

**THE CURRENT STATE OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWING
DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**Gulnora Karimovna Narinbaeva*;
Jalilov Shoxjahon Xolbozor Ogli**;
Siddikov Zahid Tulkinovich*****

*Independent Researcher,
Tashkent State Agrarian University,
Tashkent City, UZBEKISTAN

**Independent Researcher,
Tashkent State Agrarian University,
Tashkent City, UZBEKISTAN

***Independent Researcher,
Tashkent State Agrarian University,
Tashkent City, UZBEKISTAN
Email id: shoxjahon.jalilov@mail.ru

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ABSTRACT

The article examines the current state of development of fruit and vegetable growing in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan, fruit and vegetable growing is one of the leading branches of agriculture and occupies a special place in providing the population with food.

KEYWORDS: *Development, Economic, Independence, Protectionism, Priorities, Attention.*

INTRODUCTION

Food security is one of the main goals of the agrarian and economic policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The solution of the food problem presupposes, first of all, the sustainable effective development of agricultural production, which, in turn, requires the adoption of certain measures of agrarian protectionism that meet the conditions of a market economy.

One of the urgent and global problems is to meet the growing demand for food in conditions of depletion of natural resources. In our country, from the first years of independence, special attention has been paid to food security issues. As a result, in the early 90s, the main priorities of food policy were developed.

Food security is one of the main goals of the agrarian and economic policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The solution of the food problem presupposes, first of all, the sustainable effective development of agricultural production, which, in turn, requires the adoption of certain measures of agrarian protectionism that meet the conditions of a market economy. The economic reforms carried out in stages give fruitful results in this branch of the economy. So, in 2017, 11433.6 thousand tons of vegetables were grown (112.9% compared to 2015), 3014.6 thousand tons of potatoes (111.8%), 2094.8 thousand tons of melons (113%), 3076.3 thousand tons of fruits and berries (112%) and 1748.9 thousand tons of grapes (110.7%) (Table 1). As a result of the implementation of measures to increase the productivity of agricultural production in 2017, meat production increased by 12.2%, milk - by 11.7%, eggs - by 19.3%.

The main issue of the concept of development of the food market of the Republic of

Uzbekistan is the economic mechanism of functioning of its constituent segments, among which the market of fruit and vegetable products plays an important role.

To ensure the accelerated and effective development of fruit and vegetable growing, expansion of production of high-quality and competitive finished products, its further promotion to major foreign markets, as well as the consistent implementation of the tasks defined by the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017 - On March 29, 2018, the Presidential Decree "On additional measures to accelerate the development of fruit and vegetable growing in the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted, which serves as an important guide to action in increasing the cultivation of fruit and vegetable products and grapes, the creation of specialized processing small enterprises on the ground, in particular, in remote areas.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

A number of scientific works by Andreychuk V.G., M.K. Bazarov, Burobkin I.N., Vasilenko Yu., Gryadova S.I., Zelepukhina A., Zinchenko A.P., Kuznetsova V.I., Nikiforova P.V., Pastukhova A.K. are devoted to the study of the issues of assessing the size and efficiency of using the production potential of agriculture and, in particular, animal husbandry., Sayfulina P.C., Svobodina V.A., Sergeeva S.S., Surkova I.M., Chebotareva A.A., Shaikina V.V., Sheremet A.D., Shuklinoy Z.N., Khamrokulov R.H., Yusupov Yu. B., Khakimov R, etc.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The economic reforms proposed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and carried out in stages give fruitful results in this sector of the economy, where the Uzbek model of reforms serves as a political and economic basis for the formation of market relations and the consistent development of the economy. So, in 2020, 10215.1 thousand tons of vegetables (114% compared to 2019), 3089.7 thousand tons of potatoes (106.0%), 2068.7 thousand tons of melons (113%), 2752.7 thousand tons of fruits and berries (102%) and 1603.3 thousand tons of grapes (102%) were grown (Table 1). As a result of the implementation of measures to increase the productivity of agricultural production in 2020, the volume of meat production increased by 2%, milk - by 2.0%, eggs - by 4.0%.

