

POTENTIAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN UZBEKISTAN AND THE ROLE OF CLUSTERS IN THEIR ACTIVITIES

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Abstract

This article has extensively studied the potential fruit and vegetable production in Uzbekistan and the advantages of the cluster system in this area, features of the development of fruit and vegetable clusters in Uzbekistan, the main tasks set for their improvement.

Keywords: agriculture, agrocluster, business, export, insurance service, gardening, vegetable growing, greenhouse.

Introduction

The development of the economy of the agricultural sector is one of the most important areas ensuring the growth of employment and income of the population. That is why measures are being taken to develop it, based on the requirements of time and strategic approaches. Therefore, our republic is implementing comprehensive measures aimed at developing and expanding agricultural production, storage, processing and export of fruits and vegetables. In particular, in order to further increase productivity and labor productivity in the agricultural sector, the Agricultural Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030 was adopted, and this document serves as an agricultural development program. In principle, by 2025 it is planned to increase the country's gross domestic product to \$100 billion and annual exports to \$30 billion. To achieve these indicators, it is shown that there are huge reserves and opportunities in the agricultural sector. To achieve this goal, comprehensive measures are being rapidly implemented aimed at systematically organizing the export of fruits and vegetables, which is the basis for agricultural development. According to Goskomstat, Uzbekistan In 2023, \$1.757 billion worth of fruits and vegetables were exported. in the volume of exports of fruits and vegetables plums (dried) - 36 thousand tons, grapes - 126.1 thousand tons, grapes (dried) - 57.3 thousand tons, peaches - 87.2 thousand tons , melons and watermelons - 148.1 thousand tons , cherries - 45 thousand tons, apricots - 63 thousand tons, tomatoes - 57.5 thousand tons, cabbage - 97.2 thousand tons, puree - 154.6 thousand tons, onions - 299.6 thousand tons , millet - 17 thousand tons. In 2023, the share of fruit and vegetable exports increased by 7.9%. In particular, onions 263.8 thousand tons, melons and watermelons 147.6 thousand tons, grapes 121 thousand tons, peaches 87.2 thousand tons, apricots 63.2 thousand tons, tomatoes 54.2 thousand. tons, raisins 52.2 thousand tons, dates 50.3 thousand tons, cherries 45,000 tons, prunes 34,000 tons. Overall today, vegetables (\$188.6 million), fruits (\$229.3 million), legumes (\$312.2 million), grapes (\$78.1 million), foods such as dried fruits and vegetables



(\$87.5 million dollars), rice (\$68.6 million).) were exported at a high rate. At the same time, the volume of exports fruit and vegetable products of Uzbekistan in January-April 2024 - plums (dried) - 7.6 thousand tons, grapes - 5.6 thousand tons, grapes (dried) - 12.6 thousand tons, tomatoes -11.6 thousand tons , cabbage – 148 thousand tons, onions - 121.3 thousand tons, carrots - 55.3 thousand tons, cucumber - 2.6 thousand tons, peanuts - 3.9 thousand tons, pepper - 2.8 thousand tons.

The number of countries to which fruits and vegetables are exported is also expanding, including England and Colombia. Export corridors for the market were opened, and the export of legumes and dried products began . As a result, to this day, products worth more than \$1.5 billion have been exported from the republic to 75 countries. In 2023, the area sown with agricultural crops, orchards and vineyards amounted to 3,816,842 hectares. At the same time, the areas sown with agricultural crops amount to 3,316,512 hectares, gardens 357,950 hectares, vineyards 142 380 hectares, the volume of agricultural production amounted to 202 billion 679.1 billion soms. enough. The average volume of agricultural production per hectare is 53.1 million soums (4524.2 US dollars).

