



Stories of modern

RURAL WOMEN



Stories of modern rural women

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Author: *Sayyora Shoyeva*

Editor: *Sirojiddin Vohidov*

Advisors: *Shakhnoza Zafari, Mukhabbat Turkmenova*

Designer: *Aleksandra Povarich, Otabek Eshmatov*

Photos by: *Otabek Eshmatov, Abbos Egamberdiev, Muhammadali Kambarov,*

Ugiloy Mingboeva, Umid Hojiyev, Ikbol Omonboev

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STORIES OF MODERN RURAL WOMEN



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INTRODUCTION

In Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan, the lives of women and girls are closely tied to their households, families, and children. They begin their day by greeting the morning sun, engaging in family responsibilities.

With a cradle and a hoe in hand, they rise before sunrise, bidding farewell in the twilight. As the sun sets, these women tirelessly continue their endless housework. From milking cows and preparing breakfast to kneading dough for morning bread, they manage the care of cows, calves, sheep, and goats. Amidst these household tasks, they still find time to tend to their gardens, displaying an unwavering dedication.

These women, devoid of fatigue, don't indulge in makeup, fashion, or engage in social and political life. Their focus is solely on their family, including husband, children, father-in-law, and mother-in-law, along with their household responsibilities. In their minds, a genuine woman is one devoted to her family.

When men are compelled to work in distant cities or abroad, the burden on wives and mothers intensifies.

These women invest extra effort in watering plots, cultivating land, and raising livestock, contributing to domestic market prosperity. Their dedication strengthens the country's food security and enhances their families' financial situations.

Initiatives led by women and girls enjoy extensive support from the state in the form of widespread provision of preferential loans and subsidies. There is also a signif-

icant focus on enhancing women's health and elevating their status and position in society.

This emphasis arises from the understanding that an educated, capable, and competent woman paves the way for her children to secure their rightful place in society. Speaking of numbers, the current scenario shows that 10 percent of managers in agricultural enterprises are women.

However, recent years have witnessed global climate change, particularly the impact of rising temperatures and changing weather conditions on agriculture, the environment, water, soil, flora, fauna, food security, and human health. In this context, women working in agriculture encounter growing challenges.

In Uzbekistan, agriculture is now recognized as one of the innovative sectors, leading to the enhancement of production processes and product processing through the application of modern knowledge and technologies. What role do women farmers and those tending to their plots play in this transformative process? Are they prepared to embrace innovative technologies in their work?

We are confident that the answers to these questions await you in the stories of 22 honest and hardworking women. These women strive to live with pride and joy, witnessing the creation of new fruits in the fields and gardens with their own hands. They joyfully anticipate the future, enriching it with their ideas and efforts.

REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

PALZADA SALIEVA

A WOMAN WHO EPITOMIZED INTEGRITY AND HARD WORK



... The efforts of an ordinary Karakalpak girl, showcasing diligence and profound care for her native land, are esteemed to such a degree that it serves as clear evidence of a deep respect for people.





*In a world without such souls, we find,
A woman's stature wouldn't be so defined.*

Abdulla Oripov, Famous Uzbek poet.

Examining the life journey of Palzada Salieva from Karakalpakstan reaffirms the belief that the human spirit is more tender than flowers and stronger than steel.

Have you ever encountered a woman who, once widowed with three children, remarried, and ultimately discovered happiness? Through her diligence and enterprise, she transformed into the radiant soul of her family.

If you haven't, let us share our story of meeting and subsequently forming a lifelong friendship.

Farmer Palzada Salieva, a resident of Janabazar ovul in the Kegeyli district, possesses an amazing and inspiring destiny.

It is often said that the world is a source of wisdom for those seeking wisdom, a reality that becomes the fountain of happiness for those pursuing a joyful life.

Palzada Salieva's first marriage ended unsuccessfully, leaving her alone with three children. Taking it upon herself to raise and educate them, she spent many nights pondering the questions that troubled her. Thoughts like "Where is their father?" and "What does a single mother do?" haunted her, along with concerns about the uncertainties her children might face in life.

As the saying goes, "after night, there always comes morning." Thanks to her remarkable qualities, Palzada unexpectedly received a proposal from Faridahon, a woman divorcing her husband after 40 years of childless marriage. Faridahon invited Palzada to become the wife of her ex-husband, Karomiddin.

After 40 years of a childless marriage with her husband, Faridahon decided to divorce. When she approached Palzada with an offer to marry Karomiddin, Palzada had doubts. She thought, "This man may accept me, but how will he treat my children? Perhaps, if we have a child with this man who has been childless for 40 years, then he will love my children." With such thoughts in 2010, Palzada finally agreed to build a new family with Karomiddin.

Allah blessed them with Mehriqul in 2011 and Mehridin in 2014. Even when Farida Opa lived in Nukus, she consistently supported Palzada and assisted with household chores until their circumstances improved.

A steadfast man, Karomiddin kept his promises. He embraced Palzada's children – Hurziyo, Askarboy, and Shulponoy – offering them education and imparting knowledge. His loyalty extended to not leaving Farida alone, also caring for their adopted son by providing a home and a new car.

As for Palzada Salieva's farming journey, it began when Karomiddin, a biologist from the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute, established the Orzu farm in 1994. Recognizing his new





wife's abilities, knowledge, and agility, he entrusted her not only with his family but also with his cherished business. He became her closest assistant and adviser.

In 2014, Palzada took charge of managing a farm in Janabazar ovul, Kegeyli district. The farm spans over 600 hectares, cultivating a variety of crops, including 100 hectares of licorice and 175 hectares of cotton, grain, sesame, melons, and legumes.

"The local climate and natural conditions are ideal for growing sesame without the need for additional irrigation," notes Palzada. Sesame oil, rich in nutrients, finds extensive use in the food industry and cosmetology. Planting pumpkin between sesame rows yields additional profit, with one hectare producing up to one ton of crop. Sesame's cost ranges from 35-40 thousand soums per kilogram, and the farm harvests over ten tons annually from ten hectares of land.

