

THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIVESTOCK NETWORK IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation. *The article describes the regional development of livestock breeding, which is one of the main branches of agriculture, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the factors affecting it, risks, problems, and promising directions for their elimination.*

Keywords. *agriculture, livestock, food, population, pasture, land resources, farming.*

Agriculture is an important source of meeting the needs of the country's population for food, raw materials of other sectors of the economy. Increasing the production efficiency of this sector has been one of the urgent issues of the economy. Animal husbandry is the most important branch of agriculture. It provides humanity with extremely vital food (meat and meat products, milk and milk products, eggs, honey), light industry with various raw materials (wool, leather, fur, black leather, tweed, etc.) is important.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 40 percent of the value of agricultural products in the world comes from livestock, which provides income and food security for about 1.3 billion people. At the same time, the introduction of efficient and sustainable methods of livestock production can ensure food security for many people and increase the role of livestock production in generating income.

One of the distinctive features of the economic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan is their comprehensiveness and diversity. In this, of course, the country's spirituality, culture, and its own mentality, as well as its implementation based on the interests of the people, are manifested. After all, the establishment of a stable, developed and efficient economy based on socially oriented market relations requires the implementation of fundamental changes in many areas, including the agricultural sector.

Factors such as rising income levels, changing diets and population growth have made livestock farming one of the fastest growing sectors of agriculture in





middle and low-income countries like Uzbekistan. This growth represents a major opportunity for smallholder farmers, agribusinesses and other actors in the chain along the livestock production (feeding) chain. However, on the other hand, this situation increases the demand for livestock feed and land, and has a serious impact on natural resources and the environment. In Uzbekistan, agriculture is important in terms of employment and food security. 30 percent of employment and 25 percent of GDP are created in agriculture, so this sector is the most promising to stimulate the development of other sectors of the economy by providing production resources and products.

In 2021, half of the gross agricultural product was produced in the livestock sector. In 2021, the gross output of livestock increased by 2.3 times compared to 2016, from 64.8 trillion soums to 151.4 trillion soums. In 2020, 12,600 new jobs were created in the livestock sector, and in 2021, the number of new vacancies increased by 48% to 18,300. In the current year, almost 1.7 million people, including 458,000 workers, were officially employed in the livestock sector.

In 2021, all categories of farms produced 2.6 million tons of meat in live weight (about 1.7 million tons in slaughter weight), which is 4.5% more than in 2020 or 16% more than in 2017. In 2021, meat imports amounted to 95.2 thousand tons (\$181.4 million), including 60.4 thousand tons of poultry meat (\$57.5 million). The country cannot fully meet its needs with meat and meat products. In 2021, the most meat was imported from Belarus - 46%, Russia - 5% and Ukraine - 6%. Meat imports make up 5.7-6% of the total meat consumption in the country.

By the end of 2021, the total number of live cattle increased by 9% compared to 2017 to 13,556,000, and the number of cows increased by 10% to 4,868,000 in the same period. The number of live goats and sheep increased by 12% and reached 23,069 thousand in 2021. Kashkadarya - 1.67 million head (12.3%), Samarkand - 1.65 million head (12.1%) and Bukhara - 1.28 million head (9.4%) took the lead in terms of the number of cattle. These regions are leaders in the country in terms of supplying meat and milk.

Over the past five years, there has been a positive change in the number of live poultry, from 71,343,000 in 2017 to 93,132,000 in 2019. In 2021, the total number of poultry increased by 26% compared to 2017 and amounted to 89,733 thousand. Tashkent region - 15.5 million (17.3%), Samarkand region - 13.5 million (15.1%) and Fergana region - 8.6 million (9.6%) are the leading regions in poultry breeding. In 2021, 8,053 million eggs were produced, which is 22% more than in 2017.





In recent years, special attention has been paid to the development of fisheries in our country. A total of 173,800 tons of fish were produced in 2021, which is 20.7% higher than in 2020. In 2021, Khorezm (31.1 thousand tons), Samarkand (21.9 thousand tons) and Andijan (17.6 thousand tons) regions took the lead in fish cultivation.

In the rural areas of the country, cattle breeding is important as a guarantee for hard times, a precaution and a means of accumulating wealth. Livestock households (or peasants) are essentially semi-subsistence family farmers who farm on very limited land plots, usually less than 0.3 hectares, and sell only surplus products in the market.

Despite the fact that farms usually have 3-5 animals, 90.7% of meat, milk and milk products are supplied by farmers, and the rest is provided by farmers and agricultural organizations, which accounts for the largest share of the total supply.


