

## **IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTOR IN INCREASING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY**

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**Annotation:** Currently, the intensive development of agriculture and the increase in its economic efficiency are associated with the cluster system. The more agriculture improves, especially will increase few indicators such as the fruit and vegetable industry, country's export potential and the well-being of the people.

An analysis of the experience of developed countries in growing, storing, processing and exporting fruits and vegetables shows that it is necessary to develop cooperation and clusters of producers of these products. It is known that the existing natural and climatic conditions in Uzbekistan make it possible to ensure the sustainable development of agricultural products, in particular, horticulture.

**Keywords:** fruit and vegetable sphere, export potential, production cluster, economic efficiency, sustainable development, intensive orchards, competitive production cooperation.

### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the most urgent issues is that the consistent economic reforms carried out in the current agriculture will fully satisfy the population's demand for high-quality food products and fundamentally improve the supply in this area to equal world standards. At the current stage of the economic reforms implemented in the agrarian sector of Uzbekistan, in order to ensure the stable development of farms, to increase their competitiveness by creating a competitive environment, to achieve a balance of supply and demand in the production of products, and to introduce mechanisms that operate effectively in the domestic and foreign markets on a large scale. is one of the urgent tasks.

Experience of the world shows that the size of agricultural enterprises is influenced by the system of socio-economic and economic relations established in each country, as well as existing natural geographical factors. In particular, the size of enterprises is large in countries with large agricultural land areas, and small in countries with limited land resources and high population density. For example, one farm in Canada has an average of 215 hectares, 180 hectares in the USA, 44 hectares in Russia, 27-30 hectares in France, Denmark and Sweden, 12-16 hectares in Germany, Belgium, Spain and Finland, 4-6 hectares in Greece, Italy and Portugal. is coming. Determining the volume of production in each farm is decided taking into account the existing economic and natural conditions in this farm.

At present, at least 330-400 g per capita per day or 115-120 kg of fruit per year should be grown in our country, of which 15 kg of grapes and 10 kg of berries should be grown. However, today, 94 kilograms of fruits are produced per capita, including 12 kilograms of grapes. This indicator is 120-230 kilograms in countries such as the USA, Italy, Spain, and France.

Analyses of the experiences of developed countries in the cultivation, storage, processing and export of fruit and vegetable products show that there is a need to develop cooperation and clusters of producers of these products. It is known that the existing natural and climatic conditions in our country allow for the sustainable development of agricultural products, in particular, fruit and vegetable growing. The President and the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan pay great attention to the development of fruit and vegetable growing as a priority in the process of transitioning the industry to market relations. After all, the fact that a significant part of the foreign currency income of the country is formed due to the sale of fruit and vegetable products in foreign markets indicates the priority of radical reform and rapid development of the sector.

## LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODS

Scientific-theoretical solutions aimed at improving the economic foundations of fruit and vegetable growing, cooperative relations, and intensive gardening in the agricultural sector of our republic, O.Sattarov, N.Ashurmetova, O.Norbekov, F.Polvonov, etc., were reflected in the research works of a number of agrarian economists.

According to Sh.Murodov, "a large number of farmers and peasant farms have the ability to simultaneously grow fruit and vegetable products, purchase material and technical resources, study markets, search for buyers, and deliver quality products to consumers cooperatives are effective because they are not.

S. Eshmatov stated that "in the production of fruit and vegetable products, the crops are not placed based on the requirements of the global and domestic market conditions, the cultivation of exportable varieties, the lack of a scientific and innovative system in the fight against diseases and pests, processing enterprises in the regions Factors such as failure to take into account the capacities, the slow introduction of intensive technologies are causing a decrease in productivity and an increase in the cost of products.

