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## **FOOD SECURITY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROCESSING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

In Ukraine sufficient amount of vegetables is produced to meet the needs of the population at the expense of domestic production, including 220 kg per person per year in 2012, according to the recommended consumption rate of 161 – 170 kg. Analysis of the realization of vegetables yield shows that 51.1% of the grown yield is realized in other directions and only 41.5% is realized to processing enterprise. So, for this reason, more than the half of grown vegetables does not reach consumers as a food. The main reason is the loss of production at all stages of its moving to the consumer, particularly during storage, where losses reach 35 – 40%. Provision with warehouses is only 70%, and only 30% of them are with refrigeration. Just a small amount of warehouses with refrigeration there are in the country.

Provision of population with fruits of own production in Ukraine is much worse, as insufficient amount of fruits and berries are produced to meet the needs of the population (54 kg per 1 person in 2012, with consumption rate of 75 – 90 kg per capita per year). However, in Ukraine there are sufficient reserves to increase their production. Realization by other directions of fruits and berries – 58%, while to processing enterprises 25.9% of fruits and berries of the grown yield are sold.

Production of juices from fruits and berries in Ukraine is just 9.9 kg per capita in 2012, that is far less than consumption in other countries. Export of infant food is in 2 – 3 times higher than the limit (threshold) value of the indicator of food independence of the country.

To ensure the recommended rates of consumption of fruits and vegetables as a part of the food security of the country, production of the storage of fresh fruits and vegetables and their processing on canned foods should be expanded, especially on juices and infant food.

**Key words:** vegetables, fruits, berries, food security, canned foods