More than 90 percent of live cattle, 80 percent of goats and sheep, and 58 percent of poultry belong to livestock-raising households. Accordingly, 89% of meat, 94% of dairy products and 61% of eggs are supplied by them. However, the share of households in fish farming is low, and developing the sector or combining the sector with animal husbandry opens the door to additional opportunities for households.

Monthly per capita meat and milk supply has almost doubled over the past two decades, from 1.82 kg of meat in 2000 to 4.04 kg in 2021, while monthly per capita milk production has increased from 12 kg to 27 kg in 2021. . During the same period, the total volume of meat supply increased by more than 2 times, and the supply of dairy products increased by 2.2 times. Nevertheless, in the last five years, there have been no significant changes in the supply of meat and milk per capita, this situation is associated with the rapid growth of the population, and with the increase in the supply and productivity of these products, the production possibilities for the available resources in the country have reached their upper limit.

In the livestock sector, traditional methods are mainly used, and the scope of using modern technologies for farming methods without land areas and pastures is limited. Today, the following main problems have arisen in the livestock sector:

- High dependence on livestock feed imports and limited areas for fodder cultivation. In the 1990s, the area devoted to livestock feed was about 1 million hectares, and in the past two decades, the livestock sector has doubled, but the area devoted to animal feed has shrunk by a factor of three. Meanwhile, the population increased by 15 million people. Only 40% of livestock feed is produced






in the country, the rest is imported. In 2021, Uzbekistan imported \$163 million worth of feed and fodder, including \$3.8 million from Kazakhstan, \$26 million from Russia, \$3.5 million from Ukraine, \$58 million from Argentina, \$25 million from Latvia, and \$22 million from Lithuania.

- Degradation of pasture lands. The total pasture area in Uzbekistan is 23 million hectares or half of the entire territory. In the last 15-20 years, pastures have been degraded (especially in deserts) due to improper use of pastures and lack of necessary agrotechnical measures. The main causes of land degradation are wind and water erosion processes. Hillside plowing, improper irrigation practices, and livestock grazing have led to extensive erosion of all types of soil. In most areas with large numbers of livestock, pasture management is not well established at the local level, which has a negative impact on the overall development of farmers. In addition, in Uzbekistan, farmers engaged in animal husbandry, planting and cultivation of fodder crops, storage of feed, standard feeding are not kept.

- Low productivity on farms. The main part of livestock products falls on the share of households, but in these farms, the annual milk production per cow is 1.5% less than that of large farmers, slaughter animals weigh 30% less, and the number of eggs obtained by farmers from each hen is 2 times lower. . According to the World Bank, there is a huge untapped potential for further development of agricultural holdings and providing high employment and income opportunities for the many unemployed in rural areas. However, this requires proper training and education, as the methods used by them need to be radically modernized to meet the growing demand. One of the most important areas of training for farmers will be the rational feeding of animals and the detection of diseases. The share of large commercial farmers is not very large compared to peasant farms. Therefore, if measures are taken to support them, Uzbekistan can turn from a net importer of livestock into a net exporter. In particular, it will reduce the impact of external shocks on food prices and meet the growing demand in the market.

- Climate change. In Uzbekistan, the impact of climate change on livestock has not been sufficiently studied, but it is expected to have negative consequences due to heat stress and a decrease in livestock productivity. According to the climate profile of Uzbekistan, as a result of global warming, the temperature in Central Asia may rise to a higher level than in other countries (an additional 4.5°C by 2099). Precipitation is expected to decrease, which will increase the burden on animal feed production and contribute to rangeland degradation if not managed at the community level. Due to the reduced availability of water, keeping animals becomes a difficult and unprofitable task. Therefore, it is important to obtain public





investment to create intensive agriculture that relies on knowledge and uses small land areas.

Based on the experience of foreign countries, it is appropriate to implement the following measures in order to increase the productivity and profitability of the livestock sector:

- introduction of non-traditional annual forage crops such as sorghum, triticale, barley and oats, and perennial legume forage crops such as alfalfa and aspartame (supplemented with corn as feed);

- introduction of the concept of determining the types of fodder in summer and winter pastures, as well as their productivity, alternating grazing, planting and restoration of pastures;

- training of farmers and representatives of local non-governmental non-governmental organizations on sheep and goat keeping, feeding, medical services, fodder cultivation and storage methods;

- introduction of new methods (for food production) such as aquaponics and hydroponics, which should be developed and promoted throughout the country;

- Acceleration of artificial insemination of high-breed cattle with a high meat and milk conversion coefficient per feed unit and resistant to various diseases, in particular, climate change, by the State Committee for Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Development;

- to attract farmers to agroclusters in order to expand the opportunities of entering the market, reduce risks and increase economic benefits.

- development of a comprehensive market of agricultural insurance with state support to compensate farmers for losses caused by drought, disease and other types of disasters.

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