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THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF UZBEKISTAN AND ITS ROLE IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY
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Abstract. The agriculture of Uzbekistan and its role in the country's economy have been discussed in this article. The general state of agriculture in Uzbekistan was also discussed. The article presents results of research of the important role of agricultural development and its cooperation with other sectors in solving the problem of unemployment, which is a big problem for the economy of our country.

Keywords: economy of the countries, agriculture of Uzbekistan, general situation, unemployment, development in solidarity.

Introduction
Developing countries are implementing reforms aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth. These reforms also include the development of the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector is a supplier of raw materials for other sectors. The Republic of Uzbekistan is an agro-industrial state. Agriculture plays a significant role in the country’s economy. The main sectors of agriculture are cotton, grain (including wheat), fruits and vegetables and tobacco, livestock and sheep. In 2019, 26% of the total employed population in Uzbekistan was engaged in agriculture, and the share of this sector in GDP, including fisheries and forestry, was 26% [1].

Agriculture plays a leading role in the economy of our country, satisfies the demand of the population for food products and industry for raw materials. A significant part of the country's gross domestic product is created in this area. More than 60% of the country's population lives in rural areas. Therefore, from the first days of independence of our country, great attention has been paid to the development of the agricultural sector. That is, a number of laws, decrees and resolutions have been adopted to develop agriculture and increase its efficiency. The adopted normative legal changes have begun to bear fruit in this area. In this regard, extensive research on this topic is relevant and important in enhancing the role of the agricultural sector in the country's economy.

The purpose of the scientific article is to study the current state of the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan and to develop proposals and recommendations to increase its role in the country's economy.

Literature review
This topic has been studied by many foreign and local scholars and those who have expressed their views on this topic. Azizur Rahman Khan “The transition of
Uzbekistan’s agriculture to a market policy,” Zvi Lerman “Agricultural development in Uzbekistan: The Effect of Ongoing Reforms,” Lea Melnikovova and Bohumil Havrland “State Ownership of Land in Uzbekistan - an Impediment to Further Agricultural Growth”[2] and the role of Uzbekistan in the agricultural sector.

Local scientists V.V.Baturina, Y. Yusupov [7], N. Sirojiddinov [3], M.Vokhidova [13] have commented on this topic in their articles.

At the same time, there are a number of unresolved issues related to the development of agriculture and its development in cooperation with other sectors in solving the problem of unemployment, which is a major problem for the economy of our country.

Uzbek scholars have the following views on this issue:

According to Nasimov B.V. [11], one of the urgent tasks today is to eliminate the factors that negatively affect the sustainable development of agriculture, to further strengthen state support for the farming movement, to create conditions for it to become a leading force in society, to further increase farmers' incomes through diversification. it is important to find optimal solutions to the issues addressed.

N.Khushmatov's research work considers many problems and ways to solve the problem of activation of innovative activity in the agrarian sector, taking into account the need to modernize the agrarian sector and modernize the agrarian sector of the economy and its transition to an innovative path of development. [12].

Similar views can be found in the scientific research of many other modern economists.

**Research methods**

The methodological basis of this research is the fundamental principles of economic theory and the works of leading domestic and foreign economists who have conducted research on the problem under study. Also, theories of agriculture in Uzbekistan and its role in the country's economy, as well as the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan have served as the main methodological basis for the implementation of this topic.

The study used methods such as theoretical observation, scientific abstraction, comparative analysis, mathematical and statistical grouping.

**Analysis and results**

Uzbekistan is one of the largest producers of agricultural products in the Central Asian region. The country is a leader in the production of fruits and vegetables in the region: Uzbekistan accounts for almost 80% of the fruits and vegetables grown in the region. As a result of economic reforms carried out by the government, the GDP of Uzbekistan, as well as the volume of agricultural production is growing from year to year. Since independence, a lot has been done to diversify the agricultural sector and meet the food needs of the population. These measures,
in turn, are an important factor in increasing the export potential of agriculture. Agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of our country. This can also be seen from the table below.

### Table 1

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP (billion dollars)</td>
<td>56.51</td>
<td>63.62</td>
<td>68.99</td>
<td>76.65</td>
<td>81.84</td>
<td>81.77</td>
<td>59.16</td>
<td>50.39</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (%)</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry (%)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services sector (%)</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>33.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows that the share of agriculture in GDP is declining from year to year. The main reason for this is not that the volume of production in agriculture is declining. Perhaps it is because the size of other industries is growing so fast. As shown in the table, agriculture accounts for 25% of GDP and half of our population lives in rural areas. The main activities of the rural population are related to agriculture. These show how important agriculture is. Cotton and grain are the country's main crops. In 2020, exports of agricultural products accounted for about 10.5% of Uzbekistan's external income [5]. The fact that the number of people engaged in agriculture in Uzbekistan and the share of the rural population in the population is significant compared to other countries of the former Soviet Union shows how important this sector is for Uzbekistan. An increase in agricultural production will lead to a simultaneous increase in the food industry. The annual growth rate of food production in Uzbekistan is 10-15%.

