THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CLUSTER SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN'S AGRICULTURE (USING GLOBAL EXPERIENCE)

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Abstract: The economic reforms being implemented in the economic life of our country are showing their results. At the same time, one of the main directions of innovative development in agriculture is the promotion of clusters. This sector is new for the economic life of our country, and it is essential to utilize foreign experience in its implementation. The study of foreign countries' experiences provides information on how to effectively use and develop the positive aspects of their models.

Keywords: agrocluster, innovation, technology, model, cluster, export, competitiveness, modernization, agroindustry, cooperation, concentration.

In recent years, reforms in the country's economy have begun to show positive results, and similar actions and reforms are being carried out in the agricultural sector. One of the most important tasks today is ensuring reliable supply of agricultural products to the population, creating new jobs, and increasing material well-being, depending on our capabilities. The rapid development of agriculture, improving its economic efficiency, enhancing rural infrastructure, and ensuring material well-being are directly related to modern management methods, such as the cluster system.

The economic essence of agro-clusters includes determining the necessity of their establishment and development trends, conditions, stages, and efficiency. Based on theoretical approaches, improving and systematizing their general characteristics and developing the main directions of state support is one of the key tasks. Considering the significant role of clusters in agriculture, studying the experiences of developed countries and implementing them in the formation of agro-clusters in the processing, packaging, and storage of agricultural products, as well as increasing network efficiency and agro-industrial prospects, is highly relevant.

According to expert auditors, currently, 50% of the economies of advanced countries have transitioned to the cluster approach. In the European Union, there are over 2000 clusters,

covering 38% of the population. In Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden), the cluster method has been fully implemented in the industrial sector. In the USA, more than half of existing enterprises operate under this system, and the goods produced by them constitute 60% of the gross domestic product.

According to German economists, the cluster approach is the most equitable way to succeed in the future competitive environment. This mechanism can easily adapt to any condition and systematically address both economic and social problems. It increases the competitiveness of a country in the international arena and strengthens its influence.

This system, which is an important stage in the transition to an innovative economy, serves to deepen the integration of science and education into production and promotes the rapid implementation of new innovative ideas in practice.

Among the developed countries in the world, six cluster models have been recognized:

- Italy model: Enhancing the competitiveness of small firms through mutual integration with large associations.

- Japan model: A production chain formed around a large leading company integrating many suppliers. This model is focused on the production of technologically complex products.

- Finland model: Introducing high-tech innovations, integrating production with education and research, and the merger of businesses and institutions with the aim of nationalization. This model is suitable for smaller countries with fewer natural resources.

North American Model – In this model, competition between enterprises is clearly defined, and it does not emphasize establishing close connections in the production process. Due to competition among suppliers in the cluster, as well as mass production, the main company has the opportunity to achieve a lower final product price.

India-China Model – The state plays a key role in this model. The main focus is on attracting foreign investments, which brings modern technologies and ensures the state's entry into global markets.

Former Soviet Union Model – In this model, market relations and competition are minimized, and production is concentrated in large enterprises. This model is applied in industries of areas with low population density and underdeveloped regions.

The experience of developed foreign countries clearly shows that supporting the activities of clusters involves integrating them with innovative schools, institutes, centers, and other similar institutions. This integration enhances the effectiveness of cluster activities,

introduces innovations into production, and increases the competitiveness of the country in the global market. For example, in Finland, several institutions were established to ensure the integration of innovation with clusters.

In our economy, it is crucial to use foreign experiences in developing clusters and their best practices.

Experts point out that the necessity of developing agro-clusters in South Korea is marked by the following factors, which could also be applied in Uzbekistan's context:

1. Practical state assistance and support in agriculture reforms, and the state's leadership in implementing reforms.

2. Using historical national traditions to preserve and modernize them, as well as forming new directions such as agritourism and hospitality services.