Sesame thrives in warm weather, requiring temperatures of 15-16 degrees for growth and 18-20 degrees for flowering stems. To maintain soil health and prevent diseases, farmers monitor soil conditions, practicing crop rotation and adding local manure and phosphorus.

Innovations and years of farming expertise in Karakalpakstan have transformed arid lands into fertile oases. Growing licorice on 100 hectares improved soil fertility and served as livestock feed. Over five years, the soil became 2.5% less salty and enriched with nitrogen and humus.

No part of the licorice goes to waste. Its roots have a significant impact on the soil, reaching even into the gypsum layer and drawing nutrients from groundwater.

"By investing 20 million soums in growing licorice on an unprofitable hectare for 5 years, we can harvest 14 tons of plant roots," notes the landowner. Licorice holds a high value on the world market, yielding 8,000 tons of dry products per hectare, contributing to soil improvement and increased productivity. Proper agrotechnical measures can even allow licorice to be harvested annually from the field itself, and after 4 years, even from beneath the soil.

Licorice, planted four years ago, is gearing up for this year's harvest. In the food industry, licorice root is used for various products, including low-calorie drinks, confectionery, bakery items, jam, molasses, canned goods, food concentrates, and toothpaste. The waste from licorice production is in demand for making paper insulation boards and paper, notably in the USA, Japan, Germany, Hungary, China, and other countries.

In addition to her diligent work in the field, our article's heroine tends to her cows, personally milking them. When asked about hiring help for the cows, she smiles and replies, "No one cares for animals like I do."

The farm boasts 45 cattle and 70 sheep and goats. Currently, cows are milked for family needs, with surplus milk reserved for the young. Future plans include achieving full milk production with the opening of a dairy plant.

Cattle, twenty horses, and camels roam across more than 300 hectares of pasture. Palzada treasures her horse, "Kashka," as if it were her most prized possession. When stress mounts and work falters, this horse charges forward, carrying her to a place of solace. Upon returning home, Palzada sheds her worries and dives back into her work.

Even her relatives acknowledge her unwavering passion for work.

Entrepreneur Zamira Khojametova shares a story: "One night, at two in the morning, my phone woke me up, and when I checked the screen, it was my friend. We had a breakdown on our earth-moving tractor, can we borrow your equipment?" she asked. I grasped how crucial this was for her. In land cultivation, every minute counts, and such work can't be delayed. If a farmer doesn't organize their rest on time, they might miss a vital opportunity. I went to the area and delivered the necessary spare part to her. My friend is meticulous about her work and always strives to complete it on time."

Success, she believes, hinges on two key secrets: understanding the essence of work and enthusiasm.

Palzada possesses both qualities, skillfully operating the Orion Class tractor to navigate between rows without harming the cotton, a task requiring considerable experience.

"We need someone skilled in operating equipment for every stage of field processing, especially those located away from residential areas," the farmer states. "My husband used to handle this, but now I've learned the job myself. My three children also assist me. Whenever they have free time, we work together."

Among us, there are generous individuals who swiftly comprehend the challenges faced by those seeking help. Palzada, being considerate of the well-being of neighbors or relatives in need, goes above and beyond expectations to aid them according to her capacity. Simple, hardworking, and naturally good-natured, Palzada exemplifies this generosity.

Three years ago, during the Covid pandemic, she extended assistance to families within her means, providing essentials like flour, butter, sugar, and vegetables. That spring,

she initiated the Mothers' Garden, dedicating one hectare to eight women from low-income families. Amidst fruit trees, they grow potatoes, tomatoes, and various legumes for personal use, successfully harvesting their first crop this year.

In the upcoming spring, Palzada plans to expand the garden to another ten hectares, installing a drip irrigation system. Half of this area will be allocated to single mothers, families with disabilities, and those facing financial difficulties.

Palzada's charitable contributions receive recognition. In the 2021 "Woman of the Year" competition, she emerged as the absolute winner and was honored with the "President's Award"—a Chevrolet Lacetti Gentra car.

– The efforts of an ordinary Karakalpak girl, showcasing diligence and profound care for her native land, are esteemed to such a degree that it serves as clear evidence of a deep respect for people, Palzada notes. I am delighted with this trust and acknowledgment. I envision a future where I can achieve significant results and contribute to the well-being of those around me."

Last year's profits enabled the acquisition of wheat processing technology from Russia, leading to the commencement of flour production. Palzada's son, Askarboy, manages the mini-factory. Their plans for the next year in-



clude processing milk, cream, curd, yogurt, and butter for the domestic market, as well as exporting locally prepared ayran. The farm is well-equipped with a sufficient number of livestock to support these endeavors.

Palzada is dedicated to establishing a healing retreat in her village, expanding her collection of camels and horses for this purpose. Horse milk, renowned for its medicinal properties, is considered effective for treating body tumors, pulmonary and skin diseases, purulent wounds, boils, and fungal skin lesions. Similarly, camel milk, abundant in calcium, phosphorus, and sodium, not only stimulates brain function but also provides invaluable support for conditions like anemia, weakness, gastrointestinal cancer, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, stomach ulcers, and pancreatic diseases.

The farm boasts vast land, with plans to create an ecotourism destination in the near future. The aim is to preserve nature in its pristine state, offering tourists the chance to unwind in a desert landscape. Envision riding a horse or camel across a wide field with wild animals in sight. Additionally, they raise geese, ducks, and turkeys for various purposes.

In February 2023, Palzada participated in a World Bank seminar on climate change mitigation in the Ara region, presenting a horticultural development business plan. Her efforts earned her a grant of 600 million soums. Under this project, 1,000 low-growing apple tree seedlings will be planted per hectare. Each of the 13 low-income families will receive 35 acres of land, generating income by tending to the seedlings and planting agricultural products for the market.

As long as there are women like Palzada, whose souls radiate honesty, love, hard work, and modesty, the world will prosper.

Her life is akin to the sun, warming hearts and lighting the way.

REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

ALIYA BAZARVAEVA

ALIYA, CONSTRUCTING A HAVEN
OF HAPPINESS ATOP THE SAND DUNES

... I endured substantial losses, unaware of the challenges faced by new ranchers when importing breeding stock from overseas. This endeavor can push a farm perilously close to bankruptcy.





In 2018, Aliya aspired to establish her own brand, leading to the creation of the Ganesha LLC.

Our meeting with her took place near a construction site in the village of Sananbay, Nukus district. This two-story building is destined to become a milk processing workshop in the future. Under the Ganesha brand, it will produce milk, yogurt, cream, cottage cheese, and dried yogurt (kurat).

Amidst the heat, with no breeze to be felt, we sought refuge in Aliya's house to converse in a cooler setting.

As we talked, we perused a family photo album together. The album held numerous snapshots from her childhood, featuring family members and wedding photos of her children. Each frame rekindled Aliya's memories, prompting her to share stories associated with each one.

Pointing to a photo, Aliya exclaimed, "This is our wedding with Marat, captured in 1995. Beside us in the picture are his three brothers, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, and here are my parents. This one depicts the children's learning process at school. A photo from the market where my husband and I sold meat. And this one was taken in 1996 when my son Nurlan was born. And here is an image from our wedding. Oh, how amusing – I'm surrounded by goats!"

These photographs encapsulate Aliya's life journey.

When asked about her interest in cattle ranching and butchery, she confessed after a brief pause, "To be honest, it never occurred to me to engage in slaughtering. Since childhood, I have always loved cattle."



The family she joined as a daughter-in-law was involved in fattening livestock. Over time, they slaughtered 100 head of cattle, selling the meat at the market and replenishing the herd with a new batch.

In 2002, a young family completed the construction of their house and moved in. Marat, inspired by his father, opened a butcher shop. They bought livestock, fattened them, and sold the meat, securing a stable income. In unforeseen circumstances, the family was ready for any work. Aliya, learning the art of slaughtering cattle from her husband, gradually honed her skills, surpassing him in selecting livestock and cutting meat at the market.

Government support for entrepreneurs created new opportunities.

In 2018, upon returning from the store, Aliya had tea and watched the news on TV, which featured discussions about providing land for youth employment. She talked about it with



her daughter Nuria, born in 1997, and together they formulated a business plan. Six months later, they were granted half a hectare of land in the Nukus region.

Following the livestock farming business plan, they created a farm on part of the land. Simultaneously, Aliya took steps to purchase livestock. At that time, the country focused on importing livestock. Consulting with her family, Aliya decided to buy Saanen goats known for high milk production and adaptability to local conditions.

During the period when Aliya was occupied with establishing a farm and arranging the import of livestock from abroad, her husband Marat passed away suddenly. In 2019, she obtained a loan of one and a half billion soums from the bank with a repayment condition over three years. Goats, valued at 5 million soums each, were imported from Austria. These goats, with an average daily milk yield of 4-8 liters, also gave birth to kids weighing 3-5 kilograms each.

However, these goats faced challenges adapting to the hot and dry climate, encountering problems with the dry wind affecting their lungs. "We couldn't use these goats for

meat because they were bred specifically for dairy production," recalls Aliya. "Despite their struggles, we made efforts to preserve them, closely monitoring their health with veterinarian consultations. We managed to save some goats and their babies."

Aliya faced daunting times, left without her trusted advisor and with three children to care for. Undeterred, she decided to revive her business by restoring the old shop and returning to cutting meat. Weekly trips to Chimboy or the livestock market in the Khujayli district allowed her to buy livestock. She processed the meat herself, cleaning offal, heads, and feet, successfully selling the products. Through determination, she paid off the loan, provided for her family, and met all their needs.

Thanks to his passion and dreams of cattle breeding, 93 Simmental heifers were brought from Austria in 2020. These dairy and beef cattle, developed in Switzerland by improving local and Scandinavian breeds, weigh approximately 500 to 1000 kilograms and gain weight quickly when fed for fattening. The Simmental breed is known for its high productivity and adaptability to various climatic conditions, producing over 14-15 thousand liters of milk per year for the best cows.

Relying on this description, Aliya secured investments from the bank totaling 2.5 billion soums for a period of 7 years at 19 percent per annum. The demand for cattle feed matched the specified volumes and productivity. Without her land for fodder crops, Aliya had to buy feed from the market. Consequently, funds initially designated for equipment purchase were redirected to acquiring feed. Regrettably, this did not rescue the livestock, as the animals struggled to adapt to the climatic conditions of Karakalpakstan.

A new crisis emerged. For a woman accustomed to paying a monthly loan of 58 million soums, accepting the loss

of livestock worth 23 million soums, which died successively, was extremely challenging. To cover the loan interest, she had to sell her house and car. Faced with the question of what awaited her and how to proceed, her two brothers stepped in, offering not only financial but also emotional support.

Currently, 45 cows, successfully adapting to climate variability, yield 15 liters of milk per day. The announcement in 2020 regarding the provision of services to hospitals in the Nukus region through outsourcing deeply impressed the farmer. Following her victory in the competition, an agreement was reached for the supply of food and dairy products to medical organizations.

At first glance, this woman may not appear distinct among others; her face bears the sun's tan. However, a vast soul resides within her. Numerous cattle breeders, encountering challenges, abandoned their businesses, opting for more lucrative ventures. Yet, Aliya, genuinely passionate about her work, disregarded advice to quit, asserting it did more good than harm. She remained persistent. Currently, she owns 47 hectares of land where she cultivates corn and clover to feed her livestock.

"I endured substantial losses, unaware of the challenges faced by new ranchers when importing breeding stock from overseas. This endeavor can push a farm perilously close to bankruptcy," mentioned Aliya Bazarbaeva. "This served as a bitter lesson for me. When selecting a cattle breed, it's crucial to consider the similarity of climatic conditions with its place of origin, as well as the reproductive characteristics of the breed. In the early years when we began, land for growing fodder was allocated only after the cattle had arrived. However, this approach has now been rectified."



