

**LEGAL BASIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
WAYS OF IMPROVEMENT**

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Abstract: Agriculture is one of the main sectors of the economy of every country, and its sustainable development directly affects food security, population well-being and economic growth. A solid legal framework is necessary for the effective organization of agricultural activities. This article discusses the legal framework for agricultural development, existing problems and ways to improve them.

Keywords : Agriculture, agrarian law, legal support, use of natural resources, agrarian reforms, environmental protection, land resources management, water resources management.

The international legal framework for sustainable agricultural development has been established through various international organizations, conventions, and agreements. These legal instruments are primarily aimed at protecting the environment, ensuring food security, and promoting the rational use of land and water resources.

There are a number of international legal instruments aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of agriculture. In particular, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) aim to ensure environmental sustainability, economic development and social justice on a global scale. These goals include items directly related to agriculture;

Goal 2: Zero Hunger - Ensure food security through increased agricultural sustainability.

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation – rational use of water resources and reduction of agricultural waste.

Goal 13: Combat climate change – adapt to climate change and reduce carbon emissions in agriculture.

These goals provide an international legal framework for adhering to the principles of sustainability in agricultural activities.

The principles of "Sustainable Development" were adopted at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, which include the following:

- maintaining ecological balance in the use of land resources,
- combating deforestation and soil erosion,
- development of organic and environmentally friendly agriculture,
- reduce the negative effects of climate change.

As a result of the conference, the Agenda 21 program was developed, which outlined strategies for ensuring environmental and economic sustainability in agriculture.

Due to the significant impact of agricultural activities on global warming and climate change, the Paris Agreement notes the importance of organizing this sector in an environmentally efficient manner. The main areas of the agreement are;

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions,
- improving energy efficiency in agriculture,
- Prevent deforestation and combat soil degradation.

The Paris Agreement is important for increasing agricultural sustainability globally serves as a legal basis.

Main directions of sustainable development and legal regulation;

Environmental sustainability

There are laws to preserve and improve soil fertility and combat erosion.

The rational use of pesticides and fertilizers is regulated.

Regulations have been developed for the processing of agricultural waste.

Use of water resources

According to the "Water Code", there is an obligation to use water resources efficiently and introduce water-saving technologies.

There are legal programs to modernize irrigation systems.

Support for farmers and peasant farms

Provision has been made for preferential loans, subsidies, and technical assistance to farmers.

There are legal frameworks to encourage organic farming.

Agricultural land use and protection

A monitoring system for effective land use has been introduced.

Measures have been established to combat illegal land acquisition and degradation.

International obligations and legal requirements

Uzbekistan adheres to international environmental agreements and food security agreements. An agricultural policy is pursued in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In recent years, specific work has been carried out to reform the country's agriculture, in particular, to improve the state administration system in the sector, widely introduce market relations, strengthen the legal basis of relations between entities that produce, process and sell agricultural products, attract investments to the sector, introduce resource-saving technologies, and provide agricultural producers with modern equipment.

At the same time, the lack of a long-term strategy for agricultural development hinders the effective use of land and water resources, broad involvement in the sector, high incomes for producers, and increased product competitiveness.

In order to diversify production, improve land and water relations, create a favorable agribusiness environment and a high-added value chain, support the development of cooperative relations, widely introduce market mechanisms and information and communication technologies into the sector, as well as effectively use scientific achievements and increase human resources, a Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030 was developed with the participation of international organizations and experts. A "Roadmap" was developed to implement the tasks set out in this strategy.

The main goal of this Strategy is to fundamentally improve state policy in further deepening reforms aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural and food sector, and covers the following priority areas:

- ensuring food security of the population;
- creating a favorable agribusiness environment and value-added chain;
- reducing state participation in sector management and increasing investment attractiveness;
- ensuring rational use of natural resources and environmental protection;
- development of modern systems of public administration;
- gradual diversification of government spending aimed at supporting the sector;
- development of a system of science, education, information and advisory services in agriculture;
- development of rural areas;
- developing a transparent system of network statistics.

A program for the next year is developed and approved by December 1 of each year in accordance with the directions for implementing the strategy.

The functions of state bodies in the agro-industrial complex are mainly focused on managing production processes, and some of them can be transferred to the private sector.

Despite significant growth in the fruit and vegetable growing and livestock sectors, the majority of service infrastructure, material resource provision, and research and educational institutions are geared toward the production of raw cotton and grain crops.

The lack of a modern and high-quality service infrastructure that meets international standards and requirements further complicates the problems in the sector. This primarily concerns public services related to food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary.

To enter new markets, it is necessary to develop a private sector that provides certification and advisory services to producers and processors.

Today, the services provided by state-owned enterprises have a monopoly nature, negatively affecting the attraction of private investment to the sector, the provision of resources, and the formation of competition in the provision of marketing services.

