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**Speech of the Head of the Quarantine Department
of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan
T. Kh. Farmanov at the Seminar
Trade Development of Regional Agricultural Products in Central Asia
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Dear ladies and gentlemen!

I would like to greet sincerely all participants of this seminar, as well as its organizers – the management of the ADB, the Ministry of Commerce of the PCR and XUAR.

Economic agricultural reforms in our republic, as in other sectors of the country's economy, are implemented in a phased manner. The class of rural owners is formed while retaining the state ownership to land resources and water use facilities. Taking this into account, the legal norms and mechanisms have been established, which enabled the formation of a stratum of real owners possessing profit generating property (capital).

Institutional reforms and establishment of the mixed economy changed the structure of agricultural production significantly.

Since 2000 in Uzbekistan, according to a resolution of the Cabinet of Minister of the RU, loss-making farms and shirkat low-profit cotton and grain farms have been reorganized, and starting from 2005 – orchard and viticulture farms, and independent husbandry farms have been established. Based on the results of 2007 the reorganization of shirkat farms into husbandry farms have been completed in the republic (Slide 2).

The restructuring of agricultural enterprises resulted into a decreased share of large agricultural enterprises – shirkats and an increased share of husbandry farms.

Currently more than 220 thousand husbandry farms are operating in the republic (Slide 3). The share of husbandry farms in the total sown area increased up to 84.3% in 2007.

They have been allocated 5,788 thousand ha of land, of which 3,466 thousand ha is under irrigation (Slide 4). The average size of husbandry farms is 26.7 ha (Slide 5). Husbandry farms provide employment to 1,621 thousand people.

Husbandry farms became key producers of raw cotton and grain. In 2007 they produced 98.4% of raw cotton and 79.8% of grain. Growth in gross agricultural output compared to 2006 is 106.1%.

When compared to the last year, the production of grapes increased by 9.6%, fruit – 7.3%, vegetables – 8.8%, melons – 12.9%, milk – 5%, meat – 6.1%, eggs – 4.1%, wool – 4.4%.

In 2008 the priorities for development of agriculture and water resources, agricultural produce processing are: further development of husbandry farms; improvement of the ameliorative condition of irrigated lands; development of seed selection and farming; further implementation of the cattle-breeding development program; development of the fruit-and-vegetable complex; sustainable development of husbandry farms; modernization and reconstruction of processing enterprises (Slide 6).

To carry out quarantine measures (Slides 7-8) the Chief State Inspectorate of Plants Quarantine under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan of the Republic of Uzbekistan («Uzglavgoskarantin») and its bodies at the local level are guided by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law “On Quarantine of Plants” adopted by the Oliy Majlis of the republic as of August 31, 1995, by Resolution № 449 of the Cabinet of Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 5, 1995, which approved the Regulation on the Chief State Inspectorate of the Republic of Uzbekistan on plants quarantine, the Rules on protection of the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan from vermin, plant diseases and weeds subject to quarantine (state registration with the Ministry of Justice №1764 dated January 31, 2008), regulatory and legal acts adopted under the above mentioned documents, international agreements and contracts on plant quarantine.

The structure of the «Uzglavgoskarantina» includes (Slide 9):

The Chief State Inspectorate on Plant quarantine of the Republic of Karakalpalstan;

12 oblast state inspectorates on plant quarantine, as well as the state inspectorate on plant quarantine of Tashkent city;

43 border posts on plant quarantine;

14 fumigation teams;

1 Central Quarantine Laboratory;

1 oblast laboratory on plant quarantine.

The state service on plant quarantine controls 6 introduction and quarantine nurseries, 2 large industrial warm houses, 26 state variety test plots and 1 botanical garden.

Key tasks of the «Uzglavgoskarantina» on plant quarantine – implementing the system of state measures on external and internal plant quarantine aimed at (Slide 10):

- protection of the territory of the republic from penetration of quarantine and other hazardous vermin, plant diseases and weeds from foreign countries, which may cause a significant economic damage to the national economy;
- timely detection, organization or localization and liquidation of quarantine and other dangerous vermin, plant diseases and weeds, as well as the prevention of their penetration to the regions of the republic where they are absent;
- executing state control over the compliance with the established rules and carrying out activities on plant quarantine during production, procurement, transportation, storage, processing, sales and use of agricultural and other products of plant origin.

Quarantine measures are applicable to (Slide 11):

- seeds and planting materials of agricultural, and decorative crops, plants and their parts (grafts, onions, bulbs, fruit, etc.), any other products of plant origin, which can be carriers of vermin, diseases and weeds;
- cultures of live fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematode, ticks and insects;
- collection of insects, originators of plant diseases and samples of damages caused by them, as well as herbaria and collections of seeds;
- agricultural machines and soil cultivations tools, all types of packing, certain industrial products, means of packing and products of plant materials, which can be carriers of vermin, diseases and weeds, monoliths, soil samples, transportation means arriving from countries and the territory of the republic announced as being under quarantine;
- territories and premises of enterprises and organizations, procuring, storing, processing and selling products of plant origin, agricultural and forest lands, household plots, individual and summer house land plots, collective orchards and gardens, non-agricultural lands.

The «Uzglavgoskarantin» works in a close contact with local self-governments, immigration and customs services, the agency “Uzstandart”, the sanitary surveillance service, the center on plant protection, the state seed inspectorate and the inspectorate on agricultural crops strain testing and their subdivisions at a local level.

Gradual harmonization of Uzbek phyto-sanitary legislation with the national and international norms is being achieved in the framework of international cooperation.

