

WHEAT-FLOUR POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC KAZAKHSTAN 1954-2023**Elov Farrukh Akmalovich**1st year master degree of Journalism and

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ABSTRACT: Food has increasingly become a matter of geopolitics. A growing and increasingly affluent world population, increasing use of biofuels, and slowing agricultural productivity growth have led to a tightening of the global food market. In these market conditions, crop failures and policy measures contribute to higher food prices and price volatility. Today's global food security challenge is different from that of the past.

Key words: Blocked, Virgin Land, centner, hectares, OECD(The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), hyperinflation, Geographic information systems (GIS), breadbasket.

We can divide into 3 period studying the steam-flour policy in Kazakhstan .

1. Wheat-flour policy in the Kazakh SSR in 1954-1990
- 2.The period of 1991-2000
- 3.The last decades: 2001-2023 years

Capital: Alma-Ata (1929-1997), Astana (Akmola, Nur-Sultan) since 1997

Population: 19,828,165

Provinces: 17

Major cities: Shymkent, Astana, Alma-Ata

Area: 2,700,000 sq. km

Neighbors are Russia. China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan

Azerbaijan, Iran through the Caspian Sea

Kazakhstan is the largest country in the world that is "blocked" in access to the ocean.

Food has increasingly become a matter of geopolitics. A growing and increasingly affluent world population, increasing use of biofuels, and slowing agricultural productivity growth have led to a tightening of the global food market. In these market conditions, crop failures and policy measures contribute to higher food prices and price volatility. Today's global food security challenge is different from that of the past.

The international system is in transition to a multipolar world in which several power centers compete with each other. In a multipolar world, the international system is characterized by high uncertainty and a high probability of international tensions. At the same time, some countries are seeing a resurgence of resource nationalism, which means that the state plays a more pronounced role in supporting, owning and managing business and strategic sectors such as agriculture and mining.

This situation began to show its height in the 20th century. In the USSR, which wanted to build communism, after the 2nd World War, the policy of planting wheat on gray and dry land began in Kazakhstan from 1954. A large area of northern Kazakhstan was allocated for this test operation. The Virgin Lands Campaign (Russian: Osvoyeniye tseliny, Kazakh: Тын производителі. [tan lǰeryw]) was Nikita Khrushchev's 1953 plan to end the food crisis of the Soviet population and dramatically increase the agricultural production of the Soviet Union. Hundreds of thousands of young volunteers settled in the regions of Western Siberia and Northern Kazakhstan and engaged in farming. Although this scheme was initially successful, it ultimately turned out to be a failure for Soviet agriculture.

In the 2nd period (1991-2000), Kazakhstan tried to transition from Soviet agro-industry to world agro-industry. Grain production has been and continues to be relatively low yield. Even in favorable years (1986-1990) the yield was only 10.8 tons/ha. Large areas, including arable land, were plowed, resulting in a large gross harvest and grain preparation. Productivity was 5-6 centner/hectares in 1913, 3-4 during the war years (1941-1945), 4.4-7 centner/hectares in post-war years 1946-1950. In the following years, it stabilized at the level of 9-11 centner/hectares. In December 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed. The agricultural sector, like the economy as a whole, has been adversely affected by disruptions in access and supply chains to markets. In January 1992, Kazakhstan, like other Soviet successor states, adopted the ruble as its common currency. Russia was forced to follow the price reform. Price liberalization and trade liberalization changed the incentive structure, and most farmers worked in undestroyed product markets in the second half of the 1990s. The 2nd period of the wheat-flour policy in Kazakhstan was somewhat difficult. In the early days of independence, a large part of the intelligentsia left the country, especially citizens of German, Ukrainian, and partly Russian nationality.

In the 1990s, agricultural policy was largely neglected. Trade policy was fairly liberal, with moderate import tariffs and few tariff peaks or non-tariff barriers for agricultural trade. Estimates of OECD support for wheat producers in Russia and Ukraine were very positive until 1991, and then dropped sharply to zero or negative values in 1992. A similar picture applies almost exclusively to Kazakhstan, as price liberalization has eroded the benefit of obtaining basic products below world prices. During the hyperinflation period of 1992-1994, farm input prices were at least twice as high as output prices (1998). Agricultural subsidies fell from 10-12 percent of GDP before 1991 to 2-3 percent in 1993, and agricultural subsidies were negligible in 1995 and 1999. Some farmers faced local monopsonistic buyers for their products (for example, cotton gins, dairies, grain merchants, or flour mills), and trading costs were high for all producers. construction increased pressure on changes in agriculture. Privatization mostly broke up large farms, but in practice many farms remained largely unstructured. When farms went bankrupt in the second half of the 1990s. farmers in agriculture. mechanics and others received land or machinery in lieu of wages.

The population growth rate did not differ much, that is, in 1959, the population of Kazakhstan was 9,295,000, and in 1989 it was 1,653,700.

