

FEATURES OF THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING FARMS AND OPTIMIZING LAND  
AREAS IN UZBEKISTAN

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**Annotation:** This article analyzes the legal, economic, and social foundations of the process of establishing farms in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Also highlighted are the effective use of land resources, modern methods of their optimization, as well as the significance of reforms carried out in the agricultural sector. Factors hindering the sustainable development of farms, problems in the allocation and redistribution of land are also considered. At the end of the study, proposals and recommendations for land area optimization were given.

**Keywords:** farming, land area, optimization, agrarian reforms, land resources, agriculture, land ownership, efficient use, agricultural sector, land allocation

Since the model developed by the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the early 90s of the last century for the implementation of market reforms provided for the phased implementation of the principles of a market economy, it was decided to proceed gradually in the implementation of agrarian reforms. At the beginning of the reforms, that is, by the end of 1992, there were more than 1,100 "sovkhozes" and about 900 "kolkhozes" in Uzbekistan[1]. If collective farms were created in the 30s of the last century as a result of the abolition of the class of owners by the leadership of the former Union, then state farms began to emerge as state farms from the 50s. These aforementioned forms of management led to the development of our country's economy as a primary supplier of raw materials to the Central republics of the former Soviet Union [2]. This has led to the emergence of many socio-economic and environmental problems in Uzbekistan, which is called "cotton monopoly." Recognizing this, the government of the republic, recognizing the need to develop a production method based on the principles of a market economy in agriculture, chose the path of its phased implementation. At the same time, the government, based on the needs of the country's economy and the goals and objectives of its long-term development, determined the basic principles of pricing, distribution of financial resources and products, consumption, and export policy. Although these measures were considered temporary, they operated for a considerable period, i.e., for almost 25 years, and had a significant impact on the results of agricultural development [3-5].

In order to form a clear understanding of farms in the initial period of agrarian reforms, the Law "On Farms" was adopted in 1998. Article 5 of this law states that "a farm" is created in most cases on lands and territories where there are no surplus labor resources. It is indicated that the minimum size of land plots leased to farms specializing in crop production is 10 hectares for cotton and grain farming, and 1 hectare for horticulture, viticulture, vegetable growing, and other products [6].

It is established that a farm specializing in the production of livestock products is created if it has at least 30 conventional heads of livestock. The minimum amount of land plots leased to a farm, calculated per one conditional head of livestock, is at least 0.3 hectares on irrigated lands in the Fergana Valley regions, Tashkent, Samarkand, and Khorezm regions, 0.45 hectares in the remaining regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and at least 2 hectares on non-irrigated lands. These requirements determined the specifics of the organization of farming in Uzbekistan. The establishment of farms in Uzbekistan was carried out in two different ways [7,8]:

- firstly, in lands where there are no or scarce labor resources and in:

- the second, organization for three years on the basis of partnerships with a low level of profitability.

In both methods, the farm is organized by its future head. He must present his property. The economic basis of a farm is its property, which may include: housing and available equipment, livestock, financial resources, fruit trees, intellectual abilities, etc.

Based on the farm's Charter, its business plan is developed. Then the head of the farm proceeds to obtain the requested land plot in the prescribed manner. In the first method, the head of the farm, taking into account the location of the farm, submitted an application to the head of the cooperative, and in the liquidated cooperative farms - to the head of the tender commission. The applications were reviewed in the prescribed manner and within the established timeframe. It reflects all the capabilities of the farm, its specialization, education, work experience in the industry, funds, available suitable equipment, as well as the knowledge, abilities, worldview, spirituality, ideology, and other abilities of the head. A decision was made to lease the required land to citizens with such characteristics and capabilities for a period of 30 to 50 years. These decisions must be reviewed by a commission headed by the regional governor within the established timeframe and procedure, and a decision must be made. After that, the registration of the farm is carried out in the prescribed manner. A farm is considered established after state registration. To obtain full legal entity status, they had to open various accounts in the banks they contacted, register with the district tax and statistical authorities, and have their own seal and forms. After this, the farm acquires the status of a fully functioning legal entity. The first stage of development of farms in our country covers 1992-1998, and during this period, farms were created mainly in regions with insufficient labor resources, on land plots on the balance sheet of the farm, based on the decision of the farm managers. "At this time, more than 21 thousand farms were operating in our country, the total land area of which was 498 thousand hectares, or an average of 19.6 hectares per farm. Even some cotton-grain farms engaged in scattered agriculture on an area of 1-3 hectares"<sup>1</sup>. During this period, the creation of economic and organizational-legal foundations for the functioning of newly established farms was a requirement of the times. For this reason, the second stage was the creation of a legal and regulatory framework for the development of farms. On April 30, 1998, the Land Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Laws "On Agricultural Cooperatives (Shirkat Farms)," "On Farms," and "On Dehkan Farms" were adopted, and on their basis, a full legal basis for implementing economic reforms in agriculture was created. By relevant resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, more than 4,000 farms were established in 1999-2001 on the basis of 68 unprofitable, low-profit shirkat farms.

The third stage was the stage of intensive development of the farming movement. At the same time, in accordance with the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of January 5, 2002, "On the Transformation of Agricultural Enterprises into Farms," 83 unprofitable partnerships in the Yazyavan, Mirzaabad, and Mekhnatabad districts of the republic were fully transformed into farms<sup>2</sup>. Thus, since 2004, a period of widespread promotion of farming has begun in our country. During 2004-2007, collective farms were completely liquidated in all regions of the republic, on the basis of which more than 215 thousand farms were created. However, an in-depth analysis of the activities of farms revealed that, despite the measures taken, there are still a number of pressing problems in their activities awaiting solutions. In particular, such issues as the inefficient use of land by some farmers, the chronic deterioration of their financial and economic situation, insufficient provision of material and technical resources, failure to take into account



the soil and climatic conditions of the regions, population density, and employment when allocating land, as well as the inadequate allocation of land plots by sectoral specialization of farms (cotton and grain farming, horticulture and viticulture, vegetable and melon growing, animal husbandry, etc.) have become apparent.

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