

The current state of information and consulting services in the Agricultural sector of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: *The article reveals the role of the information and consulting service in the development of the agricultural sector, taking into account the specifics of the current state of the economy of Uzbekistan, and also presents an analysis of the formation of a modern information and consulting service in the country.*

Key Words: *information and consulting service, agriculture, strategy, science, innovation, education.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

In the context of modernization of the economy, the development of information activities and knowledge, along with material and energy resources, is becoming one of the main directions for stabilizing production, creating science-intensive products. Knowledge to whom, when and where to sell a product can be as valuable as the product itself.

Interest in the formation and further development of the information and consulting service (ICS) system in modern economic conditions is growing at all levels of management of the agro-industrial complex. First of all, agricultural producers are interested in access to the ICS system. The management bodies of the agro-industrial complex are also interested in this, since the ICS is the most effective form of implementing agricultural policy by introducing the achievements of science, technology and advanced experience. In addition, with the developed ICS system, the management bodies of the agro-industrial complex are freed from the functions of consulting agricultural producers, which they are forced to perform now.

Effective development of the economy is possible only on the basis of a purposeful continuous implementation of the achievements of domestic and foreign science and best practices in agricultural production.

One of the main directions of the strategy of action of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 is the modernization and intensive development of agriculture [1].

At the same time, the factor of introducing completed research projects is of great importance in increasing the efficiency of agricultural production.

In recent years, ICS information and consulting services have been created in many regions, one of the main activities of which is to assist agricultural producers in the selection and implementation of innovations.

The development of an information and consulting service in the current period is one of the key factors in increasing the efficiency of agricultural production.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

The study of the problems of forming an information and consulting service and increasing the efficiency of the use of innovations in agriculture are considered in scientific research of such domestic scientists as K.A. Choriev, O. Murtazaev, N.S. Khushmatov, F.T. Egamberdiev, B.T. Salimov, G.A. Samatov, I.B. Rustamov, A. Mukhtorov and others.

Such Russian scientists as A.V. Chayanov, D.S. Aleksanov, V.M. Bautin, M. Ya. Veselovsky, G.M. Demishkevich, B.G. Litvak and others.

Western economists M. Albert, I. Ansoff, G. Beckwith, A.O. Sullivan, M. Porter, F. Kotler, et al.

Nevertheless, the problem of the development of information and consulting services in the agricultural sector of economy has not been sufficiently studied.

3. MATERIALS AND ANALYSIS:

Today, farms function as the main form of management. Farms are given a long-term lease of land, and the rest of the property is their private property. In the republic in 2019, there were 77 thousand 554 farms.

In modern economic conditions, farmers feel the need for agricultural knowledge. As:

- in recent years, new orchards and vineyards have been created, the volume of production of vegetables and potatoes is increasing;
- on the territory of the republic, the development of measures against newly emerging dangerous pests becomes relevant;
- At present, in joint ventures created in cooperation with such countries as Germany, the USA, Italy, France and Russia, modern agricultural tractors and machines are produced that are delivered to machine and tractor fleets and farms. For example, JV "Uz Casemash" organizes the assembly work of cotton pickers of the "Case-2022" brand and seeders for sowing cotton seeds of the "Case-1200" brand, and at the joint ventures "Uz Casetraktor" and "Uzklassagro" the assembly work of wheeled tractors of the TL-100 brand is organized, TS-6070, AXOS-340S and ARION-360S;
- there is a constant need for the placement of high-yielding, disease and pest resistant, marketable crop varieties;
- work is required on the production of export-oriented crops that meet international quality standards for fruit and melon products;
- strengthening the material and technical base of animal husbandry, improving breeding, improving the quality and range of animal health services;
- the task is to use technologies for drying and packaging fruits, melons, vegetable products through small-scale industrialization in the village;
- with a shortage of agricultural land areas, when the consumption of water resources for agriculture is 95% of the total water consumption, the shortage of water increases in providing food to the population of the country. The importance of mitigating water scarcity by conserving water in agriculture and improving agro-technological processes is increasing.

All these problems in agriculture require certain knowledge from the farmer. Mastering knowledge is not easy; in this regard, it becomes necessary to consult a specialist. Therefore, the role of information and consulting services (extension) in agriculture is growing every day.

