



INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN IMPROVING THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWING SECTOR AND THE ACTIVITY OF THE CLUSTER SYSTEM IN IT

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Abstract. *The article discusses the issues of developing fruit and vegetable production in agriculture in our republic, increasing the volume of fruit and vegetable exports in our country. It also shows the advantages of developing fruit and vegetable clusters, and the development of the cluster system. international experiences have been studied.*

Keywords. *Agriculture, export, technology, production, fruit and vegetable growing, product, cluster, innovation, land resources, competitiveness.*

Turning our country's economy into an equally strong participant in the global market is one of the urgent tasks of today. At the same time, the effective use of arable land in our country, the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of farmers, peasant farms, agricultural organizations and household landowners, ensuring food security, ensuring employment and improving the well-being of the population in rural areas are extremely urgent issues. In addition, the widespread implementation of innovations in the agricultural sector and the deepening of domestic processing of raw materials grown on our land are the demands of today. After all, the more agriculture is industrialized, the more the economic and export potential of the state increases. As a result, the well-being of the population increases.

In our country, important sectoral measures have been implemented to modernize agriculture, especially to organize export-oriented production. As a result, the volume of agricultural production and exports is increasing significantly. At the same time, increasing the volume of agricultural exports is also one of the main tasks. The analysis shows that in 2023, Uzbekistan exported fruits and

vegetables worth \$ 1.757 billion. The volume of fruit and vegetable exports amounted to plums (dried) - 36 thousand tons, grapes - 126.1 thousand tons, grapes (dried) - 57.3 thousand tons, peaches - 87.2 thousand tons, melons and watermelons - 148.1 thousand tons, cherries - 45 thousand tons, apricots - 63 thousand tons, tomatoes - 57.5 thousand tons, cabbage - 97.2 thousand tons, mung beans - 154.6 thousand tons, onions - 299.6 thousand tons, millet - 17 thousand tons. In 2023, the share of fruit and vegetable exports increased by 7.9%. In particular, onions amounted to 263.8 thousand tons, mung beans 148.5 thousand tons, melons and watermelons 147.6 thousand tons, grapes 121 thousand tons, peaches 87.2 thousand tons, apricots 63 thousand tons, tomatoes 54.2 thousand tons, raisins 52.2 thousand tons, dates 50.3 thousand tons, cherries 45 thousand tons, dried plums 34 thousand tons, millet 15.3 thousand tons. In general, today, such products as vegetables (188.6 million dollars), fruits (229.3 million dollars), legumes (312.2 million dollars), grapes (78.1 million dollars), dried fruits and vegetables (87.5 million dollars), and melons (68.6 million dollars) were exported at a high rate.

The geography of fruit and vegetable exports has expanded, export corridors have been opened to the markets of England and Colombia, and the export of legumes and dried products has been launched. As a result, to date, products worth more than \$ 1.5 billion have been exported from the republic to 75 countries. In 2023, the area of sown agricultural crops, orchards and vineyards amounted to 3,816,842 hectares. At the same time, the area of sown agricultural crops was 3,316,512 hectares, orchards were 357,950 hectares, vineyards were 142,380 hectares, and the volume of agricultural production reached 202,679.1 billion soums. The average volume of agricultural production per hectare amounted to 53.1 million soums (\$ 4,524.2).

Today, the world food market offers a wide range of fruit and vegetable products not only in fresh form, but also in a highly processed form, which is explained by the growing demand for these products. World experience shows that

the future development of fruit and vegetable products is due, first of all, to such factors as the increasing share of fruits, vegetables and melons in the diet. Trading in fruit and vegetable products is a profitable business. In international economic comparisons, the high level of consumption of fruit and vegetable products is included in the factors determining the development of the country's economy. In particular, the per capita consumption of these products indicates the income of the population.

National enterprises of foreign countries follow different strategies when entering foreign markets. For example, American companies rely on the introduction of new products in order to expand foreign markets. European strategies are more defensive. European enterprises, for example, prefer to enter markets that are already developed or closely related to previously developed markets. Japanese companies use a low-cost, limited product range, large-scale production strategy, which allows them to use price as the main competitive tool to increase sales. Experts say that Japanese companies operate with lower overhead costs, and their offices are not overly luxurious. The organizational structures of Japanese companies are simpler than those of European enterprises.

