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## FOOD ORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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**Annotation:** The article examines the issues of strengthening the food orientation of agriculture, as well as the possibility of developing production and increasing the export potential of horticulture, viticulture and vegetable growing in the Namangan region of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** coronavirus infection, epidemic, savings, business, economic support, privilege, unemployment, cooperation, analysis.

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### Introduction

In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, the need to ensure the country's food security and the well-being of the rural population has increased significantly. Of course, such a need existed before, the state took appropriate measures. The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further ensure the food security of the country" clearly outlined the further actions necessary to fully meet the population's demand for high-quality food products available to the population (1). The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 23, 2019 "On Approval of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020 - 2030" the main priority of the country's agriculture establishes ensuring food security and better meeting the needs of the processing industries.

As you know, Uzbekistan has favorable conditions for the production of fairly competitive agricultural products, including fruits and vegetables, fruits and grapes. In 2020, Uzbekistan produced 7,566.6 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, per capita consumption of vegetables per year exceeds 290 kilograms, fruits - 140, potatoes - 75, meat and meat products - 40, sugar - 30, eggs - 210 pieces, milk and dairy products - 270 liters, vegetable oil - 25. According to the recommendations of the World Health Organization, the consumption of fruits

and vegetables for an adult is 400 grams per day. This means that according to this indicator, in Uzbekistan, the inhabitants are provided with a diet five times higher than this norm.

### **The main part**

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, 13 thousand hectares of intensive orchards were created and in the country in 2017, as part of the implementation of measures of the Strategy of priority directions for the development of 7.3 thousand hectares of vineyards, 15.4 thousand hectares of orchards and 9 thousand hectares of vineyards were reconstructed, 147 projects were completed in the area of processing fruits, vegetables and meat, worth a total of \$ 147 million. This was due to the reduction of areas under cotton by 49 thousand hectares and under wheat - by 10 thousand hectares. In addition, the area of potatoes increased by 8.1 thousand hectares, vegetables - by 27.2 thousand hectares, intensive orchards - by 5.9 thousand hectares, vineyards - by 2.9 thousand hectares, oilseeds - by 4 thousand hectares. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev has repeatedly emphasized the need to continue structural reforms in agriculture and to grow export-oriented crops in the vacated areas that are in great demand both in the domestic and foreign markets (2).

The old traditional branches of agriculture are being revived and new ones are being created: modern greenhouse farms, fish farming. In recent years, there has been a noticeable shift in the introduction of market mechanisms in the agricultural industry, a cluster system is being introduced, which will essentially overcome the direct state intervention in production and finance, inherited from the Soviet period. activities of agricultural entities - beekeeping, poultry, horse breeding, growing licorice, saffron, hot pepper, garlic, expanding the practice of secondary autumn planting of vegetables, household farming (3).

Thus, there is a diversification of agriculture with an increase in the share of food products in it. It should be noted that in 2016-2018 in Uzbekistan, land areas under cotton have significantly decreased. In 2018, 2,300 thousand tons of raw cotton were produced, which is 1.5 - 2 times less than the volume of previous years. In the structure of agricultural production, there is more place for food and, albeit to a lesser extent, for fodder crops.

The creation and effective functioning of specialized farms, the priority orientation of family dekhkan farms to gardening, vegetable growing and viticulture, accelerating the processes of agro-industrial integration in the industry (farmers are establishing industrial processing of their own products) will give a tangible socio-economic effect. These businesses are inherently receptive to innovation. All this is supported by the positive trends of technological renewal, the rapid growth of lending by banks to the economic entities of the industry, and the annually observed tendency to reduce the tax burden on private business. In addition, the industrial infrastructure is mainly financed by the state, there is a market infrastructure for the sale of the industry's products, there is a steady demand for the industry's products in the domestic and foreign markets. In addition, since November 1, 2018, the export of the industry's products takes place in almost complete free mode - prepayment has been canceled, the mandatory existence of an export contract and its registration, customs procedures have been simplified and, which is also very important, the state has canceled the monopoly of several state economic entities on the export of fruits. and vegetables.

As a result of all this, the share of food products in the total supply of agricultural products is increasing, and agriculture is diversifying with an increase in the share of food

products in it. It should be noted that in 2016-2018 in Uzbekistan, land areas under cotton have significantly decreased. In 2018, 2,300 thousand tons of raw cotton were produced, which is 1.5 - 2 times less than the volume of previous years. In the structure of agricultural production, there is more space for food and, albeit to a lesser extent, for fodder crops.

