

SPEECH
of Igor Shvaika,
the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine
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Dear Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all allow me to express my gratitude to the authorities of both Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization for organizing of this important event. The matter of provision of quality and accessible food is the important factor in forming the national food strategy and health maintenance in every country.

This conference is definitely of a great importance in exchange of ideas, acknowledging of challenges we face both in national and international levels, in coordination of positions and planning further joint steps towards overcome of these challenges.

Agriculture today is one of the most perspective branches in Ukraine's economy. The Agrarian complex generates the significant part of GDP (over 8 percent) and provides jobs for 3 million peoples, which is 15% of employed population.

Ukrainian agriculture ensures the country population with quality, safe, accessible food in a stable manner. Up to 90 percent of food products in Ukraine are domestically made.

We indicate the growth of industrial production in food-processing industry.

At the same time, the level of family expenditures for food products is considerably high, and constitutes 50,1% of total family budget.

Considering the above, the matter of providing the quality and balanced nutrition lies in insufficient purchasing power of people.

Despite the actual consumption of majority of basic food remained on the level or higher then rational rates, the consumption rate of meat, fish, milk and their products, as well as fruits was 30 to 40 percent lower comparing to the rational consumption rates.

With this I would like to point out that comparing to the previous year we had the minor growth in consumption of these products.

It is also worth to mention, that the consumption of such products as vegetables, bread and bakery, potatoes, and eggs were above the rational rates, which is the evidence of imbalance in people's nutrition, who try to satisfy its energy needs with more economically acceptable food. With this, the increase in consumption of more energetically rich products, such as meat, fish and fruit have led to the reduction in consumption of bread and bakery to 13,2% comparing to the year of 2000. This means that we have the tendency of movement to the more harmonic and balanced nutrition.

Overall, analyzing the statistics of the recent decade, we can see that Ukraine has the sustainable tendency towards the increase in food variety in the consumer basket, and is also more balanced nutrition of people.

At the same time, hyponutrition in all of its forms is the key problem worldwide, and in Ukraine as well.

As in majority of European countries, abundance of chronic noninfectious diseases is the priority problem in public healthcare.

Commitment of Ukraine to the principles and basic documents adopted by the UN and WHO creates the possibilities to take decisive actions in precaution of noninfectious diseases and health promotion, especially in actions aimed to support improvement of nutrition, both fighting malnutrition and obesity and overweight.

With the support of WHO Regional Office for Europe we have developed the National action plan for precaution and control of NCD.

We will implement the actions on reduction of salt consumption, elimination of transfats from technologically processed food products, promotion of healthier models of school meals, and increase of people's knowledge about healthy nutrition as the priority actions.

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine developed the Methodological recommendations to general practice and family doctors on consulting the patients regarding healthy nutrition.

On its side, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine takes measures for more effective exploitation of the agricultural potential of the country, and further increase in food production.

The main goal of the state agrarian policy is quality reform of core branches in agrarian complex. That will create favorable conditions in implementing of the financial instruments and mechanisms of finances attraction into agriculture, mostly as an investments.

The effective policy, including legislative initiatives, educational and informational actions will be coordinated between governmental bodies, scientific institutions and NGOs.

With signing and ratification of the Association agreement between Ukraine and the EU, we irrevocably defined our civilization vector of development. For the time being we actively work over harmonization of our national legislation with the requirements of the European Union, especially in the sphere of technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as food product's quality and safety standards.

However, to improve the activity in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary measures the technical assistance is provided by the European Union in carrying out the institutional reform in the framework of Comprehensive Institution Building Programme (CIB) which is a part of the "Eastern Partnership" initiative by European Union, particularly EU Project "Improvement of Food Safety Control System in Ukraine" (hereinafter – EU Project).

Main objectives of the EU Project are:

- improvement of the control system;
- support of further institutional reform;
- approximate Ukrainian legislation in food safety area to EU legislation;
- modernization and optimization of national information and data management systems.

As of today the new Laws on food safety and animal identification are signed by the President. Nevertheless the work is continually ongoing and in

the nearest time further regulations on feed and state control in this area will be approved.

Despite the difficult conditions our country finds itself in result of occupation of the Crimean peninsular, and burst of separatism in our eastern regions which, with support of the neighboring state, have become the area of severe and full-scale combat zone, Ukraine was and remains one of the major players on the international food market. More then quarter – 27% - of country's total export – is agricultural products.

Therefore, Ukraine has permission on export to the EU Member States:

- sea fish (for human consumption);
- honey;
- products of animal origin not for human consumption (animal by-products);
- according to the Regulation (EU) № 88/2013 of 31.01.2013 amending Decision № 2007/777/EC and Regulation (EC) № 798/2008 Ukraine is included in the list of third countries from which export of poultry meat and products from them, eggs and egg products is permitted to the European Union.

Moreover, the verification visit of FVO inspectors, which was held from 22 of September to 03 of October 2014 in order to evaluate system control of milk products for human consumption intended for export to the European Union, is already finished.

Integrating deeper into the world economy, Ukraine nowadays is one of the biggest food producers worldwide constantly increasing its export of food and agricultural raw materials, contributing into provision of global food security.

Ukraine is meaningful and ready for further active, broad and mutually fruitful integration into global food market. This is one of the top priorities of Ukraine's national policy.