



# Trading Food

## For Sustainable Development

Fostering Integration of the Dried Fruits Value Chain  
of Uzbekistan into Regional and Global Value Chains

### National Virtual Workshop

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

#### Project Background

Development of the agricultural sector, with focus on crops other than traditional cotton and wheat, is an important policy of the Government of Uzbekistan, as indicated by the Economic Reform Roadmap of December 2018, and Uzbekistan's Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020–2030, approved in October 2019. In particular, fostering the dried fruits value chain for export has the capacity to improve the livelihoods of the low-income population residing in rural areas, notably including women, for whom agriculture in rural areas constitute a key source of employment and income in general.

The world has an increasing taste for dried fruits, evidenced by a positive trend in dried fruit production, which was increased by 976,000 tons in the past decade, and now amounts to 3.2 million tons. Global exports of dried fruit amounted to US\$ 4.13bn in 2019, and the total size of the market has been rather stable in the last five years, although it was affected negatively by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

Uzbekistan produces and exports a rich array of dried fruits, including raisins, plum and apricots. The value of Uzbek dried fruit exports has grown 46.8% between 2017 and 2019, from US\$ 99 million to US\$ 145.4 million. In particular, dried grapes constitute the lion's share of the country's dried fruit exports (71.9% of dried fruit exports in 2019), as Uzbekistan exported US\$ 104.6 million of dried grapes in 2019, making it the sixth largest dried grape exporter worldwide. Exports of prunes and dried apricots during the period were US\$ 15.8 million and US\$ 11.2 million, respectively. The three products concentrate 90.5% of the dried fruit exports of Uzbekistan.



While exports of dried fruits from Uzbekistan have been growing, they remain very concentrated in a few markets, notably in the Commonwealth of Independent States (notably, the Russian Federation) and China (for dried grapes). While the two countries have been recently dynamic importers of dried fruits, exports of dried fruits from Uzbekistan to key import markets like the European Union, which in 2019 accounted for 47.7% of world imports of dried fruits, are significantly below potential. Specifically, such exports in 2019 were US\$ 10.5 million, equivalent to 7.5% of dried fruit exports of Uzbekistan. Additionally, exports to other important and growing markets for dried fruits like India are negligible.

Building on and complementing previous work by other development partners, a research study carried out by UNCTAD will be presented in this seminar, looking at the current status and future perspectives of Uzbek dried fruit exports. Specifically, UNCTAD's study: i) revises in detail the global trade in dried fruits and the position of Uzbekistan within that trade; ii) analyses data from a purpose-built field survey implemented in five regions of Uzbekistan to show the connection between the value chain of dried fruits in Uzbekistan and quality of dried fruit in the country; iii) discusses the importance of trade standards for the export of dried fruits from Uzbekistan; and iv) discusses potential ways to improve both the volume and value of Uzbek dried fruit exports. In particular, the study suggests that policy work could focus on three different areas:

- Fostering compliance with International mandatory and commercial Standards, in particular in high-value markets (due to price and quantity) like the European Union, Japan and others.
- Related to the point above, promoting quality along the whole dried fruits value chain. An important point is related to the incentives faced by key stakeholders like producers of fruit and dried fruit, to produce and maintain quality along the value chain.
- Designing a targeted export promotion policy for the dried fruits sector.

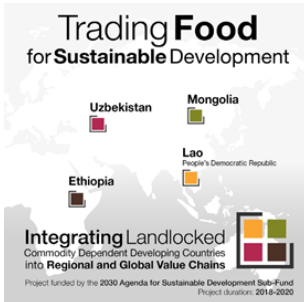
## **Objectives of the National Virtual Workshop**

The objective of this national virtual workshop is to contribute to policy discussions with the different stakeholders from the public and private sectors, International Organizations and others in order to strengthen the integration into regional and global value chains of the dried fruits value chain in Uzbekistan.

During the workshop, the empirical and analytical findings of the project will be presented, regarding the existing situation of dried fruits exports of Uzbekistan and its connection to the functioning of the domestic value chain, and we will discuss possible ways in which the current and future policy framework in Uzbekistan can be strengthened in order to contribute to public policy formulation in the sector.



## Contacts



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## **Preliminary Programme of the Workshop**

**(Tashkent Time – CET + 4 hours)**

**14:00–14:15** Opening session

**Opening statements:**

- *Ms. Helena Fraser, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan.*
- *Ms. Miho Shirotori, Officer in Charge, Division of International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD.*
- *Mr. Badriddin Obidov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade*

**14:15–16:15** 1<sup>st</sup> Session: **Fostering the Integration of the Dried Fruits Value Chain of Uzbekistan into Regional and Global Value Chains**

During this session, the current state of the integration of the dried fruits value chain in Uzbekistan will be presented and potential key issues that emerge from recent research in this area are presented and discussed.

**Moderator:** Mr. Sherzod Umarov, Officer in Charge of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Uzbekistan.

**14:15 – 14:45** ***The International Integration of the Dried Fruits Value Chain of Uzbekistan***

- *Trade Aspects: Mr. Rodrigo Cárcamo, Project Coordinator, Division of International Commodities and Trade, UNCTAD*
- *Strengthening the domestic value chain for export: Mr. Jasurbek Rustamov, UNCTAD consultant.*
- *Certification for Fostering Exports of Dried Fruits: Mr. Julian Roche, UNCTAD consultant.*

**14:45 – 15:45** ***Presenters/Discussants***

- *Mr. Khurshid Norov, Policy Advisor, Food and Agricultural Organization Uzbekistan Country Office*
- *Mr. Dilshod Khidirov, Senior Rural Development Specialist, World Bank Tashkent Office*
- *Ms. Anna Boulova, Secretary General, FRUCOM.*
- *Mr. Alisher Babakhanov, Quality Control Manager, BeradAgro LLC (dried fruit exporter, Uzbekistan)*
- *Mr. Alper Kilic, CEO, Agronart (dried fruit Importer, Canada)*

**15:45– 16:15** ***Panel discussion followed by general discussion with participants***

**16:15– 16:30** **Break**



**16:30–17:45** 2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Policies for Strengthening the Integration of Uzbekistan's Dried Fruits Value Chain into International Value Chains

Fostering a successful and sustainable agricultural export sector can be an important tool for development. However, the policy efforts to strengthen agricultural value chains like dried fruits are multi-dimensional effort that spans different aspects of policy action. During this session, we will discuss the existing policy framework in Uzbekistan for strengthening the dried fruits value chain for export, as well as how the findings from the project can contribute to ongoing and future policy efforts in that direction in Uzbekistan.

**Moderator:** Mr. Rodrigo Cárcamo, Economic Affairs Officer, Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade, UNCTAD, Geneva

**16:30 – 17:15** *Presenters/Discussants*

- *Mr. Javokhir Sharasulov, Head of Main Department, Ministry of Agriculture*
- *Mr. Muradov Ulugbek, Director of the Export Promotion Agency*
- *Mr. Abdullah Orifboeb, Head of the International Relations Department, Uzstandard Agency*

**17:15 – 17:45** *General discussion with participants*

**17:45–17:55** Closing session

- *Mr. Javokhir Sharasulov, Head of Main Department, Ministry of Agriculture*
- *Mr. Rodrigo Cárcamo, Project Coordinator, Division of International Commodities and Trade, UNCTAD*