The formation of a modern information and consulting service in Uzbekistan began in 2000, it was at this time that the first attempts were made to create information and consulting services in agriculture.

1. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (CCI RUz) is a non-governmental non-profit organization that unites business entities on a voluntary basis, regardless of the form of ownership, number of employees, size of capital and areas of activity. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 07.07.2004 No. DP-3453 and operates on the basis of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 09.07.2018 No. ZRU-483.

Basic goals:

- creating favorable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship, improving the business environment;
- protection of the rights and legitimate interests of members of the Chamber;
- assistance in establishing ties between entrepreneurs and foreign partners;
- professional development of business entities and promotion of competitiveness growth.

To date, 124 information and consulting centers (ICC), 6 branches, 12 unitary enterprises and 5 training centers operate in regional, district, city administrative centers at the territorial departments of the chamber of commerce and industry. Of these, 60 ICCs in the regions (cities) of the republic are equipped with modern fittings, office equipment and communication facilities (VPN, telephony, electronic document management, database "Norma", "CISCO").

On an ongoing basis, training and retraining of business entities is carried out in various areas, incl. to clarify the regulatory legal acts governing foreign economic activity, tax and customs legislation, development of their own business, obtaining loans and microcredits, development of investment projects and feasibility studies, business planning, implementation of international standards ISO9001 and ISO14000.

2. The Council of Farmers, Dekhkan Farms and Owners of Household Lands of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a non-governmental non-profit organization created on a voluntary basis by the farmers of the republic. The objectives of the Council of Farmers, Dekhkan Farms and Owners of Household Lands are to provide all-round support for the development of farming in Uzbekistan, enhance its role as the main form of organizing agricultural production, strengthen the economic independence and financial stability of farms, develop diversified farms, and strengthen the protection of rights and legal interests of farmers, the creation of effective mechanisms for their self-government and

ensuring, on this basis, raising the efficiency of agriculture to a qualitatively new level, increasing employment and incomes of the rural population.

One of the most important tasks of the Council of Farmers, Dekhkan Farms and Owners of Household Lands is to assist in the creation and expansion of a network of consulting centers in the countryside on legal, economic, financial, agrotechnical and other issues that provide advice and methodological assistance to farms.

In 2010, in order to provide farmers with information on the latest advances in technology, technologies developed in republican and foreign organizations, to assist in participation in international exhibitions, to attract investment and innovative ideas, technical and grant funds under the Council of Farmers of Uzbekistan, a non-state non-profit organization "Center Agroinformatics - innovations of Uzbekistan". The Center cooperates with organizations such as USAID, ICARDA, JICA, OSCE and FAO. Together with international organizations, he participates in projects aimed at promoting the development of farms and dekhkan farms in the republic.

3. Tashkent State Agrarian University was established in 1930 on the basis of the agricultural faculty of the Central Asian State University. The university received the status of an agricultural university in April 1991 as the only one among agricultural universities in Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

At present, the university is a large educational, scientific and production complex, in which personnel training is conducted, the sector of university science is developed, there is an agricultural experimental station and an educational and experimental farm. TGAU attaches great importance to the deepening of the integration of education and science, the development of the university sector of science, the search and support of gifted youth.

The main directions of integration of education and science at the university are recognized:

- wider involvement of students in research work; more rapid use of the achievements of science in the educational process by including them in the work programs of academic disciplines; wider involvement of teachers in the implementation of research on international and national projects, initiative topics; creation of budgetary and self-supporting scientific subdivisions at the university; activation of the work of student scientific circles, clubs, design bureaus; conducting scientific student conferences with the publication of their materials;

- search for gifted students and assistance in the disclosure of their talent; training of highly qualified personnel through institutes of trainees of researchers-applicants and senior scientific workers - applicants, as well as through competition; expansion and deepening of cooperation with scientific institutions through joint research, conferences and symposia, joint publications, exchange of information, student internships and internships for teachers in scientific institutions; involvement of scientists in the educational process;

- retraining of specialists and farmers; strengthening the practical training of students by combining learning with productive labor; providing advice to production and the participation of teachers in solving production problems; increasing the efficiency of the training and experimental farm.

