

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ORGANIZING TEA PRODUCTION CLUSTERS IN
UZBEKISTAN**

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Annotation: *The article analyzes the conditions for the establishment of tea production clusters in our country, and gives effective proposals for the establishment of clusters.*

Keywords and expressions: *imports, tea production clusters, packaging, USD, technology, tea plantations.*

Tea is a favorite and ancient drink of the Uzbek people. It has the property of invigorating the body, relieving digestion and quenching thirst. Its advantage over other drinks is that it has a mild effect on the body and does not accumulate. There is no information about when the history of tea drinking began in Uzbekistan. But it can be said that there are some sources about Indian merchants engaged in tea trade in the cities of Turkestan. Indian merchants established a tea packing factory in Samarkand at the beginning of the 20th century. The Samarkand tea packing enterprise based on imported raw materials was launched in 1923. The establishment of joint ventures and representative offices dealing with tea packaging, sales and import in cooperation with Great Britain, China, Argentina, India, and Sri Lanka dates back to the early 90s. According to the data, in 2002, a total of 4847 tons of packaged tea was produced in Uzbekistan.

Benefits of tea:

- Tea has its consumers in all four seasons
- Tea tree leaves are a powerful antibacterial agent for cleaning buildings
- Tea bushes can live and bear fruit for more than 100 years
- Tea can also be used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry
- Employment of the population is ensured during the tea harvesting period

About 500,000 tons of tea are consumed in Uzbekistan per year. The State Statistics Committee reported the value of certain types of food products imported to Uzbekistan in January-February 2022. According to him, 7.4 million dollars were spent on tea imports in 2 months. According to the information of the State Statistics Committee, Uzbekistan will receive 20.2 mln. from 20 foreign countries in January-June 2021. It imported 15.3 thousand tons of tea equal to US dollars. Compared to the corresponding period of last year, tea import was 2.7 million. increased to US dollars.

During the past six months, the countries that imported the most tea products from Uzbekistan are:

- China - 12.1 thousand tons;
- Kenya – 1.1 thousand tons;
- Iran – 575.7 tons;
- Indonesia – 347.4 tons;
- India – 337.4 tons;
- Vietnam – 254.6 tons;
- Russia - 216.9 tons;
- Sri Lanka – 211.4 tons;
- UAE – 148.9 tons.

Uzbekistan imported 88 tons of tea from India in 3 months of 2022. According to the information of the State Statistics Committee, Uzbekistan will receive 11 million dollars from 18 foreign countries in January-March 2022. Imported 8,200 tons of tea worth US dollars. Tea import increased by 1.5 thousand tons compared to the corresponding period of last year.

If we take the average consumption of tea in our country to be 500,000 tons per year, about 45 million US dollars were spent on tea import. It means per capita consumption of 13.5 kg of tea. Almost 90% of consumers in Uzbekistan consume green tea. Black tea is mainly consumed in Tashkent and some parts of the Valley, while green tea is consumed in all other regions.

In order to further increase the volume of production of import-substitute products in our country, reduce the volume of imported products, organize tea cultivation and improve the production of tea products, and provide the population with high-quality tea and tea products grown and produced in our country, the Cabinet of Ministers No. Draft decision No. 490 was developed. The Scientific Production Center for the Development of Tea Cultivation was established in 2018 with Chinese partners. The main tasks of the center are:

organization of preparation of tea seeds and seedlings, providing farms and entrepreneurs with them;

- development of tea cultivation technology taking into account the climate and other conditions of the republic, organization of industrial tea plantations, consistent increase of production volume of tea products;

- introduction of modern lines of industrial processing and packaging of tea products;

- developing a marketing system to maintain the high quality of the product for export to foreign countries;

- establishing large-scale international relations with tea producers of the world in order to exchange experience, attract tested modern technologies of tea cultivation and production of tea products.

Currently, for the implementation of these projects, in the Zomin district of the Jizzakh region, the Science and Production Center for the Development of Tea Cultivation has allocated plots of land for collecting seeds and planting tea seedlings. Tea processing and production enterprise is located in

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Tashkent city. Modern equipment for processing and packaging of tea products has been introduced and installed, with the help of which tea leaves are processed and packaged. Packaging is carried out in cardboard and polyethylene bags. It is packed in 3- and 8-kilogram bags for wholesale. It can be sold in 30-kilogram bags, but due to the high price of tea, small minimarkets (low turnover) prefer 8-kilogram tea bags. they buy 100 grams, 200 grams of tea. Therefore, it is better to sell tea in 100-gram or 200-gram paper or cloth bags. It is also possible to pack tea in very small sizes (bags/strings).

At a time when infectious diseases are increasing more and more, it would be a good idea to produce tea in combination with medicinal herbs. Then the buyer will have one universal product instead of buying two things. It was used in foreign practice.

In conclusion, it can be said that the establishment of tea production clusters not only satisfies the internal needs of the country, but also contributes to the development of its medical, pharmaceutical and tourism sectors.

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