

The emergency situation which has arisen here could have been foreseen: the republic's agricultural managers knew what kind of harvest would take place on the northern fields and that this harvest would supply produce for the Arctic cities, not produce transported from other parts of the country as was the case last year. Late summer and early autumn provided ideal conditions for the harvest - potatoes were dug up out of the dry ground and vegetables on the vine ripened quickly. If the efforts of the produce-growers, processors, and transporters were coordinated, produce could be delivered to consumers quickly and with minimal loss.

Now it is either snowing or raining in Yazel: bad weather has overtaken fields where the crop has not yet been harvested. To date 38.4 thousand tons of potatoes have been harvested against a quota of 42.6 thousand tons, and 13.7 thousand tons of vegetables, representing more than half the targeted quota. There is a very real possibility of not only filling the quota, but even over-fulfilling it. Efficient, coordinated work is required at each state of the process from grower to consumer.

There are two sorting areas at the depot where produce undergoes a quality check and is weighed. The state farms which load the vehicles often overstate the weight, however. The fraudulent weights are not always detected, and therefore consumers often receive less freight in the wagons than shown in the shipping documents. Documents therefore have to be rewritten, and this takes the time of not only depot employees, but also railway workers. Floods of complaints about underloading have been received from Vorkuta, Inta, and Pechora. Piles of potatoes are scattered near the freight cars - more wastage.