

THE WORK DONE AND THE DESIGNATED TASKS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLUSTERS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article highlights in detail the advantages of the cluster system, the features of the development of fruit and vegetable clusters in Uzbekistan, outlines the main tasks for their improvement and the work done.

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INTRODUCTION

Consistent measures are being taken in Uzbekistan to reform the agricultural sector, introduce market mechanisms and modern technologies into it. In particular, the cluster method has been established, which is an important factor in the transition to market principles, a sharp reduction in government intervention in the industry, a complete cessation of the pursuit of a plan and forced labor. In this sense, as President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted: "Cluster and interest are the future of agriculture in Uzbekistan". At the same time, the head of our state noted in his report:.. "the introduction of an agro-cluster system into the agricultural sector in the shortest possible time gives a positive effect." Therefore, serious efforts are being made in my country to effectively establish a cluster system in agriculture. In the past 2021, about 500 clusters and cooperatives have been established in fruit and vegetable growing, grain growing and animal husbandry. This led to the export of fruits and vegetables worth \$ 1 billion, despite the negative consequences of the pandemic. At the same time, 91 thousand hectares of land were put into operation again. Water-saving technologies have been introduced on 133 thousand hectares, or 2 times more than last year.

MAIN PART

In addition, for the first time, the cluster approach in the economy of Uzbekistan was noted as a tool for determining ways to improve the country's production policy within the framework of the Action Strategy program for 2017-2021. The development of cluster systems in each of the countries of the world has its own specifics. In particular, it will be advisable to use the experience of China for the development of clusters. At the same time, innovation clusters are emerging: Tsinghua in Beijing or Fudong in Shanghai, around universities, as well as around special research and technology parks

created by local authorities as business incubators. These clusters attract government grants, Chinese venture capital, and the best specialists from both China and abroad (mainly Chinese educated in Europe and the USA). In addition, in the context of globalization and growing international competition, we can observe characteristic features of clustering in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Chile, etc., as well as in Arab countries, namely Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, etc. The clustering process is widely used in the countries of the European Union and the USA.

The number of clusters is 168 in the UK, 20 in the Netherlands, 32 in Germany, 380 in the USA, 34 in Denmark, 96 in France, 206 in Italy, 9 in Finland, 106 in India. The industry of Denmark, Finland, and Sweden is completely occupied by clusters. In Italy, industrial clusters account for 43 percent of the employed population and more than 30 percent of national exports. Cluster structures successfully operate in the light industry of Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Denmark, India, Korea, Pakistan, China and Turkey, in the chemical and machine-building industry of Germany, the food and cosmetics industry of France. The process of cluster formation is becoming more active in Southeast Asia, China, Singapore, Japan and other countries.

A number of works are also being carried out in Uzbekistan, especially in the field of fruit and vegetable growing, in order to mutually integrate the processes of production, processing, storage, maintenance and sale (export) of products, the development of clusters (cooperatives), ensuring food security and increasing export volumes. At the same time, providing farmers, dehqan farms and other producers of products — for the cultivation of fruits, grapes, vegetables, potatoes, melons, herbs and medicinal plants, legumes and oilseeds - loans for up to 12 months at a rate of up to 50 percent of the value of the crop at a rate of 14 percent per annum (of which 2 percent is bank extra charge) with a 6-month grace period, processors, keepers and exporters of fruits and vegetables — to replenish the working capital necessary for the purchase of grown agricultural products, a 12-month “revolving” loan is allocated at a rate of 14% per annum (of which 2% is a bank margin).

At the same time, from March 1, 2022, an export contract will be introduced for fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives) and farms, under which 50 percent of the insurance premium paid, but not more than 1 percent of the insured amount, will be reimbursed when using the crop insurance service for fruit and vegetable products. At the same time, it is established that the insured amount cannot be less than 70 percent of the value of the insured crop. This year, 50% of the costs of attracting qualified agronomists, entomologists, laboratory specialists from abroad to fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives), but no more than the equivalent of 1 thousand US dollars per 1 specialist per month, will be compensated through the district departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. At the same time, training seminars will be held for producers of products attached to fruit and vegetable clusters on the creation of orchards and vineyards, the cultivation of vegetables, potatoes, melons, legumes and oilseeds. In addition, fruit and vegetable growing areas are being reviewed, measures are being developed for the sustainable development of fruit and vegetable clusters (cooperatives), taking into account the natural and climatic conditions and specialization of each region. At the expense of international financial institutions and the Horticulture and Greenhouse Development Fund, a school of intensive cultivation of vegetables, potatoes, melons, legumes, flower and medicinal plants is being created at the Scientific Research Institute of Vegetable, Melon Crops and Potato Growing. The establishment of such tasks as the development of a program of measures for the introduction of a system of inseparable connection producer — cluster — procurement enterprise — processor and exporter, will create conditions for the development of fruit and vegetable clusters in agriculture in Uzbekistan. And in 2022, our main task in the development of agriculture in Uzbekistan will be the creation and functioning of 44 more fruit and vegetable clusters in our country. In addition, last year in the mahalla of Dehqanabad of Mirzaabad district of Syrdarya region, within the framework of the project of the German Society for International Cooperation “Sustainable development of rural areas of Uzbekistan”, funded by the European Union, the activities of the production cooperative “Dehqanabad

pomegranate” were established. The results of the doctoral (PhD) dissertation on the topic “physiological, biochemical, pharmacological properties and prospects of microcloning of local pomegranate varieties (*Punica granatum L.*)”, in which scientific achievements of science and higher education were introduced, cover all processes related to the agrotechnology of pomegranate farming in the region, including its export orientation, juice production and deep processing secondary waste, which created the possibility of the formation and development of a pomegranate cluster.

CONCLUSION

Thus, clusters are modern economic intermediaries in the formation of an innovative, competitive and efficient economy, ensure the availability of created finished products for the consumer, the growth of production capacity, the growth of production volumes, healthy production relations and efficiency. Thus, clusters are modern economic intermediaries in the formation of an innovative, competitive and efficient economy, ensure the availability of created finished products for the consumer, the growth of production capacity, the growth of production volumes, healthy production relations and efficiency.

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