

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, and my own behalf, I would like to sincerely greet all participants, guests and organisers of the 23rd UzFood International Exhibition.

Agriculture demonstrates ever-higher growth rates in production and productivity in all areas, largely thanks to the ongoing reforms, coupled with the diligence of Uzbek farmers and the country's favourable soil and climatic conditions.

The agro-processing sector is becoming increasingly important in the development of the national economy under these conditions, because it is the food industry that ensures creation of high value chains, which are so important for sustainable development of the country not only in the industrially developed centres, but in the rural areas of Uzbekistan as well.

The liberalization of the economy, favourable trade and economic relations with the largest markets of our region, extensive opportunities provided by the state for foreign investors, make such exhibitions particularly important.

All these determine the importance of transferring the most advanced technologies and integrated solutions to the development of the sector, incorporating the latest achievements and know-how at all process stages, from the field to the consumer's table.

I wish all the exhibitors fruitful work, establishing new and strengthening the existing business ties.

**Sincerely yours,
A. Shukurov,
Deputy Minister**