The expansion and development of economic and trade relations with many countries of the world under the market economy create realistic conditions for bringing

in new quarantine organisms to the territory of our country. An important link in addressing this problem is bilateral intergovernmental agreements with foreign partners on cooperation in the field of quarantine and plant protection. At present the agreements on cooperation in the field of plant quarantine have been concluded with more than 16 countries of the world.

To protect vegetation resources of our country, the «Uzglavgoskarantinom» has developed a system of measures, where the compliance with the import and export procedures for quarantine materials plays an important role.

Requirements to import of seeds, plants and products of plant origin (Slide 12). Import of seeds, plants, products of plant origin from foreign countries to the republic shall be allowed provided, there is:

- an importation quarantine permits issued by the Chief State Inspectorate of the Republic of Uzbekistan on plant quarantine; a phyto-sanitary certificate issued by state bodies on quarantine and plant protection of the exporter's country.
- Import of seeds, plants and products of plant origin to the republic from the foreign countries, which do not have state bodies on plant quarantine and protection, is allowed only when there is an importation quarantine permit, issues in each individual case by the Chief State Inspectorate of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Plant quarantine.

Obligations of ministries, agencies, enterprises, institutions, organizations when importing plant products (Slide 13):

- To include ***requirements of the state service on plant quarantine ensuring the prevention of penetration of quarantine and other hazardous vermin, plant diseases and weeds into the territory of the republic*** into trade contracts (agreements) on delivery from foreign countries to the republic or transportation via the territory of seeds, plants and products of plant origin;
- When purchasing large batches of seeds, plants and products of plant origin from foreign countries – ***when needed, dispatching of specialists in plant quarantine and protection to study the phyto-sanitary condition of seeds and plantations of agricultural crops in these countries.***
- Seeds, plants and products of plant origin imported to the republic from foreign countries are subject to mandatory inspection by inspectors of the state service on plant quarantine at the points of their entry to the territory of the republic.

The requirements for export of seeds, plants and products of plant origin (Slide 14). Seeds, planting materials, plants, disease strains, other biological objects

and products of plant origin, exported from the republic to foreign countries, shall satisfy the provisions envisaged by international agreements on plant quarantine and protection.

- Each shipment of export seeds, plants and products of plant origin shall be accompanied by a phyto-sanitary certificate of the established form.

- Organizations exporting seeds, plants and products of plant origin, 30 days prior to the planned shipment of the mentioned products outside the county, shall notify the bodies of the state service on plant quarantine of relevant oblasts, rayons about the scheduled shipment, jointly with them determine the locations, where the shipment shall be delivered, and 15 days before the shipment – submit the products to be exported for inspection.

During 2007 the «Uzglavgoskarantin» and its subdivisions issued 4485 Importation Quarantine Permits (IQP), for import of seeds, planting materials and products of plant origin from foreign countries, which is 876 permits more than for the same period of 2006.

In 2007 the volume of import products subject to quarantine totaled 1,662.5 million tons, and export – 2,143.4 million tons.

In 2007 - 83,897 phyto-sanitary certificates of an international type were issued for export of products subject to quarantine. Besides, 28 thousand of national certificates were issued for transportation of materials subject to quarantine within the republic.

In 2007 a special focus was placed on fumigation of products subject to quarantine. The fumigation conducted during the year covered 669.9 thousand tons of products subject to quarantine, of which 637.2 thousand tons of cotton products, 186.024 m³ of storage premises, 797.1 thousand seedlings of fruit and decorative species.

The fumigation of other agricultural products has been reinforced. During the reporting period 32,768 thousand tons of agricultural products have been fumigated.

If in 2003 the republic had 39 plant quarantine points, in 2007 their number was increased to 43.

In 2007 the Central Quarantine Laboratory tested more than 42,181 samples of imported and local materials subject to quarantine for research and manufacturing entities.

In 2007, to detect the most harmful quarantine vermin species, such as cotton moth, Egyptian cotton owl-moth, potato moth, eastern pea moth, Californian scale, Capr beetle and Mediterranean fruit fly, pheromone traps were used.

Imported seeds are examined for hidden infestations by the Central Quarantine Laboratory, at introduction and quarantine nurseries and warm houses. Quarantine organisms are detected quite often during examination of imported plant products and other materials.

The scale of works on quarantine products import and export control has increased. 4,485 import quarantine permits were issued in the republic for import of products subject to quarantine in 2007, and 83,897 international phyto-sanitary certificates for export products, 2,443.4 million tons of quarantine materials and 1,979.2 million units of planting materials were subjected to examination, and more than 962.3 thousand tons of cotton fiber were exported.

The «Uzglavgoskarantin» attaches a great importance to the issues of training and qualification upgrading of the staff, training of inspectors of plant quarantine and those of plant quarantine border posts.

The republic has introduction and quarantine nurseries under the Uzbek Research Institute of Plants, the Research Institute on Cotton Selection and Seed-Breeding, the Research Institute of Horticulture, Viniculture and Wine Industry named after academician R. R. Shreder, the Research Institute of Genetics and Experimental Biology of Plants under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the SPC "Botanica" and the Galya-Aral Introduction and Quarantine Nursery under the Andijan Research Institute of Grain and Grain-and-Bean Cultures in Irrigated Lands.

In the conclusion I would like to note that further productive cooperation of the «Uzglavgoskarantin» with other services of veterinary and phyto-sanitary surveillance of neighboring and other countries will result in new successful achievements in fighting against quarantine harmful organisms.

I sincerely wish you good health, happiness, well-being and great success in your work.

Thank you for your attention.