



STRATEGY FOR ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF SERICULTURE IN UZBEKISTAN: FROM OPPORTUNITIES TO RESULTS

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
This article examines the measures taken by the government of Uzbekistan to stimulate the development of sericulture in the country. The primary focus is on the organization of breeding silkworm stations, increasing the areas of mulberry plantations, and improving the quality of produced silk. Silkworm breeding projects receive state support to increase export potential and create new jobs.	Uzbekistan, sericulture, development, breeding stations, mulberry plantations, export, state support, cocoon production, investment, employment.

Introduction

Success is not determined solely by the presence of opportunities. Desired results can be achieved through the proper utilization of these opportunities, skillful combination of significant potential with advanced implementation approaches, comprehensive state support, and a constant search for the most optimal and promising solutions, including in sericulture. In recent years, sericulture has embarked on a path of development. Nevertheless, many issues require special attention, and the tasks whose resolution depends on further economic growth are reflected in the presidential decree "On additional measures to accelerate the introduction of market mechanisms in silkworm breeding and sericulture." The presidential decree aims to further accelerate and improve the development of sericulture in Uzbekistan.

One of the points is the organization of two breeding silkworm stations in the Republic, which are intended to propagate the best domestic breeds of mulberry silkworms. The presidential decree is

aimed at further developing and improving the quality of silk and fabrics. In 2024-27, it is planned to expand mulberry plantations to 160,000 hectares, with the number of mulberry trees planted in a single row along field edges reaching 80%, to meet the Republic's demand for class 5A mulberry silkworm eggs, to ensure the quality of raw silk produced in the Republic to 75%, and to increase the level of its processing. Our institute has a corresponding global collection that includes more than 230 varieties of mulberry, which, when properly selected and chosen, can significantly increase the Republic's yield and forage base.

105,000 hectares of land will be offered for lease on the electronic trading platform "E-auksion" at a price of 10% of the determined starting cost in accordance with these target indicators. In 2024-30, it is planned to plant 515 million mulberry seedlings. By 2030, the goal is to increase live cocoon production to 40,000 tons, with the export volume in this sector reaching 276 million dollars, and to provide employment for 140,000 people. There is a plan to gradually increase seasonal employment in sericulture to 2 million people by 2027. For this purpose, based on quarterly lists of unemployed and non-employed people, including women, provided by the Family and Women's Committee, training courses on agronomy and silkworm breeding, as well as skills for processing them, will be organized jointly with sericulture clusters.

An agreement has been reached between the association "Uzbek Ipak Sanoat" and its system enterprises to increase the recommended purchase price of live silkworm cocoons grown in 2024 by 25%. The final settlement date for the harvest of silkworm cocoons grown by sericulture clusters is set for September. The Cabinet of Ministers is instructed to submit to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis a draft law providing for the application of such benefits until January 1, 2026, as exemption from personal income tax for those engaged in growing live silkworm cocoons at home (home-based workers), exemption from social tax on funds allocated for the payment of home-based workers, and exemption of funds directed to material incentives.

Land tax exemption is established for land plots occupied by mulberry plantations used as a forage base in sericulture, with the application of a coefficient of 0.1 established by the Kengash of People's Deputies of districts and cities to tax rates.

Also planned for this year is the creation of breeding seed stations within the Sericulture Research Institute in the form of a state institution in the Fergana and Khorezm regions, and the implementation of cocoon production for domestic breeds of mulberry silkworm eggs at the breeding seed stations by the end of 2025.

All these measures aim at responsibly increasing the Republic's forage base. By implementing these points, the Republic can achieve high cocoon yields, obtain higher quality raw materials up to the level of world standards 5A and above, and, accordingly, farmers will receive additional income.

A list of investment projects in silkworm breeding and sericulture for implementation in 2024-25 has been approved. Until today, the main part of exports consisted of raw silk; now the task is to increase the level of processing to at least 75 percent. The Reconstruction and Development Fund plans to open a credit line for commercial banks upon their requests for \$30 million for 10 years in 2024-26. This line includes a three-year grace period with a 4% annual interest rate to finance investment projects in silkworm breeding and sericulture.

At the same time, with funds from the credit line, commercial banks provide loans to business entities for 10 years, including a three-year grace period with an annual interest rate of 6%, of which the bank's margin is 2%.

The comprehensive measures outlined in the presidential decree will further improve the investment climate, expand the raw material base, and significantly increase the volume of mulberry silkworm eggs. They will also double employment in the sector by supporting cocoon producers and launching new production facilities, thereby accelerating the implementation of market mechanisms.

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