



Agroindustrial Sector of the Tambov Region in the System of Providing the Russian Population with Food

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Abstract

The information and analytical materials evaluate the state and efficiency of the agroindustrial complex functioning in the country and in the Tambov Region, its impact on ensuring food and the population's living standard. The main criterial indicators of the export potential were analyzed in terms of qualitative and quantitative indicators for the country and the region. The ways to improve the export potential, as well as to solve the problem of food self-production and to achieve food independence have been offered. The ways to improve the Russian agricultural producers' competitiveness, to form efficiently functioning agricultural, raw materials and food markets, to increase the profitability of agricultural producers, to create a favorable investment climate, as well as to increase the volume of investments in the agricultural sector of the economy to grow its production have been developed.

Keywords: export potential, agroindustrial complex, food provision, the population's living standard, food security, import substitution.

1. Introduction

Providing the population with food is a rather difficult problem because its solution depends on such factors as the development of the market potential and the food complex of regions, efficiency of its functioning, and participation in the territorial division of labor.

In the course of the agrarian reform our country solves the tasks on forming an efficient agroindustrial production, improving the production of ecologically clean food, and creating adequate working conditions and life of villagers.

It is important to note that for a long period of time there has been an increase in the import of food to Russia, whereas our country itself is able not only to provide the population with food, but also to export it. However, at the present time, agricultural products made by foreign commodity producers are displaced from the Russian agrarian market as a part of the import substitution policy. Along with this, it is necessary to note that import still plays a certain positive role in forming agricultural market relations because it contributes to the development of competition in the domestic food market. However, in significant volumes when the world market situation worsens, it can jeopardize the provision of food to the population of the country.

The food problem has traditionally been one of the central and top priority problems for Russia because the state cannot ensure food security without a reliable food supply to the population. However, the paradox is that Russia that is quite self-sufficient in all main types of resources, including land, water, energy, raw materials and labor, cannot yet fully provide the population with adequate food at the expense of its own production, and replenishes it with large-scale import of even those types of products it can produce in sufficient quantities not only for domestic consumption, but

also for supplying them to the world market. That is why the agriculture that ensures the country's food security is the most important sector of the economy.

2. Methods

To solve the urgent problems of the agrarian sector on the federal and regional levels, a rather comprehensive state agro-food policy has been worked out. It is designed for a long-term perspective and aims at a rationally balanced ratio between the food production and consumption, taking into account the increase in the consumer demand of the population based on a comprehensive solution of the problem related to producing, storing, processing, transporting, marketing and using of domestic agricultural products, and ensuring food safety.

The previously existing centralized system of providing the population with food was replaced by market principles. It shifted its focus from the federal to regional level. Under these conditions, top priority areas of food security include guarantees on providing the population of the region with a healthy, balanced diet and high-quality ecologically clean agricultural products made by them subject to a rather full production capacity.

The food security of the population has acquired special urgency since the adoption of the Food Security Doctrine of the Russian Federation within the national security strategy until 2020 [1]. One of the main tasks of the Doctrine is the sustainable development of the domestic food and raw materials' production that is sufficient to ensure the country's food independence. This goal is implemented, mainly, through self-sufficiency of food products due to the increase in the domestic production. The latter is affected by a number of internal and external threats and negative trends that have developed during market transformations:

– Low tempos of technical and structural and technological modernization of the agroindustrial production, renewal of basic production funds and reproduction of natural and ecological potential, as well as high dependence of the country on import of agricultural equipment and other material and technical resources that make up the basis of efficient functioning of the agroindustrial complex and its certain branches,

