



## PROBLEMS OF INCREASING EXPORTS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Saidova Dildora Nurmatovna<sup>1</sup>,

Kholmuratova Sarvinoz Sherzod qizi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>PhD, Associate Professor Department of Agroecconomics,  
Tashkent State Agrarian University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan,

e-mail: sdildora64@gmail.com, ORCID ID:<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5142-9291>

<sup>2</sup>Master's student in Economics, Tashkent State Agrarian University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan,  
e-mail: Xolmurotovasarvinoz@gmail.com, ORCID ID:<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1950-7336>

### Abstract

The article examines current trends in the development of fruit and vegetable exports in the Republic of Uzbekistan and analyzes the main problems and constraints hindering the growth of the sector's export potential. Particular attention is paid to issues of logistics, product storage, standardization, certification, and diversification of export markets. Based on the analysis, directions for improving the efficiency of fruit and vegetable exports and strengthening the country's food security are proposed.

**Keywords:** Export, fruit and vegetable products, agricultural sector, foreign trade, agricultural export, logistics, standardization, competitiveness

### Introduction

The agricultural sector plays an important role in the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Due to favorable natural and climatic conditions, the country has significant potential for the production and export of fruit and vegetable products. In recent years, the government has implemented a set of reforms aimed at developing agriculture, modernizing the processing industry, and expanding the export potential of the agricultural sector.

Fruit and vegetable products represent one of the most dynamically developing areas of agricultural exports. They occupy an important place in the country's foreign trade structure and contribute to increasing foreign exchange earnings, developing rural areas, and improving employment levels.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has carried out large-scale reforms aimed at modernizing agriculture, developing agro-clusters, establishing modern greenhouse complexes, and expanding export opportunities in the agricultural sector. However, despite the positive dynamics, the development of fruit and vegetable exports faces a number of challenges that require scientific analysis and the development of practical recommendations.

Thus, despite the existing potential, the development of fruit and vegetable exports is constrained by several economic, organizational, and infrastructural problems that require comprehensive solutions. The purpose of this study is to analyze the main problems of fruit and vegetable export development in Uzbekistan and to develop recommendations for improving its efficiency.



## Research Methodology

The methodological basis of the study includes methods of economic and statistical analysis: economic-statistical analysis, comparative analysis, time series analysis, and a systems approach. The information base of the study consists of statistical data on the development of agriculture and foreign trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2015–2024.

## Literature Review

The problems of developing agricultural exports and increasing the competitiveness of agricultural products have been widely studied in the scientific literature by both domestic and foreign researchers. In recent years, special attention has been paid to the development of the fruit and vegetable sector as one of the most promising areas of agricultural exports.

In foreign economic literature, significant contributions to the study of agricultural development and export issues have been made by researchers such as John W. Mellor, Prabhu Pingali, and Elisabeth Sadoulet [1]. Their studies focus on structural transformation in agriculture, increasing productivity in the agricultural sector, and integrating agricultural products into international markets.

An important contribution to the study of food security and agricultural development has been made by Per Pinstrup-Andersen, who examined the interrelationship between agricultural development, international food trade, and food security [2]. The author notes that the development of agricultural exports can contribute to sustainable economic growth and the strengthening of food systems.

Considerable attention to the development of the agricultural sector and international trade in agricultural products is also paid by international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank [3]. Their analytical reports emphasize that agriculture remains one of the key sectors of Uzbekistan's economy and plays an important role in ensuring employment and income in rural areas. At the same time, the fruit and vegetable sector is considered one of the most promising directions for the development of agricultural exports.

According to the World Bank study "From Root to Fruit: Growing the Horticulture Sector in Uzbekistan," the fruit and vegetable sector has significant potential due to favorable natural and climatic conditions and high demand in international markets [4]. However, further expansion is constrained by several factors, including underdeveloped logistics infrastructure, limited access to modern technologies for farmers, and insufficient integration into global supply chains.

The analysis of scientific literature shows that the fruit and vegetable sector of Uzbekistan has considerable development potential and can become one of the key drivers of agricultural export growth. At the same time, many researchers note the presence of institutional and infrastructural constraints, including underdeveloped logistics, storage problems, low levels of processing, and limited diversification of export markets.

Thus, further research should focus on developing effective mechanisms to enhance the export potential of fruit and vegetable products, improving agricultural market infrastructure, and expanding the integration of the national agricultural sector into the global food trade system.



