

# Dynamics and Regional Features of Agricultural Production. In the Republic of Uzbekistan

<sup>1</sup>Rajabov Furqat Turakulovich

***Abstract**--The article presents a scientific analysis of the dynamics of agricultural production, regional characteristics and changes in the structure of industries from the time of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the present. Categories of farms that produce agricultural products in the country, their role in agricultural production, as well as characteristics of their development based on statistical data. Also analyzed are changes in the productivity of the main agricultural crops of Uzbekistan - cotton and grain. At the end of the article, priorities for the further development of agricultural production in the Republic of Uzbekistan are identified.*

***Keywords**-- agriculture, farming, irrigated land, cotton, grain, productivity, land resources, regions, regional analysis, economic and social conditions, irrigation, reclamation.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector occupies a prominent place in the sectoral structure of the national economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which predetermines a great deal of attention to the problems of agriculture in the course of deep socio-economic transformations in the country. Although the share of agriculture in the republic's GDP fell to 17.0 percent by 2018, the absolute indicators of industry productivity continue to grow steadily. So, in 2018, the gross agricultural output of Uzbekistan increased by 6.5 percent compared to 2017, and in comparison with 2000 - 2 times.

It is important to note that these results are not achieved in an extensive way, including through the expansion of irrigated cultivated areas, but through intensification of agricultural production, more rational use of land and water resources. If in 1990 the total area of irrigated land in Uzbekistan amounted to 4221.8 thousand hectares, then in 2000 it amounted to 4277.6 thousand hectares, and in 2018, in turn, amounted to 4014.7 thousand hectares, which indicates that over the years of Independence, the value of the key component of the land fund of Uzbekistan - irrigated agricultural land has not changed.

## II. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The theoretical and methodological foundations of the economic and geographical study of agriculture are presented in the works of foreign scientists I.G. Tyunen, K.I. Ivanov, V.G. Kryuchkov, A.M. Nosonov, A.N. Rakitnikov. The first monographs on agricultural geography in the republic were carried out in the middle of the last

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<sup>1</sup>The Department of Geography, Tashkent Region Chirchik State Pedagogical Institute, Doctor of Philosophy in Geography.

century by professors Z.M. Akramov and A.N. Rakitnikov. They led a comprehensive economic and geographical expedition organized in the Zarafshan River Basin, and published the monograph “Agricultural Geography of Samarkand and Bukhara Regions in 1961”. The economic and geographical aspects of the development of the agricultural sector are illustrated by different regions: M. Yusupov (Andijan region), R. Khodiev (Kitab-Shakhrisabz Bat), A.Valikhanov (Kokand oasis), E. Umarov (Lower Amu Darya), A. Ruziev (Surkhandaryinskaya region). ), B. Ishanov (Khorezm oasis), S. Saidkarimov (Zarafshan right bank), T. Egamberdiev (Keles) (valley), K. Kurbanov (Mirzachul), B. Mirtursunov (mountainous regions of the Tashkent region), S.Bakiev (Tashkent city), Kh. Halilova (Samarkand city), Yu. Akhmadmadiev (Ferghana valley), R. Usmanov (Methodological guidelines developed foundations of scientists from the city of Ferghana A. Kholmiraeva (Ferghana Valley), K.Gidiralieva (Syrdarya region)[7].

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 “On the Strategy for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, which aims to comprehensively intensify the socio-economic development of the country's rural areas. It is characteristic that this program was drawn up taking into account regional natural and economic differences, in particular, in that part, which concerns the improvement of the reclamation state of agricultural land. Particular attention is paid to activities aimed at rationalizing agricultural land use in desert-oasis areas of new development.

The development of new land in Uzbekistan took place in the Soviet period, when monoculture of cotton dominated in Central Asia, especially in our republic. To obtain additional tons of raw cotton, hundreds of thousands of hectares of arable land were developed in the country, on the basis of which fairly large territorial socio-economic formations, entire rural areas and regions appeared[4; 5].

The lands of new development are available in the Jizzakh (Arnasay, Dustlik, Zarbdar, Zafarabad, Mirzachul, Pakhtakor areas), Syrdarya (Akaltyn, Mirzaabad, Sardob, Havast regions), Samarkand (Nurabad, Pashtara, Koshrabad, Koshrabad, Koshrabad, Koshrabad), Peshkun, Romitan regions), Kashkadarya (Kasbinsk, Mirishkor, Mubarek, Nishan regions), Surkhandarya (Angora, Kyzyryk, Muzrabad, Sherabad regions) regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan (Takhtakupyr, Turtkul, Chimbay, Shumanay, Ellikkalin areas)[8; 9].