The main issue of the concept of development of the food market of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the economic mechanism of functioning of its constituent segments, among which the market of fruit and vegetable products plays an important role.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has a rich raw material base and favorable soil and climatic conditions for the development of fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture, allowing to obtain abundant harvests of these crops. As you know, human health, duration and quality of life are inextricably linked with ensuring a healthy and balanced diet, the most important part of which should be vegetables and fruits. The most important thing in this case is the intake of substances such as essential amino acids, vitamins, minerals, trace elements, and others, which are contained exclusively in vegetables, fruits and grapes, and they cannot be replaced by any other products. Therefore, the state pays great attention to the development of vegetable growing, horticulture and viticulture in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is implementing large-scale economic reforms aimed at ensuring food security, improving and improving the quality of food. One of the important tasks is to "increase the competitiveness and diversification of domestic food products, develop strategies and models for the development of the food industry based on the effective use of the available natural and economic resources of the regions."

Thanks to the attention paid to the sphere, the production volumes of vegetables, fruits and grapes are growing from year to year (Table 2). As can be seen from the table, the area under vegetables increased from 192.0 thousand hectares in 2016 to 220.0 thousand hectares in 2020, or by 11.1%. The growth of gross vegetable production is not only associated with an increase in the area, but also with an increase in yield. Such positive dynamics is observed in fruit crops and grapes. All this is due to an increase in the consumption of these products due to the growth of the population of the republic, as well as the implementation of an agrarian policy to reduce the areas allocated for cotton and allocate them for grain, fodder, fruit and vegetable crops, vineyards. Along with the optimization of acreage in the republic, much attention is paid to the development of research activities in the field of creating high-yielding varieties, the development of modern technologies for the cultivation of fruit and vegetable crops.

TABLE 1 PRODUCTION OF THE MAIN TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN (THOUSAND TONS)

	All categories of farms			Including:								
				Farms			Dehkan and personal subsidiary farms			Organizations engaged in agricultural activities		
	2019 y.	2020 y.	Growth rates, %	2019 y.	2020 y.	Growth rates, %	2019 y.	2020 y.	Growth rates, %	2019 y.	2020 y.	Growth rates, %
Melons	1837,0	2068,7	113	673,6	884,6	131	1147,6	1153,7	101	15,8	30,4	192
Vegetables	9760,3	10215,1	114	2637,0	3179,7	121	7006,3	6815,4	97	117,0	220,0	188
Potato	2911,9	3089,7	106	411,6	499,8	123	2464,3	2539,8	103	36,0	50,1	139
including wheat	5410,8	6093,5	113	4602,0	5398,4	117	704,8	468,3	66	104,0	226,8	218
Cereals	6535,5	7437,8	114	5155,9	6257,5	121	1216,6	879,8	72	163,0	300,5	498

Eggs, million pieces	Milk	Meat (live weight)	Grape	Fruits and berries
7459,3	10466,4	2430,5	1589,8	2706,2
7771,2	10714,3	2473,6	1603,3	2752,7
104	102	102	101	102
1079,5	397,3	109,5	692,0	1037,0
1142,8	462,0	125,7	683,7	1072,6
106	116	115	99	103
4335,1	9995,8	2236,5	868,8	1619,5
4491,6	10156,5	2230,9	887,0	1603,2
104	102	99	102	99
2044,7	73,3	84,5	29,0	49,7
2136,8	95,8	117,0	32,6	76,9
104	126	138	112	155

Source: State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

TABLE 2 DYNAMICS OF INDICATORS OF DEVELOPMENT OF VEGETABLE GROWING, HORTICULTURE AND VITICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

	Years				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Acreage, thousand hectares					
Vegetables	192,0	206,0	189,7	219,0	220,0
Fruit and berry plantations	261,9	279,6	271,6	319,2	336,6
including at the fruiting age	214,6	226,2	221,0	222,5	232,2
Grape plantations	128,9	131,2	114,5	113,3	120,2
including at the fruiting age	119,4	122,0	103,6	100,9	104,5
Gross harvest, thousand tons					
Vegetables	9286,7	10184,0	10219,9	970,36	10215,1
Fruits and berries	2490,6	2612,9	2614,9	22706	2752,7
Grape	1441,2	1613,1	1625,5	1588,8	1603,3
Fruit yield, c/ha					
Vegetables	268,3	271,1	253,6	237,1	235,6
Fruits and berries	116,0	134,5	118,3	121,6	118,5
Grape	120,7	142,3	157,0	157,5	153,5

