



**THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH  
OF SAMARKAND REGION AND FOREIGN COOPERATION IN THIS  
AREA (1991-2016 YY.)**

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***Annotation:*** *The article analyzes the problems of agriculture in Samarkand region in the early years of independence, the decisions taken by the Republic of Uzbekistan, the regional administration to address these issues, the development of agriculture in the region and international cooperation in agriculture.*

***Key words:*** *Samarkand, Agriculture, Decree, Decision, Farm, Cabinet of Ministers, agro-firms, technology, international cooperation.*

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This sector is one of the most promising sources of strengthening the export potential of the country, along with meeting the demand of the population for food products, and the processing industry for raw materials. After gaining independence, large-scale changes took place in the agriculture of the region. Addressing the problems of development of the agricultural sector of the economy is a key link in the whole strategy of Uzbekistan's transition to the market, which stems from the role of agriculture in the economic and social life of the republic. 60% of the population lives in rural areas. More than 44 percent of national income today comes from agriculture. Agriculture is the basis of life in the republic, the development of leading industries, as well as one of the most important sources of export resources and foreign exchange earnings [1]



New economic relations began to enter all sectors of agriculture in the region. Changes were made in the structure of arable lands in the region. For example, in 1993, the total area under agricultural crops in the region was 1290.8 thousand hectares. Of this, arable land was 443.4 thousand hectares and pastures 790.3 thousand hectares (10.8% and 3.8%, respectively). Of the total sown area, 201.2 thousand hectares are allocated for cereals, 125 thousand hectares for technical crops (114.2 thousand hectares for cotton, 29.4 thousand hectares for potatoes, vegetables and melons, 96.8 thousand hectares for food crops) [2].

However, the first years of independence were difficult in agriculture, as in all sectors of the economy. Under the influence of objective factors, a number of problems arose in agricultural production. This was reflected in the fact that the plan to grow and sell agricultural products to the state had not been implemented for several years. The main branches of agriculture in Samarkand region are cotton, horticulture, viticulture and melons. But in recent years, the plans have not materialized. Over the next five years, the plan to sell cotton to the state was fulfilled by 92.8%, 19.2 thousand tons less than planned. One of the main reasons for this is the low cotton yield in Samarkand region. In 1989-1993, the average yield was 23.7 quintals instead of 25.8 quintals, and the yield was less than 2.1 quintals per hectare compared to the plan [3].

In 1993, Samarkand region grew cotton on 114.2 thousand hectares, producing 249.7 thousand tons of cotton instead of the planned 285.8 thousand tons. The yield was 21.9 quintals instead of 25.2 quintals. The second reason for the non-fulfillment of the cotton plan in these years was the unfavorable weather and they had to break the planted cotton and replant it 2-3 times. Taking into account the above, the Government of the Republic over the past five years (1989-1993) reduced 100.8 thousand tons of cotton in the region, of which 39.8 thousand tons of low-yielding was reduced in Jambay and Akdarya districts. Due to the reduced cotton fields, the population was given plots of land to build backyards and houses, as well as grain and potato fields were expanded, and gardens and vineyards were established [4].



According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 450 of September 10, 1993 "On measures to increase grain yields on irrigated lands" in Samarkand region in 1995 the area under cereals increased by 31.6 thousand hectares compared to 1993. Of this, 16.3 thousand hectares were increased due to the reduction of cotton, 9.1 thousand hectares of food crops and 6.2 thousand hectares of vegetables, melons and other crops.

In 1994, cotton seeds were planted on 97.2 thousand hectares in Samarkand region and it is planned to produce 250,000 tons of cotton. It is planned to harvest 25.7 quintals of cotton per hectare. This is 3.5 quintals more than the average real yield. Therefore, for the development of cotton growing until 2000, the area of cotton in the region is set at 91 thousand hectares, cotton yield 26.4 quintals and gross yield 240 thousand tons. Islam Karimov in his report "Building a socially oriented market economy - the basis of domestic policy of independent Uzbekistan" said that today it is necessary to restore the village to its original value. Agriculture needs to be reborn, rural workers need to be reassured. The living standards of the entire population of Uzbekistan depend on the well-being of the rural population, their hard work. It was said that if the farmer was rich, the whole republic would be rich.