The profitability of fruit and vegetable exports in the United States is comparable to that of meat exports. According to a new report by the US Department of Agriculture, increasing profits in fruit and vegetable production, reduced transportation costs, improved technology, and the achievement of mutually beneficial international agreements have led to a steady increase in the volume and types of global fruit and vegetable trade. The bulk of the trade turnover of these products falls on the EU, Germany, the North American Free Trade Area and Asian countries.

China's fruit and vegetable export strategy is primarily aimed at capturing Asian markets. China has begun to master the cultivation of American fruit and vegetable varieties that have become popular in Asian countries. 38 percent of US

agricultural exports used to go to Asian markets. However, today China has managed to capture Asian markets, and US fruit and vegetable exports to these markets have declined sharply.

Although China produces a lot of apples, the United States continues to be the largest exporter. As mentioned above, China has been able to increase its apple exports over the past five years as a result of measures taken by the government to increase its export capacity.

At the same time, during the fruit and vegetable harvest season, small intermediary firms - traders - operate in the market, which conclude contracts with foreign buyers and place these orders with large local companies, using their production capacities for a certain fee.

The Chinese experience is also of particular importance for our country. For many years, the agricultural sector in China has served as a donor network through low purchase prices set by the state. These funds were used to finance large state investments. The economic reforms that began in 1978 began with the establishment of adequate prices for agricultural products, which in a short time led to an increase in production volumes and increased productivity. In addition, new agrarian funds served as a source of development for small and medium-sized businesses and the industrial sector in rural areas. They became an important factor in economic growth in the mid-80s. This, in turn, led to an increase in tax revenues and increased investment in infrastructure and the industrial sector. In China, the replacement of a single large-scale production system with a family farm system during the reforms provided an additional 28 percent growth without any additional material costs.

In adopting a new agricultural strategy in China, the increase in the production of relatively more profitable fruits and vegetables was achieved at the expense of reducing the production of low-profit grains. The formation of advanced agricultural centers around major cities based on the use of foreign capital and technology is also a new direction of China's agricultural strategy.

It is worth noting, first of all, that there are favorable climatic conditions that allow growing everything from traditional crops (apples, pears, potatoes) to tropical crops (citrus, mango, papaya). Limited land resources and the abandonment of the grain cultivation policy are creating the conditions for many farmers to switch to the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

The second reason is that even before the economic reforms began, producers were free from strict state control. Unlike grain growers, fruit and vegetable producers had the right to decide for themselves what and how to grow. The number of markets increased significantly during this period. A contractual system of land use emerged, in which land was the collective property of the village and the individual farmer who signed the relevant contract. Large cities were supplied mainly with the help of state companies, while relatively small settlements relied more on local markets for supplies.

World experience shows that the mechanism for stimulating the export of fruit and vegetable products should consist of interrelated legal, economic and organizational measures. In the effective implementation of this mechanism, the state plays the main coordinating role. In this case, it is advisable that the scope of direct state management be limited, and the support mechanism be implemented within the framework of targeted programs. It is necessary to increase the export potential of sectors and regions by increasing the volume and types of competitive products, and introducing international standards.

These include the organizational and structural reorganization of agricultural enterprises, the widespread use of intensive advanced agricultural technologies in production, the widespread introduction of innovative scientific achievements into production, and the rapprochement and integration of industry with the agricultural sector.

One of the mechanisms for properly organizing production in agriculture is the development of a cluster system based on international experience. The studied

international experience has made it possible to set priority goals for the formation and development of clusters in Uzbekistan. These include the US cluster creation projects such as "Key Industries", "Flexible Sectors", "12 Umbrellas", the Korean state programs "EXCELLENCE CENTERS" aimed at creating a total of 250 regional industrial clusters over 50 years, and the Tatarstan "Cluster Activation Strategy" aimed at ensuring regional competitiveness and economic growth through the creation of a "smart" economy.