O. Sattarov's scientific works show that "high-level and stable productivity in intensive orchards, due to the fact that the fruit trees are low, the harvest can be harvested easily by hand, and the mechanical damage of the harvested crop is avoided due to the weight of high-quality products offered to the market." The increase in I provides a 20-25 percent increase in the economic efficiency of intensive orchards. "Also, scientific and practical approaches such as carrying out feeding activities during the growing season, creating great conveniences in the use of drip irrigation system and mechanization tools" have been reflected.

In general, today, the production and sale of fruit and vegetable products, the development of the added value chain, the increase of the market of fruit and vegetable products and the volume of its production, the evaluation of the possibilities of sales in the domestic and foreign markets, with scientific researches related to organizational and economic relations in this field A number of leading scientists in our republic have been making an important contribution with their scientific and practical suggestions and recommendations.

## Discussion

In recent years, a number of decrees and decisions have been adopted on the cultivation of fruit and vegetable products. These include PF-5388 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 29, 2018 "On additional measures for the rapid development of fruit and vegetable growing in the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated October 23, 2019 Decree No. PF-5853 "On approving the strategy for the development of agriculture for 2020-2030" and "On additional measures to increase the efficiency of the export of fruit and vegetable products to

foreign markets" dated October 17, 2018 PQ-3978, March 14, 2019 PQ-4239 decisions "On measures to develop agricultural cooperation in the field of fruit and vegetable production" can be cited.

***In general, the economic reforms carried out in the network make it possible to solve the following economic and social issues:***

Economically, fruit and vegetable growing is one of the main incomes of the population in rural areas, accounting for 32.2% of the total agricultural products (8.7% of the country's GDP). It has a direct impact on the development of a number of industries. Also, this sector occupies the main place in the country's agricultural exports;

In terms of social issues, the effectiveness of sustainable development of fruit and vegetable production has a direct impact not only on the living standards of rural residents, but also on increasing the social well-being of all residents of the country.

As a result, the ultimate goal of these reforms is to provide food security in the country, which is evident in the positive results of the economic reforms implemented in all processes of the development of the new Uzbekistan, and reflects the increase in the standard of living of the population.

In addition, "... in the field, especially in the development of fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture, effective market mechanisms have not been systematically established, the insufficient scientific approach leads to the fact that the existing opportunities of the sector are not fully used. According to calculations, compared to raw cotton grown on 1 hectare, it is possible to earn 7 times more from grapes, 6 times from cherries, and 5 times more from walnuts."

Also, it cannot be said that the available opportunities in processing, storage and export of these products are being fully used. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev noted: "Today, only 15% of the fruits and vegetables grown in our country are processed, and only 8% are exported. These indicators are still low, especially in Syrdarya, Jizzakh, Khorezm, Kashkadarya and Tashkent regions. Is the export of 860,000 tons of fruits and vegetables worth 620 million dollars this year consistent with our capabilities and potential? No, of course! Based on the experience of developed countries, there are no techniques for cultivating gardens and vineyards, planting and harvesting vegetable and potato seeds. Delivery of fuel and lubricants, mineral fertilizers, seeds to farmers, and control of diseases and pests is not organized at the required level.

Today, the rapid development of agriculture and the increase of its economic efficiency are connected with the cluster system. In the words of our President, it will soon become a locomotive of the agricultural sector. Therefore, the more the agriculture, especially the fruit and vegetable industry, improves, the more the country's export potential will increase, and the people's well-being will improve.

It is a complex of enterprises integrated into a single technological chain, a link that brings together different layers of the population, and at the same time it is an important stage of the transition to an innovative economy in the field. Because thanks to the cluster, raw materials go through all stages of processing and become ready-made products for export. In simple terms, the cluster system covers all activities from fruit and vegetable growing, processing, and storage as a team within one complex. At the same time, the cluster direction shows that it is promising for all branches of the economy.

In these processes, the interests of all workers are harmonized. That is, all employees, from the raw material producer to its processors, are equally responsible for the quality of the product. Because accordingly, a part of the added value arising from the sale of the final product was distributed to the workers who joined this work. Such an incentive encourages them to work hard, not just for the sake

of it. The cluster is distinguished not only by its high economic efficiency, but also by its social significance.