There were many mistakes and losses, but it is important to be able to get up after falling. Many kind people gathered around her, preventing the problems and failures in her life from leaving an unprosperous mark, like a stone thrown into the sea. Alia looks at life with joy and discovers wisdom in every day. And so, she fulfills her dream of cattle breeding. Her son Nurlan is a doctor, her daughter Nuria is a teacher, and the youngest, Nurtas, at barely 12 years old, shares his mother's passion for animals. When the three grandchildren see their grandmother, they run to her like chicks with wings. If, at that moment, you could see Aliya's face shining like the sun...

ANDIJAN REGION

FARIDA MAMATISAKOVA

THE ART OF BENEFICIAL USE OF A GREENHOUSE

... We conduct our activities based on innovative concepts in the optimal use of land and water resources to increase profits.





Villagers are naturally active. Once they take on a task, they do not leave it until completion. This is a truly valuable quality. Thanks to them, the gardens flourish, and their plots generate income. From the beginning of spring, they venture into the fields with hoe in hand and work until late autumn, when the cold begins to bite, and in winter, they spend their time at home. Is it easy, you might think? In reality, the word “village” symbolizes greenery, various fruits, vast fields, cows, and calves. This is true, but all this is achieved through hard work and perseverance. Therefore, no matter how much praise we express to skillful cattle breeders and farmers, it will never be enough.

Farida lived in this atmosphere and adhered to this lifestyle. Her father, Mirzakhokim, taught physics to children at school and made efforts to ensure that their yard flourished. Those who saw this felt jealous. On a small family garden, they grew tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, corn, sweet peppers, melons, watermelons, and even strawberries. Even though the harvest was small, since they grew it in two or three beds of each type of crop, it always satisfied the needs of their small family.

In 1988, Farida, the only daughter in the family, married Anvarbek, the fourth of eight children, who was living as a neighbor to her family. In 1990, the newlyweds built their own house and began an independent life. Farida chose her father’s profession and began teaching elementary school students. In her free time, she studied with interest literature on agronomy and innovative ideas that scientists wrote about. She observed how some seedlings, such as tomatoes and cu-

cumbers, were grown in her father's house and then in her father-in-law's house. She wanted to conduct her experiments.

One autumn day, she asked her husband to build a greenhouse. Anvarbek was surprised by this request. When he found out why she needed a greenhouse, he initially refused, saying: "You're already tired while writing your notes, and here turning seeds into seedlings is like caring for a baby, you'll have to stay up all night, keep it warm and keep an eye on everything." But Farida is stubborn and stands her ground: "When I wake up to take care of the child, I will find time for the greenhouse. Just build it, and I'll handle the rest myself." After all, Farida is one of those who persistently achieve their goals, and she still persuaded her husband.

So, a small greenhouse was erected, and the seeds were sown there in December. When January came with its cold days, the seedlings had already sprouted. "Oh, hubby, look, the seed has sprouted," she exclaimed joyfully. The formed seedlings were prepared for sale.



– Indeed, we were a young family then, and our income was barely enough to feed us. “But it suited me,” says Farida Mamatisakova, a resident of the Shakhrikhan district of the Andijan region. “I believed that this was the essence of life. But I always dreamed of earning more and building beautiful houses, providing comfort for my children. When we started growing seedlings and selling them, these dreams gradually began to come true. The monthly income became stable. Sales of seedlings began in late winter and early spring when salaries dried up. The market for seedlings of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, and hot peppers was in great demand.”

Over the years, Farida has accumulated valuable experience in growing seedlings, and now her family has earned the reputation of reliable producers of quality products not only in Shahrikhan but also in Andijan. They began to breed a variety of seedlings, adapted to the characteristics of each district of the region and climatic conditions. Three greenhouses were built for this purpose. For example, they produce drought-resistant, medium-ripening seedlings intended for farms in the Hakan hilly areas of the Andijan district. These



saplings are suitable for planting in open areas of hill slopes and help farmers in production.

At the end of November, to grow seedlings in a greenhouse, first lay a layer of unrotted manure 15–20 cm thick, then evenly distribute the soil 20 cm thick and cover it with plastic film. A mixture consisting of 40% soil, 40% rotted manure, 20% wood, rice husks, or a mixture of sand 8–10 cm thick is placed on top of the film, after which the surface is leveled.

Arches made of willow branches or wire are installed over the beds in which planting has been carried out, then covered with plastic film. To preserve heat, a special 5-layer thermos is created, which is heated by a stove, providing its interior with the necessary warmth. At this time, hot peppers, sweet bell peppers, and tomatoes are sown, then they are moistened and covered with film. In this case, reed or straw mats can also be used on top of the film.

We conduct our activities based on innovative concepts in the optimal use of land and water resources to increase profits," says Farida "That's why we decided to experiment by planting several types of vegetable seeds at the same time in closed areas. Initial results were encouraging, and we switched to this method on an ongoing basis. First, we plant the first shoots in special paper or polyethylene containers filled with local soil and fertilizers to make room for subsequent plantings. For example, if you soak bell pepper seeds in water and then sow them, they will germinate within a month, and sometimes even in less than 40 days. And tomatoes become ready for planting after 10 days with the first method, and if done in the usual way, then after 15 days. Thus, 6,000 seedlings are grown on an area of 2 square meters and they are sold at a price of about 800–1,000 soums each. And thanks to a regular cycle every one and a half to two months, we provide our clients with high-quality seedlings in spring and autumn, delivering them 500–600 thousand copies.

It is important to note that seedlings grown using this method contribute to the efficient use of land. The early harvest becomes available to the market, and the first fruits can be harvested as early as late May – early June, if healthy and strong seedlings are planted. This allows getting the harvest 15–20 days earlier than using the traditional method of planting seedlings.

