensive technologies. To develop the local production of butter, in 2020, the RA Government approved the implementation of the investment project submitted by "AA TRANSIT" LLC to benefit from the privilege of exempting imported technologies,

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<sup>1</sup> Harutyunyan K. et al., Food Security Assessment and Modeling in Short and Long Term Sectors, - Yer. Economist, "Amberd Series 48" 2021, page 103 (original in Armenian).

<sup>2</sup> Same place, page 104.

<sup>3</sup> Muradyan M., Food security as a factor of improving living standard of the RA population, The contemporary issues of socioeconomic development in the Republic of Armenia, Scientific journal of articles-2022 №1, page 226 (original in Armenian).

<sup>4</sup> Harutyunyan K. et al., Food Security Assessment and Modeling in Short and Long Term Sectors, - Yer. Economist, "Amberd Series 48" 2021, page 105 (original in Armenian).



equipment and raw materials from import duties to establish a butter production enterprise<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, the following clear steps are needed to replace food imports:

- It is necessary to set a procurement price for domestically produced wheat to replace its import. As a means of domestic production support, the state can exempt flour producers from VAT, so they can buy wheat at higher prices.
- In terms of vegetable oil, oil, and butter, state support is also important. The state can exempt those engaged in this production from customs duty on imported equipment and VAT.
- One of the main obstacles to import substitution for poultry is the limited market and the high level of competition for imported products compared to local ones. In this regard, it is very important to increase the volume of local production and make the price competitive with imported products.

In general, the increase in the volume of food production, and import substitutability can only be ensured with targeted state support, which includes supporting producers on the one hand, and consumers on the other, through the implementation of subsidy policies.

**The scientific novelty of this article lies in the fact that based on the studies carried out by the authors and the patterns existing in the food security system of RA, factors aimed at improving food security and import substitution were identified and substantiated.**

**Conclusions.** By taking into account the analyses of RA food security, food self-sufficiency, and assessment of the substitution potential of food imports, the following concluding remarks were made:

- The level of food self-sufficiency in Armenia is low. Especially in terms of cereals, poultry, and vegetable oil. Along with that, mutton, fish, fruits, vegetables, and eggs have high levels of self-sufficiency.
- Some primary food products have limited potential of reaching the high self-sufficiency levels, such as butter, vegetable oil, and legumes. Along with that, wheat, poultry, milk, and sugar have considerable potential for self-sufficiency.
- The most important food group with top priority sufficiency is wheat. In this regard, not only the low volumes of wheat production in RA but also the strong concentration of the import market is of concern.

RA is an importing country, and the import substitution of primary food products is fatal for the country's strategic security.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://mineconomy.am/news/2218>, last accessed 25.09.2023.

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## ՊԱՐԵՆԱՅԻՆ ԱՆՎՏԱՆԳՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ ԵՎ ՀԻՄՆԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՐԵՆԱՅԻՆ ԱՊՐԱՆՔՆԵՐԻ ՆԵՐՄՈՒԾՄԱՆ ՓՈԽԱՐԻՆՄԱՆ ՆԵՐՈՒԺԸ ՀՀ-ՈՒՄ

### Մերի Համբարձումի Մուրադյան Արսեն Սլավիկի Ընթրյան

**Համառոտագիր:** Հոդվածում ներկայացված է ՀՀ պարենային անվտանգության վիճակի վերլուծությունը և պարենային որոշ ապրանքների ներմուծման փոխարինելիության հնարավորությունը: Պարենային անվտանգության ապահովումն ազգային անվտանգության կարևորագույն բաղադրիչներից է: Պարենային անվտանգությունը իրավական, կազմակերպական, նյութատեխնիկական և այլ բնույթի միջոցառումների համալիր է, որն ուղղված է անհրաժեշտ որակի և քանակությամբ, առողջության համար անվտանգ, լիարժեք պարենով ապահովմանը, որը հասանելի է հասարակության յուրաքանչյուր անդամի, այդ թվում՝ բնակչության առավել խոցելի հատվածների համար, և կարող է սպառվել նրանց կողմից ցանկացած պահի և ցանկացած իրավիճակում, այդ թվում՝ արտակարգ իրավիճակների և ռազմական դրության ժամանակ: Երկրի պարենային անվտանգությունը ապահովվում է տեղական արտադրանքի արտադրության և սննդամթերքների ներմուծման միջոցով: Այս իրավիճակում կարևոր է, որ երկիրը կարողանա բալանսավորել սեփական արտադրության և ներմուծման ծավալները՝ ներմուծումից կախվածության նվազեցման համար: Ներկայացված խնդիրը **արդիական** է Հայաստանի համար:

Սույն հոդվածի նպատակն է ուսումնասիրել պարենային անվտանգության և ապահովվածության վիճակը և գտնել ուղիներ ՀՀ-ում պարենային հիմնական ապրանքների ներմուծման փոխարինման համար: Նպատակին հասնելու համար **խնդիր է** դրվել ուսումնասիրել պարենային անվտանգության էությունը, վերլուծել պարենային ապահովվածությունը, բացահայտել ՀՀ-ում պարենային հիմնական ապրանքների ներմուծման փոխարինման ներուժը:

