

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

On Additional Measures to Enhance the Efficiency of Promoting Fruit and Vegetable Products on Foreign Markets

To expand the country's export potential, eliminate barriers hindering the full development of fruit and vegetable exports, improve state support for export activities, and establish a comprehensive system for promoting domestic fruit and vegetable products on foreign markets, the following measures are hereby adopted:

1. **Adopt the proposals** of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Commissioner under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Protection of the Rights and Legal Interests of Business Entities, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan to establish the following procedures:
 - Business entities exporting fruit and vegetable products are entitled to export such products without prepayment, letters of credit, bank guarantees, or insurance policies against political and commercial risks;
 - Business entities exporting fruit and vegetable products that fail to ensure timely receipt of export revenues are included in a register of unreliable exporters of fruit and vegetable products, with a requirement for 100% prepayment for their exports;
 - Business entities may export fruit and vegetable products without a wholesale trade license. The income of individual entrepreneurs from such exports is subject to taxation under the single tax payment regime;
 - Exported fruit and vegetable products are exempt from customs inspection, except in cases where there are indications of violations of customs legislation. The exporter bears responsibility for the accuracy of information in accompanying documents and for illegal movement of goods across the customs border of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
 - Business entities may undertake construction and installation work to build lightweight structures on land allocated to them for constructing infrastructure facilities for irrigation, procurement, and storage of fruit and vegetable products directly at production sites.
2. The **State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography, and State Cadastre**, together with the **Ministry of Agriculture**, shall, within **one month**, submit to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan a draft Regulation on the procedure for constructing lightweight structures on land allocated to business entities for infrastructure facilities related to irrigation, procurement, and storage of fruit and vegetable products at production sites. The **Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications**, together with the **State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall, by **January 1, 2019**, ensure improvements to the Unified Electronic Information System for Foreign Trade Operations in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Decree.
3. It is established that exporters of fruit and vegetable products are responsible for providing accurate data in accompanying documents for actual export operations and for adhering to deadlines for receiving export revenues, as determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4. The **Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan** is assigned the following additional functions:
 - Coordinating activities related to the export of fruit and vegetable products;
 - Providing practical assistance in exporting fruit and vegetable products by identifying potential partners, creating conditions for entering traditional and new markets, and, if necessary, offering methodological support for executing export contracts;
 - Systematically studying price trends for fruit and vegetable products on foreign markets, including holding monthly meetings with producers and exporters in the regions, and publishing the results, including export price levels, on its official website and in other media;
 - Providing exporters with monthly analyses and forecasts of key markets, including information on price trends, shipment volumes by destination, and technical requirements for importing fruit and vegetable products, via its official website and other media.
5. The **Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, the **Ministry of Justice**, and the **Commissioner under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Protection of the Rights and Legal Interests of Business Entities** shall, within **two weeks**, assist exporters and producers of fruit and vegetable products in establishing the Association of Exporters of Fruit and Vegetable Products of Uzbekistan.
6. The **Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan**, **regional and district governors**, and heads of territorial subdivisions of state bodies are strictly warned of personal responsibility for obstructing the export of fruit and vegetable products based on the exporter's territorial affiliation.
7. The **Ministry of Foreign Trade**, together with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall, by **January 1, 2019**, conduct negotiations with leading foreign companies and submit specific proposals for launching a pilot project to establish modern trading platforms and transport-logistics complexes ("hubs") in the republic and abroad, including under public-private partnerships, for the sale of domestic fruit and vegetable products.
8. The **Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan** and **regional administrations**, together with the **Ministry of Agriculture** and the **Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall, based on the results of 2018, submit to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan targeted lists of clusters to be established for the production, procurement, sorting, calibration, packaging, and export of fruit and vegetable products, including those based on land optimized by reducing areas under cotton and grain crops. The **Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan** shall conduct an in-depth analysis of the cluster system for growing fruit and vegetable products in the republic, considering the experience of leading foreign countries, and, by **December 1, 2019**, submit proposals to the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to eliminate barriers to effective cluster operations and further improve this sector.
9. The **Agency "Uzstandard"**, together with:
 - The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall, within **three months**, establish cooperation with internationally recognized certification organizations for compliance with "**Global GAP**", "**Halal**", and "**Organic**" standards;
 - The **Ministry of Agriculture** and "**Uzbekozikovkatholding**", shall, by **February 1, 2019**, submit a draft government resolution on further developing the production of organic and other products meeting international standards;
 - The **Ministry of Agriculture** and **Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall, by **March 1, 2019**, organize training for specialists to certify

domestic fruit and vegetable producers for compliance with **"Global GAP"**, **"Halal"**, and **"Organic"** standards.

