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#### GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES IN THE CASE OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: Green entrepreneurship has emerged as a crucial driver of sustainable economic growth, particularly in developing economies like Uzbekistan. This paper examines the current state of green entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan, analyzing its role in promoting environmental sustainability while fostering economic development. It explores key government policies, challenges, and opportunities for green business initiatives. The study highlights the importance of sustainable business practices, including eco-friendly production, circular economy strategies, and renewable energy adoption.

Key words: Green Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Business, Circular Economy, Renewable Energy, Uzbekistan, Environmental Policies.

Uzbekistan, as a developing economy with abundant natural resources, faces increasing environmental challenges due to industrialization, energy consumption, and climate change. The concept of green entrepreneurship—businesses that prioritize environmental sustainability while generating economic value—has gained traction as a viable solution to these challenges.

With government-led initiatives supporting a transition toward a greener economy, green entrepreneurship offers an opportunity to align business growth with sustainability objectives. This paper explores the role of green entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan, examining its impact on economic and environmental sustainability and identifying key enablers and barriers to its growth.

Green entrepreneurship refers to business ventures that focus on environmental sustainability by minimizing negative ecological impacts and promoting sustainable resource use. This includes industries such as renewable energy, waste recycling, ecotourism, and sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable businesses contribute to economic development by creating green jobs, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing competitiveness. Green entrepreneurs







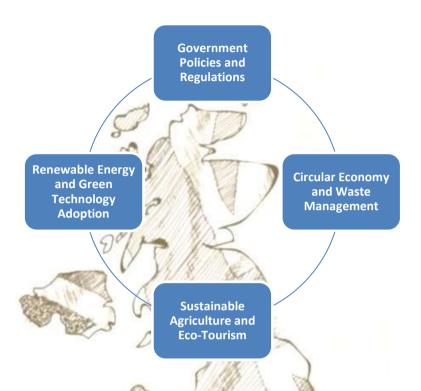
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drive innovation by developing eco-friendly technologies and sustainable products, leading to long-term economic and environmental benefits.

Diagram 1. Sustainable Business Practices in Uzbekistan.



The Uzbek government has introduced policies to support green business initiatives, including the "Strategy for the Transition to a Green Economy (2019–2030)." The policy focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy development, and waste management. The government also provides tax incentives and subsidies to businesses investing in sustainable projects.

Uzbekistan has significant potential for renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power. Entrepreneurs are increasingly investing in solar panel production, green construction, and energy-efficient manufacturing. However, high initial investment costs and limited access to financing remain barriers to widespread adoption.

Circular economy principles, such as recycling and waste reduction, are gaining importance in Uzbekistan. Startups focusing on waste-to-energy solutions, sustainable packaging, and eco-friendly materials are emerging. However, inadequate infrastructure and public awareness pose challenges to implementing circular economy strategies effectively.

Agriculture, a key sector in Uzbekistan's economy, is shifting towards sustainable practices, including organic farming, water-efficient irrigation systems, and agroforestry. Additionally, eco-tourism is growing as a sector, with businesses promoting sustainable travel experiences that minimize environmental impact.







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Diagram 2. Challenges and Barriers to Green Entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan.



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Green startups often struggle to secure financing due to the high upfront costs of sustainable technologies. While government grants and international funding exist, access to financial resources remains limited.

Many entrepreneurs and consumers in Uzbekistan lack awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of green businesses. Capacity-building programs and knowledge-sharing platforms are needed to educate stakeholders on sustainability practices.

Despite supportive policies, bureaucratic inefficiencies and regulatory uncertainties hinder green business growth. Streamlining regulations and fostering public-private partnerships can improve the investment climate for green entrepreneurship.

Green businesses require advanced infrastructure, such as efficient recycling systems and renewable energy grids. Additionally, consumer demand for sustainable products is still developing, requiring awareness campaigns and incentives to shift market preferences.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Green entrepreneurship is essential for Uzbekistan's transition toward a sustainable economy. While progress has been made in policy development and business innovation, further efforts are needed to strengthen the green entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- Establish green investment funds, low-interest loans, and tax incentives to encourage sustainable business ventures.





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- Implement nationwide campaigns and educational programs to promote sustainability and eco-friendly consumer behavior.
- Simplify licensing procedures and provide clearer guidelines for green entrepreneurs.

By addressing these challenges and implementing strategic initiatives, Uzbekistan can position itself as a leader in green entrepreneurship, ensuring long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

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