Over the past 20 years, global consumption of fruits and vegetables has been growing at an average rate of 5% to 7% per year. Not only meeting the needs of the population of Uzbekistan, but also the export of agricultural products has great potential in this area.

Uzbekistan annually produces more than 19 million tons of fruits and vegetables, of which 700,000 tons are exported. Currently, there are more than 160,000 farms in the country, which supply fruits and vegetables to domestic and foreign markets. The country has a total storage capacity of 975 thousand tons, including 502 thousand tons of modern cold chambers [6]. It serves to supply the population with the main types of agricultural products, to expand their exports.

The development of the vegetable sector is not only to ensure food security, but also to form new industries, create new jobs and improve people's living standards.

The demand of the population of Uzbekistan for food products is met by almost 100% due to the products produced by local producers.
In general, during the years of independence, from 1991 to 2020, per capita consumption of meat increased 1.3 times, milk and dairy products 1.6 times, processed fruits and vegetables almost 4 times [7].

In 2016-2020, more than 180 types of various fruits and vegetables and products based on their processing will be exported to 80 countries around the world. Our country is among the top ten countries in the world in terms of exports of apricots, plums, grapes, nuts, cabbage and many other fruits and vegetables [8]. In order to provide the population of the rapidly growing country with food, as a result of the expansion of food crops, in 2020, 22.6 million tons of fruits and vegetables were produced [8]. This, of course, allows not only the needs of the population of our country, but also the export and processing of agricultural products. The development of the processing industry, in turn, plays an important role in ensuring year-round employment of the population engaged in agriculture.

Yield of agricultural crops - the average yield per unit area of arable land (sotok, hectare). The average yield of agricultural crops is determined by dividing the gross harvest from the main area (without intermediate, repeated, row spacing crops) by the area harvested. Analysis of the yield of agricultural crops harvested from an average of 1 hectare in 2020 compared to 2000, the yield of cereals increased by 16.8 quintals, cotton - by 1.6 quintals, potatoes - by 95.8 quintals, vegetables - by 87.3 quintals, melons - 77.0 quintals, fruits - 77.2 quintals, grapes - 78.8 quintals (Table 2).

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield of main types of agricultural crops (centner / hectare) [10]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and legumes, total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables, total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutritious melons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and berries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of the work carried out in the country on agriculture, the productivity of agriculture is increasing, as a result of which the welfare of our population is increasing. Agriculture is the easiest sector to create jobs at a time when our country is suffering from unemployment. The reason is that while job creation in other sectors, such as industry and services, requires a much larger
amount of money, this sector requires relatively less money. On the other hand, there are relatively many qualified personnel in this field in our country. Given that the majority of our population lives in rural areas, this sector is very important in creating jobs and increasing the income of our population.

**Conclusion and recommendations**

The results of the study show that the advantages of agricultural development in Uzbekistan are:

a) that our country has a very good natural climate for agricultural development;

b) high quality of our fruit and vegetable products;

(c) Adequate and skilled labor in the field;

d) that the government pays enough attention to the development of the sector, etc.

Efforts to develop the agricultural sector begin with a study of its current state. The main goal of agricultural development is to increase the welfare of the population, employment, meeting the demand for food and other industries to meet the demand for raw materials. To achieve these goals, the following tasks must be solved:

- intensive organization of agricultural work;
- increase the economic efficiency by replacing many agricultural machinery with new modern equipment, as it has become obsolete;
- efficient use of land in the regions and improvement of reclamation of non-productive lands;
- implementation of systematic work in the chain of cultivation, supply, storage, processing and export of products;
- Establishment of water-saving irrigation systems in the region as soon as possible due to water shortages in our region;
- Introduction of full market economy mechanisms in agriculture.

As a result of these measures, the following economic and social results are expected in agriculture: stabilization of the growth rate of agricultural production, employment, food security, increase of the country's export potential through the export of agricultural products, other sectors. ensuring the sustainable operation of other industries through the provision of sustainable raw materials.

In conclusion, we can say that agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the economy and the comprehensive development of this sector, the state's attention to improving the skills of the employed population, the sector is developing rapidly and makes a worthy contribution to creating new jobs. Also, as a result of the attention paid to this area, the food security of our population will be fully ensured.
References: