

# Farm data for sustainable agricultural development in the of Uzbekistan

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## Introduction

Official statistics on farm data, namely, agricultural input and output data is available from State committee of statistics of Uzbekistan and its regional departments and district branches. Commercial farms apply compulsory reports to local branches of committee, data on family farms rarely available. Commercial farms report on crop area, yield and value of major cash crops, cotton and wheat. Lack of farm data on production inputs and outputs limits research capacity on efficiency increase, optimization of resource use and marketing of commodities. This research examines possibility of implementation of internship schemes of agricultural higher education in Uzbekistan to collect and use of on farm data of agri-economic and statistic agri-structural data for educational and research purposes.

## Objectives

There is a strong hypothesis that improvement in higher education and research could help closing the gap between potential and actual production. There is worldwide evidence that agricultural research yields high returns as it helps to increase yields. Within this context, agricultural HEIs do not have information about the results of economic activity of enterprises. Statistics reflects only the aggregated data of sector development using the index of certain types of products produced on certain territory (district, region, country). Internships may be used to obtain real data of farm enterprises that are not available in the official statistical information.

By developing tools and paths for improvement of practical skills of graduates and fostering better links with agribusiness the project will enhance employability and thus contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of the local population through intensification of private farming based on ecologically, economically and socially sustainable land and water resources.

The project TOPAS will create of a databank for applied sciences on the field of agriculture management for common use of students, teachers and researchers. This databank will consist of data on production inputs, costs and outputs of major cash crops of Uzbekistan.

## Materials and methods

In Uzbekistan, agricultural commercial farms apply compulsory reports to local branches of State committee of statistics. Commercial farms report on crop area, yield and value of major cash crops, cotton and wheat. State committee determine the mechanism for collecting operational data to generate information on the size of land, livestock and poultry, crop production and livestock production volumes, agricultural activities of farms.

We investigate possibility of implementation of internship schemes of agricultural higher education in Uzbekistan to collect and use of on farm data of agri-economic and statistic agri-structural data for educational and research purposes. Provided comprehensive scheme of internship is traditional for most of agricultural economics and management programs at former Soviet countries, were centrally planned economy required burden of statistical data from collective (kolkhoz) and state farms (sovkhozs). Those data hardly available now. It was proposed that students sit in central office of farms with its own book keeping and planning services and collect data from official reports. Last decades of soviet period witnessed mass falsification of statistical and other official reports from farms in order to improve performance on fulfillment of state orders (plans).

## Conclusions

We propose to develop ICT based tool to implement modern technique for supervision and to assist students during internship period. Nowadays, main gadget on student's hands is their smartphones. We propose to develop either mobile-app or web-app. This app should serve for following objectives:

To collect data for written report of student;

Assist supervising faculty to supervise and monitor student activity and performance in internship;

To collect data in order to be used for educational and research purposes.

These objectives are interconnected and complementary to each other. Student input data directly at the farm, from its observations and survey of farmer and its employees, including accountant. Data will be kept anonymously at server, with respect of legal and ethical requirements of data protection.

Agricultural universities and Uzbekistan set up project with aim centrally collect data at databanks network to use them for educational and research purposes. Each university will keep own data at their servers.

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