

**TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN  
UZBEKISTAN: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS**

**Gafarova D.T.**  
*Asian International University*

**Abstract:** This article examines the recent trends in Uzbekistan's agricultural sector, highlighting significant growth in production and exports. It also addresses existing challenges and outlines future prospects for sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Uzbekistan, agriculture, production trends, export growth, challenges, prospects

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in Uzbekistan's economy, contributing substantially to employment, income generation, and food security. Over the past decade, the sector has undergone notable transformations, marked by increased production and diversification. This article delves into the current trends, challenges, and future prospects of Uzbekistan's agricultural sector.

Between 2017 and 2023, Uzbekistan's agricultural output experienced a 16% increase, with an average annual growth rate of 2.6%, reaching 426.3 trillion UZS in 2023. This growth is attributed to both crop and livestock production. In crop production, there were notable increases in various categories:

Grain Crops: Production reached 8.4 million tons in 2023, a 16% rise compared to 2017.

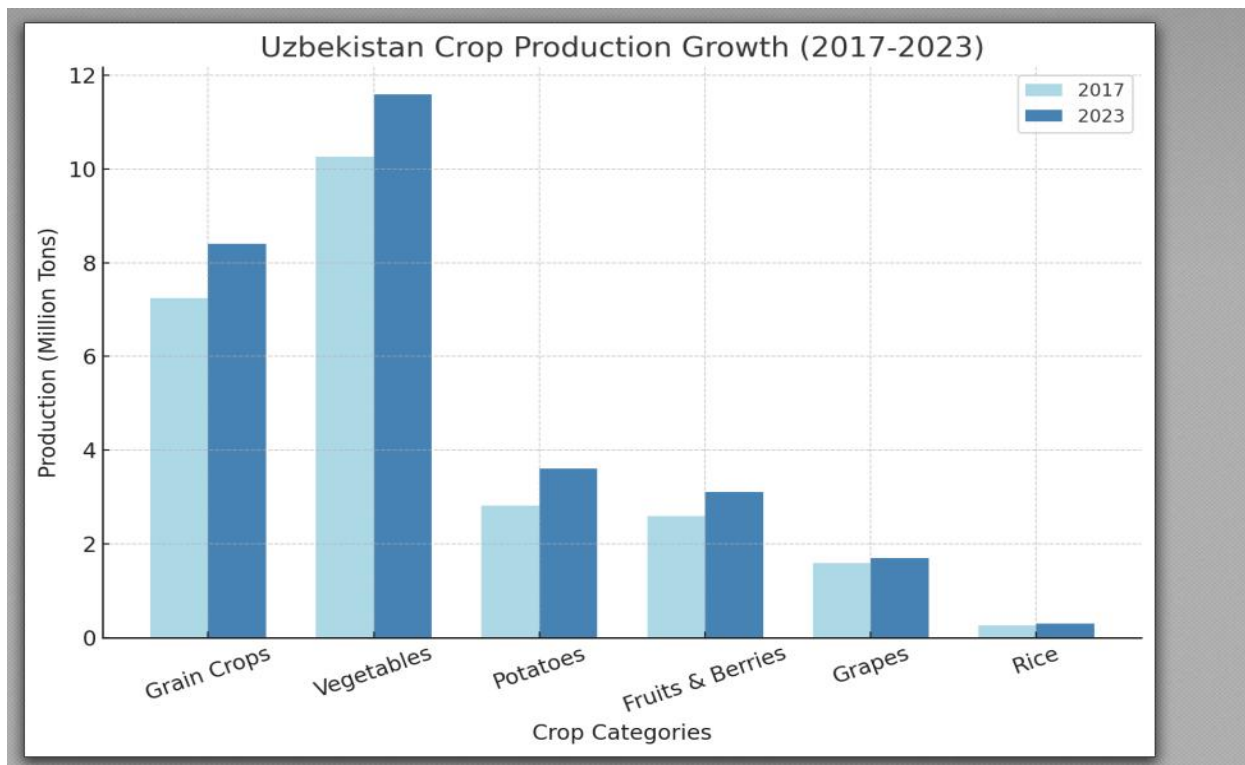
Vegetables: Output grew by 13%, totaling 11.6 million tons.

Potatoes: There was a 27.9% increase, with production reaching 3.6 million tons.

Fruits and Berries: Production amounted to 3.1 million tons, marking a 19.4% rise.

Grapes: Output increased by 6.9%, totaling 1.7 million tons.

Rice: Production saw a 19% increase, reaching 0.3 million tons.



1-graph. Uzbekistan crop production growth (2017-2023).

Uzbekistan has made significant strides in exporting agricultural products. In 2023, the country exported 1.7 million tons of fruits and vegetables, valued at \$1.2 billion. The primary export destinations were:

Russia: 37%

Pakistan: 16.7%

China: 12.3%

Kazakhstan: 10.3%

Despite these positive trends, the agricultural sector in Uzbekistan faces several challenges:

**Water Scarcity:** The country's arid climate and reliance on irrigation make water management a critical issue.

**Infrastructure Development:** Further improvements in transportation, storage, and processing facilities are needed.

**Technological Adoption:** The integration of modern technologies in farming practices remains limited.

Land Degradation: Issues such as soil salinity and erosion pose threats to agricultural land.

To address these challenges and capitalize on existing opportunities, several strategies can be pursued:

Sustainable Water Management: Implementing advanced irrigation techniques and water-saving technologies.

Infrastructure Enhancement: Investments in roads, storage facilities, and processing units.

Technological Integration: Encouraging the adoption of precision agriculture and mechanization.

Capacity Building: Providing training and support to farmers on modern agricultural practices.

Policy Support: Continued government initiatives aimed at supporting farmers through subsidies and market facilitation.

Uzbekistan's agricultural sector has demonstrated commendable growth in recent years, contributing significantly to the nation's economy and food security. With continued investments in infrastructure, technological advancements, and sustainable practices, the sector is poised for long-term expansion. Addressing key challenges through strategic interventions will ensure that Uzbekistan remains a major player in global agricultural markets while fostering sustainability and resilience in domestic food production.

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