

THE STATE AND TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWING IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: The article deals with the issues of the state and prospects for the development of fruit-and-vegetable growing in Uzbekistan. The main directions and mechanisms for the development of fruit and vegetable production and increasing the export potential in the context of the modernization of the national economy have been determined.

Key words: fruit-and-vegetable growing, production, development, forecast, farm, greenhouse, export, processing.

Food security is one of the main objectives of the agrarian and economic policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The solution of the food problem implies, above all, the sustainable and effective development of agricultural production, which, in turn, requires the adoption of certain measures of agrarian protectionism that meet the conditions of a market economy. The economic reforms carried out in stages provide fruitful results in this sector of the economy. So, in 2017, 11,333.6 thousand tons of vegetables were grown (112.9% compared to 2015), 3014.6 thousand tons of potatoes (111.8%), 2094.8 thousand tons of melons and gourds (113%), 3076.3 thousand tons of fruits and berries (112%) and 1748.9 thousand tons of grapes (110.7%) (Table 1). As a result of the implementation of measures to increase the productivity of agricultural production in 2017, the volume of meat production increased by 12.2%, milk - by 11.7%, eggs - by 19.3%.

The main issue of the concept of the development of the food market of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the economic mechanism of the functioning of its constituent segments, among which an important role is played by the fruit and vegetable market.

To ensure the accelerated and effective development of fruit-and-vegetable growing, the expansion of high-quality and competitive finished products, its further promotion to large foreign markets, as well as the consistent implementation of the tasks defined by the Action Strategy in the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, March 29, 2018 was Presidential Decree "On additional measures for the accelerated development of fruit-and-vegetable growing in the Republic of Uzbekistan" [1], which serves as an important guide to action in increasing the cultivation of fruits and vegetables and grapes, creating on-site, in particular, in remote areas, specialized processing small enterprises.

Table 1
 Production of main types of agricultural products in the Republic of Uzbekistan (thousand tons)¹

	All categories of farms			Including:								
				Farms			Dehkan and personal subsidiary farms			Organizations engaged in agricultural activities		
	2015 y.	2016 y.	2017 y.	2015 y.	2016 y.	2017 y.	2015 y.	2016 y.	2017 y.	2015 y.	2016 y.	2017 y.
Cereals	8173,5	8261,3	8116,5	6588,3	6640,4	6550,5	1482,9	1514,0	1445,2	102,3	106,9	120,8
Potatoes	2696,9	2958,4	3014,6	632,1	684,8	645,0	2043,2	2251,5	2347,5	21,6	22,1	22,1
Vegetables	10129,3	11275,8	11433,6	3458,8	3925,7	3775,7	6584,7	7253,3	7565,6	86,2	96,8	92,3
Melon-field	1853,6	2044,9	2094,8	907,2	1013,5	999,0	915,3	999,3	1061,0	31,1	32,1	34,8
Fruits and berries	2746,1	3042,8	3076,3	1260,1	1393,1	1370,0	1429,4	1586,9	1645,8	56,6	62,8	60,5
Grapes	1579,3	1735,8	1748,9	843,8	921,4	862,0	711,1	788,8	861,9	24,5	25,6	25,0
Meat (live weight)	2033,4	2172,5	2281,1	58,3	62,2	74,1	1920,7	2051,3	2145,	54,4	59,1	61,9
Milk	9027,8	9703,4	10083,2	328,4	352,7	359,1	8635,3	9278,8	9639,7	64,1	71,9	117,3
Eggs, million pcs	5535,4	6152,5	6605,5	613,6	656,7	645,6	3105,5	3528,2	4015,9	1816,3	1967,5	1944,0

Thanks to the attention paid to the field, the production of vegetables, fruits and grapes is growing from year to year. The growth of gross vegetable production is associated not only with an increase in the area, but also with an increase in yield. Such a positive trend is observed in fruit crops and grapes. All this is due to the increase in consumption of these products due to the growth of the population of the republic, as well as the implementation of agrarian policy to reduce the area allocated for cotton and assign them to grain, fodder, horticultural crops, vineyards. Along with the optimization of cultivated areas in the republic, much attention is paid to the development of research activities in the

¹ Agriculture of Uzbekistan. Statistical collection. - T.: State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, 2017, 2018.

field of creating high-yielding varieties, the development of modern technologies for the cultivation of fruit and vegetable crops.