Uzbekistan is taking measures to reform the agricultural sector, introducing market mechanisms and modern technologies into it. In particular, the cluster method was introduced, which is an important factor in the transition to market principles, a sharp reduction in government intervention in the industry, the implementation of plans and the complete cessation of forced labor situations. The President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: “The cluster and interests are the future of agriculture in Uzbekistan.” At the same time, in his report, the head of our state admitted: “... the introduction of the agrocluster system into the agricultural network gives its positive effect in a short time.” Therefore, efforts are being made to create an effective cluster system in the agriculture of my country. In 2021, about 500 clusters and cooperatives were launched in the field of fruit and vegetable growing, grain growing and livestock farming. As a result, despite the negative impact of the pandemic, \$1 billion worth of fruits and vegetables were exported. At the same time, 91 thousand hectares of land were returned to use. Water-saving technologies have been introduced on 133 thousand hectares, which is twice as much as last year. In addition, the cluster approach in the economy of Uzbekistan is noted for the first time as a means of identifying ways to improve the country’s production policy within the framework of the Action Strategy Program for 2017-2021. The development of cluster systems in each country of the world has its own characteristics. In particular, it would be advisable to use China’s experience in developing clusters. At the same time, innovation clusters: Xinhua in Beijing or Fudong in Shanghai are emerging around universities, as well as around special research and science and technology parks created by local authorities as business incubators. These clusters attract government grants, Chinese venture capital, and leading Chinese and foreign (mostly European and US-educated Chinese) professionals. In addition, in the context of globalization and growing international competition, clustering features can be found in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Chile and other countries, as well as in Arab countries, namely Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Arab Emirates and others. The clustering process is widely used in the European Union and the United States. The number of clusters is 168 in the UK, 20 in Holland,



32 in Germany, 380 in the USA, 34 in Denmark, 96 in France, 206 in Italy, 9 in Finland, 106 in India. The industry of Denmark, Finland, and Switzerland is saturated with clusters. In Italy, industrial clusters account for 43% of the employed population and more than 30% of national exports. Cluster structures successfully operate in the light industry of Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Denmark, India, Korea, Pakistan, China and Turkey, in the chemical and engineering industries of Germany, and in the food and cosmetics industries in France. The process of cluster formation is intensifying in Southeast Asia, China, Singapore, Japan and other countries.

In the global economy, special attention is paid to improving modern management methods in order to increase the activity of economic entities and ensure the competitiveness of products. Achieving this goal and introducing effective management mechanisms are implemented on the basis of the programs “Attracting Customers”, “Optimization of Processes”, “Transformation of Products and Services”, “Employee Empowerment”. Moreover, in Germany, bank financing lines serve the social interests of clusters. Japan is among the countries with the highest economic potential in the world without any natural resources. One of the most important issues underlying Japan's achievement of such stable economic potential is the degree to which business management is systematic. Or one might think that the main criterion of the Japanese school of management is that it is formed on the basis of human relations.

State intervention in business activity is observed only when entrepreneurs break the law and artificially inflate prices for products on the market, the main goal of which is to prevent inflation.

In Uzbekistan, especially in the field of fruits and vegetables, mutual integration of production, processing, storage, service and sales (export) processes is carried out, the development of clusters (cooperation), ensuring food safety, and a number of works are being carried out in order to increase the volume of exports. At the same time, farmers, peasant farms and other producers of products - growing fruits, grapes, vegetables, potatoes, sugar crops, herbs and medicinal plants, legumes and oilseeds - up to 50% of the cost of the crop; 14% (including 2% bank margin) at a rate of 14 percent per annum for providing loans for a period of 12 months with a grace period of 6 months, to replenish working capital necessary for the purchase of grown agricultural products to persons who process, store and export fruits and vegetables (including a 12-month “revolving” loan based on 2% of bank margin). At the same time, from March 1, 2022, an export contract was introduced for fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives) and farms, under which, when using the risk insurance service for fruit and vegetable crops, 50 percent of the insurance premium is paid, but no more than 1 percent of the insurance money is covered. It is determined that the insured amount cannot be less than 70% of the value of the crop insured against the risk. This year, 50% of the costs of attracting qualified agronomists, entomologists and laboratory specialists from abroad to fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives) will be reimbursed through the district, but not exceeding the equivalent of \$1,000 per specialist per month. departments of the Ministry of Agriculture. At the same time, seminars and trainings will be held for producers of fruit and vegetable clusters on creating gardens and vineyards, growing vegetables, potatoes, legumes, legumes and oilseeds. In



