

# The role of agriculture in the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Agrarian reforms

# INTRODUCTION

Economic and social development in Uzbekistan was not attained through the classical path of industrialization. Industrial progress was of course quite substantial, but the rapid growth of agriculture and the continued predominance of the rural economy and society were the key elements of its progress. Uzbekistan was ahead of the rest of the USSR in terms of urbanization immediately before the Soviet revolution. By the time of the dissolution of the USSR, the proportion of the population living in urban areas was far lower in Uzbekistan (40 per cent) than in the rest of the USSR.

# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Uzbekistan, like the rest of former Soviet Central Asia, was rapidly transformed during the decades after the mid 1930s. By 1976 per capita income in Uzbekistan was above US\$1,300 in current dollars at the official rate of exchange. Even allowing for the inappropriateness of the official rate of exchange and differences in the systems of accounting in comparing income in Uzbekistan with incomes in other countries, this is indicative of a much higher material standard of living in Uzbekistan than in most of its Asian neighbours by the mid 1970s. In terms of non-income indicators of social development -- e.g., education and health -- the performance of Uzbekistan was even more remarkable in comparison with the performance of its Asian neighbours. By the early 1960s virtually universal literacy was achieved for both males and females (compared to 20 per cent in the Indian subcontinent) and there were seven times as many doctors per person as the average for Asia.<sup>1</sup>

# POLICY CHANGES

The primary motivation behind this policy of favourable terms of trade for cotton was to ensure quick Soviet self-sufficiency in this basic commodity. This was achieved with singular success. It remains to be determined if the spectacular increase in specialization in cotton was consistent with the comparative advantage of Uzbek agriculture or whether the specialization in cotton went beyond the dictates of economic efficiency.

# TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The integration of **technology** in farming practices has revolutionized the sector. From precision agriculture to advanced irrigation techniques, technological advancements have played a pivotal role in **modernizing** Uzbekistan's agriculture.



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

The agrarian reforms have led to a **growth** in agricultural output, contributing to the country's economic development. The **diversification** of crops and improved productivity have bolstered the economy.

## CHALLENGES FACED

Despite the positive outcomes, challenges such as **land fragmentation**, access to credit, and **market volatility** have posed obstacles to the success of agrarian reforms. Addressing these challenges is crucial for sustained progress.

## SOCIAL IMPACT

The reforms have influenced the **livelihoods** of farmers and rural communities. Empowering small-scale farmers and ensuring **social equity** have been integral to the reform process, impacting the social fabric of Uzbekistan.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Agrarian reforms have emphasized **sustainable agriculture** practices, promoting environmental conservation and resource management. Balancing **productivity** with environmental concerns is crucial for the long-term viability of the sector.

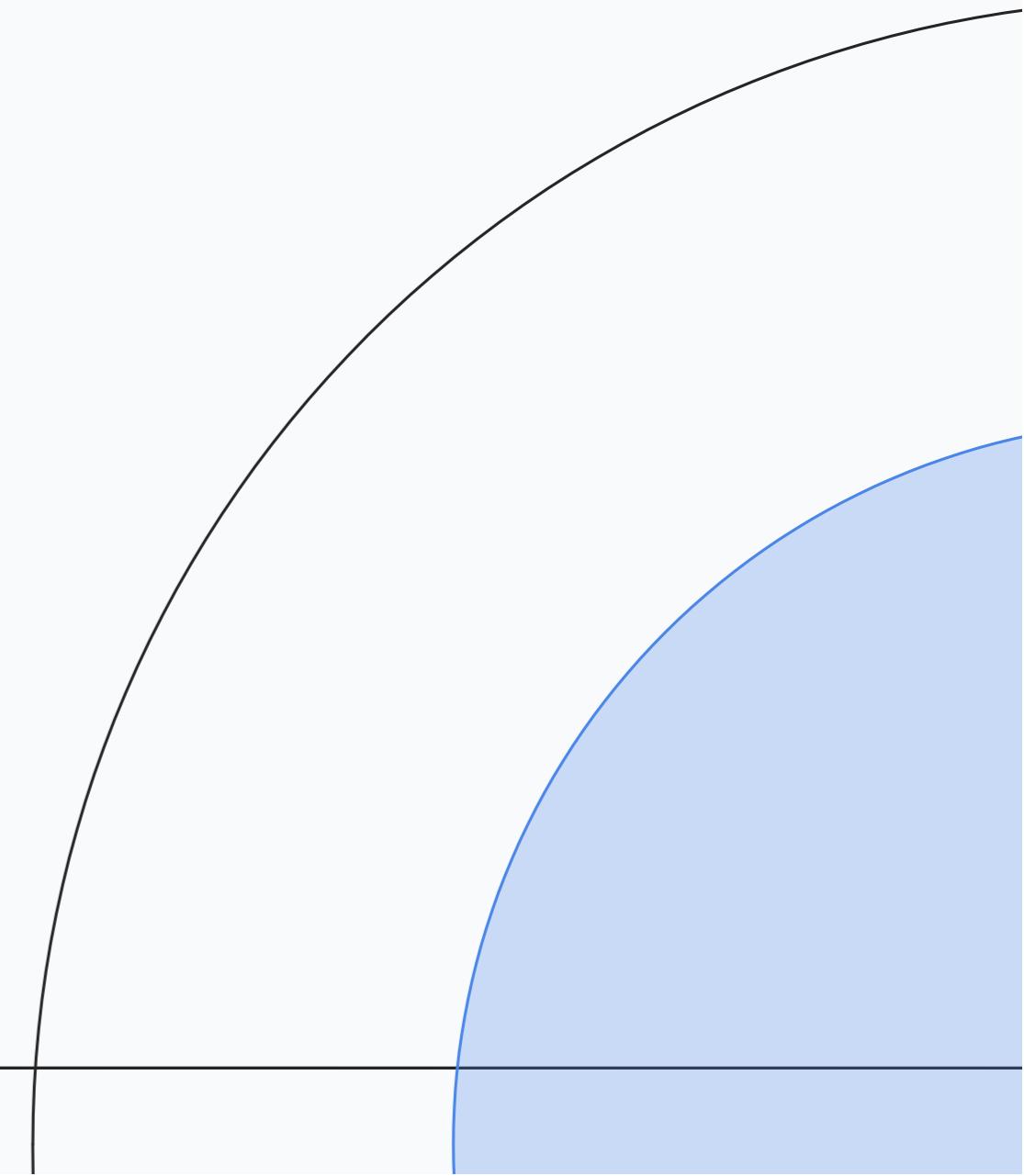
# FUTURE PROSPECTS

Looking ahead, the focus remains on **innovation, investment, and capacity building** to ensure the continued transformation of Uzbekistan's agricultural sector. The future holds promise for further **growth** and development.



# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the agrarian reforms in Uzbekistan have been instrumental in reshaping the agricultural landscape, driving economic growth, and fostering **sustainable development**. The journey continues towards a more vibrant and resilient agricultural sector.





**Thanks for  
attention!**