At a meeting of activists in the Samarkand regional administration on May 23, 1994, the following measures were taken to develop cotton growing and increase cotton yields in the region by 2000: First, to improve the sowing scheme in the region due to reduced cotton fields in recent years. s-6530, s-9070, s-6532 and Aqdarya-5 fast-growing cotton varieties, to increase the efficiency of mineral fertilizers, to provide 25-30 tons of light to each field in order to exchange manure on the poorest lands; secondly, given the water shortage, a system of irrigation based on hydro-modular fogging will be introduced to rationally distribute the available water across the crops and prevent soil salinization. Taking into account the fact that most of the sown areas of cotton farms do not meet the agro-technical requirements in terms of relief, to carry out capital work on 80 thousand hectares and current leveling on 195 thousand hectares in order to improve the land reclamation; Thirdly, there are 9 ginneries in Samarkand region with the capacity to process 390,000 tons of raw





cotton. In 1994, at the expense of the Sanzar joint venture in Narimanov fortress of Payarik district, the Bobur farm of Narpay district processed 30,000 tons of cotton. It is planned to launch ginneries processing 6,000 tons of cotton [6], and by 2000 such small plants will be built in Ishtikhon, Kattakurgan and Narpay districts at the expense of these farms.

Speaking at the X session of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan of the first convocation on December 25-26, 1997, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan spoke on "Agricultural development is the source of life." analyzed. First, the role of agriculture in our economy, in our lives in general, requires it. Agriculture accounts for a quarter of the country's gross domestic product. More than half of our production and intellectual potential is related to agriculture, and 55% of the currency coming into our country comes from the export of agricultural products. Secondly, from a social point of view, 60% of the population of our country is rural. Thirdly, from a political point of view, the development of democratic processes in our country is also largely related to the development of agriculture.

Efforts have been made to radically improve the organization of selection work of agricultural workers in Samarkand region. The Uzbek-Irish joint venture "Elita", which specializes in grain production, has started its activities in the grain industry of Taylak district. It is noteworthy that there is a Samarkand Experimental School of Grain Seed. The Ulugbek-600 variety created in the region has shown its advantages. In other words, it was liked by our grain growers for its fast ripening, resistance to various diseases, and high yield.

Following the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 25, 1998 No. 491 "Renewal and placement of cotton varieties", there have been positive changes in the renewal, placement and seed economy of cotton varieties in the region. In order to renew cotton varieties in the region, new industrial and agricultural cotton varieties Aqdarya-5, Aqdarya-6 and Omad were created and local elite seed was established. The planting of Kyrgyz-3 and Fergana-3 cotton varieties, which are undervalued in the world market due to low fiber quality, has been abolished in the region since 1999-2001. Following the



decision of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 491, 2102.5 tons of seeds were used for the cotton harvest in 1998, while in 2001 this figure was reduced to 8415.8 tons or 12609.4 tons of seeds. If 15 percent of oil was extracted from each ton of cottonseed, the above figure would have saved 1,891 tons of oil and made it possible to obtain several types of products for the national economy. In 1999, the region received a premium of 440 million soums for seed cotton grown on cotton farms, in 2000 - 507 million soums, and in 2001 - 600 million soums from the cotton harvest [9].

