



Opportunities to Increase Product Export Power Through Development of Fruit and Vegetable Industry in Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

This article contains recommendations for the sustainable development of the fruit and vegetable industry in the processing and storage of fruit and vegetables in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as suggestions for further support of the industry.

Keywords:

Fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetable export, cluster, cooperation, agro-industrial complex, cost-effectiveness, competitiveness, marketing

Introduction. The future development of the Uzbek economy, including the fruit and vegetable industry, is directly related to the processes of globalization and integration into the world economy, which creates a problem of international competition. The sharpening of domestic demand is leading to a more difficult situation for fruit and vegetable growers. As a result, suppliers are competing with foreign competitors in two ways: to maintain their position in the domestic market, as well as to enter new foreign markets.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, fruits and vegetables are mainly grown in the private sector, 75-85% of which is accounted for by farmers, but today the increase in the number of large businesses in the field of horticulture leads to increased competition between the private sector. In such a system, seasonal ripening and transportation of vegetables, which are often inconvenient to transport, are important for small, scattered and small-scale

farmers and cooperatives to participate in the competition.

Analysis of the experience of developed countries in the cultivation, storage, processing and export of fruits and vegetables shows the need to develop cooperation and clusters of producers of these products.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PF-5853 dated October 23, 2019 "On approval of the Strategy of agricultural development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030" [1], as well as March 14, 2019 "On measures to develop agricultural cooperation in the fruit and vegetable sector Resolution No. PQ-4239 [2] provides for the establishment of specialized cooperatives on the basis of farms and dehkan farms operating in fruit-growing areas and increase its efficiency. Also, 2019

Resolution No. PQ-4549 of 11 December "On further development of the fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture sector, additional measures to create a value chain in the industry" [3] Introduction of advanced

technologies in the production, storage, processing and sale of fruits and vegetables and the need to encourage the development of cooperatives and increase the efficiency of producers of these products.

It is known that the current natural and climatic conditions in the 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 transition to market relations. The fact that a significant part of the country's foreign exchange earnings is formed through the sale of fruits and vegetables in foreign markets also indicates the priority of radical reform and rapid development of the industry.

Analysis and results. First of all, let's think about the role of the fruit and vegetable industry in the economy of Uzbekistan. In general, the ongoing economic reforms in the sector provide an opportunity to address the following socio-economic issues:

In economic terms, fruits and vegetables account for 32.2% of total agricultural output (8.7% of the country's GDP) and are one of the main incomes of the population in rural areas. It has a direct impact on the development of a number of industries. The sector also plays a key role in the country's agricultural exports;

In the social sphere - the effectiveness of sustainable development of fruit and vegetable production has a direct impact not only on the living standards of the rural population, but also on improving the social welfare of the entire population of the country.

Ultimately, the ultimate goal of these reforms is to ensure food security in the country, reflected in the positive results of economic reforms in all processes of development of the new Uzbekistan, and reflects the increase in living standards.

At the same time, "... the lack of systematic effective market mechanisms in the field, especially in the development of fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture, the lack of a scientific approach leads to the underutilization of the existing potential of the

industry. According to estimates, it is possible to earn 7 times more from grapes, 6 times more from cherries and 5 times more from walnuts than from raw cotton grown on 1 hectare "[1].

It is also impossible to say that the existing opportunities for processing, storage and export of these products are being fully used. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev said: "Today, only 15% of fruits and vegetables grown in our country are processed and 8% are exported. Especially in Syrdarya, Jizzakh, Khorezm, Kashkadarya and Tashkent regions, these figures remain low. 860 thousand tons this year or Does the \$ 620 million fruit and vegetable export fit our capacity and potential? No, of course not! Based on the experience of developed countries, there are no techniques for cultivating orchards and vineyards, sowing and harvesting vegetable and potato seeds. The supply of fuel and lubricants, mineral fertilizers, seeds, disease and pest control to farms is not organized to the required level" [2].

The issue of processing and storage of fruit and vegetable products is also one of the most important aspects of product exports. Processing of fruits and vegetables without destroying them and prolonging their seasonality is also one of the untapped opportunities. The abundance of freshly preserved fresh fruits prevents the artificial increase in the cost of such products in the markets every year in the winter-spring season, and has a positive impact on social protection, eliminating the need for imports of related products in the winter. One of the highest factors in the development of competitive products and improving the structure of its range is the implementation of a wide range of nutritional supplements based on the processing of existing natural raw materials in our region. For example, the majority of sweet drinks are made using artificial raw materials (tinctures, extracts) imported at the expense of foreign currency. However, the potential of raw materials available in the country, competitive, natural pure nutritional supplements that can be obtained on the basis of processing of raw

fruits the base can reveal dozens of new facets of the beverage range. At the same time, it will be possible to restore the operation of hundreds of enterprises producing soft drinks of different capacities in the regions, which do not have foreign exchange for imported raw materials.

