



Trading Food

For Sustainable Development

Fostering Integration of the Dried Fruits Value Chain
of Uzbekistan into Regional and Global Value Chains

National Virtual Workshop

February 4th, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

Project Background

Development of the agricultural sector, with focus on crops other than traditional cotton and wheat, is an important policy of the Government of Uzbekistan, as indicated by the Economic Reform Roadmap of December 2018, and Uzbekistan's Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020–2030, approved in October 2019. In particular, fostering the dried fruits value chain for export has the capacity to improve the livelihoods of the low-income population residing in rural areas, notably including women, for whom agriculture in rural areas constitute a key source of employment and income in general.

The world has an increasing taste for dried fruits, evidenced by a positive trend in dried fruit production, which was increased by 976,000 tons in the past decade, and now amounts to 3.2 million tons. Global exports of dried fruit amounted to US\$ 4.13bn in 2019, and the total size of the market has been rather stable in the last five years, although it was affected negatively by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

Uzbekistan produces and exports a rich array of dried fruits, including raisins, plum and apricots. The value of Uzbek dried fruit exports has grown 46.8% between 2017 and 2019, from US\$ 99 million to US\$ 145.4 million. In particular, dried grapes constitute the lion's share of the country's dried fruit exports (71.9% of dried fruit exports in 2019), as Uzbekistan exported US\$ 104.6 million of dried grapes in 2019, making it the sixth largest dried grape exporter worldwide. Exports of prunes and dried apricots during the period were US\$ 15.8 million and US\$ 11.2 million, respectively. The three products concentrate 90.5% of the dried fruit exports of Uzbekistan.



While exports of dried fruits from Uzbekistan have been growing, they remain very concentrated in a few markets, notably in the Commonwealth of Independent States (notably, the Russian Federation) and China (for dried grapes). While the two countries have been recently dynamic importers of dried fruits, exports of dried fruits from Uzbekistan to key import markets like the European Union, which in 2019 accounted for 47.7% of world imports of dried fruits, are significantly below potential. Specifically, such exports in 2019 were



Contacts



Preliminary Programme of the Workshop

(Tashkent Time – CET + 4 hours)

14:00–14:15 Opening session0



16:30–17:45 2nd Session: Policies for Strengthening the Integration of Uzbekistan's Dried Fruits Value Chain into International Value Chains