In 2000, the state provided significant assistance to the development of agriculture in Samarkand region. "More than 16 billion soums of debts of farms have been completely written off, receivables of agricultural enterprises have been extended until 2008. In the field of agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources has built capacity to solve all problems, provided assistance with machinery and fertilizers. The President also instructed to provide assistance to Samarkand region. The Samarkand regional administration, realizing that it would be difficult to achieve significant progress in agriculture without giving freedom to agricultural producers and developing rural production and social infrastructure, was recognized by the Cabinet of Ministers on January 22, 2003 as No. 38/6. began to consider the transformation of farms into farms. In this process, a great responsibility from the governor of the region required diligence and diligence. The first President Islam Karimov in Samarkand region in 2004 began to find freedom and responsibility in agriculture. The system has succeeded in increasing the contractual plans for the cultivation of cocoons, grain, cotton and other products due to the strengthening of labor discipline and demand. He began to take the lead in the field of the farming movement. Leadership in agriculture began to belong to farms, which provided an increase in agricultural production by 8.4%.

In 2005, the Republic of Uzbekistan began to pursue a policy of transforming existing corporate farms into "farms" in order to form a new type of ownership. Special attention was paid to technical and financial support of established farms. The property owned by the company farms was distributed to farmers. In particular, "70,300,300 soums of property distributed to farmers in Samarkand region,





which was liquidated in 2005, were distributed to farmers in proportion to the quality of land plots, and unpaid debts of companies amounted to 2,620,100 soums. . Of the total accounts payable, 2,236,600 soums were written off by the state. Debts of 3 million 834 thousand soums were distributed to farms ”[10].

Contracts with established farms in the region have been revised. For example, “In Samarkand region, 7982 farms have signed contracts for the sale of grain for 156,298 tons. 6,124 cotton-growing farms signed contracts for the sale of 158,323 tons of cotton to the state, 726 newly concluded contracts with former companies for the sale of grain in 2005, and re-contracts for 28885 tons with 234 newly acquired farms. Of these, 9998 tons with 213 farms established on the basis of 7 liquidated companies in Jambay district and received additional land, 3218 tons with 107 farmers on the basis of 7 liquidated companies in Pastdargom district, 1862 tons with 76 farmers in 4 farms in Ishtikhon district. contracts are restructured. Contracts for the sale of raw cotton were re-concluded with 632 newly established farms for 28,630 tons ”[11].

In Samarkand region, the gross agricultural output in 2006 compared to 9 months of 2005 amounted to 108.4%, potatoes 108.0%, vegetables 104.0%, grapes 115%, milk 104.0%, eggs 101.0%. Plans to sell cotton, grain and cocoons to the state have been overfulfilled. In addition to cotton and grain products, Samarkand region has a huge potential in horticulture, viticulture, melons, fruits and vegetables. Following the adoption of the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 11, 2006 No PP-255 "On reform of fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture" [12], 43 agricultural companies specializing in fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture were transformed into farms and 6102 farms of which 5,540 were gardens and vineyards, to which 51,010 hectares of land (including 17,851 hectares of orchards and vineyards) were allocated. 10 agro-firms specializing in fruit and vegetable growing have been established in the region, including 21 processing shops, 13 transport, packaging and packaging service outlets. In order to organize short-term sowing and high-yield agro-technical measures for the cultivation of agricultural products in the region, a plan of calculations for the placement,



cultivation and sale of fruits, vegetables, grapes, melons and potatoes in 2007 was developed. 61014.5 hectares of land were allocated for the production of fruits, grapes, vegetables, melons and potatoes from the 2007 harvest, 837355 tons, including 409406 tons for processing enterprises, 85372 tons for export, 18582 tons for seeds, 34403 tons for health and public education. Contracts were signed for 35,592 tons of products for Tashkent city fairs, 253,999 tons for domestic market and domestic consumption [14]. Agrofirms concluded 1,599 contracts for 43.6 thousand tons of products. 510.0 million soums were allocated to farms. UZS advance funds have been allocated in advance. In 2007, Tokzor Baraka Fayz and Dilkusho Sifat agro-firms in Taylak district opened their trading houses in Samara, Russia, and Mirishkor Meva-Sabzavot agro-firm in Samarkand district, Ekaterinburg, Russia, in order to export their products.