– Violation of the balance on economic interests of producers, consumers and trade organizations. Since the market infrastructure is underdeveloped, the movement of products from the direct producer to the consumer causes more than double increase in price. It makes it possible to conclude about the shift of the economic interests balance towards trade organizations rather than agricultural commodity producers. The latter cannot raise prices proportionally to the growth of production costs, while consumers observe an almost monthly increase in food prices that are stipulated to a large degree by the uncontrolled growth of trade tariffs and prices for food. The reasons for this situation, in particular, include the growth of world prices for energy carriers and food, the cessation of subsidizing the export of dairy products in the EU countries, the sharp expansion of biofuel production, as well as the excess of the increase in production costs for domestic products as compared to the growth of revenues earned by selling them,

– Financial instability in most sectors of the agroindustrial complex due to the instability of agricultural products, raw materials and food markets accumulated by the decapitalization, insufficient inflow of private investments for agricultural development, weak development of insurance in agricultural production, which increases its dependence on weather conditions,

– Deficit of qualified personnel caused mainly by a low level and quality of life in rural areas. The slowdown in economic growth in agriculture, the lack of conditions for alternative employment in the countryside, and the historically low level of development of social and engineering infrastructure have substantiated social problems of the village. About 60% of rural residents have an average income, and 35% – the income below the subsistence level, while in the whole country it is 13.2% [2].

At the same time, the agroindustrial complex has been and remains one of the largest and vitally important sectors of the Russian economy. Its state and efficiency of functioning largely determine the state of the entire economy. It closely interacts in terms of resources and production with more than 50 branches of the country and produces about 4.2% of the gross regional product in 2016 (Figure 1).

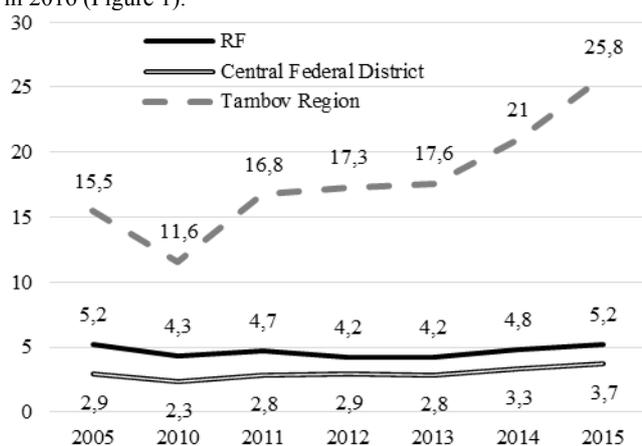


Fig. 1: Share of Agriculture in the Sectoral Structure of Gross Value Added in Current Basic Prices, % [3]

In 2016, in farms of all categories the index of agricultural production (in comparable prices) was 104.8%, and exceeded the target indicator of the State Program by 1.7 percentage points [4].

The complex of measures of state support aimed at expanding access of agricultural producers to credit resources, compensation of a part of direct incurred costs for the creation and modernization of the agroindustrial complex objects caused an increase in

the index of the physical volume of investments in the fixed capital of the industry (+27.2 percentage points as compared to 2015 and +9.3 percentage points as compared to the target index of the State Program in 2016) [5].

In 2015-2017, the State Program for the Development of Agriculture and Regulation of the Agricultural Products, Raw Materials and Food Markets for 2013-2020 [6] was implemented in the context of the complex and far from unequivocal socio-economic situation related to the ruble devaluation, increased foreign sanctions against Russia and the embargo in response, the globalization of the economy and integration processes in the economic space of the CIS, as well as numerous internal and external risks and threats to sustainable development of agriculture, first of all, as the most vulnerable branch of the agrarian sector of the economy. All together these conditions created a fundamentally new social and economic situation in the countryside and in the agrarian sector, in export and import operations with food products and agricultural raw materials related to the accelerated import substitution in the domestic agro-food market.

