

**METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF ENSURING ECONOMIC SECURITY
OF COTTON-TEXTILE CLUSTERS****Nigora Sadriddinova**PhD, senior teacher at Tashkent state university of economics,
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Abstract. This article explores the theoretical and methodological foundations of enterprise economic security and clarifies its conceptual essence within the modern business environment. The study defines the concept of economic security at the enterprise level by examining the broader categories of security and economic stability and by identifying their interrelationship with the strategic objectives, mission, and sustainable development of organizations. Particular attention is paid to the internal and external conditions that influence the formation of a secure economic system, including financial, production, technological, managerial, and market factors. The paper systematizes key drivers and determinants that strengthen economic resilience, as well as potential risks, threats, and destabilizing influences that may negatively affect business performance and competitiveness. Furthermore, the article proposes criteria and indicators for assessing the current state of enterprise economic security, enabling comprehensive evaluation, timely risk identification, and effective managerial decision-making. The findings contribute to the development of practical tools and approaches aimed at enhancing organizational stability, long-term sustainability, and strategic protection in an increasingly uncertain economic environment.

Keywords: security, economic security, methodological problems, ensuring economic security, cotton-textile clusters, textile enterprises.

The formation of cotton-textile clusters has become an important direction of structural transformation and industrial modernization in many developing economies, particularly in countries with strong agricultural and textile traditions. The cluster model integrates the full value chain—from cotton cultivation and primary processing to spinning, weaving, dyeing, garment manufacturing, and export—thereby increasing value added, improving employment, and strengthening regional competitiveness. However, the effectiveness and sustainability of such clusters largely depend on their level of economic security. Ensuring economic security is not limited to financial stability or risk reduction; it involves the creation of conditions under

which cluster participants can maintain stable production, resist internal and external threats, and achieve long-term development goals. Despite the growing importance of this issue, significant methodological problems remain in defining, assessing, and managing the economic security of cotton-textile clusters.

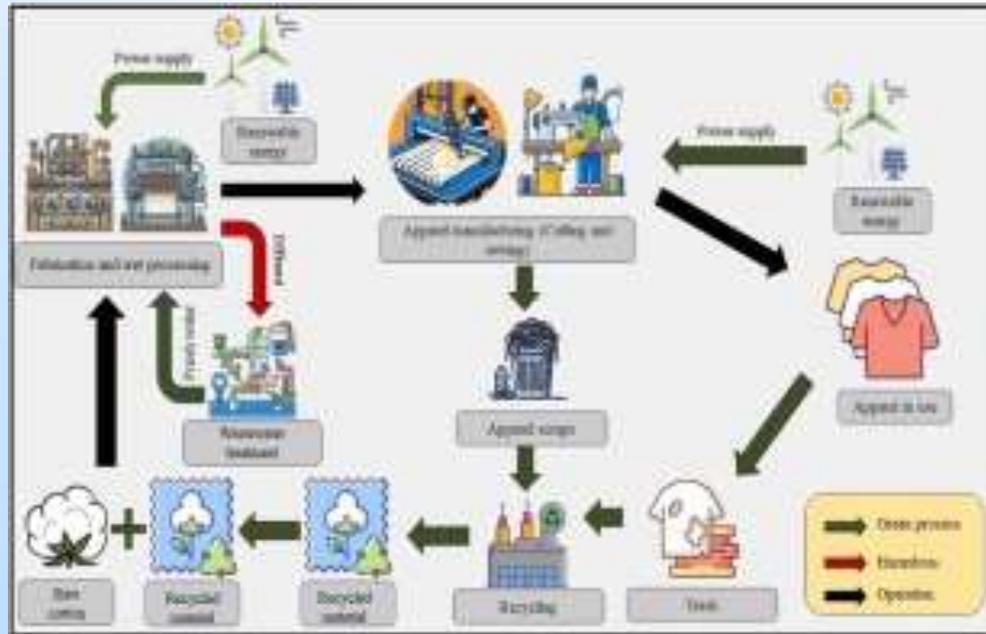
One of the primary methodological challenges concerns the conceptual ambiguity of the term "economic security" at the cluster level. Most existing approaches focus either on national economic security or on the security of individual enterprises, while clusters represent a meso-level system combining multiple independent but interconnected actors. As a result, traditional enterprise-based indicators fail to capture the systemic interdependencies within the cluster, such as shared infrastructure, common supply chains, and collective risks. This creates difficulties in determining the boundaries of analysis and selecting appropriate criteria for measurement. A unified methodological framework that reflects the integrative nature of clusters is still insufficiently developed.

