

**The importance of modernizing the grape processing industry by increasing the number of vineyards****KHUDAYBERDIYEVA LAYLO ABDISAMATOVNA**

On August 3, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev held a meeting devoted to the issues of increasing grape plantations, developing winemaking, expanding the production and export of alcoholic products.

Fundamental reforms are being implemented in all areas of our country. In order to develop economic sectors, the regulatory and legal bases of their activity are being improved and their structure is being updated. Leaders are tasked with establishing activities in line with the requirements of the times, attracting investments, launching new production facilities, increasing the volume of exports and expanding the geography.

In accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on February 28 of this year "On measures to fundamentally improve the wine industry and the sale of alcoholic products", the joint-stock company "Uzsharobsanoat" was reorganized, its new structure was approved, and its leadership was updated. A number of tasks were set for the increase of grape plantations and the development of winemaking.

Due to the lack of attention to the ratio of the types of products in the production, the production of grape wine, vodka and liqueur has decreased by 2.5-3 times in the last 10 years. Although the primary wine production enterprises process 200,000 tons of grapes and have the capacity to produce 14 million deciliters of wine material, only 15% of this capacity is used due to the lack of raw materials. Only 25 percent of winemaking enterprises have been modernized, and the rest still use equipment installed in the 90s of the last century. Therefore, 25 enterprises with the production capacity of nearly 4 million deciliters of ready-packaged wine products are working at 57% capacity.

The main reason for this is that the area and yield of wine-growing vineyards has drastically decreased. There are 73 thousand hectares of vineyards in our country. Wine grapes are grown on 10,000 hectares of it. Of this, vineyards belonging to "Uzsharobsanoat" enterprises make up 4.3 thousand hectares. Production needs cannot be covered with this amount. Therefore, in February of this year, "Ozsharobsanoat" enterprises were assigned the task of increasing wine-growing vineyards to 10,000 hectares.

Taking this into account, officials were instructed to develop a 5-year program for the rapid development of viticulture and grape processing, modernization of alcohol production facilities, and the creation of new facilities.

It takes time for new vineyards to come into fruition. It is necessary to start making wine, vinegar and cider from various fruits without delay. Then part of the fruit in our country will be prevented from dying without being processed. "Uzsharobsanoat" joint stock company should study foreign experience and domestic opportunities and add measures to organize the production of wine and other products from fruits this year and expand it in the following years to the new program.

It is known that grape varieties such as Pinot noir, Chardonnay, Sauvignon-blanc, which allow the production of wine at the level of world requirements, are not grown in Uzbekistan. The State Inspectorate of Plant Quarantine has banned the import of their seedlings. Because it can lead to the spread of phylloxera, a pest that dries up vine seedlings. Therefore, it is necessary to grow and multiply these varieties in a nursery under strict quarantine conditions. Based on this, the State Inspectorate of Plant Quarantine was instructed to study the experience of countries with developed wine production, to prepare proposals for the importation of certified grape cuttings.

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