The main objective of this priority is to review the existing institutional structure by creating systems, services, and coordination mechanisms that can meet the needs of the agricultural market.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks are set:

- functional assessment of the Ministry of Agriculture (Management Functional Assessment Model — MFAM) and its results, to review the structure and activities of the ministry's departments in order to determine new competencies and areas of activity;
- Reform the system of public administration in the agricultural and food sector in order to coordinate the activities of organizations responsible for implementing the strategy;
- developing incentive mechanisms by assessing the effectiveness of the activities of sectoral ministries and departments and increasing the capacity of management personnel in strategic and project management;
- develop a public-private partnership model to provide additional services in the network;
- Establish a forum of industry stakeholders (consisting of government, private, and public organizations);

- Establish a forum for the Government and partners (all donors and international financial institutions involved in supporting the sector) on the development of the agricultural and food sector.

The lack of an effective system for the dissemination of agricultural knowledge and information, linking research, education and the provision of information and advisory services, remains one of the most serious obstacles to the science-based development of the sector. Currently, the level of state investment in research and development is 0.2 percent of the total agricultural budget.

The lack of effective mechanisms for interaction between science and industry significantly limits the implementation of the results of state-funded research.

The productivity of local varieties of agricultural crops is low and does not meet the requirements of foreign markets. The dependence on imported varieties of agricultural crops, which are expensive and not adapted to local conditions, is increasing.

The educational and vocational training courses, education system, form and teaching methods in educational institutions do not meet the requirements of the time. It is necessary to create an inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination system to study the requirements of the labor market and introduce new specialties. Currently, the country does not have modern private structures for the dissemination of knowledge and information on agriculture.

The main goal of this priority area is to create a modern, integrated and flexible system in the fields of agriculture, food supply, education, training, and information and advisory services.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks are set:

- Fundamental reform of the activities of industry research institutions and the field of science;
- reform the system of education and professional training of personnel in the agricultural sector with the technical assistance of donor organizations;
- Auditing existing administrative systems to identify strengths and weaknesses of government services and systems for agribusiness entities, as well as developing plans for structural restructuring and simplification;
- Establish a Coordination Center for information and advisory services on environmentally friendly methods and agricultural practices and technologies, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- training special staff for information and advisory centers on agrotechnology;
- Establishing information and consultation centers in all regions of the country on the basis of public-private partnership.

The system of information and data collection in the agricultural and food sector is based on outdated mechanisms and practices developed on the basis of the principles of a centrally planned economy. The results of the assessment of production volumes and labor productivity do not correspond to the real situation on the ground. The lack of accurate and reliable data does not allow for the development of new regulatory and legal documents, as well as an objective assessment of their impact on the sector. The lack of reliable marketing data significantly limits the use of existing and changing market opportunities by farmers and other agribusiness entities when developing business plans or properly planning their activities.

Investing in a system for collecting, processing, and disseminating reliable statistical data reflecting the state of the agricultural and food chain will have a positive impact on the development of the public and private sectors.

The main goal of this priority area is to improve the system for collecting, comparing, and disseminating reliable statistical data.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks are set:

- adopt a specific plan for the development of agricultural and food statistics;
- collection, comparison and publication of data on economic indicators (costs, income, profit, profitability) of the production of the main types of agricultural products;
- Development of a state program for the development of "smart agriculture";
- Publishing a farm management handbook covering production efficiency, state support for industries, labor legislation, taxation, lending, and other necessary information;
- publishing a catalog of information and data on major local producers and processors;
- Publishing an annual report on agriculture, which includes measures taken and results achieved in the field, as well as promising state policy measures;
- Active participation in data exchange platforms and international forums to develop national systems and services in the agricultural and food sector;
- conducting an agricultural census;
- introduction of a system for identifying, tracking and monitoring the movement of farm animals.

Conclusion

Sustainable development of the agricultural sector is an important factor in the growth of the country's economy, food security and improving the living standards of the population. Therefore, strengthening the legal framework of this sector and improving it in accordance with the requirements of the times is one of the urgent issues. Analyses show that although the existing legislative framework regulates certain aspects of the agricultural sector, in some cases there are legal gaps, unclear mechanisms and weak implementation mechanisms. This leads to problems in practice. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a thorough analysis of the legal framework, introduce modern approaches and systematically improve it. Sustainable development of agriculture is important for the economic, environmental and social interests of the country. To ensure it, legal frameworks have been developed and are being regularly improved. The state is creating legal mechanisms to support sustainable farming and farms, protect the environment and develop in accordance with international requirements.

Offers

- 1. Systematization of agricultural legislation:** It is advisable to compile various regulatory legal acts into a single law and develop a separate Agricultural Code for the sector.
- 2. Reflecting the principles of sustainable development in laws:** It is necessary to strengthen principles such as ecological safety, preservation of soil fertility, and rational use of water resources in regulatory documents.
- 3. Legal regulation of digitalization processes in the agro-industry:** Laws should be developed to support the introduction of smart agriculture, digital monitoring systems, and agro-technologies.
- 4. Improving land ownership and use relations:** It is necessary to simplify the legal mechanisms related to the effective use, leasing, and ownership of land plots.



5. Strengthening mechanisms to support farms: It is recommended to expand the legal framework for subsidies, tax breaks, and state support.

6. Strengthening law enforcement: In order to correctly and effectively apply existing legislation in practice, it is necessary to improve the skills of representatives of the competent authorities and the judiciary.

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