

UDC: 33.658 (75) 6.63

ECONOMIC MECHANISMS AND POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWING IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: The article examines state support for the fruit and vegetable industry in Uzbekistan, the conditions created, economic mechanisms and opportunities. First of all, it covers issues of increasing labor productivity, linking production with science, providing personnel, and introducing new modern technologies.

Key words: fruits and vegetables, productivity, quality, innovation, agriculture, national center, technology, services, food products, processing.

Positive work is being carried out to effectively use existing opportunities to further enhance the global prestige and position of the new Uzbekistan. Today, in the fruit and vegetable sector, which plays an important role in the export of agricultural products, there is a need for priority areas such as increasing the productivity of fruit and vegetable crops, expanding the range of products, developing intensive gardening, monitoring product quality, advising farmers on modern technologies, knowledge and skills, providing seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and other resources, assisting in obtaining loans, and organizing agricultural machinery rental services. The agrarian reforms underway in the country will serve to further develop the fruit and vegetable sector in Uzbekistan by addressing such tasks as increasing the production of export-oriented products in the fruit and vegetable sector, introducing a certification system for producing products in accordance with Global GAP and other international standards, developing organic farming methods, improving the infrastructure for storing, processing, and packaging products, improving the logistics system and reducing transportation costs, and expanding the use of e-commerce platforms.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-6159 dated February 3, 2021 “On further development of the system of knowledge and innovations in agriculture and the provision of modern services” focuses on the issues of “full implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, as well as the provision of scientifically based information and modern services to business entities, the widespread introduction of scientific achievements and innovations into production, and ensuring the organic integration of the system of education, science, production and provision of agricultural services.”¹

The National Center of Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, which connects the integrated system of providing modern agro-services to

¹ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-6159 dated February 3, 2021 “On further development of the system of knowledge and innovations in agriculture and the provision of modern services”

education, science, production and agricultural entities in the agricultural sector, and is responsible for the following activities:

- ensuring the organic integration of education, science and production in the agricultural sector;
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- establishing beneficial scientific and production cooperation with farms, agricultural clusters and cooperatives, as well as advanced foreign scientific and research institutions, introducing new scientific developments, innovations and digital technologies;
- coordinating the scientific and research activities of all types of state scientific and higher educational institutions in the agricultural sector;
- ensuring the retraining and advanced training of personnel, taking into account the current and future needs of agricultural sectors for qualified specialists;
- carrying out fundamental, applied and innovative research in the agricultural sector, training highly qualified scientific and scientific and pedagogical personnel, and improving their skills based on advanced experience and modern technologies;
- development of the national network of information and consulting services, which ensures the effective exchange and transfer of knowledge, qualifications and skills, with extensive involvement of the private sector in agriculture;
- includes issues such as assistance in the introduction of international quality standards, establishment of a platform for cooperation between producers and agribusiness.

It was also indicated that the implementation of tasks to ensure the interaction of all types of state research and higher education institutions conducting scientific research and training personnel in the agricultural sector and its branches, to effectively organize retraining and advanced training of specialists, to ensure the systematic improvement of State educational standards, curricula and programs in higher and secondary specialized and vocational education institutions based on the needs of the sector and advanced foreign experience will be established. The establishment of the practice of concluding agreements between research institutions and agricultural clusters in the sector in order to commercialize the results of scientific research in the agricultural sector, introduce scientific achievements into production, and find scientific solutions to production problems further expands the possibilities of supporting fruit and vegetable production in Uzbekistan.

The implementation of the tasks set out in the Resolution of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture of November 12, 2023 No. 3212-1 "On Amendments to the Regulation on the Procedure for Providing Subsidies to Cover 50% of the Costs of Training Members of Agricultural Associations of Exporters of Fruit and Vegetable Products in New Technologies for the Production of Fruit and Vegetable Products, Monitoring of Agrotechnical Measures on the Lands of Members of Agricultural Associations, and Conducting Marketing Research on Foreign Markets of Fruit and Vegetable Products Produced by Members of Agricultural Associations", the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Agricultural Cooperation" of November 8, 2024, and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 107 "On Measures to Regulate the Export of Fruit and Vegetable Products in the Republic" of February 29, 2024, is a prerequisite for the development of fruit and vegetable production. serves to a certain extent in terms of economic mechanisms.

Reforms in the agricultural sector of our republic are closely related to the processes of forming a digital economy and market mechanisms. Through economic relations in the organization of fruit and vegetable cooperation, it is possible to provide the population with a stable supply of fruit and vegetable products, solve problems arising in the processes of production, transportation, processing and sale. This creates competition in the sector and creates the basis for entering world markets as a result of economic struggle. One of the priority tasks in increasing the potential of agriculture is to continuously and reliably meet the needs of the country's population in food products, to provide the domestic consumer market with fruits and vegetables produced in Uzbekistan, and to increase exports by reducing imports. This is because this sector allows the population to continuously meet its demand for high-quality food products, and industrial enterprises for raw materials. In addition, Uzbekistan is a country with high potential and production potential for the production of fruit and vegetable products.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-4246 dated March 20, 2019 "On measures for the further development of horticulture and greenhouse farming in the Republic of Uzbekistan", the Agency for the Development of Horticulture and Greenhouse Farming was established under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan. When studying the current state of greenhouse farms, achieved results, existing problems and measures to eliminate them, it was determined that important tasks were set to introduce innovative technologies in greenhouse farms, expand water-saving systems, increase product quality and export volumes, which will serve the development of the sector.