According to the analysis, the annual growth of fruit and vegetable production requires the elimination of a number of problems and shortcomings in the storage and processing industry, a radical change in the reform of the industry with the widespread use of modern innovative, resource-saving digital technologies. In particular:

- 18.9% of fruits, 5.6% of vegetables and melons, 9.5% of grapes are processed at industrial enterprises in relation to the total production volumes in the country;

- The level of refrigeration for the storage of fruits and vegetables in the regions is 3.7% (refrigerated warehouses are supplied with only 20-22% of the product per year);

- Most of the existing refrigerators are obsolete, not technologically updated, modern technology and digital innovations are not applied properly;

- requires an innovative approach to the training of qualified personnel for the industry. Ability to work with modern equipment with advanced experience, insufficient attention is paid to the training of specialists in the field of processing, storage;

- There is no systematic approach to the issues of adequate supply of products of storage and processing enterprises with modern technological requirements and volumes;

- The transport and logistics sector lags behind modern requirements;

- In recent years, fruit and vegetable growing is carried out on the basis of intensive

technology. As a result, the resources used in agriculture, including GDP, chemicals (255 thousand tons of phosphorus for fruit and vegetables, 290 thousand tons of nitrogen fertilizers are lacking) and rising prices for seeds, the income of the rural population low, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers, chemicals, the use of heavy machinery, the deterioration of the quality of land resources, leading to a violation of the ecological balance.

Therefore, according to the analysis and data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the volume of losses in the collection, transportation and storage of fruits and vegetables is 22-45%, while waste is 12-18%.

Another important issue is the lack of information and consultation centers and digital technologies that provide consumers with the necessary information about the products grown in the regions. In addition, the unresolved problems in the field of transport and logistics in the country remain a problem of sorting, processing, packaging and delivery of products to customers.

Analyzing the state of fruit and vegetable exports, the data show that by the end of 2021, more than 19.7 million tons of fruits and vegetables produced in the country will be exported to 69 countries, 133 types of pure or processed products. will be. The increase in the volume of exports of fruits and vegetables and processed vegetables increased by 1.8 and 1.6 times, respectively, compared to 2020 and amounted to 46.5% of the total fruit and vegetable content. этиши significantly affected by In April-May, more than 60% of the country's exports of greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, cherries and apricots accounted for these products

Information of the State Statistics Committee on certain types of exported products [9]:

Name of the product	mln. U.S dollars	Compared to 2020,%
fruits and berries	658,1	116,1
vegetables	542,4	170,1

recycled fruits and vegetables	47,9	156,0
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The main export markets for fruits and vegetables are Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkey.

It should be noted that the share of fruits and vegetables in total exports in 2021 was 6.9%. Fruit and vegetable exports accounted for the largest share of the Kyrgyz Republic in value (26.7% of total fruit and vegetable exports), and in kind exports to Kazakhstan amounted to 556.5 thousand tons, which is 4.4 times more than in the Kyrgyz Republic (3).

Demand for organic products is growing in the world. In European and Asian countries, the buyer pays more for ready-made certified organic products. Our fruit and vegetable products are naturally organic, but most are not certified by the appropriate certification

body. Due to this, Uzbek agricultural products are reexported through third countries, ready or processed in accordance with international requirements. In developed countries, 2-5 percent of the labor force, and in most less developed countries, up to 90 percent work in the agricultural sector. Agricultural production in developing countries plays a much larger role than in developed countries. In gross domestic product, the share of agriculture averages 22 percent in developing countries and 4 percent in developed countries. In developing countries, more than half of the agricultural products grown in developed countries are grown. According to UN experts, to solve the food problem every year, its volume needs to be increased by 6 percent.