The introduction of the cluster system into this sector in Uzbekistan is of great importance, as is the active movement of clusters in cotton, grain, horticulture and other agricultural areas. At the same time, in the context of food problems in agriculture and the increasing strategic importance of agricultural development, the positive experience accumulated in this sector, the use of the latest scientific and technical achievements in the world economy, the stabilization of the financial support of agriculture, the use of scientific achievements and resource-saving technologies in this sector, the further development of agroclusters in the sector are necessary, and conditions are being created for a steady increase in productivity and income. In vegetable growing, the practice of intensive production methods is widely used, and this year, 80-100 tons of produce per hectare and 6-8 thousand dollars in net income were obtained from 30 thousand hectares of land. In order to increase the volume of export-oriented fruit and grape cultivation, 34 thousand hectares of orchards and 86 thousand hectares of vineyards are being intensively established. As a result, more than 15 million tons of vegetables and melons, 5 million tons of fruits and grapes, and 4 million tons of potatoes were grown. All this, while meeting the needs of the domestic market, paved the way for the development of modern trade, logistics centers, deep processing, and storage enterprises in rural areas and the expansion of export opportunities. In 2023, the processing capacity of fruits and vegetables was increased to 3.3 million tons, the number of agrologistics centers to 76, and the capacity to almost 1 million tons.

For accelerated and innovative development, the formation of fruit and vegetable clusters is being introduced in two directions: the first direction is a cluster for organizing the production of fruit and vegetable products within a single or group of interconnected enterprises that independently carry out a defined process from the production of fruit and vegetable products to their sale; the second direction is a cluster for organizing the production of fruit and vegetable products, which forms a continuous chain on the principle of "seed - seedlings - product cultivation - preparation - storage - processing - transportation - delivery to the market" based on guaranteed contracts between agricultural producers, processing enterprises, processors, exporters, who provide agricultural producers with planting material and advance payments for organizing agricultural work and purchase the products produced from them at agreed prices.

The cluster should embody the following tasks:

- deep specialization in the cultivation, storage, processing and sale of fruit and vegetable products;
- introduction of new innovative technologies in the cultivation, reception, cleaning, sorting, drying and processing of fruit and vegetable products;
- use of land: effective and productive use of allocated land, planting high-quality, export-oriented fruit, grape and vegetable crops in the fields that meet world standards, and gradually replacing unproductive and unpromising agricultural crops with fruit, grape and vegetable crops;
- studying advanced foreign experiences in fruit and vegetable growing, widely using them in regional and territorial conditions, and attracting foreign specialists to the fruit and vegetable growing sector;
- development and development of export-oriented agricultural products, their selection and seed production in cluster regions, and establishment of cooperation with scientific research institutions; -Formation of a system that fully covers the process of planting, growing, storing, processing and selling high-yielding fruit,

grape and vegetable crops, as well as the introduction of modern innovative, resource-saving technologies into the processes of growing fruit and vegetable products;

- aims to create new skilled jobs.

The competitive advantages of agricultural enterprises included in the fruit and vegetable cluster are formed, and most importantly, the ability to adapt and quickly respond to all changes in the market increases. Clustering of agricultural sectors allows for an increase in the flow of capital and technology, direct investments, which, in addition to financial resources, brings new innovative technologies, intellectual resources, and management skills to the region.

In the formation of a fruit and vegetable cluster in Uzbekistan and the scientific substantiation of its composition, it will not be enough to limit ourselves to the traditional acreage, average yield, gross yield, profitability and economic indicators. Here, it will be necessary to take into account such processes as providing the domestic and foreign markets with competitive, high-quality and popular fresh and processed products, as well as social and environmental benefits, increasing the number of qualified jobs, increasing the educational and cultural level of the population, ensuring an increase in the working age, reducing the number of unemployed, and preserving natural resources.

The main advantages of clustering are: innovations, their application and dissemination; use of local resources, which allows for a significant reduction in production costs; increasing production volumes, achieving economic efficiency in the scale of production; mutual benefit of all cluster participants; attraction of investments; increased efficiency and competitiveness.

At the current stage of reforms being implemented in our country, the implementation of these measures will ensure the long-term sustainable development of fruit and vegetable growing, increase the efficiency of the sector,

meet the demand for food products, ensure its safety, expand the volume and scope of exports, and improve the living conditions of our people.

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