Table 1. Gross harvest of agricultural crops in Samarkand region (in all categories of farms: thousand tons).

	1997y	1998y	1999y	2000y	2001y	2002y	2003y	2004y	2005y	2006y
Grain	310,6	482,7	514,6	379,2	345,3	620,3	719,6	651,3	670,6	676,2
Potatoes	167,0	161,8	163,5	166,8	179,0	201,0	197,1	200,0	208,7	235,3
Vegetables	365,0	406,4	460,7	422,2	444,1	499,2	666,7	575,5	625,0	814,6

In order to ensure the implementation of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 22, 2009 No F-3287 "On measures to further optimize the area of land owned by farms" Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources dated October 24, 2009 No 162 Governor's Resolution No. 158-K of October 24, 2009. In 2009, the region's agricultural production increased by 5.1%. Analyzing other sectors of agriculture as of November 6, 2009, as a result of the measures taken, 710 thousand tons of vegetables, 243 thousand tons of potatoes, 137 thousand tons of fruits, 40 thousand tons of melons, 109 thousand tons of grapes, 120 thousand tons of meat, 549 thousand tons of milk and 423 mln. eggs were grown and



the forecast was fulfilled with a surplus. In 2009, all farmers in the region achieved high results in the grain sector, growing 708.7 thousand tons of grain.

In order to ensure the implementation of the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 12, 2010 No 03-10-24, new technologies were introduced in the region in 2010, new gardens, vineyards, drip irrigation and the experience of the Turkish state in the region. On March 5, regional leaders and experts paid a working visit to Turkey to exchange experiences. In 2010, a program of measures for the introduction of new technologies was developed in the region, and drip irrigation of orchards was carried out. In particular, drip irrigation technology was introduced on 400 hectares of Ohalik Golden Garden farm in Samarkand district, 100 hectares on Bulungur Sam Veterinary farm in Bulungur district, and 300 hectares on Narpayobod farm in Narpay district [13].

In 2011, 17 projects with a capacity of 681 tons of vegetables were implemented in Samarkand region to launch greenhouses, and 179 new jobs were created as a result of investments of 1.2 billion soums. In 2011, agricultural crops were planted on 46,203 hectares of land in 462093 households in the region and districts. In particular, grain - 15,357 hectares, vegetables - 11,370 hectares, potatoes - 9,097 hectares, melons - 1,180 hectares, fodder crops - 12,888 hectares. According to the adopted program, in 2011, 628 hectares of gardens were established in the region through intensive drip irrigation. In short, experience has shown that if the land is handed over to its rightful owner, it becomes a real treasure if it is supported. The long-term lease of more than 490,000 hectares of land in the region to farmers on the basis of long-term contracts, the feeling of farmers as the owner of the land, improves the reclamation of land, increases productivity. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 22, 2012 "On measures to further improve and develop the organization of farming in Uzbekistan" [14] has played an important role in further strengthening the organizational and legal framework of the farming sector. In 2013, there were 7723 farms in the region. In order to create opportunities for the development of diversified farms in the country, the effective use of benefits, the region has developed a program of measures to be implemented in 2013 in this





direction. According to the program, 2543 projects were implemented during the year. In particular, 368 hectares of intensive gardens were created in 16 farms, 293 hectares of local gardens were created in 105 farms, and more than 600 new jobs were created. Farmers in the region have established 623 service points in the mahallas. In order to take advantage of the opportunities created for farmers, in 2013 the farmers of the region signed an additional agreement to increase the grain yield by five quintals and cotton by two quintals compared to the previous year. Large-scale work is underway in our country to reform and modernize the agricultural sector, improve the reclamation and irrigation systems, and further increase the productivity and efficiency of lands. As Islam Karimov noted in his speech at the opening of the international conference "Important resources for the implementation of the food program in Uzbekistan", many regions of Uzbekistan in the short term will become regions that grow and export fruits and vegetables that are in demand on the world market