All departments of the university conduct scientific research, the subject of which corresponds to the profile of the taught disciplines, which contributes to the improvement of the quality of personnel training and the effectiveness of scientific research.

The main areas of research are:

- rational use and protection of soils, prevention of water and wind erosion of soils in mountainous, foothill and lowland zones, biological foundations of increasing soil fertility;

- agricultural mechanization;

- increasing the productivity of agricultural crops and improving their quality;

- biological and integrated protection of crops from diseases and pests, selection and seed production of agricultural crops;

- development of horticulture and viticulture;

- introduction of resource-saving environmentally friendly agricultural technologies;

- protective afforestation and forest reclamation;

- increasing the productivity of livestock and sericulture;

- agro-economics, accounting and audit in agriculture, etc.

By carrying out field and laboratory experiments, scientists of the Agrarian University develop new varieties of plants and animal breeds, improve technologies for cultivating crops, keeping and feeding animals, increasing the efficiency of the use of mechanization and electrification, and methods of managing agricultural production.

In addition to educational and scientific activities, university scientists provide great practical assistance to production. They often travel to the regions, farms, where they help to introduce biological methods of plant protection, new resource-saving technologies for growing crops, technologies for keeping and feeding farm animals. They provide assistance in the operation and repair of agricultural machinery, in the economic analysis of activities, the establishment of accounting; participate in solving other production problems.

With the aim of integrating science, education and production at the university, the State Unitary Enterprise (SUE), the Center for Innovative Development and Consulting in Agriculture, operates.

The main tasks of the State Unitary Enterprise "Center for Innovative Development and Consulting in Agriculture" are:

- control and coordination of the receipt of state grants, substantiation of current topics of scientific research and participation in competitions, implementation and implementation of fundamental, applied and innovative research works by established methods on the basis of grants received within the framework of state scientific and technical programs;
- control over the implementation of fundamental, scientific and practical, innovative projects, business contracts and other paid services on a university scale, as well as providing, if necessary, consulting or methodological practical assistance;
- conducting qualification practices of students on the territory of the enterprise, the formation of skills and qualifications of students through the application of theoretical knowledge in practice;
- creation of conditions for conducting research experiments of professors, teachers, doctoral students, applicants, masters and gifted students of the Tashkent State Agrarian University, the introduction of research results into practice;
- creation of collections of agricultural crops, preparation of seedlings of fruit and ornamental trees;
- regular provision of consultations and recommendations to farms, dekhkan farms, owners of household plots and industrial enterprises on the production, storage and processing of agricultural products;
- creation of an electronic database on best practices in agriculture, advances in science and technology, best practical examples in the agricultural sector, as well as their dissemination among the general public in various ways and means, along with consulting;
- attraction of agricultural specialists, tenants to study advanced agricultural practices, familiarize them with the achievements of science and technology.

4. The Scientific and Production Center for Agriculture and Food Supply of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan was created by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 17, 2018 No.UP-5418 "On improving the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan" is the legal successor of the Uzbek Scientific and Production Center for Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Research and Production Center for Agriculture and Food Supply is a state governing body of research institutes, research and production associations and other scientific and research support organizations of the agricultural profile of the republic. The Scientific Center includes more than 76 scientific institutions and organizations, including scientific research institutes, research centers, scientific stations, branches of institutes, experimental farms and plots, strongholds, a scientific agricultural library, the central office and its territorial subdivisions.

The scientific center has the following main tasks and functions: selection and seed production of agricultural crops; development of scientific problems of animal husbandry and breeding, theoretical foundations of veterinary medicine; research in the field of biological and integrated methods of plant protection; development of problems of deepening economic reforms in the agricultural sector, the creation and implementation of progressive agricultural technologies, new generations of machines and mechanisms for agriculture, etc.

The results of scientific research are being worked out on the basis of experimental farms and sites of research institutions. Experimental farms of scientific institutions provide seed farms of the republic with super-elite and elite seeds of grain crops, cotton, rice, vegetables and other agricultural crops, carry out work to provide farms and farmers with pedigree cattle.

5. Information and Consulting Service with the support of international organizations - "KRASS" Khorezm Agro Consulting Center.

