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# UZBEKISTAN'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR - A NEW STRATEGY

***Abstract***: *In this article, based on the analysis of the main indicators of agricultural production, the current state of development of the agricultural sector is revealed. Information about the adoption Of the strategy for the development of agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030 is provided, the main tasks of strategic priorities and the results achieved on them are highlighted.*

***Key words***: *agricultural sector; innovative activity; organizational and economic mechanism; agriculture; development strategy; priority areas; efficiency.*

***Language***: *English*

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**Introduction**

Uzbekistan has developed a draft National strategy for the development of agriculture for 2019-2030, which defines strategic priorities for the development of agriculture and the main indicators for achieving the goals of the strategy, the implementation mechanism. The document contains 53 main targets and indicators.

The goal of the strategy is to develop a competitive agri-food sector focused on domestic and foreign markets, which will increase the income of agricultural producers, create new jobs, increase food security and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

The implementation of the Strategy is expected to achieve several common targets in 2018-2030.

In particular, the annual growth of value added in agriculture (including forestry and fish farming) in the range of 3-5 percent, while the share of agriculture in total GDP will decrease from 32 to 20 percent. The number of jobs in the food industry should grow by 3-5 percent annually, in the textile industry-by 3-4 percent annually.

The average labor productivity in agriculture will increase by more than 2 times. There will be no people experiencing food shortages (according to the food and agriculture Federation of the United Nations (FAO), in 2018, there were 6.3 percent of the population). Greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 50 percent compared to 2016.

In 2018, the share of agriculture in Uzbekistan's GDP was 32.4 percent. The industry shows a steady growth rate of 6-7 percent per year (until 2016). These indicators make Uzbekistan one of the leading countries in the CIS in the production of fruits and vegetables, fruits, grapes, as the soil and climatic conditions of the country allow growing almost all types of agricultural crops. Since 1991, the volume of agricultural production has more than doubled, which allowed Uzbekistan to get into the top 50 exporting countries in the field of agriculture. Today, more than 80 countries are importers of Uzbek agricultural products.

90 percent of all agricultural products produced fall on the non-state sector - there are about 80.1 thousand farms in the country, which are assigned more than 3.8 million hectares of land. Over the past 10 years, the volume of processing of vegetables and grapes grew in 3,5 times, including the production of canned fruits and vegetables rose 2.5 times, dried fruit - 4 times natural juices in 7 times. The share of processing exceeds 20 percent of the total production of fruits and vegetables. Uzbekistan has become a major exporter of more than 150 types of fresh and processed fruits and

vegetables. The export potential is estimated at more than $ 5 billion.

In 2017, the Republic introduced year-round sowing of various agricultural crops for the first time in its practice. Another solution aimed at increasing the production of fresh vegetables and fruits in the country is growing them by hydroponics. The relevant technologies will be imported from South Korea, Iran, Japan and European countries. This will allow to increase the production of fruit and vegetable products to 20 million tons by the end of 2020. Uzbekistan has launched a new unified commodity brand UzAgro for the export of fruit and vegetable products.

There are eight leading enterprises of agricultural engineering in the market of Uzbekistan: JSC "Tashkent plant of agricultural machinery", JSC "Chirchik plant of agricultural machinery", JSC" Aggregate plant", JSC" Technologist", JSC" Urgenchkormash", JSC" BMKB-Agromash", LLC" UzClassAgro "and LLC"LemkenChirchiq".

They produce tractors, trailers, cotton and grain harvesters, various types of tillage, sowing and forage harvesting equipment, sprayers for agriculture. Uzbekistan's enterprises are expanding their production line. Since 2014, JSC "Tashkent plant of agricultural machinery" produces cotton harvesting machines MX-1,8. with the help of the Korean company LSMtron, a large-node Assembly of six modifications of tractors has been mastered. LLC "Aggregate-Agrotech" (founder of JSC "Aggregate plant") is working together with companies Kuhn (France), Fede (Spain), Rauch (Germany), Grimme (Germany) on the Assembly of various types of agricultural machinery.