3. Discussion

At the same time, some agricultural researchers consider the current policy of import substitution to be inefficient. Thus, at the international conference “Problems of Ensuring Food Safety: National and International Aspects” Professor I.G. Ushachev notes that “At present, the share of food import in the Russian food market exceeds the threshold of food security by 10-15%”. In his opinion, today on average 36% of the Russian food resources are imported, while the threshold indicators for the country’s own food resources include the following: 85% – for meat and meat products, 90% – for milk and dairy products, 80% – for fish and fish products, and 80% – for sugar [7]. The indicators related to providing Russia with its own food resources are calculated by using new rational consumption standards recommended by the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation. However, according to I.G. Ushachev, “... these new standards are definitely underestimated as compared to the ones that had been in force up to now, which causes an excessive optimistic assessment of the food security level” [ibid.].

The conducted analysis showed that in 2016 the growth of agricultural production had allowed to reduce the import of food products and agricultural raw materials. In accordance with the regulations adopted by international organizations, to ensure food security of the country, the share of imported food should not exceed 20% of the total consumption [8]. In Russia, the share of food import for some types exceeds this indicator. However, it is obvious that the current economically stipulated system of foreign economic relations caused a decline in many types of food import (Table 1).

Table 1: Import of Basic Food Products *

| Types of products | Years | | | | | 2017 in % as to 2013 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017** Oct | |
| Fresh and frozen meat (excluding poultry) | 1,289 | 1,015 | 743 | 625.9 | 568.3 | 44.0 |
| Fresh and frozen poultry | 527 | 455 | 254 | 223.7 | 178.3 | 33.8 |
| Fresh and frozen fish | 775 | 650 | 401 | 358.4 | 333.1 | 43.0 |
| Shellfish and mollusks | 96.5 | 90.9 | 47.4 | unavailable | 48.2 | 49.9 |
| Milk and dairy products | 220 | 194 | 200 | 230.2 | 196.5 | 89.3 |
| Butter and other milk fat | 144 | 150 | 94.3 | 102.1 | 85.4 | 59.3 |
| Fresh and chilled tomatoes | 856 | 847 | 665 | unavailable | 411.6 | 48.0 |
| Fresh apples | 1,352 | 1,050 | 880 | unavailable | 540.6 | 39.9 |
| Cereals | 1,512 | 932 | 735 | unavailable | 625.1 | 41.3 |
| Raw sugar | 530 | 666 | 507 | 259.5 | 112.6 | 21.2 |
| White sugar | 80.0 | 289 | 445 | 269.9 | 217 | 271.2 |
| Chocolate and other ready-to-use food containing cacao | 177 | 129 | 71.8 | 75.1 | 87.8 | 49.6 |
| Pasta | 94.7 | 105 | 57.7 | unavailable | 48.8 | 51.5 |

* According to the Federal Customs Service of Russia [8]

** Preliminary data of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia [9]

According to the current data of the Federal Customs Service, in January-September 2016, food and agricultural raw materials for \$17,477.1 mln were imported to the Russian Federation. This is 8.9% less than in January-September 2015 when they had been imported for \$19,187.1 mln [8].

As a result, in 2016 the volume of food products and agricultural raw materials import was \$24.9 bln as compared to \$26.6 bln in 2015. It decreased by 6.3%, mainly due to the reducing physical volumes of purchasing fresh meat and ice cream by 16.2% (down to 860.9 thous. t), fresh and frozen poultry meat by 12.3% (down to 223.7 thous. t), fresh and frozen fish, fish fillets by 10.6% (down to 358.6 thous. t), noncondensed milk and cream by 8.3% (down to 234.3 thous. t), fresh and cooled potatoes – 1.9 times (down to 285.5 thous. t), fresh vegetables by 27.6% (down to 1,344.3 thous. t), citrus fruits by 1.6% (down to 1,526.8 thous. t), pears, quinces and apples fresh by 20.1% (down up to 925.3 thous. t), tea by 5% (down to 164.4 thous. t), cane or beet sugar in the solid state 1.8 times (down to 552.7 thous. t), and tobacco raw materials by 4.2% (down to 194.2 thous. t).

