

**ATTENTION TO THE MAIN PROBLEMS IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR DURING  
THE EARLY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

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**Annotation**

This article examines the existing problems in the livestock sector during the early years of independence and provides information on the extent to which positive attention was given to addressing them.

**Keywords**

Uzbekistan, feed, breeding, market infrastructure, farming enterprises, cattle, food, credit, veterinary services, local fodder crops.

**Аннотация**

В данной статье рассматриваются существующие проблемы в сфере животноводства в первые годы независимости, а также приводятся сведения о том, в какой мере им было уделено положительное внимание.

**Ключевые слова**

Узбекистан, кормовая база, племенное дело, рыночная инфраструктура, фермерские хозяйства, крупный рогатый скот, продовольствие, кредит, ветеринария, местные кормовые культуры.

**Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqolada Mustaqillik dastlabki yillarida chorvachilik sohasidagi mavjud muammolar masalasi, ularga ijobiy qay darajada e'tibor qaratilganligi haqida ma'lumotlar berib o'tilgan.

**Tayanch so'zlar**

O'zbekiston, ozuqa, naslchilik, Bozor infratuzilmasi, Fermer xo'jaliklari, qoramol, Oziq-ovqat, kredit, veterinariya, Mahalliy ozuqa ekinlari.

The attainment of state independence by the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991 made it necessary to carry out radical reforms across all sectors of the national economy, including agriculture and the livestock sector. On the eve of independence, the economy—particularly the agrarian sector—was heavily dependent on the centralized management system of the former Soviet Union. A lack of independence in resource allocation and decision-making, along with the absence of market mechanisms, had led the sector into a state of crisis. Under these circumstances, restoring the livestock sector, adapting it to market requirements, ensuring the population's food supply, and attracting investment into the sector became one of the key priorities of state policy. In the early 1990s, Uzbekistan's economy experienced a severe transition period. With the collapse of the USSR, established economic ties were disrupted, and systems for supplying fuel, feed, machinery, and spare parts broke down. Agricultural production, particularly in livestock farming, declined; livestock numbers decreased, and feed shortages intensified. Between 1991 and 1995, the numbers of cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry across the republic fell significantly.

Many collective and state farms became unable to sustain themselves. As a result, the government was compelled to take urgent measures to preserve the sector and transition it toward market-based economic principles.

During the initial years of independence, the livestock sector faced several systemic problems: Insufficient feed base. During the Soviet period, feed was mainly supplied from other republics; after independence, this system collapsed, leading to a sharp decline in feed production for livestock.

Weakness in breeding activities. Programs aimed at renewing pedigree livestock and improving genetic quality, previously financed by the state budget, were suspended due to financial constraints.

Shortages in livestock facilities and infrastructure. Following the dissolution of collective and state farms, newly established farms lacked adequate production bases and proper storage conditions.

Underdeveloped market infrastructure. Systems for processing, storing, and marketing livestock products were poorly developed, and pricing mechanisms remained unregulated.

Decline in human resources and scientific-educational capacity. Higher and secondary specialized agricultural education institutions faced financial difficulties, and young specialists' interest in the sector declined.

As a result, by the mid-1990s, livestock production volumes had decreased by 30–40 percent compared to the levels of the 1980s.

In order to preserve and develop the livestock sector, the government of Uzbekistan implemented a number of initial measures:

Decisions “On the establishment and development of farm enterprises” were adopted, and land and pasture areas were allocated to livestock farmers.

In 1992, the State Program for Agricultural Reform was adopted, defining the foundations for the formation of livestock farming as an independent economic entity.

Preferential loans and subsidies were provided by the state to encourage the development of cattle breeding and poultry farming.

Republican pedigree cattle centers and veterinary services were reorganized to revive breeding activities.

Food security became a priority direction of state policy, and a strategy for expanding livestock production was developed.

From 1996 to 2000, as economic stabilization began, special attention was given to the development of livestock farming. In particular, agrarian reforms were deepened within the framework of President Islam Karimov's concept of “Uzbekistan's own path of development.” A multi-structure agricultural system consisting of farms, household plots, and cooperative enterprises was formed. The areas under local feed crops—such as alfalfa, maize, barley, and oats—were expanded. Technical modernization programs were implemented to renew agricultural machinery, refrigeration, and processing technologies. Market infrastructure in the sector emerged through the export orientation of livestock products and the establishment of meat and dairy industry concerns.

The problems faced by the livestock sector during the early years of independence were an integral part of the general economic crisis characteristic of Uzbekistan's transition period. However, as a result of gradual reforms, financial support, and organizational measures undertaken by the state, the livestock sector began to recover within a relatively short period. Increased attention to livestock farming led to the following outcomes: improved provision of meat and dairy products to the population; the emergence of new farm enterprises; the

introduction of market mechanisms; and the creation of a foundation for ensuring national food security.

Thus, the state's attention to livestock-related problems during the initial years of independence laid the groundwork for systematic reforms that underpin the current level of development of Uzbekistan's agrarian sector.

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