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## Development of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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**ABSTRAC** 

The article deals with the fact that in the development of agriculture in Uzbekistan, priority attention is paid to the cluster system, which is widely implemented in the cotton and grain industries, to a much lesser extent in the fruit and vegetable industry, as well as strengthening the role of clusters, introducing new mechanisms of cooperation, financing producers of fruit and vegetable products and expanding the provision of agricultural services, which form the basis of a new systems of development of the fruit and vegetable industry of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** 

cluster, fruit and vegetable industry, introduction of a new system, credit facilities, equipment park, cold storage, equipment for drying, sorting and packaging of products.

development of agriculture the Uzbekistan, priority attention is paid to the cluster system, which is widely implemented in the cotton and grain industries, to a much lesser extent in the fruit and vegetable industry. The strengthening of the role of clusters, the introduction of new mechanisms of cooperation, financing of producers of fruit and vegetable products and the expansion of the provision of agricultural services form the basis of a new system for the development of the fruit and vegetable industry in Uzbekistan, EastFruit experts say.

On November 24, 2021, the President of Uzbekistan held a video conference dedicated to the prospects for the development of the country's fruit and vegetable industry. It discussed problems in this area, available opportunities and the introduction of a new system for the development of fruit and vegetable clusters, dehkan and subsidiary farms, their financing, as well as the expansion of agricultural services.

Thus, from December 1, 2021, preferential loans will be provided to producers of fruit and vegetable products through the State Support Fund for Agriculture, for which a tripartite agreement will be concluded between the cluster, the farmer and the bank. Loans will be issued for a period of one year at a rate of 14% (in national currency) with a grace period of 6 months.

Fruit and vegetable clusters will also have access to 12-month "revolving" loans for the purchase of products from the population, i.e. clusters will use the funds as needed and pay interest payments only for the period of use of the loan. 2 trillion soums will be allocated for these purposes (at the current exchange rate: \$185.4 million).

50% of cluster expenses for fruit and vegetable crop insurance against weather risks will be compensated from the state budget.

According to the decree signed by the head of state a day earlier – on November 23, 2021, in 2022-2025, a phased return to the reserve of

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200 thousand hectares of low-profitable acreage released from cotton and grain will be carried out. The land plots returned to the reserve will be leased to citizens in the amount of 10 acres to 1 hectare for a period of 10 years following the results of an open electronic competition for growing potatoes and other types of vegetables, melons, legumes and oilseeds, with the creation of a dehkan farm. An open electronic tender is held on the electronic trading platform "E-AUKSION", except in cases of leasing of land plots by the Cabinet of Ministers in accordance with the Land Code. Priority is given to citizens:

- who have achieved positive results in the cultivation of fruit and vegetable and melon products, viticulture on their homesteads;
- having a basic specialty in the fruit and vegetable industry;
- low-income and needy families.

For the creation of small intensive orchards, vineyards and the development of fruit and vegetable growing, loans will be provided without collateral in the amount of up to 100 million soums (at the current exchange rate: \$9270) at a preferential rate of 14% per annum in the national currency. \$100 million of funds from international financial institutions will be allocated for these purposes.

Credit funds are provided to dehkan and farms, other agricultural producers for:

- organization of small intensive horticulture and viticulture with a grace period of up to 3 years for a period of no more than 7 years;
- growing potatoes and other types of vegetables, melons, legumes and oilseeds with a grace period of up to 6 months for up to 2 years;

Republican working group has been established to organize short-term intensive training courses for Dehkan farms. Its main task is to train qualified trainers - consultants participate in an open electronic competition, as well as to organize short-term intensive training courses for dehkan farms with their help.

In addition, at the meeting chaired by the head of state, it was noted that the population of the country has about 500 thousand hectares of homestead lands at its disposal. In 2022, it is

planned to allocate \$ 100 million dollars for their effective use, these funds will be provided on a preferential basis under the family entrepreneurship program.

Enterprises servicing subsidiary farms will also be provided with loans in the amount of up to 300 million soums (at the current exchange rate: \$ 27,811) without collateral. On the basis of enterprises with high performance indicators, it is planned to create clusters of auxiliary service that will provide services for the construction of nurseries, have their own fleet of equipment, a cold storage, equipment for drying, sorting and packaging of products.

Cooperatives will be created in each district of the country for the purchase of products harvested by subsidiary farms, subsidies will be provided to them.

The procedure for partial compensation from the budget for irrigation of household lands and retired areas in areas where access to water is difficult will be extended until January 1, 2026.

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