In 2016 in the commodity structure of the Russian import the share of food products and agricultural raw materials was 13.7% as compared to 13.9% in 2014 and 14.5% in 2015 [10].

Thus, the provision with basic food products has considerably increased over the recent period. However, for some types it remains insufficient [10] (Table 2).

Table 2: Level of Self-Sufficiency in Basic Agricultural Products, Raw Materials and Food in the Russian Federation, %

| | Years | | | | | | 2016 as to 2011, p.p. |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | |
| Grain | 97.6 | 97.9 | 98.4 | 98.9 | 99.2 | 99.2 | +1.6 |
| Meat and meat products (as calculated for meat) | 74.0 | 76.1 | 77.3 | 81.9 | 87.2 | 89.7 | +15.7 |
| Milk and dairy products (as calculated for milk) | 81.1 | 80.2 | 76.5 | 77.0 | 79.4 | 81.5 | +0.4 |
| Potatoes | 97.0 | 97.5 | 97.6 | 97.1 | 97.1 | 97.7 | +0.7 |

The threshold values of the Food Security Doctrine in the reporting year were exceeded for grain, vegetable oil, potatoes, sugar (produced from sugar beets), meat and meat products (as calculated for meat). The threshold value for milk and dairy products (as calculated for milk) has not been achieved as compared to the recommended rational amounts of their consumption. In Russia it is the following: meat and meat products – 85%; milk and dairy products – 90%, and fish and fish products – 55% [11].

In most cases the customs and tariff policy that had caused a decrease in the imported food resulted in the growth of the domestic agricultural production profitability.

According to the consolidated report on the profitability of the sold goods, products (works, services) of agricultural crop production organizations, the Russian Federation obtained 30.3%, which was 10.1 p.p. higher than the 2014 indicator (20.2%). As for agricultural livestock organizations, in 2016 in Russia this indicator was 9.8%, which was 7.1 p.p. higher than the indicator of 2013 (2.7%) [5].

4. Results

Assessing the general role and importance of the agroindustrial complex in ensuring the country's food provision, it is necessary to note that the agroindustrial production fulfils an important function of meeting the state's needs in agricultural raw materials and food products. At the present time the problem of producing ecologically clean products and providing the population with healthy and safe food, which is required to prevent diseases caused by the consumption of poor quality food, is of particular importance.

Considering food security, it is necessary to note that its subjects

are the individual, the group of people, the population of the region and the country. The security of the above subjects is the offer of the amount of high quality food that will allow maintaining health, working and creating actively. It depends on many conditions and factors: economic, social, political, industrial and technical that together represent the system of providing food to the population.

All above approaches [8, 12, 13] to defining food security are justified. However, according to the authors, they do not allow assessing the diversity and complexity of this problem. The above definitions do not relate producers, sellers, consumers and government authorities (Figure 2).

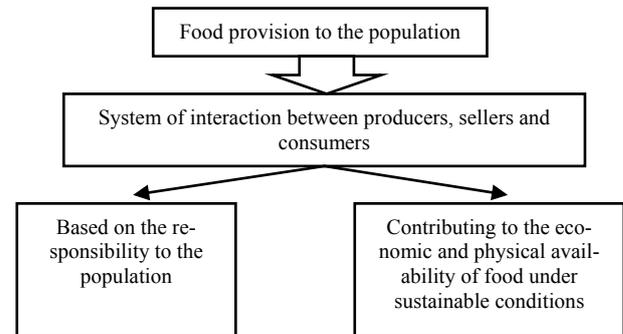


Fig. 2: Structural and Essential Concept of the "Food Security of the Population" Category compiled by using [12, 13]

This circumstance makes it possible to form a hierarchy of the food security system (a pyramid of goals and objectives). In this case the individual, the group of people, the population of a district, a city, a region, or a country form a food supply system for the population of the country, region, city, district, individual.

