

INCREASING RURAL HOUSEHOLD INCOMES BASED ON ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF HOUSEHOLD PLOT UTILIZATION

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Abstract: This thesis investigates the theoretical and practical aspects of the rational utilization of household land plots in ensuring employment and increasing household incomes in rural areas. The research analyzes the normative-legal documents adopted for the development of household plots in Uzbekistan, alongside national statistical indicators. The impact of intensive cultivation, water-saving technology implementation, and agricultural cooperation systems on income growth is empirically substantiated through a structured table, accompanied by relevant scientific and practical recommendations.

Keywords: household plot economy, rural households, income efficiency, food security, microfinancing, cooperation, intensive agrotechnologies, employment.

Today, ensuring global food security and improving the living standards of the rural population remain among the most critical objectives. In the context of Uzbekistan, household land plots serve as a vast reserve for securing the economic stability of rural households. Transforming household plots into sustainable sources of income that produce not only for family consumption but also for commercial markets requires the widespread introduction of resource-saving agricultural technologies and financial support mechanisms [1].

In recent years, systemic reforms have been implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan to provide legal and institutional support for household landholders. Key frameworks include:

Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-3680 (April 26, 2018) — Defined the operational framework for the Council of Farmers, Dehqon Farms, and Household Landowners, “Tomorqa Xizmati” (Household Plot Service) LLCs, and the Fund for Artesian Well Drilling and Water Supply Improvement[2].

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-5388 (March 29, 2018) — Established the foundation for the rapid development of horticulture and vegetable growing, introducing tax and customs exemptions for supplying greenhouses and seed inputs to household plot owners [3].

Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-115 (March 5, 2024) — Introduced a new financial mechanism supporting industrial-scale production within rural households, encouraging cultivation and allocating microcredits to small cooperatives [4].

According to national statistical data, there are over 5.5 million rural households in the republic with personal land plots, covering a total area of over 440,000 hectares [5]. Dehqon farms and household land plots account for a major share of agricultural production, specifically 60–65% of vegetables, 55% of fruits, and over 80% of livestock products [6].

However, in many regions, due to water scarcity, traditional planting methods, and market intermediaries, the return per unit area remains below its potential capacity.

Table-1

**Household plot efficiency enhancement models
and expected economic results**

№		Current Status & Constraints (Traditional Method)		
		Single seasonal harvest per year, low yield capacity.	Implementing four- season protected ground technology in film or polycarbonate greenhouses	Land and heat resource utilization efficiency improves by 2.5–3 times.
	Water-saving and Well Technologies	Water shortages, 40–50% water resource loss under conventional irrigation	Installation of micro- drip irrigation systems and drilling small artesian wells	Water consumption decreases by 40–50% ; labor inputs and fertilizer runoff are reduced
	High-yielding and Intensive Crops	Cultivation of low-profit traditional crops (corn, potatoes, etc.)	Transition to strawberries (hydroponics/vertical), saffron, intensive seedlings, and garlic	Plot utilization coefficient and productivity increase significantly
	a n d	Lack of storage facilities and dependency on intermediaries at low prices	Formation of cooperatives and futures contracts based on the “One Neighborhood — One Product” principle	Post-harvest losses, logistics, and storage expenses decrease sharply

The conducted analysis demonstrates that enhancing the efficiency of household plot utilization is the most direct and cost-effective economic approach to improving rural living standards.

Accordingly, the following practical recommendations are proposed:

-Financing: Streamline the allocation mechanism for soft loans through commercial banks and microfinance institutions to households planning to construct greenhouses or install water-saving technologies.

-Service and Logistics: Strengthen the supply chain for quality seeds, seedlings, and fertilizers through “Tomorqa Xizmati” LLCs and small cooperatives, while establishing direct purchasing mechanisms for harvested products.

-Agro-consulting: Organize practical and educational seminars led by neighborhood (mahalla) assistant governors and agronomists to enhance rural citizens' agrotechnical skills and literacy.

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