The modernization of the aggregate supply of agricultural products in modern conditions is based on the use of intensive factors in production on the basis of improving the land reclamation state. For these purposes, in 2019, 1.7 trillion were allocated from the state budget. soums and 84 million dollars of funds of international financial institutions. In 2019 - 2020, stable irrigation of 1,200 thousand hectares was ensured, saving 1,700 million cubic meters of water per year, improved the reclamation status of 600 thousand hectares. In 2019, investment projects with a total value of USD 1,870 million were implemented in the agricultural sector.

In the regions, the growth of food crop yields is impeded by such factors as poor equipment, which is associated with a lack of investment in the industry, a shortage of irrigation water and the practical absence of the use of technologies that save irrigation water; in the foothill zone, irrigation with the help of electric pumps is used, which significantly increases the cost of products. To mitigate the impact of such factors, work is underway to implement projects directly or indirectly related to the expansion of the export potential of the food complex of the regions.

For the formation and development of a modern agricultural market in Uzbekistan, the creation and effective functioning of specialized farms, the priority orientation of family dekhkan farms on gardening, vegetable growing and viticulture, accelerating the processes of agro-industrial integration in the industry (farmers are establishing industrial processing of their own products) will give tangible market effect. These businesses are inherently receptive to innovation. All this is supported by the positive trends of technological renewal, the rapid growth of lending by banks to the economic entities of the industry, and the annually observed tendency to reduce the tax burden on private business. In addition, the industrial infrastructure is mainly financed by the state, there is a market infrastructure for the sale of the industry's products, there is a steady demand for the industry's products in the domestic and foreign markets. In addition, since November 1, 2018, the export of the industry's products takes place in almost complete free mode - prepayment has been canceled, the mandatory existence of an export contract and its registration, customs procedures have been simplified and, which is also very important, the state has canceled the monopoly of several state economic entities on the export of fruits. and vegetables.

Favorable preconditions for the successful development of food agriculture are created by the implementation of the Concept of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture until 2030. It provides, among other measures, measures that are very important for the development of a modern and efficient agricultural market:

- providing agricultural producers with the freedom to choose their crops and markets;
- from 2020, the transition to market pricing for all crops;
- real consolidation of the right to use land;
- increasing the fertility of the land, protecting the rights of plant originators;
- an increase in agricultural exports from \$ 2.3 billion to \$ 20 billion by 2030;
- rational management of water resources (transition to market principles), water saving (4).

In the Namangan region in 2017, the area under vegetable crops amounted to 194 thousand

hectares, i.e., they became comparable to the area under cotton and grain. The yield of vegetable crops is growing from year to year. In 2017, the gross harvest amounted to 10.1 million tons, which is 44.8 percent more than in 2013. However, in the field of increasing crop yields, such factors as poor equipment are impeded, which is associated with a lack of investment in the industry, a shortage of irrigation water and the practical absence of the use of technologies that save irrigation water; in the foothill zone, irrigation using electric pumps is mainly used, which significantly increases the cost of products. In 2018, work was carried out in the Namangan region to implement 360 projects directly or indirectly related to the expansion of the export potential of the food complex of the region.

It should be noted that both in the country as a whole and in the Namangan region, the technical and technological lag in agriculture has not yet been overcome. The material and technical equipment of the industry does not meet modern requirements, there is a shortage of specialized equipment, its prices are unattainable for the main part of agricultural producers, the needs for mineral fertilizers and biological and chemical protection means are not fully satisfied, they have monopoly high prices, modern agricultural technology is replicated slowly (five).

### **Conclusion**

Researchers note the difficulties in the field of product sales. Wholesale buyers of the domestic market and large processors buy products at unjustifiably low prices, which is due to their monopoly position and insufficient development of wholesale trade channels. The voluntary and compulsory assignment of manufacturers to large buyers of their products and the obligation to pre-conclude contracts for the supply nullifies the marketing activities of product manufacturers. Foreign markets are studied by structures that have no direct interest in the results of production. Difficulties remain in delivering products to distant consumers. Storage capacities, despite their accelerated expansion, are still insufficient for long-term storage of products in large volumes, which forces the manufacturer to sell their products at low prices and increases the seasonal nature of production and the disproportion between demand and supply in the market (6). Elimination or mitigation of the above factors will significantly contribute to a more complete realization of export opportunities and the potential of regions for the production of food-oriented agricultural products.

Thus, in the context of a coronavirus pandemic, the task of ensuring and maintaining food security is set broader and deeper, i.e. in the following directions: - production of the most important types of products in stable volumes, its steady increase;

- the competitiveness of products in the domestic and foreign markets, the preservation and strengthening of the export orientation;
- increasing the efficiency of production based on innovative development (new technologies and agricultural technology, variety change, the introduction of the production of organic products, water and energy conservation, the highest culture of agriculture);
- ensuring the harmonization of the development of the fruit and vegetable industry with environmental requirements.

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