## Results

The concept of "cluster" was first introduced in 1990 by Michael Porter in his work entitled "Competitive Advantage of States".

- A cluster is a form of unification of interrelated enterprises, which makes it possible to increase the competitiveness of the economy of the region.
- The cluster model (incl. cluster - "growing together") is widely used in world practice as an instrument for increasing the competitiveness of an economic group, region, and the entire country.
- A production cluster is a group of enterprises that operate in the same or related sectors of the economy and are geographically close to each other.

The role of innovative ideas and initiatives in the process of creating a cluster is incomparable. An important aspect of the implementation of innovative ideas is that the cluster method in agriculture includes such processes as plowing the land, planting and caring for crops, and producing finished products from cultivated raw materials. This single technological chain unites a complex of enterprises and allows to deepen the integration of science, education and production, and to introduce new technologies into practice.

Along with many achievements in the field of fruit and vegetable production of Uzbekistan, it should be recognized that there are serious and complex problems. Solving them takes a lot of time and effort. Among the main problems, the highly regulated industry and forced labor stand out.

In the cluster process, these are eliminated. Therefore, starting from this year in the districts, district farms will start growing fruit and vegetables in the cluster method.

Clusters are specialized in the production and processing of various types of fruit and vegetable products, along with the cultivation of other agricultural crops.

The economic growth of the fruit and vegetable sector should not be due to the further expansion of the use of existing internal resources, but it can be achieved due to the introduction of a system of competitive production cooperation and clusters, which meet the needs of the times in terms of product quality; (Fig. 1)

first, development and implementation of measures to modernize and renew the fruit and vegetable industry, provide a strong impetus to the sustainable development of the industry and ensure the competitiveness of the produced products;

secondly, as a result of the increased dependence of the world's consumer market on imports, ensuring the safety of food products, improving the mechanism of state support and management of the agrarian sector;

thirdly, due to the scarcity of water resources from year to year, the possibility of efficient use of irrigated land is limited. to pay special attention to the issue of wide introduction of rice;

fourthly, in-depth analysis of the opportunities and achievements of farmers and agricultural enterprises in the economic, technological, legal and other fields among the factors affecting the sustainable development of fruit and vegetable production, as well as the identified shortcomings use of existing scientific and innovative opportunities by eliminating

fifthly, in order to meet the needs of the population, adopting programs that provide for the replacement of fruit and vegetable products imported into the country at the expense of full and effective use of our internal capabilities, etc.

Also, the analysis of the experiences of developed countries in the cultivation, storage, processing and export of fruit and vegetable products shows the need to develop cooperation and clusters of producers of these products.

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**Based on the above analysis, it is appropriate to give importance to the following in the sustainable development of the industry in the conditions of Uzbekistan:**

- to further strengthen the financial stimulation of the activities of model enterprises operating in rural areas and specializing in the storage and processing of agricultural products in an innovative resource-saving way, introducing tax, customs and other benefits to them;
- increasing the preparation, storage and processing of agricultural raw products produced on the basis of the development of compact and small branches of industrial enterprises in each rural area of the republic, as well as economic stimulation of activities aimed at the production of competitive finished products for the domestic and foreign markets (currency allocation, setting preferential tax, allocation of loans, etc.) in accordance with the purpose;

- general practical assistance to the entrepreneur in allocating credit before the export process, insurance, taking a place in foreign markets, "geographical, economic, financial and quality risks", transport-logistics, obtaining relevant certificates, food safety (XASSP) and standard issues. organization of export-credit organizations in order to help ensure participation in international exhibitions and fairs, or entrusting the solution of these issues to the responsible ministry and office;
- establishment of "Agropark" and "Agrosanoat" multi-disciplinary agrologistics complexes based on digital innovative technologies in convenient locations in all respects. All conditions have been created in this complex, that is, creation of a system of all processes up to product sale, storage, processing, packaging, biolaboratory service, standardization and export;
- Introduction of "Fruit and vegetable clinic" service;
- development of legal regulatory and technical documents regulating the requirements for the quality and safety of fruits and vegetables and processed products.