The food supply of the state and certain regions forms the basis of the system determined by a number of indicators. Some of them are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Some Indicators of the Population's Food Security System, 2016 [11]

| Indicators | Russian Federation, in total | Central Federal District | Tambov Region | Tambov Region in the Russian Federation, % |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Area, thous. km | 17,125.2 | 650.2 | 34.5 | 0.2 |
| Size of the population, thous. persons | 146,804.4 | 39,206.9 | 1,040.3 | 0.7 |
| Average revenues per capita per month, RUB | 30,744 | 39,365 | 26,169 | 85.2 |
| Consumer expenses, on average per capita, per month in RUB | 22,468 | 28,851 | 19,375 | 86.2 |
| Average monthly nominal accrued salary of organizations employees, RUB | 36,709 | 45,943 | 22,975 | 62.6 |
| Investments in the capital stock, mln | 14,639,835 | 3,795,986 | 106,829 | 0.7 |
| Volume of the shipped domestic products, performed works, and services provided by using own resources according to types of the economic activity: processing productions, mln. | 36,166,005 | 12,790,095 | 137,364 | 0.4 |
| Agricultural production, mln. RUB | 5,505,755 | 1,380,055 | 118,080 | 2.1 |
| Trading turnover, bln. RUB | 28,317.7* | 9,531,829.8 | 189,897.1 | 6.7 |

*– in bln. RUB

The food security of each individual depends on the efforts of each certain region. This is the main criterion for achieving and fulfilling the ultimate goal of functioning of the system on providing the population with food.

The region's food security system is a subsystem of the country's food security. This is the main link in the system on providing the population with food. At the same time, the region (regions) is a system-forming basic element. To a large extent, it solves the problem of efficient functioning of the system.

The organization of providing the region's population with food should be considered taking into account 1) the specifics of the socio-economic development of the region, 2) differentiated income of the population, 3) regulation of supply and demand in the food market, and 4) the use of modern methods of forecasting the development of socio-economic processes.

It follows thence that the role and place of the region in the country's food supply system are determined by the ability of the regional system to solve tasks on achieving the ultimate goal of food self-sufficiency within administrative-territorial entities. This statement is stipulated by the fact that all levels of the food security system pursue one and the same goal – to maintain the human health that determines the person's ability to actively work and create [13]. It means that the goals of the system and subsystem coincide. The means for achieving the goal – to ensure accessibility, sufficiency and safety of food – are the same, too. Consequently, the implementation of the principle of food self-sufficiency at the regional level will largely determine the efficiency of the food security system functioning and the achievement of the ultimate goal of its functioning by the country, as a whole.

The region's food security system will be considered in details by using a certain example.

The Tambov Region is the 13th among Russian regions in terms of the value of gross agricultural output (Table 4) [14].

Table 4: Place and Role of the Tambov Region in the Russian Economy

| Region | Gross regional product | | Agricultural products in farms of all categories | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| | 2015 | | 2015 | | 2016 |
| | mln. RUB | % | mln. RUB | mln. RUB | % |
| Tambov Region | 344,879.6 | 0.53 | 128,701 | 118,080 | 2.1 |
| Central Federal District | 22,713,911.1 | 34.9 | 1,341,797 | 1,380,055 | 25.06 |
| Russian Federation | 64,997,039.3 | 100 | 5,164,877 | 5,505,755 | 100 |

In 2016, the value of gross agricultural output amounted to RUB 118,080 mln, and the volume of shipped products of the processing industry amounted to RUB 137,364 mln. In 2016 the index of the value of gross agricultural output as compared to 2015 was 0.94.

The Tambov Region occupies 1.2% of farmland, and produces 2.1% of the agricultural products in the Russian Federation. Its land resources are more than 3.4 mln ha, and the arable land is 2.0 mln ha [11].

In crop raising, the main efforts of agrarians aim at increasing production, improving its quality through introducing highly productive cultivars and the wider use of modern resource-saving technologies.

