

The Role and Importance of Agroclusters in Increasing Export Potential in Agriculture

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Abstract:

This article discusses the theoretical issues of the formation of the mechanisms of the cluster system and reveals their connection with increasing the export potential in the agricultural sector of the republic.

Keywords: cluster, agriculture, export, competitiveness, innovation, cotton-textile cluster, foreign market, diversification.

I. Introduction

The processes of globalization have shown the need to more fully take into account the impact of the world economy on the country's foreign economic relations and increasing the competitiveness of agriculture. One of the most important issues is to increase the export of agricultural products and coordinate access to foreign markets by the state in the context of the global coronavirus pandemic. Today, in the postpandemic environment, protectionism is manifested in various forms in the export of agricultural products (especially in the example of food products) and is observed in all regions of the world, including countries with developed market economies.

It is known that the New Strategy of Uzbekistan, adopted at the initiative of President Sh. Important tasks have been identified, such as creating favorable conditions for the promotion and development of diversified farms engaged in the provision of works and services, increasing the export potential of the sector [1]. Also, the "Strategy of Agricultural Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030" prioritizes "ensuring the interaction of agricultural associations, farmers and dehqan farms with enterprises of the processing industry (including clusters)" [2].

II. Materials and methods

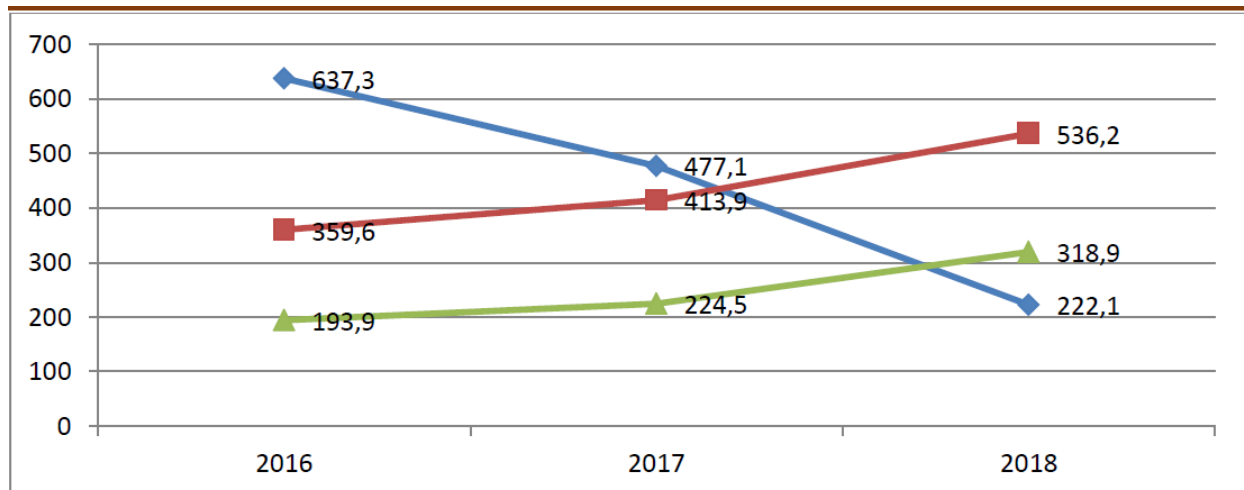
This article examines the scientific works of economists from Uzbekistan and abroad on the analysis of sources that provide financial support for the implementation of investments and the attractiveness of the investment environment. Comparative analysis of the literature and methods of substantiation of the hypothesis were used as research methodology.

Discussion and results

In recent years, in order to diversify agricultural production, the area under cotton and wheat is being reduced, and the area under vegetables, potatoes, fruits and melons is increasing.

As a result, the share of cotton in the structure of agricultural exports has decreased, while the share of fruits and vegetables has increased. The reason for the reduction in exports is that the share of raw cotton is declining faster than fruit growing (Figure 1).

The export mechanism has been improved in order to increase the efficiency of export of fruits and vegetables. From November 2018, legal entities can export fruits and vegetables without prepayment, without opening a letter of credit and without a license for wholesale trade, and exported fruits and vegetables are not subject to mandatory customs inspection. Also, from March 2019, the export of fruits and vegetables in any quantity on the basis of invoices without a contract is allowed.



