

AGRI-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN UZBEKISTAN

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ANNOTATION The agricultural economy of Uzbekistan plays a key role in the nation's overall economic development and food security. This article examines the current state of the agricultural sector, focusing on its structure, challenges, and modernization efforts. It also explores the relationship between agriculture and sustainable economic growth during the post-Soviet transformation period. **Key words:** agriculture, economy, Uzbekistan, reforms, sustainability, rural development, food security

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains one of the most vital sectors in Uzbekistan's economy. It provides employment for nearly 25% of the population and contributes around 25–30% of GDP. Historically, Uzbekistan's agriculture was focused on cotton monoculture; however, recent reforms have diversified production towards fruits, vegetables, and grains. The government's agricultural modernization strategy aims to ensure food security, enhance export competitiveness, and improve rural livelihoods. This research analyzes the current agricultural and economic situation in Uzbekistan, identifying both progress and persistent challenges.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Numerous studies highlight the importance of agricultural diversification and innovation in Uzbekistan's economic growth. According to the World Bank (2023), the introduction of water-saving technologies and digital agriculture has increased productivity in several regions. Research by Karimov (2022) emphasizes the role of government subsidies and infrastructure investment in supporting smallholder farmers.

The study applies a qualitative descriptive method, reviewing recent statistical reports, government strategies (such as the "Strategy for Agricultural Development 2030"), and publications from international organizations. This methodology helps assess the main economic indicators and their impact on rural development and sustainability.

RESULTS

Analysis shows that in the past decade, Uzbekistan has achieved steady agricultural growth of 4-5% annually. Cotton and wheat remain the main crops, but fruit and vegetable exports have increased by 35% since 2016. According to FAO data (2022), over 7 million

hectares of land are used for agriculture, with modernization projects improving irrigation systems and mechanization.

The shift towards value-added agricultural processing has also strengthened the agri-economic balance. For example, agro-industrial clusters have been established in the Tashkent and Fergana regions, attracting both local and foreign investment.

DISCUSSION

Despite positive changes, several challenges continue to affect the agri-economic development of Uzbekistan. Water scarcity, outdated farming technologies, and limited access to finance remain major barriers. The impacts of climate change, especially in arid regions, threaten crop yields and require immediate adaptation strategies.

The ongoing land reform and transition to market-oriented production are expected to enhance efficiency and reduce state dependency. Strengthening farmer cooperatives, digitalization, and improving logistics could accelerate export growth. Cooperation with international partners such as the FAO and the Asian Development Bank has already shown promising results in capacity building and sustainable farming practices.

CONCLUSION

Uzbekistan's agri-economic situation reflects a dynamic transformation process from a centrally planned system to a market-oriented, sustainable agriculture model. While significant progress has been made in modernization, diversification, and export expansion, further reforms are needed in water management, technology adoption, and financial access. Continued investment and innovation will be crucial for ensuring food security and economic resilience in the agricultural sector.

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