Currently in Uzbekistan there are 74113 farms specialized in horticulture and viticulture with an average land size of 2.8 hectares. In Fergana (11005), Namangan (8767) and Andijan (7737) regions, a total of more than 10 thousand farmers in this area work.

The top five in terms of production potential also includes the Kashkadarya region, where 10,413 farms specialize in horticulture and viticulture and 7,078 farmers in the Surkhandarya region.

There are 6480 vegetable and melon-growing farms with an average size of 4.0 hectares of land in the republic.

The balance of power in this market is as follows: in the Kashkadarya region there are 1315, Samarkand - 1160, Andijan - 915, Djizak - 870, Fergana - 646 farms. These regions account for more than 75% of farmers specializing in horticulture and melon-growing.

Due to the execution of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 29, 2015, No. UP-2460 [2], in the period 2017-2020 by optimizing low-growing cotton and wheat fields by 2020, 235.0 thousand hectares will be optimized and added to additional areas, including 40.9 thousand hectares of potatoes, 96.7 thousand hectares of vegetables, 49.8 thousand hectares forage crops, 15.1 thousand hectares of oilseeds as well as 20.9 thousand hectares of intensive gardens of 12,000 hectares of vineyards.

In addition, in 2016-2017, due to the optimization of small-growing cotton and wheat fields, 8.5 thousand hectares of intensive orchards and 4.4 thousand hectares of vineyards, as well as 39.9 thousand hectares of vegetables and 13.2 thousand hectares were planted potato.

In tab. 2 presents the forecast indicators for the production of fruits and vegetables in Uzbekistan for 2018-2022. The data in the table indicate that, on average, indicators for the production of fruit and vegetable products will increase by 37.1% by 2022.

Table 2
The forecast of production of fruits and vegetables in Uzbekistan for 2018-2022²

thousand tons

№	Products	2017 (fact)	2018 (forecast)	2019 (forecast)	2020 (forecast)	2021 (forecast)	2022 (forecast)	2022 by 2017,%
1	Vegetables	11433,6	12108,2	12858,9	13694,7	14612,3	1560,9	136,5
2	Melon-field	2094,8	2224,7	2362,6	2511,5	2674,7	2851,3	136,1
3	Potato	3014,6	3210,5	3425,6	3662,0	3914,7	4184,8	138,8
4	Fruit	3076,3	3270,1	3486,0	3726,5	3983,6	4262,5	138,6
5	Grapes	1748,9	1853,8	1970,6	2100,6	2239,3	2387,1	136,5
	Total	21368,2	22667,4	24103,7	25695,5	27424,6	29291,5	137,1

Particular attention is paid to the creation of intensive orchards and vineyards based on modern technologies of growing horticulture and viticulture in the mountainous and foothill areas.

In 2017, 13.0 thousand hectares of intensive gardens and 7.0 thousand hectares of vineyards were created, and 15.2 thousand hectares of gardens and 9.1 thousand hectares of vineyards were reconstructed.

In a place with this, on 9 thousand hectares of intensive gardens, drip irrigation technology was installed.

In order to maintain a steady supply of fruits and vegetables throughout the year, 635 hectares of greenhouses were created in 2017 to maintain prices and increase export opportunities from farmers and dekhkans and private entrepreneurs.

Currently, there are 8.9 thousand hectares of greenhouses in the country, of which 40 hectares of greenhouses are based on hydroponics technology.

In these greenhouses are grown more than 500.0 thousand tons of vegetables and citrus fruits, which are delivered to the population in the winter period.

And also, in order to fully use the existing opportunities of the population and create new jobs, increase employment and incomes of the population, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 4, 2017 for No.-119 [4] was approved. 1 million dekhkan farms and about 1.5 million lemon seedlings were planted.

According to the volume of production of vegetables, fruits and grapes, the number of processing enterprises in the country is increasing, as well as the volume of processed products.

