
THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF UZBEKISTAN SUPPORTED THE HOLDING OF THE SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF CENTRAL ASIA, ORGANIZED BY FAO

-

09.12.2020

UzDaily (9 December 2020)

Tashkent

The challenges and opportunities of digital agriculture was the topic of the second meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of Central Asia, facilitated by FAO and Kazakhstan. The meeting was organized in virtual format involving FAO officers, representatives of other UN agencies, and representatives of International Financial Institutions.

This Meeting was aimed to help FAO member states in Central Asia achieve a shared understanding of the scope of the term digital agriculture and of the requirements for developing and implementing a digital agriculture strategy to transform agriculture. Participants have identified potential areas where innovative applications of digital technologies can be implemented over the short-term.

The Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjaev stressed in his speech, that at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, 2020 in Uzbekistan has been declared the Year of Development of Science, Education and the Digital Economy. In this regard, a special State program was adopted. A large-scale program Digital Uzbekistan-2030 was also developed, which provides for a cardinal digital transformation of the country for the next 10 years.

As the Minister noted, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan is working to create an integrated information system that will help raise the overall level of digitalization. At the same time, the Ministry pays special attention to supporting initiatives of agricultural and food products producers to introduce smart technologies in their activities.

Our task as the official regulator of the agricultural sector is to prepare business entities for this inevitable transition to digital format. One of the most important tasks is the creation of agrological centers and regional network for the dissemination of agricultural knowledge, which will be combined into a common complex through information technologies, said Jamshid Khodjaev.

The Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan expressed his gratitude to the entire FAO team for developing the concept for the creation of the International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture. According to the Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, in order to have the maximum effect, this council should focus its work on making modern digital technologies widely available to

developing countries and low-income farmers.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that governments and the private sector have the ability to rapidly scale up existing technologies and implement policies and frameworks to find solutions to the crisis. Digital solutions such as mobile money and e-payments, e-commerce and ICT-enabled information and advisory services can enhance the resilience of the agri-food system and the provision of vital support services to farmers.

Over the next 20 years, agriculture will actively embrace information technology in a sustainable manner. Agriculture, supported by digital technologies, can become not only the driver of economic recovery, but also of change in its quality, especially for smallholders and rural households. Today's meeting is the second such event with the participation of agricultural leaders of Central Asia, and FAO is proud to be the facilitator of both of these meetings. We see these as a very important dialogue that will be shaping a dynamic future for agriculture in Central Asia, Vladimir Rakhmanin, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative concluded.

The virtual meeting provided a platform for participating countries to share their approaches and experience, reaffirm their commitment to digital agriculture despite the difficult circumstances and create the basis for long-term joint projects.

<https://uzdaily.uz/en/post/62276>

Kaynak/Source: