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SOI: [1.1/TAS](https://doi.org/10.15863/TAS) DOI: [10.15863/TAS](https://doi.org/10.15863/TAS)

## International Scientific Journal Theoretical & Applied Science

p-ISSN: 2308-4944 (print) e-ISSN: 2409-0085 (online)

Year: 2021 Issue: 04 Volume: 96

Published: 10.04.2021 <http://T-Science.org>

QR – Issue



QR – Article



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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASE OF FRUIT, VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND THE EXPORT POTENTIAL OF THE INDUSTRY

**Abstract:** *The article examines issues related to the expansion of fruit and vegetable production in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and increasing the export potential of the industry.*

**Key words:** *expansion, pandemic, industry.*

**Language:** *English*

**Citation:** Sirojiddinov, I. Q., & Sirojiddinov, K. I. (2021). Opportunities for the development and increase of fruit, vegetable production and the export potential of the industry. *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 04 (96), 87-90.

**Soi:** <http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-04-96-20> **Doi:**  <https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2021.04.96.20>

**Scopus ASCC:** 2000.

### Introduction

One of the traditional branches of agriculture in Uzbekistan is fruit and vegetable growing. The cultivation of fruits and vegetables plays a special role in ensuring the well-being of the population and food security of the country. The existing conditions for the development of the industry in Uzbekistan allow it to produce much more than the industry needs in order to meet domestic demand. High competitiveness of export-oriented products can also be achieved. Because the natural and climatic conditions of the country: a) the growing season lasts long enough; b) the sum of the effective temperatures is large enough (days when the average daily soil temperature is higher than +10); c) land resources and natural soil fertility; g) background of natural solar radiation; d) amount of natural precipitation; e) the average date of the winter cold; j) Water resources contribute to the high nutritional value of the product. The labor resources of the industry are: a) the number of able-bodied people; b) general knowledge and skills of the workforce; c) historically formed national traditions of respect for labor in fruit, vegetable and grape growing; g) on the basis of such factors as the

possibility of training personnel capable of using modern technologies for horticulture (vocational education system).

There are also economic and organizational conditions that promote the development of fruit and vegetables:

a) The preservation of traditions and agro-technical culture and skills of fruit and vegetable growing in households;

b) Establishment of farms specializing in horticulture, fruit and vegetable growing and grape growing;

c) The growing focus of growing households and farms on the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and grapes;

d) The process of agro-industrial integration is observed in the industry (many farms are processing their own products);

d) Positive trends in the introduction of new technologies in the industry;

e) Rapid growth of agricultural lending by commercial banks;

j) Incentive tax system;

h) State financing of production infrastructure;

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i) Market infrastructure for the sale of products;  
k) The presence of domestic demand for the product and demand outside the country;

l) The product is competitive in terms of cost and consumer properties.

In 2020, Uzbekistan produced 7566.6 thousand tons of grain, 10459.5 thousand tons of vegetables, 2134.4 thousand tons of melons, 3143.5 thousand tons of potatoes, 2864.0 thousand tons of fruits, 1639.2 thousand tons of grapes. According to official data, the population consumes 290 kilograms of vegetables, 140 kilograms of fruits, 75 kilograms of potatoes, 40 kilograms of meat and meat products, 30 kilograms of sugar, 210 eggs, 270 liters of milk and dairy products, 25 kilograms of vegetable oil per capita per year. According to the recommendations of the World Health Organization, the norm of consumption of fruits and vegetables for an adult is 400 grams per day. Consumption of the population in Uzbekistan is five times higher than this norm, and in addition to domestic consumption, large volumes of exports can be launched.

The sector's export potential remains underutilized. In 2020, exports of fruits and vegetables will reach 1008.6 million. (83.5% of exports in 2019, and in 2018 the volume of exports was 1 million tons and \$ 1 billion). Therefore, the government is taking steps to increase this figure [1].

In recent years, there have been significant positive changes in the introduction of market mechanisms in the agricultural sector. The use of the cluster system serves to ensure the priority of economic interests in the activities of economic entities in production and financial activities, reducing the interference of state institutions in their activities. As a result, along with the development of traditional branches of agriculture, new ones are emerging: modern greenhouses, fisheries, beekeeping, poultry, horse breeding, saffron, hot peppers, garlic, and onions as a secondary crop in the fall, development of horticulture and others [2].