Ensuring the financial well-being of enterprises is currently becoming a priority. Organizational development is impacted by factors such as unstable political and socioeconomic conditions in the country, interethnic, regional, and territorial conflicts, legislative imperfections, the criminalization of society, fraud, corruption, and others.

In today's environment, the issue of economic security is pressing, as enterprises operate under various external and internal risks, and the competitive economic environment conceals numerous threats. This circumstance requires enterprise management entities to build a comprehensive system aimed at improving economic security. The current crisis situation and the country's modernization processes necessitate targeted activities in the area of ensuring the economic security of enterprises.

To define the concept of "economic security of an organization," it is necessary to define the terms "security" and "economic security" and define their essence.

Security is a polysemantic concept, primarily characterizing protection and a low level of risk for individuals, society, or any other entities, objects, or their systems [3, p. 18]. The term "security," according to its etymology, means "absence of danger."



Ensuring economic security is a guarantee of the country's independence, a prerequisite for the stability and effective functioning of society, and the achievement of success. This is explained by the fact that the economy is a vital aspect of the activities of society, the state, and the individual, and, therefore, the concept of national security would be an empty phrase without assessing the viability of the economy and its resilience to potential external and internal threats. Therefore, ensuring economic security is one of the most important national priorities.

Economic security is 1) a state of the economy that ensures an adequate level of social, political, and defensive existence and progressive development of the Russian Federation, as well as the invulnerability and independence of its economic interests in relation to potential external and internal threats and influences; [6, p. 14] 2) the state of legal and economic relations, organizational ties, and the material and intellectual resources of an enterprise, which guarantees the stability of its functioning, financial and commercial success, and progressive scientific, technological, and social development [4, p. 20].

To assess the state of economic security, a system of indicators is used, the threshold values of which determine the current state of the economic security of the entity under consideration. If the threshold values are not met, negative, destructive trends in economic security develop. An organization's economic security is also important, as enterprises are objects of economic relations. Enterprises are created to achieve specific goals of an economic nature.

The concept of "enterprise security" is inextricably linked to concepts such as "resilience," "development," "vulnerability," and "controllability."

An organization's economic security is its ability to develop and operate in a constantly changing internal and external environment, which characterizes its resilience [7, p. 264].

In other words, the term "economic security" refers to the state of protection of the enterprise's vital interests from internal and external threats, ensuring its stability and progress in the present and future.

Threats to economic security are events that directly or indirectly have the potential to negatively impact an organization's economic security in the present or near future.

There are three main external sources of threat:

The first is government economic policy unfavorable to the organization. Government manipulations to regulate the economy through discount rates, exchange rates, customs tariffs, taxes, etc., may in some cases conflict with the company's production, commercial, and financial policies.

The second source of external threat to an enterprise's commercial activities is the actions of other economic entities. This primarily concerns unfair competition.

The third external source of threat is crises in the global economy. These "spill over" from country to country through external economic relations.

This list reflects the diversity of threats to the enterprise, indicating the broad nature of the activities necessary to ensure the organization's economic security. Conditions that influence economic performance may include the state of the business environment, the availability of local raw materials and energy resources, the development of transportation and other communications, market saturation, the status of competitors, the availability of available labor, the level of their professional skills, the level of social and political tension, the population's focus on productive work, the standard of living of the population, its solvency, the level of crime, and many others.

To assess the level of economic security of a specific organization, it is necessary to analyze the balance sheet and income statement data.

One of the indicators characterizing the financial stability of an enterprise is its solvency. Solvency is assessed based on the liquidity of current assets.

To assess liquidity risk, it is necessary to calculate relative indicators characterizing the liquidity and structure of the organization's balance sheet. Changes in the share of quick-sale

assets and the share of hard-to-sell assets also reflect trends in the economic security of the enterprise.

