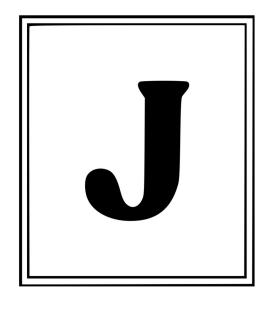


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PROSPECTS FOR EXPORTING DEHYDRATED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: Exporting agricultural products to the international market plays an important role in the development of the country's economy. In this regard, the prospects for the development of processed agricultural products until 2030, the study of the production capacity of processing enterprises, the expansion of new processing enterprises, and the increase in export potential will serve to develop the agricultural sector and increase the competitiveness of local entrepreneurs. This article examines the importance of this issue, international experience and practice in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: investment, export, agriculture, drying of agricultural products, GSP+ system ISO, HASP quality certificates.

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Introduction

With a deep analysis of the complex processes on a global scale and the results of the development of our country, in recent years, in order to determine the priority areas of reforms aimed at further increasing the well-being of our people, transforming economic sectors and rapidly developing entrepreneurship, unconditionally ensuring human rights and interests, and forming an active civil society, the following are indicated:

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-60 dated January 28, 2022 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", it is set to increase the export potential of the Republic by bringing the

export volumes of the Republic to 30 billion US dollars in 2026. According to it:

- Increasing the export potential of the Republic by actively continuing the system of supporting the activities of exporting enterprises.
- Further developing the export potential of local industrial sectors, making full use of existing opportunities.
- Introduction of standards that meet the requirements of the foreign market and international standards and attraction of famous brands.
- Increase the share of the private sector in exports to 60 percent.
- Improve the system of organizational and financial assistance provided to exporting enterprises.

- Increase the volume of finished and semi-finished products in the export structure by 3.3 times and expand the export of finished products to European countries within the framework of the GSP+ system.
- It is planned to increase the number of exporting enterprises from the current 6,500 to 15,000, and the geography of export of goods from 115 to 150 by improving

the system of assistance in exporting products manufactured by local manufacturing enterprises to foreign countries.

It is planned to create conditions for organizing entrepreneurial activity and forming permanent sources of income, increase the share of the private sector in GDP to 80 percent and its share in exports to 60 percent.



Table -1: Increasing the share of the private sector in GDP to 80 % and its share in exports to 60 %

In order to increase the income of peasants and farmers by at least 2 times through intensive development of agriculture on a scientific basis, and to increase the annual growth rate of agriculture by at least 5 percent, it is important to carry out the following work:

- Specializing districts in the production of specific types of products.
- Expanding the scope of state support in agriculture and implementing new insurance mechanisms.
- Developing 464 thousand hectares of new and unused land and allocating it to clusters on an open tender basis. Reducing

200 thousand hectares of cotton and grain areas and providing long-term leases to the population on an open tender basis.

- Developing the production of exportoriented products and fruit and vegetable growing, increasing the area of intensive gardens by 3 times and greenhouses by 2 times, increasing export potential by another 1 billion US dollars.
- Development of agrologistics centers and increase in the number of modern laboratories. Implementation of the national program on seed and seedling cultivation.



 Creation of conditions for the effective use of household plots by the population.

As a result of measures taken in recent years to develop the food industry in the republic, attract investment funds to the sector and support export activities, the volume of food production has exceeded 6.1 billion US dollars, and the volume of their annual export has exceeded 510 million US dollars.

Also, over the past three years, the production of 75 types of import-substituting food industry products worth 289.9 million US dollars has been ensured, and the volume of imports has decreased by 7.4%. The share of the food industry in the republic's industry has increased from 14% to 16.6%.

Over the next five years, it is planned to increase the volume of production of high value-added products by 1.5 times and export indicators by 2 times by introducing effective mechanisms to support industrial production activities, modernizing existing capacities, technical and technological re-equipment, attracting investments in new projects, further expanding the range of competitive products on the market, and diversifying the production of import-substituting products. Based on this situation, to finance investment projects for the development of the food industry and agricultural processing: by July 1, 2024, it is planned to agree with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (IICA) on the allocation of 100 million US dollars raised under the project "Development of the creation of a value-added chain in the fruit and vegetable sector" to finance projects in the food sector.

It is planned to allocate 45 million US dollars from the funds attracted from the mentioned international financial institutions to provide food manufacturing and exporting

enterprises with working capital in the established manner.