### **III. RESULT ANALYSIS**

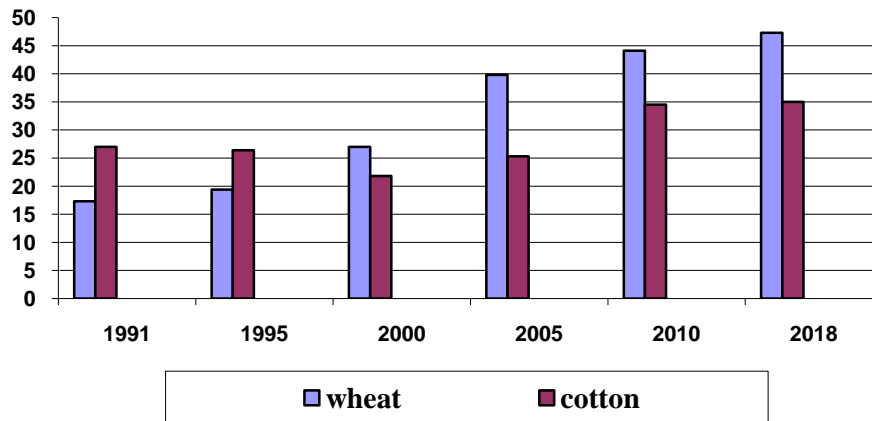
After Uzbekistan gained state sovereignty in the agricultural sector of the national economy, fundamental reforms began, affecting, among other things, specialization and placement of agriculture. Important tasks in this case were overcoming the monoculture of cotton and at the same time ensuring grain independence of the country. An illustration of these transformations is the fact that over 28 years, i.e. from 1990 to 2018, the sown area of wheat increased almost 4 times, namely from 433.2 thousand ha to 1610.7 thousand ha. Wheat productivity increased over the same period from 12.8 centners per hectare to 44.1 centners per hectare, and gross yield - from 1908.2 thousand tonnes to 7447.1 thousand tonnes (see table 1).

**Table 1.** The dynamics of agricultural production in Uzbekistan in 1991-2018 (thousand tons)

Type of agricultural products	1991 y.	1995 y.	2000 y.	2010 y.	2018 y.
Raw cotton	4446,0	3934,3	3002,4	3728,4	3422,2
Corn	1908,2	3215,3	3929,4	6401,8	7447,1
Vegetables	3348,0	2724,2	2644,7	3517,5	6346,4
Potato	351,2	439,9	731,1	924,2	1692,9
Gourds	925,8	472,0	451,4	615,3	1182,4
Fruit crops	516,6	602,3	790,9	949,3	1710,3
Grape	480,4	621,0	624,2	641,6	987,3
Meat	800,2	853,0	841,8	1061,2	1461,4
Milk	3331,4	3665,4	3632,5	4554,9	6169,0

The table is based on the materials of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the period under review, significant changes occurred in the cotton industry of Uzbekistan. So, the sown area of cotton in the country decreased from 1991 to 2018 from 1721.0 thousand ha to 1342.5 thousand ha, and the gross harvest of this crop from 4446.0 thousand tons to 3442.2 thousand tons The average cotton yield for this period increased by 8 centner / hectare (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** The dynamics of the productivity of cotton and grain crops in 1991-2018 (c / ha)

The drawing is based on the materials of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Big changes affected the land fund, which served the needs of livestock raising in the Republic of Uzbekistan, in particular, significant areas of pastures and hayfields fell out of agricultural circulation, the sown area of fodder crops on irrigated lands sharply decreased, which led to a significant reduction in the forage base of domestic livestock. As of 1991, 92 percent of all rangelands were agricultural land.

Overgrazing, pasture destruction, depletion of the species composition of pasture phytocenoses led to a reduction in this class of farmland by 40 percent. Some of the disturbed pastures were transferred to the state land reserve, while the other part was included in the lands of the forest fund of the republic. Currently, the total area of

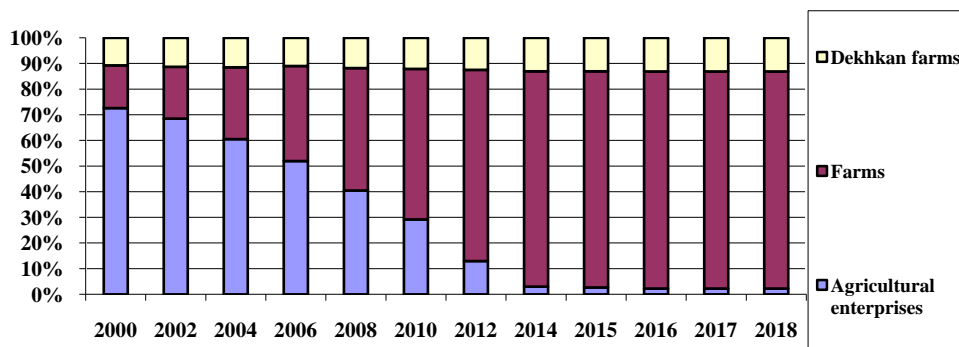
pastureland in Uzbekistan is about 13 million hectares, most of which is located within the desert regions of the country - the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Bukhara, Navoi, Kashkadarya regions. In these regions of Uzbekistan, one of the most cost-effective livestock industries is developed - karakul breeding [1].