Farida is not limited to just growing seedlings. About 30 percent of the seedlings remain on the farm itself. Family members carefully monitor agricultural activities, carrying them out on time to ensure an even harvest for seedlings planted in closed areas. As a result, cucumbers planted between rows of tomatoes are already ripening while the tomatoes have not yet reached maturity. In addition, the edges of the greenhouse are used to grow strawberries, carrots, and other necessary crops. A crop rotation system is used, including growing cabbage, potatoes, and garlic as a second crop. By ensuring the consistent ripening of vegetables over five years, it is possible to obtain 4–5 harvests per year, bringing an income of about 300 million soums.

The more crops a landowner receives, the higher his income. However, to achieve this goal, it is necessary that soil quality remains high and the land remains healthy. Unfortunately, the condition of the land is deteriorating due to the continuous cultivation of crops.

According to UN analyses, over the past five years, 40 percent of the earth's soil has lost its fertility. The wrong attitude of people towards the land negatively affects the quality of the soil. Issues such as desertification, land degradation, and drought pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of 1.2 billion people living in more than 100 countries. Soil quality plays an important role in agriculture and fruit and vegetable production.

It has been 10 years since Farida consulted her husband and started an initiative to preserve soil fertility through the efficient use of local fertilizers. This process begins on hot summer days when they take manure from the barn and, if necessary, collect it from neighbors, dry it thoroughly, and then put it in specially dug holes where it begins to rot. Sometimes they add fallen leaves in layers. This fertilizer improves the quality of the soil and promotes a rich harvest, and also reduces the number of weeds. Only this simple method of humus, which is used annually, brings the family up to 10-12 million soums per year.



In addition, a farmer or gardener who has purchased seedlings has the opportunity to sell the harvested crop to Farida. Seedlings are also supplied to farmers in neighboring Namangan and Fergana regions. The obligation to buy back the harvest requires competent preparation of each seedling, starting with high-quality seed.

Of course, such work has its difficulties. For example, from 100 kilograms of well-ripened tomatoes, only 500 grams of seeds are obtained. Incredible, isn't it? Meanwhile, Farida needs 15 kilograms of seeds annually.

"For this, you will need the best, ripe, productive tomatoes," says Farida Mamatisakova "Usually, whole tomatoes are fermented for three days, and then the seeds are removed. We use a new and simpler method. When the tomatoes are fully ripe in June, I cut them in half and carefully remove the seeds. Then I ferment them for three days, after which I strain, rinse with clean water, squeeze through cheesecloth, and separate the seeds. We then dry and store them for winter sowing. This product must be reliable and top-notch. From the tomatoes from which the seeds have been extracted, we prepare tomatoes, as well as compotes and jams."

Farida's youngest son and daughter are continuing their higher education in Korea, and her eldest son works in logistics. They speak Russian, English, and Korean. When children return home from a trip, they bring seeds of high-quality vegetables as a gift to their mother. Of course, these seeds are used for experiments. If the result is acceptable, production will be expanded.

Farida opa masterfully manages every piece of her land, as well as her time. At the same time, she acts as an adviser in the mahalla, helping to disseminate current news among young people and women. She not only shares with them the secrets of effectively using personal plots but also encourages them to do so. Farida completed her higher education at the age of 41 and is currently a primary school teacher. In addition, she regularly organizes reading evenings at the library she founded and gives the best books to the winning students.

During the conversation, Farida shared information about her successful income, which she achieved thanks to the rational use of land. She also clarified that her husband Anvarbek and brother Nozimjon are always there to support her, and that 50 more people work on her farm.

Due to the high income and numerous staff, they imagined Farida as the owner of a large enterprise. However, it turned out that her success depends on three greenhouses measuring 32 by 8 meters, located on only 800 square meters of land. This is the result of innovation, the desire to innovate, and a deep understanding of the essence of processes. The products produced here supply tons of crops and are delivered to people's tables, overflowing the market stalls. Thanks to these efforts, Farida has become one of the most famous entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan. We wish her to always remain healthy and continue her inspiring work!

ANDIJAN REGION

ZIYODA HASANOVA

A WOMAN WHO CREATES BIOPRODUCTS AND HELPS
GROW ORGANIC CROPS



... As a child, our cotton fields were sprayed with pesticides from airplanes. Due to their pungent odors, we suffered and did not know where to run. Fortunately, those days are over.





The topic of a healthy lifestyle and nutrition is often mentioned among the world's population. It contributes to food security and improved food culture. As a result, the demand for easily digestible and healthy products is increasing, putting farmers under the obligation to grow environmentally friendly products.

Where can we find organic products? To achieve this, it is necessary to minimize the use of harmful chemicals in agriculture. The market depends on supply and demand. In recent years, farmers have been abandoning dangerous chemical fertilizers and drugs in the fight against pests and diseases of agricultural crops.

The demand for biological methods is growing every day, and the production of biolabs and biofactories is gradually increasing. If previously there was only one biological laboratory in large districts, now there are dozens of biological laboratories operating in one district. When choosing, farmers, dehkans, and gardeners prefer to buy products that promote crop growth rather than random biolaboratory options.

In the Balikchi district of the Andijan region, five biological laboratories and one biofactory have also been created. One of them is the private biological laboratory "Balikhchilik Ziyoda," headed by Ziyoda Hasanova.

The biological laboratory mainly produces three types of biological products aimed at pest control. These are lacewings (which feed on aphids and spider mites), Comstock mealybugs (which feed on bugs, bollworms, more than 70 arthropods, and small worms) and trichogramma (which feed on corn borer, cabbage moth, bollworm, and a number of other



pests). The lacewing larva in the egg stage destroys up to 100 pests in one day. To combat the cutworm larva, one gram of the norm of this entomophage is released per hectare. Depending on the pest density, 1000 flying adult purebred bracon flies are placed in the field.

The private biological laboratory "Balikchilik Ziyoda," which created 20 stable jobs, entered into an agreement with 35 farms in the district. According to this agreement, biological assistance is provided on areas of 1000 hectares of cotton fields, 800 hectares of grain fields, 8 hectares of gardens, and 10 hectares of melon fields. In other words, they assist in the biological protection of crops. Productivity exceeds the farmers' expectations. That is why these farmers have even forgotten the names of drugs that can poison the land, crops, and those who consume this food.

