



THE ROLE OF KARAKUL BREEDING IN THE ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

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Abstract

The article explores the development of the karakul breeding industry in our country and its role in agriculture. It analyzes issues related to increasing the production volume of karakul products, improving breeding practices, efficient use of pastures, and processing and exporting products. A SWOT analysis of internal and external factors is conducted to ensure the sustainable development of the industry, and strategic development directions are identified. Based on the analysis, specific measures are proposed to leverage strengths, address weaknesses, and manage risks. It is emphasized that the proposed approach contributes to the long-term sustainable development of the karakul breeding sector.

Keywords: Karakul breeding, agriculture, pasture utilization, SWOT analysis, ecological adaptability, export potential, competitiveness, technology implementation, sustainable development, karakul pelts, international cooperation, climate change.

Introduction

Karakul sheep breeding is one of the ancient and strategically important branches of animal husbandry, which plays an important role in the economy of Uzbekistan. The unique genetic characteristics of Karakul sheep, their adaptability to environmental conditions, and the high appreciation of their



products in the international market indicate the need to pay special attention to this sector.

In recent years, our country has been implementing large-scale reforms to develop karakul farming, increase product production, and modernize the industry. In particular, great attention is being paid to increasing the competitiveness of the industry through the effective use of pastures, improving breeding work, updating production and processing technologies, and directing products for export.

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the role of karakul farming in agriculture, its economic potential and development prospects. Based on a SWOT analysis, the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, existing opportunities and potential threats are assessed, and strategic recommendations for sustainable development are developed.

Analysis of literature on the topic

Theoretical and practical directions for the modernization of the pasture livestock sector in our republic and the implementation of economic reforms specific to its specific characteristics are set out in the Decrees and Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, his addresses to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, his opinions expressed at meetings with scientists and specialists in the field, his scientific works and reports.

Leading foreign scientists M.A.Vinogradova, S.H.R.Kherremov, O.Annageldiyev, O.Annamukhammedov, Kh. Ukibayev, T.J.Nurumbetov, N.Z.Shamsutdinov, as well as leading agricultural economists of our republic, including T.S.Mallaboyev, R.Kh.Khusanov, F.K. Kayumov, F.J.Jorayev, T.Kh.Farmanov and others, have conducted research on the management of the Karakol industry, taking into account its specific characteristics, and on improving its economic efficiency based on modern requirements for keeping, feeding, and caring for livestock in pasture-steppe areas.

In addition, after the 1990s, T.Y.Nurimbetov, Kh.Quvnokov, J.Y.Nurillayev, A.R.Bazarov, H.N.Bahronov and others conducted research on issues related to deepening economic reforms in the karakol sector.



Analysis and results

Much attention was paid to the development of the karakol industry in our country and ensuring its place in agriculture, implementing large-scale structural changes based on increasing the production volumes of karakol products and increasing their varieties, improving breeding work, effectively using pastures, increasing the production volumes of livestock products and increasing their competitiveness, and processing and exporting produced products.

It is advisable to accelerate institutional reforms in order to comprehensively increase the existing potential of the karakol industry, ensure the effective operation of farms in the industry, strengthen economic relations between enterprises in the "production-processing-sorting-processing-sales system of karakol products", and ultimately implement systematic measures for the sustainable development of this industry.

A SWOT analysis of the sustainable development of the Karakul industry helps identify strategic development opportunities by analyzing the industry's internal and external factors:

S – Strengths

1. Ecological adaptability: Karakul sheep are adapted to desert and semi-desert conditions.
2. Product uniqueness: Karakul skins are highly valued in the international market for their quality and aesthetic properties.
3. Historical heritage: Karakul farming is an integral part of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan and Central Asia, and has tourism and export potential.
4. Low capital requirements: The Karakul farming industry does not require large initial investment costs.
5. Export potential: The high demand for products in the international market can increase export revenues.

W – Weaknesses

1. Rangeland degradation: Overexploitation of rangelands and disruption of ecological balance.
2. Technological backwardness: Outdated processing and production technologies.
3. Financial constraints: Insufficient investment to develop the industry.



4. Lack of qualified specialists: Lack of personnel with modern knowledge and skills in the field.

5. Weakness in marketing and branding: Limitations in effectively promoting products in the international market.

O – Opportunities

1. Technology introduction: Increasing product quality and volume through the implementation of modern technologies.

2. International cooperation: Developing foreign investments and cooperation with research centers.

3. New markets: Increasing export volumes by meeting the demand for karakul products in European, Asian and American countries.

4. Developing sustainable agriculture: Implementing climate-adapted practices and ecological approaches.

5. Integration with tourism: Promoting agro- and cultural tourism by developing karakul farming as a historical and cultural brand.

T – Threats

1. Climate change: Increased drought and desertification processes may reduce the efficiency of pastures.

2. Competition: Increased competition with karakul products from other countries in the international market.

3. Market price instability: Sharp fluctuations in prices for karakul skins and products in international markets.

Taking advantage of strengths and opportunities, taking into account the uniqueness of karakul farming and international demand, it is possible to introduce technologies and conquer new markets.

It is advisable to eliminate weaknesses mainly by strengthening the ecological management of pastures, developing the personnel training system, and attracting modern technologies.

Risk management through the implementation of climate change-adapted practices to reduce risks, disease prevention, and the development of insurance systems, etc.

Based on these recommendations, it is possible to achieve long-term development of the karakul industry and increase its economic efficiency.



Conclusion and Suggestions

The Karakul industry of Uzbekistan is an important component of agriculture and the national economy. This industry allows the country to produce and export products that are adapted to environmental conditions and are in high demand in the international market. The results of the analysis show that the following factors are important for the sustainable development of Karakul:

- Ecological adaptability and uniqueness of products strengthen the position of the industry in the international market;
- Degradation of pastures, technological backwardness and lack of qualified specialists;
- It is necessary to develop environmental measures and risk management mechanisms to reduce risks such as climate change and instability in the international market.

To ensure the sustainable development of the Karakul industry and increase its economic efficiency, it is advisable to put forward the following proposals:

- Introduction of modern technologies into the processing and production processes of Karakul products;
- Taking measures to maintain ecological balance to reduce pasture degradation;
- Developing principles of sustainable livestock farming and strengthening cooperation with agricultural research institutes;
- Cooperating with international trade organizations to develop new markets and increase export volumes;
- Strengthening cooperation with universities and research institutes to train qualified specialists in the field;
- Supporting innovative research in the field of Karakul farming.

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