Source: State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Currently, there are 24,730 farms in Uzbekistan specialized in horticulture and viticulture with an average land plot size of 6.8 hectares. A total of 10139 farmers of this direction (about 41%

of the total number) work in the Ferghana (4647), Namangan (3049) and Andijan (2443) regions.

The top five in terms of production potential also includes the Tashkent region, where 3,437 farms specialize in horticulture and viticulture, and the Samarkand region - 2,522 farmers.

There are 3,655 vegetable-growing and melon-growing farms with an average land allotment size of 8.1 hectares in the republic.

The balance of power in this market looks like this: there are 726 farms in Kashkadarya region, 672 in Ferghana, 509 in Andijan, 428 in Samarkand, and 419 in Jizzakh. These regions account for more than 75% of farmers specializing in vegetable and melon growing.

Along with the optimization of acreage in the republic, work has been organized to accelerate the introduction of modern technologies and innovations of cultivation in the field of fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture, the creation of new orchards and vineyards, including on the basis of modern intensive technologies. For the period from 2014 to 2020, 44.0 thousand hectares of orchards and 30.0 thousand hectares of vineyards were created again. In addition, 76.4 thousand hectares of orchards and 37.8 thousand hectares of vineyards have been reconstructed, in other words, about 40% of orchards and 30% of vineyards have been renovated (Fig.1).

In order to increase the production of high-quality fruits and using advanced foreign experience, more than 13 thousand hectares of high-yielding dwarf and semi-dwarf intensive orchards have been created in the republic using modern irrigation technologies and agricultural cultivation techniques in fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture.