Thanks to her love, determination, and hard work, Ziyoda Hasanova has achieved significant success in her profession. Born on May 6, 1963, in the Balikchi region, she showed interest in agriculture from childhood. This passion led her to choose her current profession, known as a "plant healer."

Since 1982, Ziyoda has been working in agriculture. She is an agronomist who graduated with honors from the Andijan Institute of Cotton Growing. Over time, her own research, successful scientific tests, accumulated experience, and effective work allowed her to create a unique school. She is a mem-

ber of the Association of Women Scientists. Everything in her house is neat and in order, and she is respected in the mahalla where her role is important.

Together with her husband Abdusamad, she raised three children. After a long day in the field, her seven grandchildren greet her with joy and care, and then she forgets about fatigue. People say that if a rural woman is happy, it means there is such happiness.

“When I was a child, our cotton fields were sprayed with pesticides from airplanes. Due to their pungent odors, we suffered and did not know where to run. Fortunately, those days are over. Perhaps that’s why I decided to fight pests in agriculture using biological methods. In fact, I received an education in accounting, as per my parents’ wishes. I started working as a laboratory assistant in the biological laboratory of the Pobeda collective farm. Later, I continued my correspondence studies at the Andijan Institute of Cotton Growing”.

In 2006, the private biological laboratory “Balikchilik Zi-yoda” was created. Since then, it has been providing organic products to farmers who have entered into an agreement with it. She doesn’t just sell products to her clients for money; she delivers biological products to the client’s farm herself. At the same time, she teaches and provides assistance. During the season, she monitors the results and ensures efficiency.

Last year, 6 million lacewing eggs, 4 million bracon fly eggs, and 5 kilograms of trichogramma were grown in the biological laboratory. These bioproducts were mainly distributed for processing wheat and cotton fields. Biological agents help farmers use biological methods to combat diseases and pests on farms, forestry enterprises, and people’s farmsteads, keeping the crops in good condition.



Believe me, if someone talks to Ziyoda, who has gone from an ordinary laboratory assistant to a scientific supervisor, you can confidently call them half a scientist. Her main passion is books. Ziyoda immerses herself in the world of books every day, discusses her impressions with colleagues, and talks for hours about beneficial insects such as lacewing, trichogramma, and bracon fly, which she raises.

"The biological method occupies a special place in the protection of crops from pests and diseases," says Dr. Makhfuz Yusupova, the chairman of the Association of Women Scientists of the Andijan region, and a Professor of Agricultural Sciences. The number of biolaboratories supplying bioproducts to cotton and grain fields in our region is growing, with a significant contribution coming from the private biological laboratory "Balikchilik Ziyoda," led by Z. Hasanova. This ordinary rural woman, well-versed in the field, produces beneficial insects in a biological laboratory, making a substantial contribution to the production of quality products in the area. Her children, raised in the field camp next to their mother, now follow her example, with her two sons educated in agriculture at the university.

The use of biological methods in agriculture proves to be more beneficial and effective than the use of chemical pesticides. However, the production of biological products faces challenges, especially during periods of cooler weather when the number of beneficial insects in nature decreases. Ziyoda solves this problem by collecting beneficial insects, storing them in a biological laboratory until spring, after which they reproduce.

"If the temperature in the room is not at the required level, this will negatively affect the quality of bioproducts," says Z. Hasanova. "For example, the temperature in the room for breeding lacewings should not exceed 22-25 degrees. If it is hot, the number of male lacewings will increase, and seed reproduction will decrease. It is also important to maintain cleanliness and stock up on food. Our bio-laboratory feeds bio-products with a sufficient amount of barley, sugar, merva (beehive), margarine.

Entering the biological laboratory, you will see a row of shelves and three-liter jars. Lacewing, Bracon, and Trichogramma are produced in such jars for pest control.

To effectively control the spread of pests in the field, installing pheromone traps at the base of the plant and along the edges of furrows is of paramount importance. The number of insects produced depends on the number of butterflies caught in a pheromone trap, which is installed on every two hectares of a cotton field or on every fifty acres of a garden. For example, for 1-2 butterflies, it is recommended to use 1-2 grams of trichogramma and 500-1000 lacewings. Considering that one butterfly is capable of laying up to three thousand eggs, entomophages are distributed throughout the field in accordance with the number of butterflies caught by the pheromone.

To obtain a bountiful harvest, it is recommended to install pheromone traps in the field in the spring, namely in March–April, during the blossoming period of apple trees. This time helps increase productivity. By completing each step in a timely manner, an 80 to 90 percent increase in yield can usually be achieved.

According to Z. Hasanova, in accordance with the agreement concluded with landowners in December of each year, products are supplied to an area of 3 thousand hectares. Future plans include increasing production by 5–6 times. This certainly contributes to the growth of the volume of environmentally friendly products in our country, since this technique is not only environmentally friendly but also economically profitable.

If you think about it, there is a growing demand for organic, environmentally friendly products in the world. The term “organic” means “relating to, yielding, or involving the use of food produced with the use of feed or fertilizer of plant or animal origin without employment of chemically formulated fertilizers.



According to research, consumption of environmentally friendly products helps improve people's health, increase their life expectancy, reduce morbidity levels among the population, and reduce child mortality.

The work of people with such a passionate interest as that of Ziyoda Hasanova, head of the private biological laboratory "Balikchilik Ziyoda," in creating the organic products described above represents a significant contribution to the development of our country.

BUKHARA REGION

TUTIGIL MAJIDOVA

A GARDENER WITH A DREAM OF INSTILLING RESPECT
FOR WATER AND A LOVE OF NATURE IN CHILDREN

...As the urgency of addressing climate change grows each year, it is imperative to implement measures that safeguard the environment and mitigate the risk of crop destruction.