Geography of fruit and vegetable exports [9]

№	Countries	2019 year			2020 year		
		percentage* %	Thousand tons	mln. U.S. dollars	percentage* %	Thousand tons	Mln. U.S. dollar
1.	Kyrgyzstan	89,9	80,3	9,1	127,0	320,0	26,7
2.	Kazakhstan	598,1	392,3	44,3	556,5	283,0	23,6
3.	Russian Federation	238,9	166,3	18,8	245,1	160,6	13,4
4.	Turkey	23,5	25,1	2,8	65,1	99,3	8,3
5.	Pakistan	29,8	22,2	2,5	76,2	78,8	6,6
6.	Afghanistan	73,4	53,2	6,0	45,5	57,5	4,8
7.	People's Republic of China	66,9	46,2	5,2	55,3	48,5	4,0
8.	Ukraine	15,1	9,0	1,0	55,2	32,4	2,7
9.	Tajikistan	5,8	3,6	0,4	21,0	13,5	1,1
10.	Eron	13,0	10,0	1,1	16,2	12,4	1,0
11.	Iraq	6,1	6,2	0,7	20,5	12,3	1,0
12.	Belarus	8,5	7,7	0,9	14,3	10,6	0,9
13.	BAA	11,6	5,7	0,6	27,5	9,7	0,8

14.	Turkmenistan	9,5	7,5	0,8	8,5	9,5	0,8
15.	Azerbaijan	4,3	4,9	0,6	6,5	7,3	0,6
16.	Germany	2,7	5,6	0,6	2,9	6,6	0,6
17.	Other countries	51,8	40,0	4,5	64,1	38,3	3,2

* Value expression. Source of the State Statistics Committee

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), sales of dried nuts and fruits in Europe amounted to more than 11 billion euros, while dried vegetables amounted to more than 8 billion euros. The experience of new entrants, such as Vietnam, has shown that if the right strategy is followed, it will be possible to export more than 1 billion euros a year. According to the analysis, the productivity of orchards and vineyards in our country is very low. For example, in countries with developed agriculture, such as the United States, China, Italy, France, 80-120 tons per hectare of intensive orchards and up to 140 tons of fruits per hectare, 10-30 tons per hectare in our country, and 4-5 tons per hectare of traditional orchards and vineyards. This is definitely an economically inefficient agriculture.

Conclusions and suggestions.

Recommended measures for sustainable development of the fruit and vegetable industry:

First, the modernization and renewal of the fruit and vegetable industry, the development and implementation of measures to ensure the competitiveness of products that give a strong impetus to the sustainable development of the industry;

Secondly, to ensure food security as a result of increasing dependence of the world consumer market on imports, to improve the mechanism of state support and management of the agricultural sector;

third, the limited use of irrigated lands due to the annual shortage of water resources, the use of advanced methods of irrigation based on innovative technologies, in particular, the widespread introduction of drip irrigation;

fourth, the use of existing scientific and innovative opportunities through in-depth analysis of the opportunities and achievements of farmers and agricultural enterprises in the economic, technological, legal and other spheres and the elimination of identified shortcomings among the factors influencing the sustainable development of fruit and vegetable growing;

Fifth, the adoption of programs to replace the imported fruits and vegetables in order to meet the needs of the population through the full and effective use of our domestic potential, etc.

Also, the analysis of the experience 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.

Economic growth of the fruit and vegetable sector should be achieved not by further expanding the use of available domestic resources, but by introducing a system of competitive production cooperation and clusters that meet the modern requirements in terms of product quality. Based on the above analysis, in the context of sustainable development of the industry in Uzbekistan, it is expedient to pay attention to the following:

- Further strengthening the financial incentives for the activities of exemplary enterprises operating in rural areas, specializing in the storage and processing of agricultural products in an innovative resource-saving way, the introduction of tax, customs and other benefits;

- Economic incentives for the production, storage and processing of agricultural raw

materials grown on the basis of the development of compact and small branches of industrial enterprises in each rural area of the country, as well as the production of competitive finished products for domestic and foreign markets (currency allocation, preferential) taxation, credit allocation, etc.) as appropriate;

- Comprehensive practical assistance to entrepreneurs in the issues of pre-export lending, insurance, placement in foreign markets, "geographical, economic, financial and quality risks", transport and logistics, obtaining relevant certificates, food safety (HASSP) and standards, to establish export-credit organizations in order to facilitate participation in international exhibitions and fairs or to entrust the solution of these issues to the relevant ministries and agencies;

- Establishment of multidisciplinary agro-logistics complexes "Agropark" and "Agrosanoat" based on digital innovative technologies in convenient places. All conditions are created in this complex, ie the creation of a system of all processes from product sales, storage, processing, packaging, biolaboratory services, standardization and export; - Introduction of "Fruit and Vegetable Clinic" service;

- Development of legal and technical documents governing the requirements for quality and safety of fruits and vegetables and processed products.

At the current stage of reforms in our country, the implementation of these measures will ensure the long-term sustainable development of fruit and vegetable growing, meet the demand for food, increase its security, expand the geography of exports and improve the living standards of our people.

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