According to the productivity indicators of the livestock sector, Tashkent, Navoi and Khorezm regions are leading in the republic. For certain types of livestock products, the following picture emerges: in milk production, the leading places are occupied by Samarkand, Khorezm and Kashkadarya regions, meat - Samarkand, Khorezm, Kashkadarya, Bukhara, eggs - Tashkent, Samarkand, Khorezm and Andijan regions, and wool production - Kashkadarya, Samarkand, Navoi, Bukhara and Jizzakh regions [3].

From the first years of Independence in the Republic of Uzbekistan, public forms of organization of production that meet the specifics of a market economy and based on private property began to be gradually introduced into agriculture. As a result of this, the vast majority of agricultural products are currently produced by farmers and dekhkans [2]. At the same time, world experience in the development of the private sector in agriculture shows the particular effectiveness of farming.

With this in mind, it was precisely the farms in the conditions of a gradual transition to the market that were selected as the supporting category of agricultural producers in the republic. So, in 2008 in Uzbekistan, a major reform was carried out to enlarge farms, optimize their distribution and specialization. As a result, the number of farms in the country decreased from 215,776 to 80,700, or 62 percent. As of 2018, the total land area of the farm sector of the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan is 5828.5 thousand hectares, and the number of employees in it exceeds 1.3 million people[6].

This category of agricultural producers ensures the production of 34.0 percent of the gross agricultural production of the republic, including 99.1 percent of cotton, 79.2 percent of grain. In general, in 2000-2018. the distribution of acreage and other key indicators of agricultural production between different forms of farm organization has changed significantly, including the proportion of farms in the acreage of the country increased over the mentioned period from 16.7 to 70.6 percent (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2.** The distribution of sown area by category of farms in the Republic of Uzbekistan (2000-2018, in percent)

The drawing is based on the materials of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As of 2018, in Uzbekistan there were over 4.6 million dekhkan (peasant, household) households, in which 1,400.8 thousand people were employed. The share of this category of farms in the total agricultural production of the country is growing. In particular, if in 2000 the share of dekhkan farms in gross agricultural production was 47.5 percent, then in 2011 it reached the level of 64.0 percent.

In turn, just as in farms, a peculiar enlargement took place in this group of agricultural producers - the average land area of dekhkan farms increased from 0.12 ha in 2000 to 0.24 ha by 2018. The total area of dekhkan farms of the republic in 2018 amounted to 458 thousand hectares, or 13.1 of the total crop area of the country.

The further development of all categories of agricultural enterprises in Uzbekistan is fraught with a number of environmental and economic problems, of which key issues include improving the reclamation state of land. In this regard, the State adopted and successfully implemented the State program of comprehensive measures for the reconstruction of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, designed for 2017-2021.

Within the framework of this program, only in 2018 alone, 700 km of new were constructed and about 14 thousand km of operated collector-drainage networks were reconstructed, 208 reclamation wells were restored, 350 units of special remediation equipment were purchased. In the same year, US \$ 75 million was raised from international investment funds for the repair of irrigation and land reclamation infrastructure in Kashkadarya, Bukhara, Navoi, Surkhandarya, Syrdarya, Jizzakh regions and Central Ferghana.

The result of these works was, for example, that by 2018 on a total area of 329.5 thousand hectares of arable land, the depth of groundwater was reduced to the optimal level for productive cultivation of major crops, the magnitude of strongly and medium saline lands the republic decreased by 11.7 thousand hectares. Thanks to these events for 2015-2018. Cotton productivity on reclaimed lands increased by 1.6 - 2.5 c / ha, and grain - by 2.0 - 2.7 c / ha.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Thus, agriculture retains its strategic importance for the national economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan and in the new socio-economic conditions. At the same time, the fundamental transformations carried out in the country during the period of Independence deeply affected the agricultural sector, which contributed to large quantitative and qualitative changes in agricultural production. Further development of the industry is closely connected with the intensification of crop production and animal husbandry, improvement of the material-technical and technological base of farms, rationalization of the use of land and water resources, and optimization of reclamation and irrigation infrastructure.

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