The fig tree, often referred to as the “fruit of heaven,” has seen a remarkable increase in exports from Uzbekistan. From June to September 2022, 7.2 thousand tons of high-quality figs were exported, totaling \$1.9 million – an impressive historical record with a sevenfold increase in the last five years.

However, the recent abnormal cold struck a blow to pomegranate, fig, grape, and other fruit trees, affecting their open-field growth. Many farmers, accustomed to consistent warm weather in previous years, did not anticipate such climate changes and failed to take necessary precautions.

Because only a limited number of people could successfully preserve the harvest, figs became an exceptionally scarce fruit in the market. However, in regions where pomegranate and fig trees, susceptible to cold, were annually covered with reeds and earth during winter and uncovered in early spring, these trees continued to flourish.



Tutigul Majidova from the Azizon mahalla in the village of Kurgan, Romiton district, Bukhara region, emphasizes the increasing criticality of climate change, necessitating measures to protect crops. Drawing on traditional practices, Tutigul explains that they bury fig trees every year in their region. Fig bushes are bent in a row, laid on the ground, and covered with straw or reeds. Soft, moist soil is then applied, creating a “cushion” to prevent excessive bending of the trunk and branches. In early April, after spring frosts have passed, they open the fig bushes, removing damaged branches and ensuring proper support. The timing of this process is crucial for a high fig yield.

In Uzbekistan, figs are harvested twice a year. The first, known as the “summer” harvest, occurs in June–July, contributing only 2% to the total harvest. The second harvest ripens in August–September, making up the remaining 98%.

Figs are harvested every 4–5 days, with a single fruiting bush capable of producing 40–45 kilograms of fruit. While continuous growth occurs in the southern regions, the northern regions often face challenges due to the early onset of autumn, leading to the risk of frost-damaged crops.

“Since time immemorial, our ancestors have possessed the skills to cultivate figs and pomegranates,” mentioned Sadridin Ismatov, chairman of the citizens’ meeting of the Azizon mahalla, confirming Tutigul. “This light yellow or inky fruit stands out among others for its rich content of beneficial elements. They say that figs bring health, beauty, and youth to a person. Even now, in the homes of many of our neighbors, there is a culture of growing figs and pomegranates. The driver in our area also specializes in growing these fruits. Figs are harvested in early summer, and pomegranates in late autumn. Mostly, the women of our village do gardening, as well as growing figs and pomegranates. Tutigul has also achieved unique success in this matter.”

Each region of Uzbekistan boasts its own unique fruits. For example, Kuva pomegranates, Torakurgan cherries, Khorezm melons, and Parkent grapes are especially popular, while figs and pomegranates have become the unique "calling card" of the village of Kurgan.

Living in a village and tending to fruit-bearing gardens is no easy task. However, it is important to highly appreciate the dedication of people, especially those like Tutigul Majidova, who are accustomed to working from early morning until late evening, growing selected figs and pomegranates.

Previously, taking care of the garden was the responsibility of her husband, and Tutigul only had enough time for household chores. A woman is always busy with housework – raising children, washing clothes, cooking, etc. However, unexpected grief befell the family – her husband suddenly passed away. The garden remained abandoned, and for Tutigul, it was a heavy blow. Often, she was left alone, not wanting to listen to the advice of loved ones who suggested that she talk about life's worries. Time seemed to stand still; the clock did not move. But she did not notice how day gave way to night, and night to day. One day, as she sat staring at one point, she heard her lonely daughter cry: "Mom, wake up, the trees planted by my father are suffering without water and love. Let's take care of them. My father is watching from the sky, wake up, don't sleep." These words sounded as if her daughter's father was sending her a message. It touched her soul. She felt rested, as if she had woken up from a long sleep. The most touching words for her were the words "the trees planted by my father suffer without water and love."

"It seemed to me that I was watering figs and pomegranates with my bitter tears, the leaves of which had turned yellow and were waiting for salvation," says T. Majidova. "Figs and pomegranates helped me calm down and feel that life



is wonderful. I entrusted my sorrows to the trees my husband touched: his breath, his steps, his hands. From my experience, I have learned that the burden of loneliness can be heavy. This garden, which witnessed my tears and listened to my pain, is very dear to me. I spend time in the garden, among the plants."

Tutigul Majidova tends to her garden throughout all four seasons. In early spring, she shapes trees, and in the summer, she harvests delicious fruits, bringing in a good income this year.

"In fact, I learned gardening from my mother and mother-in-law," says T. Majidova. "I see the benefits of what I learned in my youth. It turns out that constant gardening turns you into a 'professor' of trees. Trust me when I say that our work is closely related to science and technology. For example, to get a good fruit harvest, we thin out tree branches on time and correctly. We leave branches with large species. Although there are a lot of fruits on the branch, we discard the more fragile ones. We have 50 fig trees in our garden, and we renew them every 7 years. Throughout the season, we can collect up to 40 kilograms from each of the 50 fig trees. We sell each kilogram for approximately 5-10 thousand soums. Our income corresponds to such a harvest. You see, I didn't learn all this at the university; I saw it and put it into practice at the "university" of my mother and mother-in-law."

The family's income isn't limited to figs. A pomegranate garden has been developed on an area of 5000 square meters. After harvesting figs, it's time for pomegranates. This garden also requires attention. Pomegranate seedlings, like figs, are buried in the ground to protect them from the cold, and the ripening fruits are wrapped in paper to prevent overheating in hot weather. Winters in Bukhara are dry and frosty, and summers are hot and dry, presenting difficulties in achieving a high yield from each pomegranate bush, where the average yield is 35-40 kg of fruit. Following agrotechnical rules, such as placing 50-60 kg of humus under each tree every 2-3 years, ensures a positive effect on yield.

The fruit harvest can be changeable – one year is rich, and another is modest. In Tutigul's case, this season brought a good harvest of figs, and the pomegranate branches are also bending from the abundance of fruit. However, this year figs and pomegranates have become scarce on the market due to cold weather in many regions.