In Uzbekistan, the fruit and vegetable processing industry and grapes are among the industries that have all the basic conditions for rapid growth. The presence of an agricultural processing industry capable of producing goods competitive in foreign markets is an important condition for the economic growth of countries where agriculture has a significant share in gross domestic product. Also in our country, the processing of agricultural products is becoming a

² Data of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

significant factor in the development of industry in rural areas, improving food security, increasing export potential, increasing incomes and employment. In this regard, the Government of Uzbekistan is taking concrete measures for the further development of food processing enterprises processing agricultural products.

In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 31, 2011 No. PP-1633 [3] approved the Program of measures for the expansion and development of the food industry in 2012–2015, aimed at creating new, reconstructing and modernizing the existing enterprises of the oil and fat industry and processing meat and dairy, fruit and vegetable products and grapes for which network schedules are developed and specific measures for their implementation are carried out.

Table 3 presents data on the processing of fruits and vegetables in Uzbekistan.

In all processing enterprises modernized, updated lines and equipment with modern equipment, increasing existing capacity. Over the past three years, over 540 new enterprises have been commissioned, more than 152 new types of products have been launched. During the past year, 7 new processing enterprises were introduced, and by 2020 the number of new processing enterprises should increase by another 12.

Increased crop yields and accelerated development of processing industries in rural areas not only contribute to the saturation of the domestic market, but also increase the export potential of the agricultural sector.

Due to the unique taste qualities of the Uzbek fruit and vegetable products, its exports increase every year in both quantitative and value terms, and the geography of exports is expanding.

Table 3
Information about the processing of fruits and vegetables in Uzbekistan (thousand tons)³

№	Regions	2011 г.	2017 г.	Difference	
				(+, -)	%
1	Republic Karakalpakstan	5,7	33,6	27,9	589
2	Andijan	29,9	271,2	241,3	907
3	Bukhara	56,4	210,0	153,6	372
4	Jizzak	34,5	87,2	52,7	253
5	Kashkadarya	105,0	121,8	16,8	116
6	Navoi	24,6	77,0	52,4	313
7	Namangan	117,5	145,9	28,4	124
8	Samarkand	597,5	459,8	-137,7	77
9	Surkhandarya	17,7	153,8	136,1	869
10	Sirdaryo	10,9	31,1	20,2	285
11	Tashkent	272,4	366,2	93,8	134
12	Fergana	38,4	201,3	162,9	524
13	Khorezm	35,7	136,4	100,7	382
14	Tashkent city	20,1	58,2	38,1	290
	Total in the republic	1366,3	2353,5	987,2	172

Currently, more than 180 types of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables are exported. In the export structure, its share reaches 73%.

The geography of exports of fruit and vegetable products and viticulture is also expanding. If earlier the republic traditionally supplied it mainly to Russia, Kazakhstan and other CIS countries, then today it ships from Uzbekistan to the markets of more than 120 countries of the world. In particular, the geography of deliveries has expanded due to the establishment of exports to Indonesia, Norway, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, the USA, Thailand and Japan.

A cardinal increase in the competitiveness of the economy, strengthening support for exporting enterprises, comprehensive promotion of participation in exports of farms, small businesses and private entrepreneurship was laid down in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures for further reform and development of agriculture for the period 2016-2020" from 29.12. 2015 number PP-2460 [2].

According to statistics in developing countries, 25-40% of production is lost due to improper post-harvest handling and storage during its transportation from the field to the final consumer. Therefore, the question of proper storage, availability of refrigeration chambers prolonging the life cycle of fruits and vegetables is almost 2-3 times extremely important for agricultural enterprises.

In conclusion, it can be noted that the fruit and vegetable industry could be one of the first to fully switch from import substitution to export expansion. The first step in this direction could be the liberalization of the import of packaging materials and components for use in the processing of fruits and vegetables. The main issue of the concept of the development of the food market of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the economic mechanism of the functioning of

³ Data of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

its constituent segments, among which an important role is played by the fruit and vegetable market. The level of development of the fruit and vegetable market in the country is determined primarily by the production of the relevant food products in the field of agricultural production.

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