The establishment and effective operation of specialized farms, the orientation of family farms to horticulture, vegetable growing and viticulture, the acceleration of agro-industrial integration processes (farmers start processing their products) should have serious socio-economic benefits. There is a real tendency for innovation in business entities in the industry. This is further evidenced by technological innovations, expanding financial opportunities, reducing the tax burden on private business. Other aspects can also be noted. Production infrastructure is mainly funded by the state. Network product sales market infrastructure, there is demand for the product in domestic and foreign markets. Also, from November 1, 2018, fruit and vegetable exports are practically free (no prepayment is required, the existence of an export contract and its registration is not mandatory, customs procedures have been

simplified, the monopoly of state economic entities on fruit and vegetable exports has been abolished).

The implementation of the concept of development of agriculture in Uzbekistan until 2030 is important for the expansion of fruit and vegetable production and strengthening the export potential of the industry. It identifies the necessary measures for the consistent implementation of market relations in the agricultural sector:

- Giving agricultural producers the freedom to choose the types of crops and markets;
- Transition from 2020 to the formation of market prices for all crops;
- Real strengthening of land use rights;
- Increase of soil fertility and protection of the rights of plant originators;
- Exports of agricultural products amounted to 2.3 billion sums. So the aim is to increase the amount to \$ 20 billion by 2030;
- Rational management of water resources (transition to market principles), water saving [3].

Within the framework of this concept, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 11, 2021 adopted a resolution "On measures to develop fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture in Kosonsoy, Chartak and Yangikurgan districts of Namangan region." The resolution identifies the current tasks in the development of the industry and measures to ensure their implementation. According to the presidential decree, the land tax paid by farms and other agricultural organizations growing seeds of certified vegetables, legumes and oilseeds, as well as fruit trees and vines in these areas will be reduced by 50% for a period of three years. Also, the part of the interest rate on loans in national currency to finance the purchase of seeds and seedlings of clusters and cooperatives exceeds the base rate of the Central Bank, but not more than 10 percentage points, as well as up to 30% but not more than 3% of interest rates on foreign currency loans. A small part is covered by the State Fund for Entrepreneurship Support.

Particular attention will be paid to improving logistics to further develop exports. Of course, in order to triple the volume of processing and exports, the full commissioning and operation of processing plants, refrigerated warehouses and logistics centers will be ensured in 2021-2022.

Problems in the development of fruit and vegetable growing can be described as follows. Logistics of the industry should be brought to the level of modern requirements: a) lack of specialized equipment; b) low level of use of advanced agricultural machinery; c) unsatisfactory demand for chemicals and mineral fertilizers and their prices, monopolization of sales; g) Insufficient and inefficient sorting and storage capacity.

Problems in financial support of fruit and vegetable growing:

- a) The vast majority of fruit and grape farms do

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not have charter capital, which means that their financial security is not guaranteed in practice by the owners;

b) proceeds from the sale of products often bypass the banking system, in turn, banks do not provide quality services to businesses operating in the network, do not support their calculations, resources are allocated to them in the lending process, the same approach to cash supply;

c) Lack of financial planning in farms, lack of financial knowledge of farm managers, lack of accounting in practice leads to the lack of financial control [4].

There are also problems with the sale of network products:

a) Domestic wholesale buyers and large processors are forcing producers to sell their products at unreasonably low prices due to insufficient number of wholesale channels. The rule of mandatory pre-sale contracts should be abandoned;

b) the modern infrastructure of wholesale of fruits and vegetables and grapes is insufficient, the share of the procurement system in the wholesale trade is very low, the proposed prices do not satisfy

producers at all;

c) difficulties in long-distance product delivery remain, the very low capacity of the long-term storage system increases the seasonal nature of sales and makes it difficult to adapt supply to demand;

g) in the current procedure of export of fruits and vegetables and grapes, the exporter is obliged to perform many economically unnecessary actions in the export of the product. In the wholesale market of purchases for export, there is no competition among buyers because their scope is limited, this sector of the market is monopolized, and producers suffer more from this [5].

In our opinion, to further develop horticulture and increase export potential by encouraging the voluntary merger of horticultural farms and dehqan farms into large cooperatives by providing financial incentives to large producers in the sector, the introduction of a minimum charter capital for each category of farms, processing enterprises and wholesale buyers. it is necessary to allow them to receive targeted financial assistance and loans. It would also be expedient to create more favorable conditions for the export of products.

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