According to the International Grains Council (IGC), world wheat production in the 2018/19 season is 731 million tons. Wheat, which plays an important role in both human nutrition and animal nutrition, is produced in Kazakhstan. 22.7 million tons of wheat were grown in Kazakhstan in the 2011/12 season. In the 2018/19 season, the production volume was 13.9 million tons. In the 2011/12 season, wheat was grown on 13.7 million hectares. In the 2018/19 season, wheat was grown on 11.3 million hectares. In the 2018/19 season, the yield per hectare was 1228 kilograms. Kazakhstan's wheat consumption in 2018/19 was 6.4 million tons. Kazakhstan exported 4.3 million tons of wheat to other countries in 2017/18.

Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to describe the vulnerability of Kazakhstan's agriculture to drought or climate change trends. Geographic information systems (GIS) have been used to display data on climate change, drought, and wheat. The study found that linear rates of 70-year (1950-2020) annual mean surface temperature in Kazakhstan have increased significantly (0.31°C per decade), precipitation trends, and drought. The changing trends of poverty are also unclear. Wheat yield exhibits strong internal variability, and wheat yield is significantly correlated with 3-month June and July drought indices from 1950–2020.

Weather and climate change North Kazakhstan region occupies the southern edges of the West Siberian plain and part of the Kazakh mountains (Sari-Arka). The territory of the province is about 98 thousand square kilometers, which is equal to 3.6% of the total area of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The climate of Northern Kazakhstan is characterized by a clear continental nature. This region has cold winters and hot summers. From 2020 to 2022, the average temperature in January was -14.1°C , and in July it was $+20.9^{\circ}\text{C}$. Average annual rainfall from 2020 to 2022 amount is 306.25 mm, and 66% of precipitation falls in the hot season (from April to October). The snow cover of the region usually lasts for five months (November-March). In this area, the area of the main crops is about 4325 thousand hectares (4361 thousand hectares in 2022, 4332 thousand hectares in 2021, 4283 thousand hectares in 2020) are constituted the share of cereal crops, including the share of the Region's gross wheat harvest (including autumn and spring wheat) was 23% of the total wheat produced in the republic in the last three years. Figure 1 shows the wheat area in the study area in 2021. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the average wheat yield in the North Kazakhstan region in 2020-2022 was 1250 kg per hectare.

Wheat production in Kazakhstan is a major contributor to food security in Central Asia and beyond, and it has become even more important in 2022 after the recent spike in world food prices. Therefore, timely and reliable estimates of Kazakhstan's wheat production are important for food security planning and management.

In this study, a statistical weather-based crop model was developed that can successfully predict wheat yield at the provincial level two months before harvest. Wheat yield from 1993 to 2021 by running the full model, based on yield estimates, yield estimates of 0.86 to 0.73 percent of total wheat production for Kazakhstan were provided. It showed total wheat production in Kazakhstan for 2022 at 12.4 million tons and an average yield of 0.96 tons per hectare, which is 5 percent higher than the 2021 harvest and yield (assuming equal area). The statistical model works with public data on weather and yield and requires low computing power, making it easily replicable. The forecast model can be used as a complement to current forecasting methods to support the food needs of Central Asian countries.

Global wheat production is fundamental to food security, providing more than 20% of global caloric intake (Lephuthing et al., 2021). At the same time, cereal prices reached record highs following the

Russian invasion of Ukraine in spring 2022, which exacerbated existing food market tensions (Glauben et al., 2022) and accelerated energy price increases. The war comes on top of existing problems that have already disrupted the agricultural commodity market: the recent extreme events that are mounting under the COVID-19 pandemic, shipping restrictions, ermine degradation and human-made climate change (Barbier and Hochard, 2018, Behnassi and El Haiba, 2022, Nikas, 2022). Subsequently, high prices and grain shortages seriously affect food security in some vulnerable food-importing countries (Behnassi and El Khaiba, 2022). This further increases the importance of reliable wheat production in high-yielding areas. One such region is Kazakhstan, in 2020 the country ranked 14th in wheat production with over 14 million tons. It accounts for about 70% of the production of Ukraine and 17% of the product of the Russian Federation (National Bureau of Statistics of Kazakhstan, 2022, FAO, 2022a). Together, the three countries have often become the "breadbasket" of the world (Swinen et al., 2017). Wheat production in Kazakhstan is important for the food security of the entire region, as the majority of wheat exports go to other Central Asian countries and the quality of the wheat is high (Schierhorn et al., 2020, USDA, 2010). However, Kazakhstan has shown variability in annual wheat production since 1992, ranging from 4.7 to 22.7 million tons (FAO, 2022).

Cultivation of rainfed wheat in Kazakhstan largely depends on weather conditions. The impact of precipitation could be seen in the dry 2021, where production was 21% lower than the previous year (Kazakhstan National Bureau of Statistics, 2022). Agricultural production is at risk due to intensive land degradation and the trend towards desertification, salinization and reduced soil fertility (Saparov, 2014). In addition, the Asian arid zone in which Kazakhstan is located is particularly sensitive to climate change and has experienced above-average global land surface temperatures in the past (Salnikov et al., 2015, Schierhorn et al., 2020).