This agency continues practical work to comprehensively support greenhouse farms, widely introduce modern agrotechnologies, and create favorable conditions for farmers. The agency's specialists provide entrepreneurs with the necessary methodological and technical support, support new projects, and help them effectively use existing opportunities.

The following tasks can be included in the tasks set for more effective organization of greenhouse activities and rational use of available resources:

- establishing beneficial scientific and production cooperation with farms, agricultural clusters and cooperatives, as well as advanced foreign scientific and research institutions, introducing new scientific developments, innovations and digital technologies;
- coordinating the scientific and research activities of all types of state scientific and higher educational institutions in the field of agriculture;
- ensuring retraining and advanced training of personnel, taking into account the current and future needs of agricultural sectors for qualified specialists;
- conducting fundamental, applied and innovative research in the field of agriculture, training highly qualified scientific and scientific and pedagogical personnel, and improving their skills based on advanced experience and modern technologies;
- developing a network of national information and advisory services that ensure the effective exchange and transfer of knowledge, skills and abilities in agriculture, with the broad involvement of the private sector;
- assistance in the introduction of international quality standards, establishment of a platform for mutual cooperation of product growers and agribusiness.

In recent years, large-scale work has been carried out to reform agriculture and introduce market mechanisms. Because our country has great potential in agriculture. It is worth noting that 25.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product falls on this sector. At

the same time, almost 24.9 percent of the employed population in the republic falls on the agricultural sector, which is 3.5 million people. This shows not only that the role of the agricultural sector in ensuring economic stability and increasing the well-being of the population is extremely important, but also that it is directly related to the reforms being carried out in the sector.

In recent years, due to such problems as increasing climate change, water resource shortages, and deterioration of the amelioration of land, this sector in Uzbekistan has been plagued by a number of problems and threats. In addition, the lack of full-fledged market-based reforms in this sector over the years, i.e. the fact that this sector was the most regulated by the state, problems such as state procurement, limited and unprotected land use rights, have led to a decrease in efficiency and productivity indicators in this sector. In this regard, in accordance with the Strategy of Action for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, a number of agrarian reforms have been carried out in our country to modernize and accelerate the development of agriculture.

In 2019, the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture for 2020-2030 was adopted. In this regard, from 2020, the state monopoly was eliminated by introducing market principles in the cultivation, purchase and sale of cotton and grain. In 2021, measures were determined to ensure equality and transparency in land relations, reliably protect land rights and turn them into a market asset. Also, in accordance with the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026, it was set as a priority goal to increase the income of peasants and farmers by at least 2 times through the intensive development of agriculture on a scientific basis, and to achieve annual growth in agriculture of at least 5 percent. In general, as a result of the work carried out in this area over the past 6 years, stable annual growth rates of gross agricultural production have been recorded:

- in 2017 – 1.0 percent;
- in 2018 - 0.2 percent;
- 3.3 percent in 2019;
- in 2020 - 2.7 percent;
- 3.9 percent in 2021;
- In 2022 - 3.6% growth was achieved.

In the past period, the boycott of Uzbek cotton and textile products on the international market was lifted. "Uzbekistan received GSP+ trade status, which provides duty-free import of textile products to the European Union, as a result, exports of these products have increased from \$1.2 billion in 2017 to \$3.2 billion in 2022. Also, due to the increasing depletion of water resources, a number of measures are being implemented in this area. In particular, the concept of water management development for 2020-2030 was approved. In 2017-2022, water-saving technologies were introduced on a total of 1.4 million hectares of land." The goal of the above measures is to ensure food security and increase the well-being of the people, along with achieving economic benefits.

Especially in our country, optimization of arable land and policy of regionalization of agricultural crops, cluster system, creation of modern greenhouse farms, expansion of homesteading practices allowed to significantly increase the standard of living of the rural population.

These implemented measures, achievements, upcoming problems and threats, and future plans to address them were also discussed at the event "Agricultural Development Strategy in New Uzbekistan until 2030: Opportunities and Prospects" held as part of the

"New Uzbekistan: Development, Innovation and Enlightenment" international partnership initiative week.

In particular, the event recognized a number of works currently being carried out within the framework of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture for 2020-2030 and the following 9 priority areas identified in it:

- development and implementation of a state policy on food security;
- creation of a favorable agribusiness environment and value added chain;
- introduction of mechanisms to reduce state participation in the sector and increase investment attractiveness;
- rational use of natural resources and improvement of the environmental protection system;
- development of modern management systems;
- increasing the efficiency of state spending through the development of sectoral programs and their gradual redistribution;
- development of a system of science, education, information and advisory services;
- implementation of rural development programs;
- creation of a transparent system of sectoral statistics, etc.

In conclusion, in order to ensure that the expected results of the activities will be in a more positive state, the involvement of international experts on the transformation of state management in agriculture and the deepening of reforms on the basis of world experience is also worthy of attention. Today, about 50 percent of the country's population lives in the regions that make up 4 quarters of the economy and about 3.5 million people. Acceleration of relevant reforms in this sector, where people are busy, will definitely serve to increase the well-being of the population of our country in the future, as well as to ensure stable economic development and full use of economic mechanisms and opportunities for supporting fruit and vegetable cultivation.

List of used literature:

1. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 29, 2024 No. 107 "On measures to regulate the export of fruit and vegetable products in the Republic".
2. Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 11, 2019 No. UF-4549 "On additional measures for the further development of the fruit and vegetable and wine-growing industry and the creation of an integrated supply chain in the industry".
3. Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 14, 2019 No. UF-4239 "On measures to develop agricultural cooperation in the fruit and vegetable sector".
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