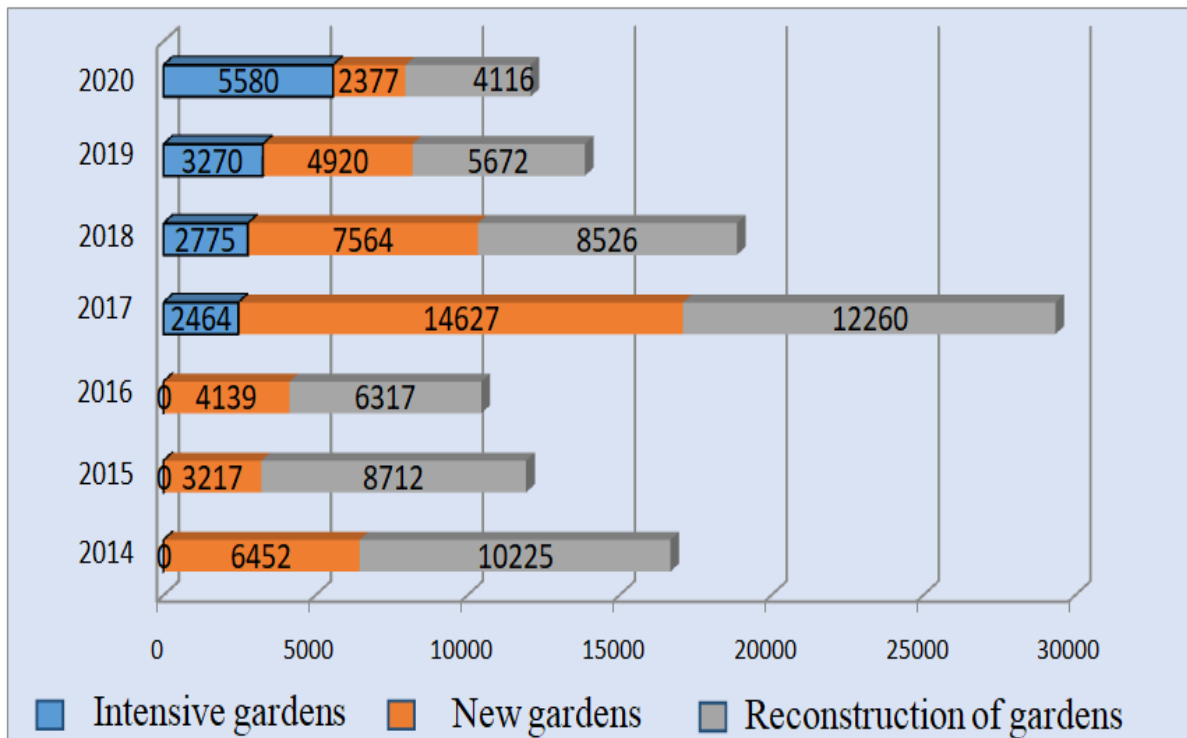
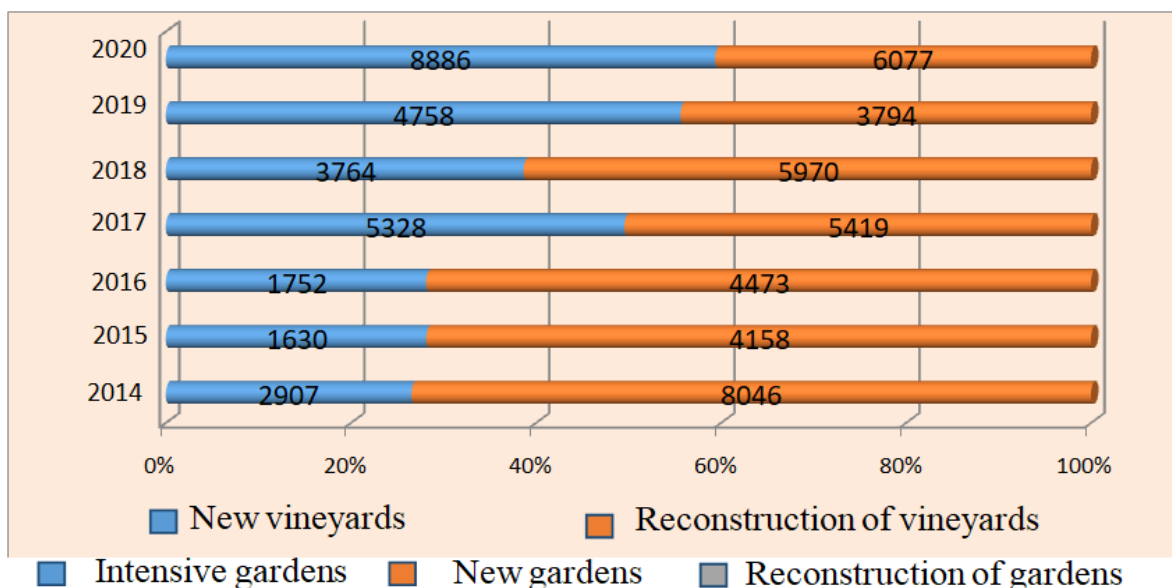


Fig.1. Reconstruction and creation of new gardens in the Republic of Uzbekistan



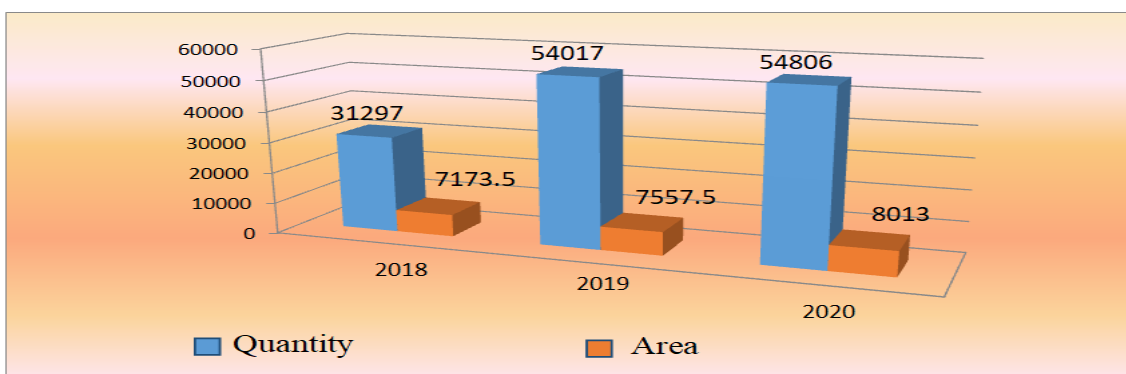
Source: data of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Fig.2. Reconstruction and creation of new vineyards in the Republic of Uzbekistan

