
THE PROBLEM OF FOOD SHORTAGE AND MEASURES TO SOLVE IT

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ABSTRACT: Nowadays, many people are suffering due to the problem of food shortage, which is becoming a topical issue. Mainly, improper irrigation of lands destroys soil structure. This leads to a decrease in the productivity of agricultural products. Excessive use of pesticides and herbicides to protect products from various pests has a negative impact on human health. In order to avoid such negative consequences, it is advisable to establish proper irrigation and to grow natural, clean products as much as possible.

KEYWORDS: Pesticide, herbicide, UN, clean ecological product, famine, Stockholm, democratic explosion, urbanization.

INTRODUCTION

There are living organisms that need to be constantly fed during life. Therefore, the demand for the cultivation and production of human food products is extremely high. Due to the increase in population, this demand is increasing. To meet this demand, it is necessary to grow many agricultural products. The planet Earth is big, and its useful land is 13.5 billion hectares. In particular, 1.4 billion hectares are used for cultivation of cultivated plants, and 1.1 billion hectares have become useless. Currently, there are 0.4-0.9 billion hectares of land left on our planet.

Depletion of fertile land leads to a decrease in the productivity of agricultural products. This, in turn, causes the problem of food shortage.

The Russian economist K. Malin noted that only when cultivated plants are grown on land, 50 billion people can be fed with their harvest, sea products and single-celled algae are multiplied, and when their productivity is used, 290 billion people can be provided with food [1].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Currently, 2/3 of the world's population is not provided with quality food products. In addition, for 50 percent of the population, hunger has become the order of the day. Every year, 30-50 million people around the world die of hunger. The population is growing at a rapid rate. In particular, in 1930 it was 2 billion, in 1960 it was 3 billion, in 1986 it was 5 billion, and now the world population

is about 8 billion. In this case, a person eats food equal to his weight every month. According to scientists, a person needs 630-750 grams of wheat per day, and 200-274 kg of wheat per year [1]. The increase in the population is leading to an increase in the problem of food shortage. According to UN data, 153 million people in 53 countries live in the worst form of hunger. Hunger has become the order of the day during the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 1). In 2020, hunger among people increased by 18 percent compared to previous years. In the early stages of the pandemic, more than 370 million school children in 195 countries suffered from hunger [5].



Figure 1. The problem of food shortages during the pandemic

According to the findings of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, there are two main causes of hunger;

1. Climate change - Gross national agricultural productivity has fallen by 21 percent since the 1960s. It is especially high in warm regions, Africa, Latin America, and Caribbean countries, that is, it is 24-34 percent, according to research conducted by Cornell University with the support of the US Department of Agriculture.
2. Armed conflicts. 60% of the population suffering from food shortages live in countries where armed conflict has intensified, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and South Sudan. In particular, more than 30 million people live in Yemen, of which 16 million need constant food [5].

According to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, the increase in food prices and the shortage of products in European and African countries are causing famine. According to the analyzes of the World Bank, the increase in food prices will further impoverish about 100 million people [3].



Figure 2. Famine

In order to combat food shortages, it is necessary to establish proper irrigation of agricultural products first. Because many lands have become unusable due to improper irrigation, resulting in reduced productivity and food shortages. In addition, the demographic explosion, i.e., the sharp increase in the number of the population, the fact that the cultivation of wheat products lags behind the growth of the population in the provision of food, the high level of underdevelopment of agriculture in some countries, the intensification of the process of urbanization, depending on the export stay situations are also causing food shortages [4]. In the second half of the 20th century, as a result of the large amount of chemicals used in the production of agricultural products, that is, pesticides and herbicides, the quality of the products was damaged, and the people who consumed them suffered from various diseases [2]. In order to prevent such negative consequences from repeating, it is necessary to establish the production of environmentally friendly and high-quality products.

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