In 2016 the gross harvest of cereals as weighted after refining amounted to 3,250.4 thous. t, while the yield was 32.6 c/ha. It allowed holding position 11 by this indicator in the Russian Federation and ensuring a sharp increase in the labor productivity in crop production [11] (Figure 3).

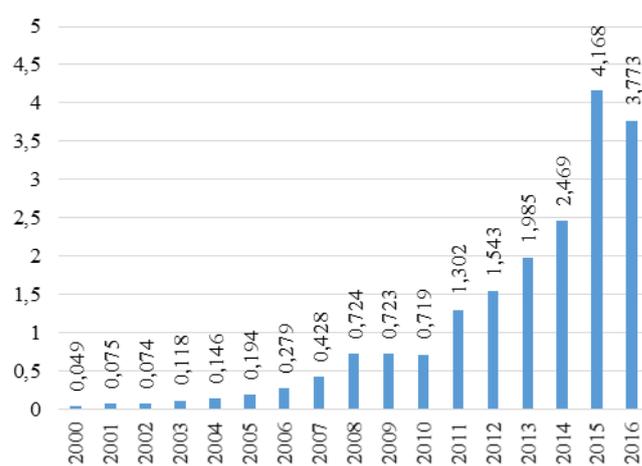


Fig. 3: Dynamics of the Gross Value of Crop Production Per 1 Employee, Tambov Region, mln. RUB

The 2016 spring-field campaign was complicated by unfavorable weather conditions – from soil over moistening to atmospheric drought. The target indicator for the sown area was fulfilled by 93%. At the same time, the reason for the downward dynamics was also the decline in the crop production volumes as compared to the 2015 indicators that were record over the recent decades of 2015 [15].

As the grain production increases, capacities for its storage and deep processing grow, too. Thus, elevator complexes with storage capacity of 350 thous. t have been built, and by 2020 it is planned to increase the volume of one-time storage up to 2.48 mln t. By 2020, taking into account the introduction of livestock complexes, the production of feed-stuff will increase up to 1.9 mln t, and the volumes of own grain processing will grow from 31.2% to 80.7% [15].

In 2016 the use of modern technologies allowed to obtain high gross harvest of sugar beet – 4,506.2 thous. t with the yield of 448.4 c/ha. In addition, the Tambov Region is the fifth in the Russian rating by sugar beet harvested in 2016, as well as the eighth among the regions that made the greatest contributions to the gross harvest of sunflower seeds in the test weight in the country (571.2 thous. t) [11].

In cattle breeding, the increase in the production of pork and poultry meat is the most intensive. The development of export opportunities in the meat processing industry will make it possible to export products with high added value rather than raw agricultural resources. The region is the 11th among the subjects of the Russian Federation by the production of livestock and poultry meat in the slaughter weight – 257.1 thous. t. The Tambov Region produces more than 200.0 thous. t of pork per year, and is among top three producers in Russian regions by the number of pigs (991.2 thous. animal units), and the top twenty according to the production of poultry [11].

Over the recent year, poultry meat production capacities in the amount of 200,000 tons have been introduced on a phase basis at the *Tambov Indeyka* and the *Tokarevskaya Poultry Plant* that employed almost 1,000 people [15].

At the same time, cattle breeding shows a decrease in the number of cattle in the sector of personal subsidiary farms: at the end of the last year it amounted to 55.4 thous. animal units (79% as to the level of 2015). Unfortunately, this is a general trend for most regions of the Central Federal District and for Russia, as a whole. Although at the same time, for example, the Tambov Region is the 4th in the Central Federal District according to the milk production at peasant farm enterprises [11].