Profitability reflects the level of profitability or profit. Profitability indicators are relative metrics that compare profit to another indicator reflecting business conditions, such as sales revenue, equity, etc. High profitability indicators positively impact an organization's economic security.

Analyzing financial stability requires calculating financial ratios dynamically, which in turn allows for an assessment of the level of economic security.

It should be noted that an organization's level of economic security is directly related to its financial condition and market position. Its level also depends on a variety of factors, both internal and external. Therefore, when analyzing an organization's economic security and developing measures to improve it, it is necessary to consider many factors.

Another problem relates to the identification and classification of threats. Cotton-textile clusters are exposed to a complex set of risks, including agricultural risks (climatic fluctuations, water scarcity, and yield instability), production and technological risks (obsolete equipment, low productivity, energy inefficiency), financial risks (credit shortages, currency volatility, and rising costs), market risks (price fluctuations, dependence on exports, and global competition), and institutional risks (regulatory changes, weak coordination among participants, and governance inefficiencies). Many methodologies treat these risks separately rather than as interacting factors, which reduces the reliability of assessments. The absence of integrated risk modeling prevents managers from understanding cumulative and cascading effects across the value chain.

A further methodological limitation is the predominance of static assessment tools. Traditional evaluation methods rely on financial ratios, profitability indicators, or retrospective performance data, which provide only a snapshot of the current situation. However, economic security is dynamic and depends on future resilience, adaptability, and innovative capacity. Cotton-textile clusters operate in rapidly changing environments influenced by technological progress, digitalization, and shifts in global demand. Therefore, purely static metrics cannot adequately reflect their vulnerability or readiness to respond to shocks. There is a need for dynamic models incorporating scenario analysis, forecasting techniques, and early warning systems.

Data availability and reliability also pose serious challenges. Cluster participants often differ in accounting standards, reporting practices, and information transparency. Small and

medium enterprises may lack systematic data collection, while agricultural producers may operate informally. This fragmentation complicates the aggregation of indicators at the cluster level and reduces the accuracy of security assessments. Without standardized data, methodological tools become theoretical rather than practical. Establishing unified reporting frameworks and digital information platforms is therefore a necessary precondition for effective monitoring.

Another issue concerns the insufficient integration of qualitative factors into methodological approaches. Economic security is influenced not only by quantitative financial and production indicators but also by organizational culture, management quality, workforce skills, innovation potential, and partnership trust. In cotton-textile clusters, coordination between farmers, processors, manufacturers, and exporters is critical. Weak cooperation, conflicts of interest, or lack of institutional support can undermine the entire system even when quantitative indicators appear stable. However, many assessment methods overlook these intangible determinants, leading to incomplete conclusions.

Methodological problems also arise in the selection of management instruments. Existing approaches often recommend general risk mitigation strategies without considering the specific characteristics of cluster structures. For example, measures effective for single enterprises may not work in a networked system where risks are shared. Economic security management in clusters requires coordinated policies, collective investment in infrastructure, diversification of markets, technological upgrading, and state support mechanisms. The absence of cluster-oriented methodological guidelines limits the effectiveness of such measures.

To address these problems, a comprehensive methodological approach should be developed that treats the cotton-textile cluster as an integrated socio-economic system. This approach should combine system analysis, risk management, and performance evaluation, using both quantitative and qualitative indicators. It should incorporate dynamic modeling, scenario planning, and digital monitoring tools to track vulnerabilities in real time. Moreover, standardized information systems and institutional coordination mechanisms must support data exchange and collective decision-making. Such a methodology would enable timely identification of threats, balanced allocation of resources, and strengthening of resilience across the entire value chain.

In conclusion, ensuring the economic security of cotton-textile clusters requires overcoming significant methodological difficulties related to conceptualization, measurement, data integration, and management. Traditional enterprise-based methods are insufficient for

capturing the complex interrelations of cluster systems. Only through the development of integrated, dynamic, and system-oriented methodologies can cotton-textile clusters achieve sustainable growth, competitiveness, and long-term stability in the global market.

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