**Program 2020**

According to the program for the development of the industry until 2020, food crops will be placed on 285.5 thousand hectares of cotton and 50 thousand hectares of grain areas during 2016-2020. The program provides for expanding the area of vegetable and potato crops by 1.5 times, orchards and vineyards by 7 percent compared to 2015. Thus, the share of land for fruit and vegetable crops will be more than 30 percent. Program measures will allow to increase production of potatoes by 20 percent, fruits - by 23.8 percent, grapes - by 17.6 percent, vegetables - by 15 percent by the end of 2020.Ovi Uzbekistan.

**Agricultural engineering**

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In 2019-2021, it is planned to create 37 trade and logistics centers in the regions for processing, storage, packaging and export of fruit and vegetable products. When organizing them, attention is paid to the availability of appropriate infrastructure that provides high-quality transportation, storage, sorting, calibration, packaging, certification, and export.

Serious attention is paid to the transition to a cluster system in the field of agriculture of our country, the development of their activities. Today, as a result of the reforms implemented in this area, only 47 clusters specialized in fruits and vegetables have been organized in the Republic, 14.4 thousand hectares of land have been allocated for them. In a cluster of refrigerating rooms with a capacity of 16.6 million tons, grading - 7,81 thousands of tons, gauge - 800 tons, four modern laboratories, sorting and packaging plants for 24.7 thousand tons of fruits. 1150 permanent and 1085 seasonal jobs were organized. Clusters are scheduled to export products worth $ 128.4 million this year, of which the volume of exports until August 1 amounted to $ 7.62 million.

The Ministry of agriculture of Uzbekistan has developed a draft law "on organic agriculture", and the possibilities of reforming the procedural mechanisms operating in this area are being analyzed. The Ministry has also developed a National strategy for the development of agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2030, and it is being coordinated with other ministries and departments. It is planned to develop more than 30 regulatory documents in nine sustainable areas defined in the draft "road map" for the implementation of the strategy. In particular, the planned establishment of a legal framework on such urgent issues as the development of correct agricultural and environmental practices (GAEP) for the introduction of minimum environmental standards and requirements, the simplification of the mechanism of allocation of land for agriculture, protection of lease rights to land and improving the use as collateral, the introduction of a mechanism of secondary rent, improvement of the procedure for

financing the cultivation of products for public procurement and the introduction of market mechanisms in the price setting system, the use of state interventions in the food market, and others.

To international trade operators in the complexes and centers agrologistika could provide comprehensive services for the sale of agricultural and food products that meet international standards, the Ministry of agriculture together with the Agency "Uzstandard" cooperative parties, dehkan and private farms, agro-clusters has been working on the implementation of international standards "Global GAP", "Organic", "Halal", "HACCP", "ISO 22000". In addition, the clusters pay special attention to the introduction of modern agricultural technologies. A number of farms in Andijan, Namangan, Navoi, Samarkand and Surkhandarya regions have established the cultivation of fruits and vegetables through drip irrigation. Thanks to this, it is possible to ensure a uniform and sufficient amount of water for plant growth, it was possible to save on human resources (three times) and mineral fertilizers (up to 40 percent), the fertility increased to 70 quintals.

**"Green corridors" in Russia**

Uzbekistan plans to launch a simplified procedure ("green corridor") of customs clearance for the export of agricultural products to the Baltic States, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Belarus. This will significantly reduce the time of transportation of perishable products to markets, as well as reduce transport costs and customs clearance costs. In addition, in the future, these products, for example, can be sent to the EU countries through Latvian ports and transport hubs.

This practice has been operating since last year with the largest trading partner of Uzbekistan - Russia, which has allowed to significantly increase the export of agricultural products to this country. Now Uzbekistan intends to increase the annual volume of supplies to Russia to one billion dollars.

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