The studies show that food security at the regional level is associated with the existing classification of Russian regions into producing (exporting), self-supporting and consuming (importing). This classification is based on natural conditions of agriculture, the area of agricultural land per capita, the level of providing food

per capita, the state of the material and technical base for the production and processing of agricultural products, the development of the transport system that establishes relations between food suppliers and consumers from other regions and countries, the level of the population's purchasing power, regional and national

traditions of food consumption, etc. [13]. Regional differences in the level and structure of the main types of food in the Tambov Region were developed under the impact of these factors. Table 5 shows it.

Table 5: Balance of Food Resources in the Tambov Region [11]

| Years | Meat and poultry excluding by-products, t | | Cheeses and cheese products, t | | Vegetable fats, t | | Grain and grain legumes flour, thous. t. | | Sugar, t | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|--------|----------|---------|
| | import | export | import | export | import | export | import | export | import | export |
| 2005 | 3,885 | 295 | 1,505 | 5,995 | 1,112 | 22,952 | 12.0 | 38.7 | 47,426 | 411,731 |
| 2010 | 5,380 | 378 | 468 | 9,135 | 3,018 | 54,594 | 7.7 | 95.8 | 131,273 | 356,684 |
| 2011 | 5,688 | 186 | 445 | 7,033 | 2,351 | 53,193 | 10.7 | 83.5 | 175,683 | 638,569 |
| 2012 | 21,014 | 2,861 | 729 | 7,614 | 1,367 | 53,820 | 9.7 | 47.3 | 181,493 | 329,527 |
| 2013 | 17,687 | 17,742 | 1,240 | 7,066 | 6,361 | 58,736 | 30.0 | 63.0 | 162,934 | 371,372 |
| 2014 | 22,818 | 33,126 | 580 | 7,972 | 9,716 | 68,821 | 33.1 | 59.5 | 202,012 | 377,877 |
| 2015 | 19,154 | 52,346 | 662 | 10,782 | 4,644 | 42,284 | 80.8 | 61.0 | 214,736 | 491,637 |
| 2016 | 15,486 | 57,890 | 585 | 7,571 | 2,147 | 84,254 | 89.4 | 178.0 | 275,973 | 351,488 |

According to the level of self-sufficiency, the region has opportunities to increase its own production or to import cereals, cereals products and certain types of livestock products (milk, eggs) from other regions. At the same time, as for such types of products as meat and poultry meat, except for byproducts, cheeses and cheese products, vegetable fats, flour of cereals and leguminous crops, sugar, the Tambov Region has all export opportunities (Figure 4).

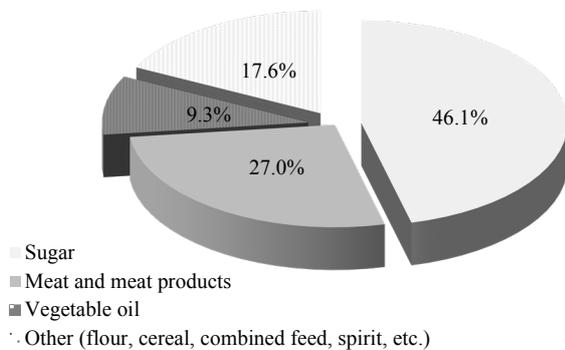


Fig. 4: Structure of Shipped Goods Produced Domestically (Food Products, including Beverages and Tobacco), Tambov Region, 2016 [4]

Taking into account the specifics of the region defined as self-sustaining for most types of goods, it is possible to conclude that the main means of the state influence on the region's food self-sufficiency is to pursue a protectionist policy towards local commodity producers. This activity is based on a number of principles. The most important of them is the maximum use of the region's natural and economic potentials based on deepening the agricultural specialization, and concentration of raw materials production near processing enterprises.

In addition, it is necessary to pay considerable attention to improving soil fertility, breeding and breeding work.

The most important factors that have impact on the population's food consumption and make up the basis of forecasting include the level of monetary income, the purchasing power of the population's per capita, monetary income, effective demand for agricultural products, raw materials and food, production potential of the region's agriculture and processing industry, the dynamics of prices for agricultural products, and the availability of substitute products in the market and their range (Table 6) [2].