addition, measures are being developed for the sustainable development of fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives), taking into account the natural and climatic conditions and specialization of each region after an audit of fruit and vegetable areas. At the Research Institute of Vegetables, Legumes and Potatoes, with funds from international financial institutions and the Horticulture and Greenhouse Development Fund, a school for intensive cultivation of vegetables, potatoes, legumes, flowers and medicinal plants has been established. Determining such tasks as developing a program of measures to introduce a system linking producer - cluster - procurement enterprise - processor and exporter will create conditions for the development of fruit and vegetable clusters in the agro-industrial complex of Uzbekistan. In 2022, our main task in the development of agriculture in Uzbekistan is the creation of another 44 fruit and vegetable clusters in our country and the start of their activities. There are 245 fruit and vegetable clusters in the Republic of Uzbekistan and regions, 1 with 179.5 thousand hectares of land. Fruits and vegetables grown in these clusters are processed by 15.3 thousand farms on 147.9 thousand hectares of land on the basis of futures contracts. Has 62 clusters with a capacity of 956.2 thousand tons of processing enterprises, 32 clusters with a capacity of 290.5 sorting and packaging of products with a capacity of 1000 tons, drying of products with a capacity of 230,500 tons in 23 clusters, as well as simple and refrigerated warehouses with a capacity of 360,000 tons in 136 clusters. The number of intensive gardens and vineyards planted there is 24.5 thousand hectares local, 10.8 thousand hectares of intensive garden and 25.6 thousand hectares consists of vineyards. Cost of investment projects for cluster development in 2022 478 billion 71 soums It is planned to implement the project, about 500 jobs will be created. In addition, experts shows that labor productivity along with directed also shows that the rate of return on investment in clusters is higher than in other sectors. It is estimated that it will be sent to clusters in 2018-2022. economic return on investment (rate of return) the coefficient increased from 1 to 1.4. This shows that clustering projects are very effective.

Along with the development of fruit and vegetable clusters, there are also issues awaiting resolution, in which gardening development organizational and economic It would be advisable to put this mechanism into practice. Mainly:

- high-yielding, resistant to diseases and pests, able to withstand the vagaries of nature and market demand fruit tree varieties that respond quickly to changes Reproduction and location of regions and natural and climatic conditions. resolve the issue of placement taking into account;
- it is known that existing gardens are dying due to lack of water cases are observed. Ch because in most regions fruit trees The water supply system is implemented using pumps. That's why not only the lack of water, the use of pumps, fuel and lubricants purchase of materials and energy consumption and its high level creates certain obstacles to water supply.

At the same time, indirectly water supply system logistics weapons For investments (states purposeful preferential loans, various grants, private sector funds and other financial at the

1 www . agro . uz . based on information



expense of resources) by developing mechanisms to encourage participation must be published and implemented:

- fruit gardens scientific based agricultural engineer rules inside, the composition of regional soils, the type of fruit trees and soil, taking into account such indicators as variety, yield provision of local and mineral fertilizers to increase productivity system improvement;
- maintenance of fruit trees and vineyards in regional markets and produce products for export, taking into account available capabilities the composition of the gardens, taking into account the issue of product yield, is desirable optimization.

Today in our republic, 250 billion have been allocated from the Agricultural Development Fund for laser leveling of grain, cotton and rice fields. Measures are being taken to provide preferential soum loans. Taking into account the economic, social and environmental effectiveness of this event, it is expected to be allocated on the basis of preferential loans to align farms in the system of intensive horticulture and vegetable growing clusters in those regions of our republic where appropriate conditions exist. , especially in regions located around large cities and industrial centers . We consider this appropriate. Especially in the context of water shortages in our republic in recent years, this agrotechnical measure ensures the efficient use of water resources on the farm, while simultaneously making it possible to reduce production costs and increase income through the large-scale use of water-saving irrigation technologies in vegetable growing clusters.

Clusters are a modern economic intermediary for the formation of an innovative, competitive and efficient economy, ensuring the delivery of finished products to the consumer, the growth of productive forces, the growth of production volumes, healthy industrial relations and efficiency. In addition, this is due to the thinking of entrepreneurial experts in clusters that combine industry and intersectoral activities and the consistent implementation of management mechanisms. In these clusters, in addition to the integration of education, science and production, the basis for growth will be created by mutually beneficial cooperation of small enterprises in the industry, internal and external elements of intersectoral integration.

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