The export share of wheat also showed high variability, with values ranging from 20% to 65% of annual production (USDA, 2010). Kazakhstan exported nearly 9 million tons of grain in 2021 (FAO, 2022b) and ranked 12th in terms of wheat exports (WITS, 2022) - Kazakhstan's main wheat importers are Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan (USDA, 2022b), which highlights its importance. Cultivation of Kazakh wheat for food security in Central Asia. Wheat trade in the region has been halted and disrupted by Russia's restrictions on grain exports, political uncertainty following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and pandemic-related border restrictions, particularly in China. This has led to increased exports to several countries outside of Central Asia, notably Italy, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, while Central Asia and Afghanistan remain the main export destinations for Kazakhstan's grain (USDA, 2022b). Due to unfavorable climatic conditions (short growing season with high summer temperatures and harsh winter temperatures, as well as limited water) and low usage (fertilizers and pesticides), wheat yields in Kazakhstan are generally low compared to other high-yielding countries. (Schierhorn et al., 2020). Kazakhstan has the highest wheat productivity among high-yielding countries, reaching 70% (Senapati et al., 2022).

Kazakhstan's grain quota follows Moscow's March 10 decision to freeze grain exports to Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) members, including Kazakhstan, until August 31. from 117,000 tenge to 150,000 tenge per ton. This deprived Kazakh flour millers of the opportunity to obtain cheap grain and led to the closure of a number of mill complexes, reports Eldala.Kz.

However, on March 31, the Russian government lifted the ban on grain exports to the CIS members. According to the press release of the Russian government, CIS members can import grain from Russia, but only after obtaining permission from the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia. At the "Asia

Grain & Oil 2022" conference, Yevgeny Karabanov, the official representative of the Kazakhstan Grain Union, said that Russia also demanded that the CIS countries introduce their restrictions on the supply of grain to non-CIS countries.

Kazakhstan's grain economy has become dependent on Russia for two reasons. First, due to the membership of the EAEU and the short distance of transport, the import of cheap Russian grain serves as a stabilizing factor for domestic grain prices in Kazakhstan. Second, the main route for the export of Kazakhstan's grain is the railway lines passing through Russian territory that connect Kazakhstan with Ukraine, Belarus and the European Union.

These railway connections are left over from the Soviet era. The Soviet transport network was concentrated in Russia and other Soviet republics, and there were almost no connections with the outside world. Kazakhstan's desert terrain and the transportation infrastructure built around it largely explain its grain trade pattern. Currently, Kazakhstan exports its grain to Iran and the South Caucasus through the Caspian Sea, to the Middle East through Russia and the Black Sea, and to Eastern Europe through Russia.

But the most important markets remain in the food-deficit countries of Central Asia, i.e. in the south. is an important supporting infrastructure. The largest importing countries of Kazakhstan grain are Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Outside these areas, Afghanistan is a major destination for Kazakhstan's grain, as it exports grain through Uzbekistan via the railway line from Termez to Hayraton in Afghanistan.

The starting point for Kazakhstan's dream of becoming a major grain producer is first and foremost to find new export routes, to ensure that a growing population has enough grain to meet its needs, and to provide grain to local farmers. is to change grain trade by offering competitive market prices. ulamin grains. Located in the far eastern part of the European wheat belt, Kazakhstan is the 12th largest producer of wheat in the world and the sixth largest exporter of wheat.

Factors hindering the development of wheat-flour geopolitics of Kazakhstan:

- Russian-Ukrainian war
- Transportation
- Dependence of the harvest on the weather
- Lack of qualified personnel (specialist)
- Slow selection work
- The occupation of Afghanistan by the Taliban
- Global climate change
- Increasing risk of desertification
- Urbanization
- Most of the techniques (including mills) have been used since the former USSR

Developmental factors of the geopolitics of Kazakhstan:

- Russia-Ukraine war

- GDP above 10,000 USD
- The presence of a border with China (useful in solving technical problems)
- High demand for Kazakh wheat in the south (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan...)
- The presence of a port on the Caspian Sea
- Population growth, albeit slowly
- Immigrants
- State subsidization of farmers, availability of low-interest loans.

In conclusion, grain cultivation is carried out at an average intensive level in the republic, as well as in the regions of Northern Kazakhstan. In order to obtain a high-quality and abundant harvest, it is necessary to correctly place crops (zone of the most fertile lands), to create and develop improved varieties with high quality and high performance, to develop and apply systems.

According to the latest data published by the European Commission, Kazakhstan, the largest grain producer in Central Asia, increased its export of durum wheat tenfold in July-November, becoming the fourth largest supplier of European Union (EU). This represents a significant increase from seventh place at the same time last season. From July to November, Kazakhstan exported 169.65 thousand tons of durum wheat to the European Union, compared to 17.32 thousand tons last season.

According to the data, Italy is the main destination of Kazakhstan's solid steam do, importing 128.43 million tons. The next places were occupied by Latvia with 20 thousand tons, Portugal with approximately 9 thousand tons, Spain with 6.39 thousand tons, Belgium with 4.11 thousand tons and Poland with 1.6) 7 thousand tons.

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