Due to the fact that the trunks of dwarf and semi-dwarf trees in intensive gardens are quite small, the light falls well on them and the air circulates freely, so that their fruits are of good quality and taste. Also, in such gardens, it is very convenient to process and harvest easily. In many cases, the harvest can be harvested without the help of a ladder. In this case, high labor efficiency is achieved, and the harvested crop is preserved well.

One of the promising directions for the development of the vegetable industry is the production of vegetables in closed ground (greenhouses). Greenhouse production is developing at a fairly high pace today for the year-round continuous supply of fresh vegetables and fruits to the population of the country. Over the past 5 years, 11.5 thousand greenhouses with a total area of 1.4 thousand hectares have been created locally, including more than 600 modern greenhouses on an area of 585 hectares, built using advanced technologies from European countries, Korea, Turkey, China, Israel, as well as 10.9 thousand lightweight greenhouses on an area of 1.5 thousand hectares.

Figure 3 shows data on the development of greenhouses in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2018-2020.



Source: data of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan Fig. 3. Dynamics of the number of greenhouses and the land area under them

According to the volume of production of vegetables, fruits and grapes, the number of processing enterprises and the volume of processed products are also increasing in the republic. So, in 2018, the volume of production of dried grapes amounted to 50 thousand tons, in 2019 - 56 thousand tons, and in 2020 63.5 thousand tons were produced. Over the past ten years, the export of fruit juices has increased 2-fold from 8.3 thousand tons to 18.3 thousand tons, and the cost has increased 6-fold from \$ 4 million to \$ 24 million. In 2020, the export of fruit juices was carried out by about 30 enterprises of the republic.

In Uzbekistan, the industry for processing fruits and vegetables and grapes is among the industries that have all the basic conditions for rapid growth. The presence of an agricultural processing industry capable of producing goods that are competitive in foreign markets is an important condition for the economic growth of countries where agriculture has a significant share in the gross domestic product. Also in our country, the processing of agricultural products is becoming an essential factor in the development of industry in rural areas, improving food security, increasing export potential, increasing incomes and employment of the population. In this regard, the Government of Uzbekistan is taking concrete measures to further develop food industry enterprises processing agricultural products.

All processing enterprises are undergoing modernization, updating lines and equipping with modern equipment, increasing existing capacities. Over the past three years, more than 540 new enterprises have been put into operation, the production of more than 152 new types of products has been mastered. During the past year, 7 new processing enterprises were introduced, and by 2024 the number of new processing enterprises should increase by another 12.

The increase in crop yields and the accelerated development of processing industries in rural areas contribute not only to the saturation of the domestic market, but also to the growth of the export potential of the agricultural sector.

4. CONCLUSION:

Thus, the climatic conditions of Uzbekistan allow us to grow fresh fruits, vegetables and berries in large quantities and a wide assortment. On this basis, the agricultural processing industry is developing in the country, which includes enterprises for the production of canned fruits and vegetables, vegetable and fruit juices, wine and vodka products, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable purees, pastes and syrups, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables. According to some of these items (tomato paste, dried fruits and dried vegetables) Uzbekistan is one of the world's largest producers.

In the conditions of modernization of the national economy, the production of fruits and vegetables is one of the main directions of agriculture in Uzbekistan.

The development of the fruit and vegetable industry has a direct impact on the level of food security of the population, increasing the income of rural families, increasing employment in rural areas, developing the processing industry and increasing export potential.

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