Table 6: Comparative Analysis of Indicators Related to Consuming Some Food Per Year Per Capita [11]

| Years | Meat and meat products, kg | | | Milk and dairy products, kg | | | Vegetables and melons and gourds products, kg | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | RF | Central Federal District | Tambov Region | RF | Central Federal District | Tambov Region | RF | Central Federal District | Tambov Region |
| 2005 | 55 | 59 | 53 | 234 | 223 | 196 | 87 | 79 | 97 |
| 2010 | 69 | 76 | 62 | 247 | 231 | 193 | 101 | 92 | 94 |
| 2011 | 71 | 77 | 64 | 246 | 229 | 185 | 106 | 97 | 96 |
| 2012 | 74 | 81 | 71 | 249 | 233 | 178 | 109 | 100 | 100 |
| 2013 | 75 | 83 | 74 | 248 | 233 | 179 | 109 | 101 | 104 |
| 2014 | 74 | 82 | 74 | 244 | 226 | 179 | 111 | 101 | 103 |
| 2015 | 73 | 81 | 77 | 239 | 221 | 176 | 111 | 102 | 104 |
| 2016 | 74 | 81 | 72 | 236 | 217 | 167 | 112 | 102 | 104 |
| Position in the RF in 2016 | * | 1 | 30 | * | 6 | 74 | * | 5 | 49 |

Analyzing the per capita consumption of the main groups of food in the region, the authors reveal the following dynamics: according to the results of 2016, the population consumed bakery products and milk by 9.8% and 6.6% more, respectively, as compared to the whole country. As for meat, it was on the average level in the Russian Federation. At the same time, citizens consume less eggs, vegetables and milk as compared to the national average. Unbalanced, inadequate nutrition can cause dietary restrictions and the diet imbalance, as well as shortage of calories vitally needed by the person.

5. Conclusion

Thus, according to the authors, functioning of the agroindustrial complex that meets the requirements of improving the standard of the population's life and the food security of the country should be characterized by qualitative, quantitative and socio-economic parameters that would ensure a sustainable and more complete satisfaction of its needs in agricultural products, raw materials and food by mobilizing the potential of the domestic agroindustrial production and, above all, agriculture.

To do this, it is necessary to ensure the balanced functioning of the agroindustrial complex and its most important branch – agriculture in the form of expanded reproduction by using the innovative and

investment way of development, to rationalize the structure of foreign trade, to develop and improve interregional food and raw materials' ties, to deepen the territorial and sectoral division of labor in the agroindustrial complex, to form large-scale specialized zones for the production of certain types of agricultural products, to stimulate cooperation, to create the required legislative, organizational, economic and administrative conditions that exclude criminalization in the production system, and especially the sale of agricultural products, raw materials and food, and to ensure the efficiency of state regulation of economic processes associated with the production, marketing and use of agricultural products, raw materials and food.

In addition to the above directions that are peculiar of all Russian regions, the Tambov Region has a number of peculiarities that make it possible to formulate the following areas for the food security development in the region:

- Reconstruction of the existing dairy farms and commissioning of new dairy complexes that implement modern technologies of keeping and feeding animals, and also stimulate the development of production through sales cooperation,
- Parallel development of a flexible system of agrarian education that allows preparing personnel "on a turnkey basis", approbation of a regional standard for the industrial growth of staff,
- Transfer of the intellectual activity results to the agrarian sector, the translation of using the cluster approach when training personnel for the agroindustrial complex and dual training in other regions and abroad,
- Strengthening of state support for hard redeeming capital intensive high-technology productions (dairy and pig complexes, modern greenhouses, deep processing facilities), and
- Strategic partnership of agroindustrial enterprises, educational institutions and executive authorities.

Thus, the problem of food provision under consideration is extremely important for the country as a whole, and for its certain regions.

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