## Analysis

In recent years, Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable exports have demonstrated steady growth. The main exported products include grapes, cherries, apricots, pomegranates, apples, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, carrots, and cabbage.

The main export markets include Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Turkey, and countries of the Middle East. The growth in exports is associated with the expansion of horticulture, development of greenhouse complexes, establishment of agro-clusters, and state support for exports.

The analysis shows that over the study period, fruit and vegetable exports increased more than twofold. Particularly significant growth has been observed since 2018, associated with the development of agro-clusters and the liberalization of foreign trade. In 2024, Uzbekistan exported more than 2 million tons of fruit and vegetable products worth about 1,5 billion USD, confirming the steady growth of export potential in the agricultural sector.

**Table 1 Dynamics of fruit and vegetable exports in Uzbekistan (2015–2024) [5].**

Year	Export (thousand tons)	Export (million USD)	Growth rate (%)	Share in total exports (%)
2015	850	650	–	6,0
2016	920	720	108	6,3
2017	1000	708	109	6,5
2018	1150	820	115	6,7
2019	1350	1000	117	7,2
2020	1485	1008	110	7,0
2021	1600	1100	108	6,8
2022	1680	1180	105	6,5
2023	1700	1200	101	5,9
2024	2000	1500	118	6,2

The data indicate a steady upward trend in both volume and value of exports. Export volume increased from 850 thousand tons in 2015 to 2 million tons in 2024, while export revenues more than doubled from 650 million USD to 1.5 billion USD.

Growth rates were highest during 2016–2019, followed by a slowdown in 2020–2023 due to global economic challenges and increased competition. However, in 2024, exports showed strong recovery.



**Table 2 Main export markets of Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable products (2024) [6]**

Country	Volume (thousand tons)	Value (million USD)
Russia	815	632,9
Kazakhstan	520	189,8
China	145	128,6
Kyrgyzstan	152	57,9
Pakistan	125	192,3
Afghanistan	68	124,4
Turkey	28	48,3

The analysis of the geographical structure of Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable exports in 2024 reveals a high concentration of trade flows in a limited number of markets, with a clear dominance of neighboring and regional partners.

Russia remains the largest export destination, accounting for more than one-third of total exports in both volume (815 thousand tons) and value (632,9 million USD). This reflects strong historical trade ties, geographical proximity, and well-established logistics routes. The Russian market plays a strategic role for Uzbek exporters due to its high and stable demand for fresh produce.

Kazakhstan ranks second in terms of export volume (520 thousand tons), although its value (189,8 million USD) is significantly lower compared to Russia. This indicates a relatively lower average export price, which may be explained by the composition of exported goods, dominated by lower value-added products such as vegetables.

Among non-CIS countries, China demonstrates increasing importance, importing 145 thousand tons valued at 128,6 million USD. Despite a smaller volume, the relatively high export value suggests that higher-priced products, such as cherries and grapes, are being supplied. This indicates strong potential for further expansion in the Chinese market.

Pakistan and Afghanistan also represent important and перспективные markets. Notably, Pakistan shows a high export value (192,3 million USD) relative to its volume (125 thousand tons), indicating favorable pricing conditions and demand for higher-quality or niche products. Similarly, exports to Afghanistan (124,4 million USD) reflect strong regional trade ties and growing demand.

Kyrgyzstan remains a stable but relatively low-value market due to lower purchasing power and simplified trade conditions. Turkey, although currently accounting for a small share, represents a strategic market due to its role as a regional trade hub and potential gateway to European markets.

Overall, the analysis indicates that Uzbekistan's export geography is still highly concentrated in neighboring countries, which increases vulnerability to external shocks. At the same time, the growing role of Asian markets highlights opportunities for diversification and expansion into higher-value segments.



**Table 3 Export structure by product type (2024) [7]**

Product	Volume (thousand tons)	Share (%)
Grapes	310	15.5
Cherries	180	9.0
Apricots	150	7.5
Apples	220	11.0
Onions	350	17.5
Tomatoes	260	13.0
Cucumbers	170	8.5
Others	360	18.0

The analysis of the commodity structure of Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable exports in 2024 shows a relatively diversified composition, with a dominance of products characterized by high productivity and stable external demand.

