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### AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MANAGEMENT LEGAL AND REGULATORY BASIS

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**Abstract:** Since the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, significant changes have taken place in the agricultural sector. To ensure the sustainability of agriculture, the importance of delegating ownership from the state and customization, in other words, developing farms and farmer enterprises, has been highlighted. At the same time, a series of measures aimed at deepening and expanding the reforms concerning farmer enterprises are being implemented in our Republic. Farmer enterprises have evolved into a leading force ensuring sustainable and efficient development of agricultural production.

**Key words:** Farmer, labor activity, land, contract, agriculture.

Current farmer enterprises are equipped with high-performance modern technology in their own right to conduct efficient operations. They represent rural enterprises that master advanced technologies. Many large-scale farmer enterprises engage in activities such as growing agricultural products in rural areas, deep processing, implementing manufacturing processes, and providing services to the rural population, performing successful activities in various industries and shaping their future.

In a speech at the Agricultural Workers' Day on December 9, 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized, "Currently, farmer enterprises and, in general, the agricultural sector in our country are being comprehensively supported by the state, providing them with all the necessary conditions and opportunities. Our farmers and villagers are the mainstay of agriculture and have made proud achievements in improving the living standards of our people, making our country prosperous and prosperous, I express our gratitude", they emphasized.

It is worth noting that, today, farmer enterprises in the agricultural sector play a particularly important role in ensuring agricultural product production. In 2015, more than 101,000 farmer enterprises were operating in our country. They have accumulated 5,809,600 hectares of land. These enterprises employ more than 12,450 people, and they produce over 35% of the total agricultural products.

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In the history of Uzbekistan, the establishment of farmer enterprises has been carried out step by step and with specificity. When we analyze the indicators of farmer enterprises over the years, we see that their number has increased significantly by 2007. For example, if there were 43,700 farmer enterprises in 2000, this figure had increased to nearly 217,100 by 2007. However, in the subsequent years, the number of farmer enterprises decreased sharply. That is, by 2010, the number had decreased by a factor of three compared to the situation three years before.

Such changes are mainly associated with the Presidential Decree F-3077 of October 6, 2008, regarding the formation of a special commission for the development of proposals on the rationalization (optimization) of the amount of land for farmer enterprises. As a result, in 2009-2010, the land area allocated to farmer enterprises increased in all regions of the country. However, in the following years, the decrease in productivity and inefficient use of labor force in large-scale farming led to a decrease in the land area of these enterprises.

Between 1997 and 2000, significant work was carried out in the development of new forms of ownership in agriculture to streamline production processes. Laws were passed such as the "On Private Farming" and "On Agricultural Cooperatives (Farm Enterprises)" in 1998. Measures were taken to support cooperatives, farmers, as well as small and medium-sized businesses. Additionally, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a Decree on "Establishing a single land tax for agricultural product manufacturers" on October 10, 1998, and the Cabinet of Ministers signed Resolution No. 543 on "Implementation of the State land cadastre of the Republic of Uzbekistan" on December 31, 1998.

According to the "On Private Farming" Law, farmers are provided the opportunity to perform their activities within a defined legal framework based on the wishes of the members forming the farm enterprise, enabling them to obtain high profits through individual and self-production activities and engage in any type of activity not restricted by law. The conditions for establishing private farming are clearly outlined in the law. For instance, a private farm specializing in livestock production may start with a minimum of 30 head of livestock. Specific coefficients are used in calculating the cost of each head of livestock: 1.0 for cattle (including breeds for meat and dairy), 0.6 for sheep, and goats, 0.1 for poultry, and 0.025 for beekeeping.

Specific emphasis is placed on the geographical characteristics of regions, particularly in the classification of livestock and crop farming into distinct categories. It is based on the consideration of the natural, economic, and social aspects of the regions, especially the availability of land resources.

In line with efforts to support and regulate agricultural production, the Republic Union of Farmers and Farm Enterprises, tasked with protecting the rights and interests of farmers and private farming homes, was established during the outlined years. The creation of new forms of ownership in agriculture during this period significantly enhanced the importance of agricultural production. As a result, agricultural output increased by 113.3 percent over three years.

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Starting from 2001, a series of measures were developed to further enhance private farming, one of the leading sectors in agriculture, by introducing various mechanisms for economic support. Numerous programs were designed to improve market infrastructure in rural areas, strengthen material-technical provision, enhance financial and credit mechanisms, and address other related issues effectively.

To summarize, the President's Decree of March 24, 2003, on "Enhancing the Structural Reforms in Agricultural Production" outlines the key principles for establishing private farms: farms are established on the basis of managed sites operating at a loss and unprofitable companies; farms are merged into various forms of corporations, and the land provided to farms is deducted from corporate balance sheets; agricultural products and material-technical resources and services are only supplied to farms directly through operational units and entities registered to provide services. Additionally, the Cabinet of Ministers issued Resolution No. 8 on January 5, 2002, regarding the organization of mutual relations between water users within the newly established agricultural enterprises. Water Users Associations were formed, which enabled them to manage and finance their water supply independently. It is important to note that only through these associations can farmers access water resources; individual water procurement outside these systems is not permitted.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan's Decree of October 27, 2003, and the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 476 of October 30, 2004, on the "Development Concept for Private Farms in 2004-2006" were developed to ensure the continuous development of private farms during this period. The implementation plan for this concept includes several key areas: improving land-water relations, strengthening the material-technical base of private farms, accelerating the development of service and legal services, enhancing financial-credit mechanisms, organizing labor relations and staff training, and optimizing the system for processing and selling products in each area, with specific tasks defined for the government and local authorities.

Following the successful implementation of the private farm development concept in the Republic, the share of land allocated to private farms increased from 17.5% to 63.3% of total agricultural land by the year 2007, while the percentage of allocated land plots reached 72.1%. The total number of private farms reached 189.2 thousand, with the land allocated to them increasing to 4.9 million hectares.

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