

## PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVE DIRECTION OF DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Akabirova Diloru Nigmatovna

Ph.D., Associate Professor of the Department of Agroecconomics  
of Tashkent State Agrarian University, Uzbekistan,  
akabirova\_dilyara@mail.ru, vol. 998998843371

### Abstract

The article defines the relevance and distinctive features of organic agriculture, analyzes the economic indicators of organic agriculture, and identifies problems and promising directions for the development of organic agriculture in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** Problems, prospects, organic agriculture, organic food products, sustainable development, biodiversity.

### 1. Introduction

Recognizing the scale of the existing environmental problems in the world, the Government of Uzbekistan gives priority to improving the agricultural sector without depleting natural resources. In this regard, the development of organic agriculture and the promotion of environmentally sound sustainable production systems is an important factor in increasing the competitiveness of domestic products and developing export potential.

Organic farming is a method of farming in which the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, plant growth regulators, and feed additives is consciously minimized. Instead, the effect of crop rotations, organic fertilizers, various methods of tillage, etc. is more actively used to increase yields, control pests and weeds.

A distinctive feature of organic agriculture is that instead of using chemicals that harm the environment and human health, a system is used aimed at maintaining and increasing soil fertility, combating weeds, pests and diseases, improving the ecosystem, and preserving biodiversity. It is generally recognized that Uzbekistan is a country looking to the future. Uzbekistan, both technologically and intellectually, is able not only to perceive the latest progressive technologies and methods, but also to improve and develop them in accordance with the national and state interests of the country.

### 2. Material and method

Today in the country, in the production of agricultural products, great attention is paid to consumer protection and the preservation of biological characteristics of plants through the application of measures for the limited use of chemicals including pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers.

Evidence of such a policy is the recent legislative acts adopted by the country's leadership and government in this direction. The Presidential Decree "On additional measures to ensure compliance of quality and safety indicators of agricultural products with international standards" was adopted.

The Concept of developing the production of organic agricultural and organic food products in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Roadmap for its implementation have been approved.

In the developed countries of the world, organic agriculture is an alternative route to increase agricultural productivity not only for producers, but also for entrepreneurs and businessmen. The country has all the necessary conditions and a sufficient base for the improvement and development of organic agriculture. For example, a sufficient amount of land that has not been chemically exposed has made it possible to create conditions for increasing employment, and as a result of the development of the agrologistics system, the possibility of increasing the income level of the population through the export of organic products by farms and limiting the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) has increased.

Significant measures for the development of organic agriculture in Uzbekistan are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in close cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) within the framework of the TCP/UZB/3501 project “Institutional capacity building for the development of organic agriculture and the promotion of good agricultural practices in Uzbekistan”. The results of the project are already contributing to strengthening national capacities in the field of CCA and other quality assurance systems in Uzbekistan. Within the framework of the project, a draft Law “On Organic Agriculture and the organic production system”, strategic development documents were prepared, training manuals based on guidelines appropriate to local conditions were developed, training courses and demonstrations were held for farmers, researchers, program managers and technical workers, and a study trip abroad was organized.

Organic farming can become another method that helps mitigate the effects of climate change, play an important role in combating desertification, preserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable development and preserving biodiversity.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

Currently, organic agriculture is carried out in about 120 countries around the world. The growing interest from consumers and markets around the world opens up new trade prospects for farmers and entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan. In particular, in 2023, the trade turnover in organic agriculture on international markets amounted to 98.4 billion euros, and 3.8 million producers were engaged in this type of activity on 71.5 million hectares of land.

According to experts, over the past 5 years, the global organic market has grown by an average of 15 percent, and trade turnover in 2025 is projected to amount to 320 billion US dollars (20 percent of the total global agricultural production).

According to the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), 103 countries have adopted a law on organic agriculture, and 6 countries are developing this law.

In the publication of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) on World Organic agricultural Statistics in 2022, the Republic of Uzbekistan is included in a number of 10 countries in the world with favorable conditions for fruit production, and the republic is also noted as having favorable land areas for growing organic fruits.

In 2019-2023, Sunny Fruit Production LLC of our republic produced 3,900 tons of organic raisins exported to the Russian Federation, France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Greece at prices 14.7 percent higher than the prices for the traditional type of raisins with a net profit of more than 6.1 times.

Also, in 2024, 1 ton of organic raw cotton in the US markets was estimated at \$ 300, much more expensive than its traditional type at \$ 155.

Along with the positive trends, it is necessary to highlight some problems related to the development of organic agriculture in the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- a weak level of healthy nutrition culture among the population and insufficient promotion of the consumption of organic products;
- lack of incentive measures and financial support for organic producers;
- lack of national systems of authorization, accreditation and certification in the field of organic production;
- lack of laboratories that analyze soil, seeds and finished products for the certification of the enterprise;
- weak marketing development and underdevelopment of the domestic market for organic products;
- lack of relevant specialists;
- the high cost of organic fertilizers compared to mineral fertilizers, which leads to additional costs;
- high time costs associated with certification, as well as high standards for certification, which increase the cost and cost of organic products.

In order to solve the problems of the development of organic agriculture in Uzbekistan, it is recommended to intensify the participation of all subjects of the organic products market, including the state. It should form legislative acts and national standards in the field of organic agriculture, create conditions for stimulating and supporting producers of organic products, attract investments in this sector and expand the export of environmentally friendly products.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the introduction and development of organic agriculture in Uzbekistan will contribute to supporting the health of soils, ecosystems and people. Taking into account the negative environmental impact of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, genetically modified seeds and livestock breeds, preservatives and other things, all these methods are being replaced in organic agriculture by special practices that preserve and increase soil fertility, prevent the reproduction of pests and the growth of diseases.

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