Intensive orchards with high yields were established, and a drip irrigation system was introduced. Particular attention is paid to the involvement of advanced agro-industrial technologies, the development and reconstruction of agricultural infrastructure, irrigation and land reclamation systems, the introduction of new technologies for marketing and access to world markets. The main objectives of the state program on improving the reclamation of irrigated lands and rational use of water resources for 2013-2017 are the introduction of modern technologies, improvement of the reclamation of irrigated lands, reclamation and irrigation networks, rational and economical use of water resources. to ensure the stable operation of production, further increase of soil fertility and increase of agricultural crops, productivity. In 2014, the introduction of water-saving technologies for irrigation of agricultural crops in the region was completed by 102% [16]

Farmers from Samarkand are effectively using foreign state technologies. In particular, Mamasaid Egamov, a resident of Ahmad Yassavi mahalla in Chelak town, established a greenhouse on 2 hectares in 2014 on the basis of South Korean



technology. In a greenhouse equipped with cost-effective technology, they grow 350-400 tons of tomatoes a year using coal.

At the I International Fruit and Vegetable Fair organized on July 12-16, 2016 at the Uzexpocenter in Tashkent, about 20 processors, 10 exporters, more than 30 farms from Samarkand region presented more than 25 types of agricultural products and about 50 types of services. participated. At the first fair, 5 farms and exporters signed promising contracts, and by the end of 2016, vegetables, grapes, raisins and greens worth \$ 910,000 were exported to Russia, Kazakhstan and China. Zarband Fruit Export LLC delivered 50 tons of raisins to China. In addition, the company is implementing a project on processing, drying and packaging of fruits and grapes.

In 2016, farmers in the region produced more than 3 million tons of agricultural products this year. While 430,000 tons of the harvest are exported directly by exporting enterprises, 520,000 tons are processed. The Uzbek-UAE joint venture Lazzat Meva in Jambay district is one of the fruit and vegetable processing enterprises, launched in 2002 in cooperation with Italian businessmen. At this enterprise, fruits and vegetables are processed and sent to local and foreign producers as semi-finished products. The plant can process 125 tons of peaches and apricots grown in intensive orchards in Akdarya, Payarik, Ishtikhon, Nurabad, Bulungur and Jambay districts, or 600 tons of tomatoes imported on a contract basis from farms in neighboring districts.

At present, our products are exported to Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, - said the executive director of the company Tolkin Ulugmuradov. - In 2015, we sold goods worth \$ 1 million abroad, and in 2016 we are taking measures to further expand the volume and geography of exports. Most of those working in the company are college graduates.

Table 2. Harvesting of agricultural crops in Samarkand region (in all categories of farms: thousand tons).

	2007y	2008y	2009y	2010y	2011y	2012y	2013y	2014y	2015y	2016y
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Grain	688,3	675,6	708,7	756,1	772,0	781,5	805,6	806,6	808,2	808,3
Potatoes	264,1	308,1	334,6	371,7	409,1	449,4	480,9	526,8	572,6	619,2
Vegetables	833,8	879,6	945,6	1049,7	1149,2	1253,4	1350,8	1457,7	1584,4	1767,9

Prospects of the agricultural sector in Samarkand region; President Shavkat Mirziyoyev outlined his programs for the development and modernization of agriculture in the region in 2017-2021, based on which the optimization of cotton fields, development of vegetables and horticulture, improvement of irrigation and land reclamation, livestock, poultry, fisheries, beekeeping, greenhouses. and a set of specific measures in other areas has been developed. Given the growing urgency of food security around the world, by 2021 in the region will grow 1.5 times more potatoes, 1.7 times more vegetables, 2 times more fruits and grapes, 1.5 times more meat and dairy products, 2 times more fish. , 5 times, as well as the expansion of their processing.

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