

**Speech by
the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Mr. Jamshid Khodjaev at the UN Summit on Food Systems**

(24 September 2021)

Dear Secretary General!

Dear Heads of delegations!

I'm honored to take part at today's final Global Food Systems Summit.

As a part of the Summit, Uzbekistan organized a series of national dialogues on improving the country's food system, during which participants expressed suggestions for improvement.

The most important task of the socio-economic reforms initiated by President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev is to improve the quality of life of the population.

Liberalization, market incentives, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and governmental support for productivity growth are the essentials of new government policies.

The "Agriculture Development Strategy of Uzbekistan until 2030" was adopted, as well as a number of state sectoral programs that contribute to the improvement of all key indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals related to food systems.

Today we can confidently assert that Uzbekistan has reached self-sufficiency in the production of all major types of food, and at the same time exports about 80 types of agricultural produce to more than 77 countries worldwide.

In a short period of time, the "Malnutrition Index" in Uzbekistan, with its population of 35 million, has dropped from 15% to 2.4%, one of the best results in the region.

Improving the standard of living of the rural population in the country is stimulated by preferential financing programs, the development of

entrepreneurship among women and youth, as well as socially vulnerable segments of society.

Equally important is the transition to a "Green Economy" by strengthening the link between water, energy, food and the environment.

The area of agricultural land irrigated by water-saving technologies reached 230 thousand hectares in a short period of time. In the near future this figure is expected to reach 1.5 million hectares through public subsidies.

An effective transformation of food systems is facilitated by a scientific approach. A National System of Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture is currently being established in Uzbekistan. It will improve the knowledge and skills of farmers within the framework of modern agro-ecological principles and international standards.

In this regard, we are ready to share our experience with all interested countries, and call for a broader scientific and practical cooperation.

A new "National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition until 2030" will be adopted soon in Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that Uzbekistan will continue moving forward toward the improvement of the efficiency of its food system through strengthening market mechanisms, land reform, digitalization, as well as support for small and medium-sized producers.

Thank you for your attention.