3. Regional specialization and increasing the competitiveness of agricultural products.

4. Ensuring cooperation between state bodies, universities, scientific research institutions, farmers, processors, and businesses.

5. Ensuring the effective role of scientists and the integration of research outcomes into state policy.

6. Prioritizing the organization of high-tech production based on innovations and creating an effective support mechanism from the state.

7. Developing a marketing system and improving human capital to ensure the development of agriculture in rural areas.

The experience of developed foreign countries in agriculture clearly demonstrates that agro-industrial clusters are not directly regulated by normative legal documents. These relations are carried out based on the legal framework of partnerships, such as cooperation agreements between agricultural entities.

For example, in Canada, a cluster is understood as a partnership agreement among farmers (in Ontario province, 30% of farmers work under partnership agreements), or the incorporation of several farmers and their merging into large agricultural corporations.

In the USA, agro-industrial clusters with advanced technologies are widely spread across all states. Large agro-clusters are located in Washington, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, while wine production clusters are located in California. In Europe (Germany, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Denmark, and others), high-tech agro-clusters have widely developed.

In France, in 1986, the "Agropois" association was established in the city of Montpellier with the aim of coordinating the activities of agricultural enterprises, educational institutions, and scientific research organizations to enter European and global technology innovation markets.

In the United Kingdom, starting from 2001, an innovative agro-industrial cluster in Stockbridge, a technological hub, has been conducting research and educational programs in the fields of horticulture, fruit growing, and vegetable farming on controlled soil. This center covers an area of 70 hectares of irrigated land and features modern greenhouses ranging from 12 to 1000 square meters, managed by 40 computers and equipped with high-tech laboratories.

In Austria, more emphasis is placed on the specialization of clusters, fostering relationships between agro-industrial and scientific research enterprises, reducing barriers in managing innovative programs, and forming competitive centers.

In Denmark, livestock farming is prioritized over crop farming, with crop products primarily used for animal feed. The importance of the dairy sector is higher than that of meat production, and dairy product clusters are widespread.

In Germany, regional cluster development was observed without government intervention until recently. From 2003, the government has paid serious attention to cluster initiatives, particularly in the design of high-tech sectors.

In Russia, more than 200 projects are being implemented in all sectors of the economy, including agro-industrial complexes, to form and develop clusters. The process of cluster formation is becoming increasingly active in Southeast Asian countries, such as China, Singapore, Japan, and others. In the formation and development of clusters, complementary strategies are generally used.

Existing governments are consolidating their efforts to support existing clusters and build new networks among companies that previously did not have connections. In this case, the state not only helps form clusters but also becomes a participant in the networks.

Despite different approaches, many European countries have developed strategies for their clusters. Countries that are particularly clear in implementing these strategies include Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium (Flemish region), Quebec (Canada), Finland, and South Africa. In France and Italy, a unique cluster strategy known as "competitive poles" is in operation.

Currently, auditors have identified 7 main characteristics of clusters, and the choice of strategy depends on the interchangeability of these characteristics.

Geographical classification: Clusters can range from local economic activities (such as the horticulture cluster in the Netherlands) to truly global (e.g., aerospace) spatial clusters.

Horizontal classification: Several sectors or industries can join a larger cluster, as seen in the megacluster system in the Netherlands' economy.

Vertical classification: Clusters may involve different stages of the production process, where it is crucial to identify who initiates innovations and who the final participants in the cluster are.

Material classification: In terms of scale efficiency, various clusters can merge to ensure savings (multimedia clusters), which leads to the emergence of new combinations.

Technological classification: A collection of networks that use the same technology (biotechnology clusters).

Focal classification: Clusters formed around a single center, such as a company, research institution (R&D), or educational institution.

Qualitative classification: This classification is not only concerned with whether firms are truly collaborating, but also with how such collaboration is being implemented.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that, based on the study of agricultural reforms implemented by developed foreign countries, their application in our country's economy can lead to further development in the agricultural sector.

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