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RESULTS ACHIEVED AND FUTURE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN IN AGRICULTURE

Submission Date: January 20, 2023, Accepted Date: January 25, 2023,

Published Date: January 30, 2023

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijmef/Volume03Issue01-06>

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ABSTRACT

The article presents the results of production growth and achieved goals in the field of agriculture in Uzbekistan for 2022. The priority goals and objectives set by the President of the country in the field of agriculture for 2023 are also presented. In particular, the article talks about the development of the food industry in the regions and the attraction of foreign brands to domestic production, employment of the population, increasing incomes, food security and the development of the agricultural sector and its impact on the socio-economic growth of the country.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, agrarian sector, industry, production, products, economic growth, employment, industry, indicators, electronic platform, program, power.

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, many positive results were achieved in all areas of society. Including within the framework of the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture for 2020-2030. In the global food security index, Uzbekistan has risen by 12 positions. At the same time, for the period from 2019 to 2022, our country took first place in the top ten countries that have achieved the highest growth rates. Behind all the achievements is a great support from the President, which is reflected in the adoption of relevant decrees and resolutions.

This year, work in this direction will be continued as part of a project to create a high value added chain in the agricultural sector, \$1 billion will be allocated. The development of the food industry in the regions and the involvement of foreign brands in domestic production remain important.

Abandoned land, low productivity, lack of special equipment, modern equipment in agriculture, only cotton was grown in the fields. This is how we imagined the sphere of agriculture literally ten years ago. What difficulties our farmers go through in order to sell their products. And today agriculture is one of the dynamically developing sectors of Uzbekistan. Export volumes are growing, modern technologies are being introduced, new jobs are being created. Effective in this regard is the year 2022, and plans for 2023 are even more ambitious.

Prospects for the development, economic and financial condition of many industries such as cotton ginning, textile, light, food, chemical, etc. This is about half of the entire industrial potential directly dependent on agriculture. Many researchers emphasize the importance of the development of this sector and its impact on socio-economic growth in general. So, for example, FAO researchers concluded

that growth in agriculture is greater than in any other sector of the economy, allowing to reduce poverty. More specifically, studies have shown that every percent of economic growth in the agricultural sector is equivalent to about 1.5 percent reduction in overall poverty rates. It is easy to understand why in recent years Uzbekistan has given priority to the development of this industry. Moreover, 49 percent of the population of our country live in rural areas. Employment of 3.5 million people or 26 percent of all employed is provided in agriculture. The head of state placed important accents in more than one document in the areas of reforming this key area of the economy. In his Address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan, the President addressed questions about the further improvement of industries, noting the achievements of 2022 and large-scale plans for 2023. Undoubtedly, there are many positive results for the reporting period, as evidenced by the figures.

The year 2022 was also an important period for improving the agricultural sector. In particular, the share of agriculture in GDP was 27.2 percent, and the growth rate was almost 105 percent. At the initiative of the head of the country, for the first time last year, 100,000 hectares of land near settlements and with good water supply were taken out of cotton and grain, and also leased to citizens for a period of 30 years to create a farm. This process is an electronic platform and was carried out on the basis of a transparent mechanism through "E-auktion". As a result of the introduction of full market mechanisms and the timely implementation of advanced agrotechnical measures, grain yields increased by more than 70 centners.

For the first time, a system of financing the costs of growing vegetables and fruits has been created, and 935 billion soums have been allocated for these purposes. Of these funds, over 50 million seedlings of

fruit trees and grapes, 51,000 tons of seed potatoes and the necessary resources for 102 billion soums were provided to farmers and dekhkan farms. Undoubtedly, these achievements had a positive impact on the overall indicators of production and export of agricultural products.

Analysing the results of the last year, I would like to dwell on the indicators of production capacity. For example, in the plans for dairy products, it amounted to 2.1 to 2.3 million tons, while the production of meat products increased from 390 to 430 thousand tons, which is 110 percent; The processing capacity of fruits and vegetables increased from 2.8 to 3.1 million tons, which is 111 percent.

The main requirement of the head of state is not to be limited by the achieved results. There are many positive results, but the action plan for 2023 is no less ambitious and the priorities are set personally by the head of state. In particular, based on the practices that have justified themselves in the current year, 100,000 hectares of land with good water supply will be allocated to the population, 350,000 farms will be created.

Today, 8.5 thousand hectares of land are put up for open auction on the electronic platform "E-auksion" on more than 21 thousand lots, the remaining areas are determined in the contour section of the regions and returned to the regional reserves. By the end of the first quarter, the lots will be fully formed and distributed to the population through electronic selection. Also, this year, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed a program for 952 entrepreneurs to introduce agricultural use of more than 100,000 hectares of deserts and pastures. To put these territories into circulation, 385 km of irrigation networks and 269 km of collectors, 878 irrigation wells,

42 pumping stations will be built, 1272 km of irrigation and 1.5 thousand km of collectors will be repaired, 152 pumping units will be installed. For these purposes, at the expense of the initiators and the state budget, 700 billion soums will be allocated as a subsidy. 36,000 people will be employed and more than 1.2 million tons of products will be grown on the lands entered into circulation.

This year, a target program has been defined with specific sources of funding for the intensive cultivation of vegetable crops on 28.2 thousand hectares in the regions and the creation of 25 thousand hectares of new orchards, 25 thousand hectares of vineyard, 500 hectares of greenhouses. In 2023, 10 agro-logistics centers with a capacity of 60,000 tons and 41 refrigerated warehouses with a capacity of 25,000 tons will be launched. In addition, 1,114 investment projects worth 11 trillion soums will be implemented, which will provide employment for 20,000 people. The good news for industry representatives is that the Agro Platform information system will be launched in 2023 in order to simplify the process of issuing preferential loans for growing cotton, grain, fruits and vegetables. And the database of four organizations such as the Committee for Veterinary Medicine and Livestock Development, the Committee for Sericulture and Wool Industry, the Agency for Quarantine and Plant Protection, as well as the Inspectorate for the Control of the Agro-Industrial Complex, which have become subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture, will be integrated into a single information system. The goal is the full-fledged launch of the Digital Agriculture platform, which is a single information space for entities that produce products and enterprises, organizations that provide services to them.

How can you imagine an industry without science and innovation? As is known, in 2023, based on the

instructions of the President, national centers of knowledge and innovation in agriculture, as well as agro-service centers were created. Scientists and experts give their recommendations on the implementation of scientific approaches and the use of intensive technologies. In 2023, work will be carried out to bring this system to the district level and expand the scope of advisory services. The next direction is the issue of providing the agricultural sector with potential personnel. During the reporting period, a joint university with the UK was launched. Profile educational institutions of Uzbekistan have improved their positions in world rankings. Work in this direction will continue in 2023. 250 students and more than 50 professors and doctoral students from Uzbekistan will go to the universities of developed countries to exchange experience.

In general, this year, within the framework of the priorities set by the President, systematic and comprehensive work will be organized to ensure the food security of the population, create new jobs, increase the income of farmers and dekhans, ensure the interests of commodity producers, and achieve even better results. This is the main goal of our country.

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