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CREATION OF A CONTROL-EXIT ZONE ON THE LACHIN ROAD IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN RESTORING OUR SOVEREIGNTY

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Summary: The article shows that, contrary to the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020, as a result of the turn a blind eye of Russian peacekeepers, Armenia has been continuously engaged in the transportation of weapons, ammunition and mines via the Lachin road. In order to prevent such illegal situations, the Azerbaijani Border Service has created a control-exit point on the Lachin road. Thus, the entry of weapons, ammunition and military products was prevented. The article also extensively discusses the Victory Parade held in Khankendi on November 8, 2023.

Keywords: eco-activists, checkpoint, statement, sovereignty, Victory Parade.

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RISK MANAGEMENT IN GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL TRADING IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR IN UKRAINE

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The war in Ukraine has become a humanitarian tragedy and a powerful destabilizing factor for the global food system. Before 2022, Ukraine provided up to 10% of world wheat exports, 15% of corn, and over 45% of sunflower oil, being one of the key suppliers of agricultural products to Europe, North Africa, and Asia [1, p. 131]. The cessation or restriction of these supplies adversely affected the balance between demand and supply and became a catalyst for price increases on world exchanges, thereby increasing the risks of food instability for importing countries. Furthermore, disruptions in the supply of Ukrainian products forced international traders to reconsider supply chains, diversify sources of purchase, adapt transportation routes through European land corridors, Danube ports, and the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The risk management system in agricultural trading comprises a set of economic, financial, and logistical instruments aimed at reducing uncertainty in the agri-food trade. In peacetime, key risks were determined mainly by natural and climatic factors, changes in market conditions, currency or demand fluctuations. However, a new spectrum of risks – military, political, logistical, sanction, transport, reputational, and contractual – appeared with the onset of war in Ukraine [2, p. 40] (Table 1).

Table 1. Main risks in global agricultural trading in the context of war in Ukraine

Risk type	Manifestations and consequences
Logistics risks	Blocked Ukrainian seaports, destructed transport infrastructure, shortage of transportation capacities, increased cost of logistics operations, complicated cargo insurance.
Financial risks	Exchange rates fluctuations, limited access to international financial instruments, sanction restrictions for individual market participants, reduced liquidity of insurance markets, and increased cost of financing operations.
Commercial risks	Contract termination caused by force majeure, shortage of agricultural products, violation of obligations under forward contracts, deterioration of the traders' business reputation.
Price risks	Sharp fluctuations in world prices for grain, oil, fertilizers, energy; growth of speculative activity on exchanges; unpredictable changes in profit margins.
Political and regulatory risks	Introduction of new trade barriers, export/import bans, impact of international sanctions, strengthening of state control over the food market, restrictions on currency transactions.
Climate and environmental risks	Increased instability of production caused by weather anomalies, shortages of water and land resources, reduced yields because of military soil contamination and damage to ecosystems.

Source: developed by the author

The presented classification shows that the risks in global agricultural trading in the context of war in Ukraine are systemic and interconnected. Logistical difficulties are directly transformed into financial and commercial losses, and political instability increases price volatility and complicates forecasting of market conditions. The issue of balance between operational response to crisis situations and strategic risk management aimed at ensuring the stability of trade flows is particularly relevant. Practice shows that the most effective methods are those aimed at diversifying supply sources, using financial hedging instruments, creating strategic reserves, ensuring trade risks, and digitalizing management processes. Table 2 presents a summary of key risk management methods.

Table 2. Risk management methods in global agricultural trading in the context of war in Ukraine

Risk management method	Description and areas of implementation
Diversification of supply sources and markets	Expanding the geography of agricultural exports and imports; switching to alternative transport routes through the Danube ports, railway corridors to EU countries, and the Black Sea coast of Turkey; reducing dependence on individual transit routes.
Hedging and financial instruments	Using futures and options contracts to insure price fluctuations for grain, oil, fertilizers, and energy; using currency hedging to reduce devaluation risks; developing exchange-traded price forecasting mechanisms.
Creation of strategic grain and fertilizer stockpiles	Creating state and corporate food reserves; ensuring the stability of domestic markets; developing long-term food security mechanisms; using storage facilities in neighbouring countries to respond promptly to logistics failures.
Insurance of trade transactions	Intensifying the activities of export credit agencies; expanding insurance programs against war risks and force majeure; introducing reinsurance mechanisms; reducing the cost of credit resources through guarantee programmes.
Digitalization of logistics and risk monitoring	Using big data, artificial intelligence, and satellite monitoring technologies to analyse supplies; introducing blockchain contracts to increase transaction transparency; digital control of cargo movements, and real-time prediction of risk areas.