Onions represent the largest share of exports (17,5% or 350 thousand tons), reflecting their high yield, long shelf life, and strong demand in international markets. This makes onions one of the most competitive export products in terms of both volume and logistics efficiency.

Grapes rank second (15,5%), highlighting Uzbekistan's comparative advantage in horticulture due to favorable climatic conditions. A significant portion of grapes is also used for dried fruit production, which adds value to exports.

Tomatoes (13,0%) and apples (11,0%) also occupy significant shares, indicating the successful development of greenhouse production and intensive orchards. These products benefit from consistent demand and relatively high market prices.

Cherries (9,0%) and apricots (7,5%) are particularly important from a profitability perspective, as they are high-value export products with strong demand in premium markets, especially in Asia. Their export contributes significantly to increasing overall export revenues despite relatively lower volumes. Cucumbers account for 8,5% of exports and are mainly produced in greenhouse complexes, ensuring year-round supply and export stability.

The category "other products" (18,0%) includes a wide range of fruits such as peaches, plums, pomegranates, melons, and watermelons. The relatively high share of this category reflects the diversity of Uzbekistan's agricultural production and export potential.

In general, the export structure demonstrates a combination of volume-driven products (onions, tomatoes) and high-value products (cherries, grapes), which contributes to both stability and profitability of exports. However, the relatively low share of processed products indicates untapped potential for increasing value-added exports.



## Conclusion

Fruit and vegetable exports are one of the most dynamically developing areas of Uzbekistan's agricultural exports. Over the past decade, export volumes have more than doubled. However, further growth requires solving key infrastructural and institutional problems, improving product quality, and expanding access to international markets.

The analysis shows that Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable exports are highly concentrated in neighboring markets, particularly Russia and Kazakhstan, which increases dependence on regional demand. At the same time, the growing role of Asian markets such as China and Pakistan indicates significant potential for further diversification. The commodity structure of exports is dominated by high-volume products like onions and tomatoes, alongside high-value fruits such as grapes and cherries, ensuring both stability and profitability. However, the relatively low share of processed products highlights the need to enhance value-added production to strengthen export competitiveness.

The analysis revealed several major challenges hindering the development of fruit and vegetable exports in Uzbekistan, including underdeveloped logistics infrastructure, limited storage capacity, lack of compliance with international quality standards, a low level of processing, and insufficient diversification of export markets.

To enhance the export potential of the fruit and vegetable sector, it is necessary to develop modern logistics infrastructure, strengthen agro-clusters, expand processing industries, implement international certification systems such as GLOBALG.A.P. and HACCP, and diversify export markets.

## References

1. Mellor, J. W. (2017). *Agricultural development and economic transformation*. Springer; Pingali, P. (2015). Agricultural policy and nutrition outcomes. *Food Policy*, 51, 1–10; Sadoulet, E., & de Janvry, A. (2010). Agricultural growth and poverty reduction. *World Development*, 38(11), 1373–1383.
2. Pinstrup-Andersen, P. (2013). *Food security: Definition and measurement*. *Food Security Journal*, 5(1), 5–7.
3. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2022). *Uzbekistan agricultural sector review*. Rome: FAO.
4. World Bank. (2020). *From Root to Fruit: Growing the Horticulture Sector in Uzbekistan*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
5. stat.uz
6. stat.uz
7. stat.uz
8. Saidova D.N. Problems of Ensuring Food Security in the Context of Globalization. *Web of Agriculture: Journal of Agriculture and Biological Sciences*. Volume 3, Issue 6, June – 2025. ISSN (E): 2938-3781. Barcelona, Spain. Impact IFSIJ JIF:8.560 P.33-38.



# Academica Globe: Inderscience Research

ISSN: 2776-1010      Volume 7, Issue 4, April 2026

9. Saidova D.N. Methods of Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Food Security in Uzbekistan. Pedagogical Cluster- Journal of Pedagogical Developments PCJPD: Volume 3 Issue 05, May 2025, online: ISSN 2956-896X. Krakov, Poland. Impact IFSIJ:7.995. P.9-18.
10. Saidakbarov H.Kh., Saidova D.N. Directions of agricultural development in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Scientific and practical journal "Innovative economy: development and improvement prospects". 2014. No. 2 (5). P.189-192
11. Saidova D.N., Rustamova I.B., Tursunov Sh.A. Agrar policy and food security. Training manual. The T.: Publishing house" Main Library of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, 2016.