"KRASS" Khorezm agro-advisory center is a self-governing independent non-governmental non-profit and non-political organization based on the voluntary participation of scientists, researchers, practitioners and other specialists with common views, interests and beliefs

The main function of the center is to contribute to improving living conditions, increasing welfare and ensuring long-term food security and environmental stability in rural areas of Uzbekistan.

The main activities of the center:

- research work and consulting in the field of agriculture;
- working with farmers to develop business plans and long-term development plans;
- training of advisers / consultants in methods of providing agricultural services, as well as training of farmers;
- assistance in the organization on a voluntary basis of regional centers for the provision of agricultural services;
- holding seminars, training courses, exhibitions, and conferences on agriculture and ecology;
- publication and distribution among the rural population of printed publications in the field of agriculture (bulletins, brochures, brochures and reports);
- creation and updating of a library and database in the field of agriculture and ecology;

- conducting an assessment of the state of the environment (laboratory analysis);
- provision of technical support (preparation of documents) in the field of educational programs abroad;
- cooperation with projects working in the field of agricultural development;
- mediation in establishing business contacts between the rural population and processing enterprises, sales specialists.

3. CONCLUSION:

The lack of an effective agricultural extension and information system linking research, education and the provision of information and advisory services remains one of the most serious obstacles to science-based development of the sector. Currently, the level of public investment in agricultural research is only 0.2% of the total agricultural budget. The lack of effective mechanisms for interaction between science and industry significantly limits the implementation of the results of scientific research funded by the state into practice. Many of the local crop varieties have low yields and do not meet the demands of foreign markets. Increasingly, there is a growing dependence on expensive and locally unadapted imported varieties of agricultural crops.

Education and vocational training courses, the education system, the form and methods of teaching in educational institutions do not meet the requirements of the time. To determine the needs of the labor market and introduce new specialties, it is necessary to create a system of sectoral and interdepartmental coordination. By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Approval of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030" dated September 13, 2019 - the development of agricultural science, education, information and consulting services, including the creation of an effective system for the dissemination of agricultural knowledge and information, is determined by one of the key directions and tasks for the development of the agricultural sector for 2020-2030. The main task of this priority is to create a modern, integrated and flexible system in the fields of agriculture, food supply, education, professional development and information and advisory services.

To achieve these goals, the following tasks have been identified:

- radical reform of the sphere of science and industry research institutions;
- reforming the system of agricultural education and vocational training with the help of technical assistance from donor organizations;
- conducting an audit of existing administrative systems to identify the strengths and weaknesses of public services and systems intended for agribusiness entities, as well as developing plans for restructuring and simplification;
- creation of a Coordination Center for information and consulting services in the field of environmentally sound methods and agricultural practices and technologies, mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- training of special personnel for information and consulting centers on agricultural technologies;
- creation of information and consulting centers based on the conditions of public-private partnership in all regions of the country.

In order to fully implement the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, provide scientifically based information and modern services to business entities, widely introduce scientific achievements and innovations into production, ensure close integration of education, science, production and the system of providing agricultural services on April 2 In 2021, a presentation of one of the first pilot AKIS Agricultural Service Centers (National Center for Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture) took place in Yukori Chirchik district of Tashkent region. This center, as well as other similar AKIS centers, which will be created and opened during 2021 and 2022 in all regions of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, are part of the implementation of the Agriculture Development Strategy until 2030. It is worth noting that in each separate region, AKIS Agricultural Service Centers may have their own unique formats in terms of the provision of certain services, there will be their own specifics. The AKIS system of knowledge and innovation in agriculture was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 3, 2021 No. DP-6159 "On the further improvement of the system of knowledge and innovation, as well as the provision of modern services in agriculture." The AKIS Center is a new and unique platform for Central Asia, representing a wide range - over 100 types - of agricultural services to farmers, dehqan farms, clusters, owners of household plots, and also creates conditions for private local and foreign agro-oriented companies striving for effective direct communication with its target audience.

Thus, being on the territory of the universal center of agricultural services in the Tashkent region, representatives of the agricultural sector can apply for a variety of services, including laboratory, consulting, legal, purchase agricultural products of a wide range, strengthen or establish new contacts and connections with other industry participants, which will contribute to qualitative changes in the agricultural sector of the economy.

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