Source: developed by the author

The mentioned methods show that effective risk management in global agricultural trading is possible only if financial, logistical, organizational and technological solutions are combined. Diversification of supply routes and sales markets reduces dependence on individual regions, while financial hedging and insurance instruments help to mitigate the impact of market volatility. The creation of strategic stocks and state reserves increases food security both at the national and international levels. At the same time, digitalization is becoming a fundamental factor in the new risk management paradigm, ensuring prompt decision-making, increased transparency of trade processes, and predictability of market trends. So, the comprehensive implementation of these approaches contributes to the creation of a more flexible and sustainable system of global agricultural trading in the context of war and post-war challenges.

Further development of the risk management system in global agricultural trading is directly related to the activities of international institutions and partnerships, which play a key role in stabilizing world food flows and coordinating the efforts of states in mitigating the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Intergovernmental interaction became the tool that enabled the reduction of uncertainty in agricultural markets and preventing the emergence of a large-scale humanitarian crisis in regions critically dependent on food imports.

The UN-Turkey Grain Initiative launched in 2022 was one of the most notable examples of effective crisis risk management. Its goal was to restore the safe export of Ukrainian grain through Black Sea ports because of military blockade. This mechanism made it possible to partially stabilize the supply volumes of wheat, corn and oilseeds, and also reduced the pressure on food prices on world markets [3, p. 52]. The initiative established a multi-level system of monitoring and control of transportation, which guaranteed the transparency of trade operations and the safe passage of vessels. So, the grain agreement became a unique example of an international partnership that combined the political, humanitarian, and economic components of risk management, ensuring temporary stabilization of global agricultural trading.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the European Union (EU) also play an important role in maintaining the international food market. FAO focuses on coordinating humanitarian aid, restoring agricultural production in Ukraine and countries that have experienced supply shortages, as well as on developing strategies to strengthen food security in the long run. In turn, the WTO ensures the maintenance of openness in international trade in agricultural goods, promotes the elimination of protectionist barriers, and enhances dialogue between states to avoid the escalation of trade conflicts. The EU plays a dual role – as a trading partner and as a regional donor. The EU is actively developing "solidarity routes" for the export of Ukrainian agricultural products through the European transport network, finances logistics projects and programmes to strengthen the sustainability of supplies.

At the current stage, the establishment of global food security coalitions, which unite governments, international organizations, the private sector and financial institutions, is becoming increasingly important [4]. Their activities are aimed at coordinating anti-crisis measures, joint management of strategic food reserves, as well as the development of innovative financial instruments for insurance of shortage risks. Such coalitions contribute to the coordination of policies of states regarding the export and import of grains, minimizing speculative pressure on exchanges, and stimulate the implementation of transparency standards in agricultural supply chains.

Upon the onset of war, the agricultural risk management system in Ukraine underwent a profound transformation. The main challenges were not only logistical and financial factors, but also the need to create new institutional mechanisms for coordination between the state, business, and international organizations [2, p. 43].

In this context, Ukraine is not only a participant, but also as a catalyst for international cooperation in the field of food security. In view of the destruction of traditional trade chains, public-private partnerships aimed at insurance, infrastructure modernization, and the development of agricultural trading digital platforms began to play a key role. In 2023–2024, the government of Ukraine, with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), FAO, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), launched more than 30 programmes to support logistics routes to the EU and the Danube. The total amount of financing raised exceeded € 850 million, which allowed to resume the work of more than 12 port terminals and ensure the export of about 45 million tons of grain through alternative routes [3, p. 53]. Furthermore, the European Green Deal and climate risk resilience programmes provide for the creation of adaptation tools for farmers, including microinsurance, the use of satellite monitoring, and yield analysis. For example, the AgriDigital Shield programme implemented in 2024 covered more than 900 Ukrainian farms and reduced product losses by 12% due to the forecasting of logistics risks [1, p. 140]. A system of integrated risk management is gradually being formed, based on the principles of multi-level risk assessment (production, climate, financial, reputational); creation of reserve capacities (storage facilities, transshipment bases, logistics hubs); transparent trade through international agricultural exchanges and electronic supply control systems [2, p. 44].

Therefore, the strategic direction of the development of Ukrainian agricultural exports and global agricultural trading is to move from reactive risk management (i.e., responding to the crisis) to proactive risk management – with forecasting and modelling of possible instability scenarios. The war became a catalyst for a profound transformation of the risk management system in agricultural trade. The mechanisms established during the crisis – logistics routes across the Danube, insurance programmes, digital verification of supplies – create the basis for a new model of global food security, in which Ukraine is not only a supplier, but also an active participant in the management of international agricultural resource chains.

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АДАПТАЦІЯ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ТРАНСПОРТНОЇ СИСТЕМИ ВІДПОВІДНО ВИМОГ ТРАНСПОРТНОЇ СИСТЕМИ ЄС

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Сучасні виклики глобального транспортного ринку, геополітичні зміни та курс України на повноцінну інтеграцію до Європейського Союзу (ЄС) зумовлюють необхідність структурної трансформації та адаптації національної транспортної системи до європейських вимог. Транспорт є базовим елементом економічної стабільності, мобільності населення, розвитку зовнішньої торгівлі