Cotton fiber - blue

Fruits and nuts - red

Vegetables – green

Figure 1. Dynamics of exports of the main types of agricultural products in the agro-industrial complex, mln. U.S. dollar. [3]

Therefore, in order to further increase the export of fruits and vegetables, it is necessary to develop the processing industry and provide it with modern technologies at the level of world standards. To do this, you need to do the following:

- the state should formulate a policy to support local producers and see the process from raw materials to finished products as a single system, and take into account the value chain in entering foreign markets;
- Optimal allocation of the capacity of fruit and vegetable processing enterprises by regions, taking into account export factors. access to new foreign markets, especially the development of the market of developed countries and taking into account the prospective changes in it (ISO 9000-2001 standard, the formation of a marketing system, the effective use of information and communication technologies, etc.) [8].

It should be noted that the cluster form, which is widely used in world practice and bears fruit, has been consistently implemented in our country in recent years in various fields. A number of legal and regulatory documents adopted in recent years can serve as evidence of this. For the first time in the country, the cluster mechanism was used in the cotton and textile industry. Its distinctive feature is that all participants in the "cultivation-processing-sale" chain operate in the common interest.

As a result, product diversification will expand. For example, it will be possible to produce more than 30 types of products from raw cotton. One ton of raw cotton produces 360 kilograms of cotton wool, 110 kilograms of cottonseed oil and 16 kilograms of soap.

Until now, network clusters in Uzbekistan have not been sufficiently developed. The lack of subsidiary production did not allow local enterprises of the agro-industry to keep pace with technological innovations in the world [10].

The formation of a synergistic effect is especially important in the creation of a cluster in the agro-industry as a result of the emergence of the entire technological chain from raw materials to processing and product sales, which in turn increases the innovative attractiveness of the industry.

The development of agro-clusters in Uzbekistan will help increase the competitiveness of enterprises through the effective cooperation of cluster participants, the expansion of innovations, technologies, know-how, specialized services and highly qualified personnel and other opportunities. The agrarian intersectoral cluster has a complex structure, which can be determined by the breadth of its activities, the diversity of participants and their territorial location, the types of interactions within the cluster, as well as the impact of the external environment on cluster activities.

The strategic goals of the participants in cluster formation activities depend in many ways on the redistribution of resources for project implementation purposes and the level of development of the institutional environment. The institutional scenario for cluster formation envisages the implementation of cluster initiatives of local governments aimed at implementing the strategy of increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy.

The duration of the stages of formation of agro-clusters depends on the availability of diversified resources, the level of interest of key participants, the level of development of the institutional environment. Based on the above, the following algorithm for the separation of strong agroclusters is proposed:

- identification of promising types of goods, ie on the basis of analysis of their share in the export of products among the types of promising products produced by the agricultural sector in the region;
- Medium and long-term forecast of the volume and price dynamics of world production of competitive agricultural products;
- Determining the efficiency of economic entities capable of forming a cluster core (production of promising products);
- identification of resources required for cluster development. The level of availability of raw materials, financial resources, productive forces, etc. of economic entities producing promising products located within the selected area is analyzed;
- Analysis of existing opportunities to create the missing elements of the infrastructure for agrocluster activities;
- Determining the level of cooperation of key participants of the cluster (manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, etc.), the level of interaction of potential participants of the cluster is determined on the basis of a survey of experts.

The effectiveness of the agrocluster strategy, in turn, is built on the characteristics of the country, region and sector, which becomes a source of competitive advantage.

Taking into account the regional characteristics in the context of Uzbekistan, it is necessary to assess the cluster potential of the agricultural sector in the following areas: livestock, textiles, fruits and vegetables and viticulture, etc. It has agricultural products, export markets, developed infrastructure system, research, training base, experience and other components of the cluster structure, which have a competitive advantage in terms of natural and climatic conditions.

Conclusion.

Thus, the most important thing is not only to assess the potential of the country's cluster development, but also to develop its institutional framework and mechanisms for the implementation of mutually beneficial economic relations. Under market conditions, if all participants in the cluster are independently responsible for the results of their activities, then the main decisive criterion for the activities of agricultural market entities is economic interest, ie maximum profit. Therefore, economic relations in clusters should help to increase the efficiency of production and sales activities of each participant, formed between partners, taking into account the interests of each participant and meet the interests of the state and / or region, and ultimately the interests of each consumer [6].

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