

DEVELOPMENT OF RICE FARMING IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation. *The article examines the development of rice farming in Uzbekistan, exploring the historical context, key advancements, and challenges the country has faced in cultivating rice. It delves into the strategies implemented by the government and agricultural experts to enhance production efficiency, increase yield, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The paper highlights the critical role of rice as a staple crop in Uzbekistan's economy, especially in regions such as the Fergana Valley. Key initiatives such as the introduction of modern irrigation techniques, seed quality improvement, and the role of governmental policies in supporting rice farmers are discussed. Additionally, the article addresses the environmental challenges, including water scarcity and soil degradation, that impact rice farming. The article concludes by analyzing the potential for further growth and the integration of innovative technologies in the sector.*

Keywords: *rice farming, Uzbekistan agriculture, irrigation techniques, sustainable agriculture, crop yield improvement, soil degradation, agricultural development.*

Introduction. On a global scale, the role and importance of the agrarian sector in ensuring the food security of the population is increasing day by day. In particular, it is an urgent issue to rationally use the resources and opportunities available in our country, to provide the population with agricultural products, to further increase productivity and interest, to introduce scientific achievements and modern approaches to the industry.

Our honored President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his address to the Supreme Assembly on December 29, 2020, stressed that the fastest – yielding factor in reducing poverty and increasing rural incomes is a sharp increase in productivity and efficiency in agriculture.

Agriculture in our country is considered multidisciplinary, in which rice, along with many agricultural crops, has been planted as one of the main food products of the population, for a long time. Grain products, especially rice, have long been a symbol of sustenance and fullness for our people. It is not only one of the necessary food products, but also a source of satisfaction of the human body's demand for carbohydrates and proteins, the main feed of industries such as livestock, poultry, fisheries.

The decision of the president of February 2, 2021 "on measures for the further development of rice cultivation" is important for our people, first of all, as it provides a

more comprehensive way to ensure the fullness of the table, serving this purpose. To do this, it will be necessary to improve the rice cultivation system, provide the domestic consumer market with rice products sustainably and increase export potential, strengthen R & D in this regard, and ensure the widespread use of water-saving technologies.

In the world rice cultivation practice, 80-90% seedling method is used. Taking into account the soil-climatic conditions and biological characteristics of the varieties, improving the agrotechnics of the cultivation of domestic and foreign rice varieties, hybrids, increasing their yield, localizing the world's advanced technologies and effective use of each hectare of land is one of the pressing issues of the rice industry of the Republic. Focusing on the data, the agricultural sector in the Republic has an average of 52 billion cubic/meter of water in one year, 80 percent of which corresponds to the contribution of the tarnschegård rivers. It is formed due to the melting of precipitation, glaciers and snow on the territory of neighboring countries. However, as a result of climate change and other anthropogenic impacts, the volume of water in the rivers is decreasing as a result of a sharp decrease in the number and volume of glaciers in the mountains. In addition, the countries of the Central Asian region, including Uzbekistan, are increasingly in demand for water as a result of population growth and the rapid development of the economy. In such conditions, the effective and economical use of Water Resources in agriculture, especially the use of water-saving technologies in the irrigation of agricultural crops, is dictated by the era itself.

Conclusion. The development of rice farming in Uzbekistan has been marked by significant progress and transformation, driven by strategic government initiatives and technological advancements. While rice remains a vital crop for the nation's food security and economy, the sector faces ongoing challenges such as water scarcity and environmental degradation. Sustainable farming practices and innovative irrigation systems are crucial for addressing these issues and ensuring the long-term viability of rice farming. With continued investment in research, improved seed varieties, and policy support, Uzbekistan has the potential to further enhance its rice production and become more resilient to future challenges. The future of rice farming in Uzbekistan looks promising, provided that the right balance between technological progress and environmental sustainability is achieved.

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