
UZBEKISTAN SHORES UP FOOD DEFENSES AS CORONAVIRUS RAGES

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Uzbekistan has long prided itself on being the breadbasket of Central Asia, but the unfurling of the coronavirus crisis has raised concerns that the country may be poised to endure troubles with food security.

The solution could lie in falling back on methods that have recently fallen out of favor as the government seeks to open up its economy – pressuring farmers into meeting production quotas on certain goods and intervening in the market to ensure regular supplies.

Speaking at a meeting of officials late last week, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev ordered regional leaders and captains of industry to mobilize and ensure increased agricultural output and build up the countrys food reserves. Mirziyoyev said this strategy would serve as a panacea across the board.

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