Implementation of these measures at the current stage of the reforms implemented in our country, ensuring the long-term stable development of fruit and vegetable production, meeting the demand for food products by increasing the efficiency of the sector, ensuring its safety, expanding the export geography and improving the living conditions of our people allows to increase.

- up to 50% of the value of the crop for the cultivation of fruits, grapes, vegetables, potatoes, vegetables, greens and medicinal plants, legumes and oil crops to farmers, farms and other producers of products for a period of 12 months at an annual rate of 14% with a 6-month grace period credit is allocated;
- 12-month "revolver" loan at an annual rate of 14 percent is given to the processors, storage and exporters of fruits and vegetables to replenish working capital required for the purchase of cultivated agricultural products.

**A budget loan of 2 trillion soums will be allocated to the Fund to finance these activities.**

From March 1, 2022:

- fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives) and farms have an export contract, and when using the fruit and vegetable crop risk insurance service, 50% of the insurance premium paid, but more than 1% of the insurance money the missing part is covered;
- 50% of the costs of attracting qualified agronomists, entomologists, and laboratory specialists from abroad to fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives), but the part not exceeding the equivalent of 1 thousand US dollars per month for 1 specialist, will be compensated through the district departments of the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to the results of the analysis, the year-by-year increase in the volume of fruit and vegetable products has led to the elimination of a number of problems and shortcomings in the storage and processing network, and the wide use of modern innovative, resource-saving digital technologies in the reform of the sector. requires an increase.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 17, 2019 No. PF-5708 "On measures to improve the state management system in the field of agriculture" "improvement of organizational-legal and economic foundations, support for the implementation of investment projects on the organization and development of clusters in the agricultural sector" as an important task of reforms in this field.

A cluster is a group of enterprises where all the participants of the added value chain, i.e. producers, processors, sellers and exporters, are united towards one goal.

Currently, the total number of clusters organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in our country is 463, and the land area attached to them is 2,210,385 hectares. Of this, 282,004 hectares belong to the clusters themselves, 1,930,975 hectares are owned by 75,283 farms.

The cluster system is a whole system that covers the entire process from the production of raw materials to the delivery of processed finished products to consumers. The purpose of the cluster system is:

- updating agrotechnical measures by involving modern innovative technologies in product production, increasing productivity several times;
- creation of a value added chain by producers and export of finished products;
- get more income with less expenses. It consists in enriching the material and technical base of producers with modern agricultural machinery and equipment, and updating infrastructure facilities.

**Summary.** The main task of fruit growing as a branch of agricultural production is to supply the population with wet fruits and raw materials for the industry. Fruit growing as a science consists in developing the theoretical bases and practical methods of high-quality and continuous harvesting technology based on the study of the structure, growth, reproduction and yielding laws of fruit and berry-fruit crops, their response to external environmental factors and biology. Concepts of fruit growing and horticulture are similar to each other. In fact, horticulture is a broad concept that includes fruit growing, viticulture, citrus growing, berry growing, ornamental gardening and flower growing. The importance of fruit growing in the national economy is immense. Fruits and berries are a source of sugar, organic acids, proteins, fats, flavoring, pectin, aromatic substances, colloids, mineral salts, enzymes, and vitamins necessary for the human body.

The role of innovative ideas and initiatives in the process of creating a cluster is incomparable. An important aspect of the implementation of innovative ideas is that the cluster method in agriculture includes such processes as plowing the land, planting and caring for crops, and producing finished products from cultivated raw materials. This single technological chain unites a complex of enterprises and allows to deepen the integration of science, education and production, and to introduce new technologies into practice.

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