Իրականացված վիճակագրական, համեմատական, տրամաբանական վերլուծությունների հիման վրա պարզ է դարձել, որ Հայաստանը համարվում է ներմուծող երկիր և մի շարք առաջնային ապրանքատեսակների գծով ուղղակիորեն կախվածության մեջ է ներմուծվող պարենամթերքներից: Սակայն պետք է նշենք, որ երկիրը ունի զգալի ներուժ այդ ապրանքատեսակների ներմուծման փոխարինելիության համար:

Սույն հոդվածի **գլխական նորույթը** կայանում է նրանում, որ հեղինակների կողմից կատարված ուսումնասիրությունների և օրինաչափությունների հիման վրա բացահայտվել և հիմնավորվել են Հայաստանի պարենային ապահովության, պարենամթերքների ներմուծման փոխարինելիության բարելավմանն ուղղված գործոններ, որոնց կիրառությունը իր բարենպաստ ազդեցությունը կունենա

պարենային անվտանգության, հետևապես ազգային անվտանգության զարգացման վրա:

Հոդվածում համակարգված տեսքով ներկայացված է Հայաստանում պարենային ապահովվածության վիճակի վերլուծությունը, հիմնավոր է համարվել այն եզրահանգումը, որ պարենային անվտանգության ճիշտ քաղաքականության վարման միջոցով հնարավոր է Հայաստանում հասնել պարենային ինքնաբավության բավարար մակարդակի՝ ներքին արտադրության հաշվին:

**Բանալի բառեր.** պարենային անվտանգություն, պարենային ինքնաբավություն, պարենային հաշվեկշիռ, ներմուծում, ներմուծման փոխարինելիություն:

## **ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННАЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ И ПОТЕНЦИАЛ ИМПОРТОЗАМЕЩЕНИЯ ОСНОВНЫХ ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННЫХ ПРОДУКТОВ В РА**

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**Аннотация.** В статье представлен анализ продовольственной безопасности в РА и возможности импортозамещения некоторых продуктов питания. Обеспечение продовольственной безопасности является одной из важнейших составляющих национальной безопасности. Продовольственная безопасность – комплекс правовых, организационных, логистических и иных мер, направленных на обеспечение необходимого качества и достаточного количества продуктов питания, которые безопасны для здоровья, полноценны и доступны каждому члену общества, включая наиболее уязвимые слои населения, и могут потребляться ими в любое время и в любой ситуации, в том числе во время чрезвычайных ситуаций и военного положения. Продовольственная безопасность страны обеспечивается за счет местного производства и импорта продовольствия. В этой ситуации важно, чтобы страна смогла сбалансировать объемы собственного производства и импорта, чтобы снизить импортозависимость. Представленная проблема актуальна для Армении.

Целью данной статьи является изучение ситуации с продовольственной безопасностью и обеспеченностью, и поиск путей импортозамещения основных продуктов питания. Для достижения цели была поставлена задача изучить суть продовольственной безопасности, проанализировать продовольственную обеспеченность, выявить потенциал импортозамещения основных продуктов питания в РА.

На основе проведенного статистического, сравнительного и логического анализа стало ясно, что Армения считается страной-импортером и по ряду основных продуктов напрямую зависит от импортируемых продуктов питания. Однако следует отметить, что страна имеет значительный потенциал по импортозамещению данной продукции.

**Научная новизна** данной статьи заключается в том, что на основе проведенных авторами исследований и закономерностей выявлены и обоснованы факторы, направленные на повышение продовольственной безопасности Армении и импортозамещаемости продуктов питания, применение которых благотворно скажется на развитии продовольственной безопасности и, как следствие, национальной безопасности.

В статье представлен анализ состояния продовольственной безопасности в Армении в систематическом виде. Обоснованным признан вывод о том, что ведя правильную политику продовольственной безопасности, можно достичь достаточного уровня продовольственной самообеспеченности в Армении за счет отечественного производства.

**Ключевые слова:** продовольственная безопасность, продовольственное самообеспечение, продовольственный баланс, импорт, импортозамещаемость.

## THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION POTENTIAL OF PRIMARY FOOD PRODUCTS IN RA

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**Abstract.** Ensuring the food security of the country is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century which requires a primary focus and attention both at national and international levels. Food security is closely related to the socio-economic stability and the level of economic development of the country. Food security is considered an integral part of every country's overall economic security, and it is aimed at providing food of sufficient quantity and quality, safe for human health, and at the same time accessible to all members of society. The country's food security is ensured through local production and food imports. There must be a balance between domestic food production and import volumes to reduce import dependence and provide food security. The primacy of the issue conditions **the relevance** of this article. **The purpose** of this article is to study the state of food security and sufficiency and the import substitution potential of primary food products in RA. For that purpose, **the task** was set to study the essence of food security, analyze food security, and identify the potential for import substitution of primary food products in RA.

Based on the conducted statistical, comparative and logical analyses, it became clear that RA is net importing country and is directly dependent on imports of several primary food products. However, it should be noted that the country has a significant potential for import substitution of these products.

**The scientific novelty** of this article lies in the fact that based on the studies carried out by the authors and the patterns existing in the food security system of RA, factors aimed at improving food security and import substitution were identified and substantiated.

The article presents the analysis of the state of RA food security in a systematic form, and it was concluded that by conducting the right food security policy, it is possible to achieve a sufficient level of food self-sufficiency in RA at the expense of domestic production.

**Keywords:** food security, food sufficiency, food balance, import, import substitution.