

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم
بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

By Julio C. Gambina
18.03.2023

Rising food exacerbates poverty



Sources: Rebellion

Inflation data as of February 2023 are worrying. Indeed, 6.6% in February 2023, 13.1% in the first two months of the year and 102.5% accumulated in 12 months, worries in general, but even more so in impoverished social sectors.

It is an aggravated issue when the food item grew by 9.8% in February, 17.2% between January and February and 102.6% in the cumulative of 12 months.

Let us agree that, with popular incomes in low, whether salaries, pensions or various social assistance, the deterioration of The daily living conditions of the majority of the population aggravate the situation of impoverishment.

A fact of reality is inequality, manifest in the concentration of income and wealth in very few hands and a Widening social impoverishment.

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

The inflationary issue has been a concern for some time, and It is not enough to point out that this is a worldwide phenomenon, since the inflation in the US reached 8/9% per year and is now around 6%.

In general, whether in Europe or other countries of the World system, annualized inflation is between 8 and 20%, of course There are countries with lower records, many of them in the Latin American region and Caribbean.

The specificity of Argentina is that Annual inflation for several countries is monthly in local records. It's not A new topic, if not long-term, which, in the last stage, with ups and downs It started climbing since 2006/07.

Theory, politics, Food and poverty

There is a theoretical and political debate on causes of inflation and anti-inflationary policies. It's a debate irreconcilable, based on theoretical and political bases that seek objectives differentiated and express economic, political and cultural interests Particular.

From liberalism an approach is sustained monetarist that leads to fiscal adjustment policies, raising the deficit fiscal and monetary issuance as the essential problems.

The Keynesian school, with variants underpins policies of "agreements" between different links of the production process and circulation, and resolve the diagnosis by abusing a multi-causality that It can explain various causes and effects.

Obviously in each current there are nuances, As there are those who polemicize from Marxism, who base their positions in Marx's law of value and, therefore, the monetary character mercantile of capitalist society.

The debate is unfinished and may seem like a dialogue without listening, impossible to synthesize, and in it meanwhile, the prices generate growing inequality, which means the extension of the impoverishment.

The rise in prices affects in the first place to The generators of social wealth: the workers. To this A set of small sectors of production and activity are added economic in general, without the ability to intervene in the dispute over the economic surplus.

From this concern, the aggravated deterioration of the impoverished, is that we are specifically interested in what happens to food, the item with the highest incidence in the inflation index, which ranges from 25% in Greater Buenos Aires (GBA) and 38% in the Northeast.

Poverty spending is mainly in food and if these grow in price with deterioration of popular income, The result of greater destitution and poverty is clear.

Some data provided by INDEC for February and the GBA shows a price increase compared to January of 35% in Common minced meat, 34.3% the quadril, 33.5% the shoulder, 32.8% the buttock and 28.6% the roast; 14.6% plain white rice, 13.2% chicken eggs, 9.9% creamy cheese or firm yogurt; and even more, 72.4% orange, or 13% sweet potato.

These are just some data that illustrate the greater rise in food prices compared to the average of prices that rose 6.6% in Last February, and remember 9.8% food.

Discuss diagnosis and proposals

Much is discussed about pricing in general, and there are monopolized branches in the production and circulation of food, while there is a diversity of fruit producers and vegetables distributed throughout the territory they produce, simultaneously with An immense network of sales stands scattered throughout the country.

Consulted small neighborhood merchants, fruit and vegetable producers, including professionals who serve those Small entrepreneurs from the countryside or the city, all agree that a problem Central is in intermediation, so a first conclusion that would have that drawing refers to the need to organize the articulation between that mass of Retail producers and distributors, bringing production closer to consumption.

It's not about establishing individual links between producers and consumers, but forms could well be developed Community, cooperative and self-management for the production and circulation of fruits and vegetables, without prejudice to other foods in which the country has High experience and technological development, whether in meat or dairy products, by example.

The proposal involves workers and consumers, including university participation in technical assistance and specific areas of provincial municipal administrations and National.

Of course, it is also explained that drought It adds problems, which generates shortages and loss of quality in the merchandise. Is An issue associated with other countries and linked to climate change, which puts manifesto that is an issue that transcends the conjuncture and that everything indicates that it is Poor planning of initiatives that address a structural problem which should be resolved within the framework of regional integration.

The food market, especially fruits and Vegetables demand the extension of the "central markets", not only those that today They exist in several territories, but should be extended as a policy of articulation of production, circulation, exchange and consumption, via

"fairs" or "popular markets" with the participation of workers, producers and users, driven by state policy.

It must be recognized that the price appears induced by the large circulation chains, strong concentrators of production and price makers, to which small establishments are adapted.

Is A fact that the small producer is the least likely to have Intervene in pricing.

Eliminating or reducing intermediation results in strategic, which requires a deliberate state policy with resources to Sustain adequate logistics and participatory planning involving to workers, producers and consumers.

Intermediary speculation can only be solved with planning and participation, although it is true that behind everything is the law of value and, therefore, prices tied to the capitalist production regime that dominates economic and social relations as a whole.

Julio C. Gambina. President of the Foundation for Social and Political Research, FISYP.

Rebelión has published this article with the permission of the author through a Creative Commons license, respecting his freedom to publish it in other sources.

Rebellion 17.03.2023