10. **JSC "Uzbekistan Railways"** and **NAC "Uzbekistan Airways"** shall take measures to implement modern logistics management mechanisms to promote fruit and vegetable exports, including:

a) **JSC "Uzbekistan Railways"**, by **January 1, 2019**:

- Organize the processing of railway documents for fruit and vegetable exports at departure stations under the **"single window"** principle;
- Review tariffs and services for loading and unloading fruit and vegetable products to simplify them, considering product specifics;
- Develop and implement a mechanism to provide cargo senders and owners with information on delivery times and the location of cargo wagons en route;
- Introduce a procedure for allocating wagons to fruit and vegetable exporters within **three days** of receiving a request;

b) **NAC "Uzbekistan Airways"**, by **June 1, 2019**, shall equip temporary storage facilities for fruit and vegetable products with modern refrigeration equipment and scanning devices compliant with international pallet packaging standards to ensure sufficient throughput.

11. The **Prosecutor General's Office**, together with the **Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall, within **two months**, critically review the activities of **JSC "Uzagroexport"** and submit specific proposals for further improving its operations.

12. The **Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan** shall ensure:

- Within **two weeks**, the approval of an updated Regulation on the procedure for exporting fruit and vegetable products, incorporating the requirements of this Decree, including provisions for maintaining a register of unreliable exporters;
- By **January 1, 2019**, address the establishment of special zones for fruit and vegetable exporters in border regions with modern production, engineering, communication, transport, social infrastructure, and logistics services, including document processing under the **"single window"** principle;
- By **January 1, 2019**, together with the **Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, address the introduction of a mechanism for commercial banks to issue loans to fruit and vegetable exporters and producers based on warehouse receipts issued by commodity warehouses;
- By **February 1, 2019**, together with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, conduct an in-depth study of the actual state of fruit and vegetable exports, including unfavorable conditions for exporters, through dialogue with them;
- By **March 1, 2019**, based on the study's results, develop specific proposals to eliminate unfavorable conditions for exporters and submit them to the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

13. **Personal responsibility** is established for:

- **Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Otazhonov)** — for identifying and addressing systemic issues hindering the rapid development of the sector and stable operations of fruit and vegetable exporters, and for developing and submitting proposals to improve legislation in this area;
- **Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Mirzaev)** — for ensuring the production of competitive fruit and vegetable products and diversifying their exports;
- **Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Umurzakov)** — for assisting exporters in promoting domestic fruit and vegetable products on foreign markets and enhancing the country's export potential;

- **Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Yusupov)** — for increasing the volume of fruit and vegetable production and exports through rational use of natural resources and the adoption of innovative technologies, including intensive cultivation methods;
 - **Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Azimov)** — for ensuring timely customs clearance of exported fruit and vegetable products and maintaining the register of unreliable exporters;
 - **Director General of the Agency for Quarantine and Plant Protection (Ergashev)** — for ensuring timely quarantine inspections and laboratory testing of exported fruit and vegetable products;
 - **Heads of JSC "Uzbekistan Railways" (Sagdullaev) and NAC "Uzbekistan Airways" (Khamidov)** — for creating infrastructure meeting global standards to ensure timely and high-quality transportation of fruit and vegetable products abroad;
 - **Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and regional governors** — for ensuring effective interaction between producers and exporters of fruit and vegetable products and facilitating the establishment of a cluster system for production, procurement, sorting, calibration, packaging, and export.
14. The **Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan** shall exercise systematic oversight of compliance with this Decree, ensuring strict accountability for those responsible for violations.
15. The **Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, together with other relevant ministries and agencies, shall, within **one month**:
- Submit proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on amendments and additions to legislation arising from this Decree;
 - Align their normative-legal acts with this Decree.
16. **Supervisory responsibility** for the implementation of this Decree is assigned to:
- Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan **Z.Sh. Nizomiddinov**;
 - First Deputy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan **B.M. Mavlonov**;
 - Deputy Prime Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan **N.S. Otazhonov** and **Z.T. Mirzaev**.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Sh. Mirziyoyev
Tashkent, October 17, 2018
No. PP-3978

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