In accordance with Appendix 4 to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-36 dated February 16, 2024, the "Program of measures for the further development of the food industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2024-2028", it is planned to organize the cultivation of high-yielding and industrial varieties of vegetables intended for processing. According to it, the following five implementation mechanisms are planned:

- Organization of the supply of seeds and seedlings of high-yielding and processing varieties of vegetables to producers (certified). The implementation period for this is set for 2024-2028.
- It is planned to ensure the planting of industrial vegetable crops based on the orders of processing enterprises and to increase the share of areas under intensive vegetable cultivation to 35 percent by 2030. The implementation period for this mechanism is set at 2024-2030.
- Constantly monitor the cultivation of crops in compliance with agrotechnical requirements in a timely manner and provide relevant recommendations on product production to the regions.
- Establish contracts for the supply (purchase) of products between processing (drying) enterprises and farmers and dehkan farms (homestead landowners) and the allocation of funds based on the agreement, and online monitoring of the supply of products in the Agroplatform system. The implementation period for this mechanism is set at 2024-2028 years.
- Provide enterprises engaged in the production and export of dried fruit and vegetable products with working capital through the Export Promotion Agency.



Based on the above situation, it is set as a priority task to increase the level of fruit and vegetable processing to 16.2% (actually 14.7%) of the total production volume by 2030.

Study the technological state of fruit and vegetable drying enterprises in the Republic of Uzbekistan, their problems and proposals. According to it, it is planned to conduct an inventory of fruit and vegetable drying (processing) enterprises, studying the current capacity of the enterprise, seasonal demand for energy supply, the availability of technological specialists and the adequacy of the raw material base. It is planned to summarize the problems and proposals of processing enterprises, eliminate problems and submit information to the Cabinet of Ministers during 2024 on issues awaiting resolution.

Organization of efficient use of fruit and vegetable products grown in our republic, their storage, processing and further increase in export level, and by 2028 processed food in the volume of export of general agricultural (fruits and vegetables, potatoes, rice, grain, legumes) and food products. - It is aimed to increase the share of food products to 40%. In the next 5 years, it is planned to develop a forecast volume of increasing the share of processed food to 40% in the volume of agricultural (fruits, vegetables, potatoes, rice, grains, legumes) and food export products and to approve the program of measures by the Ministry of Agriculture. Adaptation of fruit and vegetable products grown in our republic, dried fruit and vegetable products to the standards and regulations of the European Economic Commission of the United Nations, Codex Alimentarius, and UN organizations is considered based on the requirements of international trade.

It is planned to unify the quality and safety standards for raw materials and

products in accordance with the technical regulations of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) (harmonization with the European Union standard for some types of products).

Chemical fertilizers used in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables are regulated on the basis of European standards, based on the study of the soil composition as a result of studying the application methodology and taking measures to put it into practice, it is planned to introduce a system of standards that fully covers the entire process of produced products from cultivation to consumer (with special attention to processing norms and standards, fumigation, and calibration).

Conclusion

As a result of the implementation of the above measures, that is, deep processing of agricultural products, the following can be achieved:

- 1. Added value creation: Deep processing of raw materials creates the opportunity to produce high value-added products. For example, the production of juices, jams or dried products from fruits and vegetables.
- 2. Quality products: Processing products using modern technologies creates the opportunity to improve their quality and store them for a long time.
- 3. Increasing export potential: Deeply processed products are in demand in the international market and are sold at high prices. This helps to increase foreign exchange earnings.
- 4. Job creation: new jobs are created through the establishment of modern enterprises for processing processes.
- 5. Effective use of waste: During deep processing, waste is processed and additional products are produced (for example, for feed or bioenergy).



We can list the following directions for expanding exports through deep processing of agricultural products:

Firstly, producing products in accordance with international standards. Based on this, producing products in accordance with ISO, HACCP and other quality standards and developing products in accordance with organic certificates.

Secondly, diversifying the market. In addition to traditional export markets, this includes developing new markets, namely expanding trade relations with Asian, European, American and African countries.

Thirdly, packaging and branding. This includes increasing the competitiveness of processed agricultural products through high-quality packaging and attractive branding.

Fourthly, promotional activities. Accordingly, participation in international exhibitions, promotion and advertising can be strengthened to promote local processed agricultural products internationally.

The sector of deep processing of agricultural products and expanding exports can make a significant contribution to the economic development of Uzbekistan. In this area, measures aimed at increasing investments, introducing modern technologies and promoting products on the international market are important.

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