Tutigul knows the secrets of preserving pomegranate fruits until spring, and even until May. One local method involves stacking pomegranates in sawdust: whole and sorted pomegranates are placed in boxes covered with sawdust between each row. Paper is spread on the inside of the box, the edges are closed, and everything is sealed at the top. This method helps prevent the transfer of rot from one fruit to another.

Sometimes, looking at the area that has dried up due to a lack of water, Tutigul's heart hurts. She puts effort into using every drop of water carefully. The problem of fresh water shortage is not new for Uzbekistan, especially for Bukhara. The daily programs of the future kindergarten will include various activities on this topic.



Indeed, the villagers, who wake up with the sun and see it off to sleep, have always deserved our recognition for their hard work, simplicity, and innocence. When I said good-bye to Tutigul Mezhidova, a selfless entrepreneur, a 'professor' of her business, and set off for the capital, the song "Come to our village at least once..." was heard on the car radio. It's as if this song was sung by the skilled entrepreneurs we met today.

While listening to a song close to my heart, my heart filled with longing for the memories of my innocent childhood, about my charming, beautiful native village. The bright image of sincere and simple rural people who, enjoying the delights of fresh gardens, leaning on their hoe, stood and estimated their income, was once again vivid in my eyes. After all, life is beautiful because there are people with such innocent, kind souls.

JIZZAKH REGION

ZARIFA ABDUGANIEVA

CONDUCTED ELECTRICITY AND WATER
TO THE STEPPE FOR MELON CULTIVATION





Forish district, the most remote in the Jizzakh region, has made significant strides in livestock breeding, witnessing ongoing agricultural progress, plateau development, and a growing number of entrepreneurs. Zarifa, an active and passionate entrepreneur, is gaining increasing recognition.

"It's said that to understand a country's prosperity, visit the market," notes Zarifa Abduganieva, the head of the private enterprise "Yuksak qoyalar" ("High Peaks") in Forish district. "When you stroll through our markets today, you'll encounter a diverse array of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products adorning the shelves. The magnificence of watermelons, especially the sweet sugar melons, is beyond words – their slices practically burst with flavor on your tongue. We also contribute to filling the markets with the scent of summer, creating their unique aroma. Many years have passed since our ancestors cultivated renowned varieties of melons and watermelons. During the era of the cotton monopoly, attention to this area waned, leading to the disappearance of several varieties. Today, thanks to efforts to create food reserves, we're actively involved in preserving and reviving our traditions.

In the spring of 2017, the private enterprise "Yuksak qoyalar," founded by the industrious woman Zarifa Abduganieva, successfully advanced in its development, now owning 400 hectares of land. The fact that Zarifa, as a woman, manages such an extensive tract of land situated in the hills is a noteworthy achievement in itself. Working under these conditions presents its own challenges, demanding strong will and patience to overcome them.

Undeterred by these challenges, Zarifa embarked on a venture that no one had considered six years ago – a remarkable “project,” in contemporary terms. On 5 hectares of abandoned and arid hilly land, she planted legumes like beans, mung beans, peas, and began farming. Witnessing these areas today is a delight to the eyes. A field surrounded by rocks and hills seems miraculous, a testament to the dedication of a woman who created it with her own hands.

In reality, after completing high school, she pursued accounting studies in college. Her aspiration was to become a proficient economist and contribute to the country’s future. However, fate took a different turn. Marriage followed, and soon children arrived one after another. Consequently, she worked at the regional employment assistance center for several years.

Yet, a person filled with passion cannot remain passive. The motivation to create and discover drives them to action. Such was the case with Zarifa. To enhance the family’s financial situation and raise healthy, intelligent children, she recognized the need to take action. She didn’t believe in sitting idly by and was particularly passionate about entrepreneurship. Consequently, after consulting with her husband, she decided to venture into farming. When she expressed her desire to become a farmer, the authorities questioned her capability as a woman. Undeterred, Zarifa declared, “I will justify your trust.”

“In the first year, we cultivated beets, peas, and tomatoes on five hectares of land, achieving good income,” shares





Zarifa Abduganieva. "By the third year, we faced a land shortage for sowing. We addressed this by acquiring another 135 hectares. To irrigate 70 hectares, we drilled an artesian well and supplied water using motor pumps. Despite the need for electricity for field irrigation equipment, we installed a transformer. We managed to set up a power line from the Uchkuvat mine near our farmland.

While our primary income source was tending to tomatoes, beets, melons, and watermelons, we didn't neglect the field edges, cultivating legumes, which also contributed to the family's financial security."

Farming is a challenging endeavor, contrary to popular belief. Many think that sowing seeds is sufficient for a successful harvest, but those involved in farming understand its complexity. Scientific decisions are crucial, considering whether the soil is suitable for the seeds and if the plants will thrive. Conditions fluctuate yearly, with the fate of the crop affected by climate shifts, while profits and losses hinge on market dynamics.

For instance, last year, tomatoes were sold for 6,500 soums per kilogram, whereas this year, the wholesale price started at 800 soums. Notably, a farmer in Samarkand who bought 14 tons of tomatoes for 11 million soums might seem profitable, but with fluctuating prices, the situation can change rapidly. Prices are volatile, and one year may bring small income, but the next could yield substantial profits. Therefore, those leaving the profession with thoughts like “I won’t do this anymore” might be making a significant mistake. Zarifa, with her deep understanding of agriculture, remains optimistic about the prospects of her endeavors, setting high goals.

It’s worth noting that 15 women from the mahalla are employed on this farm, a commendable feat. Considering the state’s support for entrepreneurs creating at least two jobs, this venture sustains the lives of 15 families. Taking into account the electricity costs for watering the seedlings and fields, the profit left for the farmer is relatively modest, covering this year’s expenses with a harvest of about 80 tons of tomatoes.

Interestingly, last year, melons and watermelons were sold at low prices, but this year, the scenario is reversed. Anticipating low income from tomatoes, the farmer shifts focus to potential earnings from melons and watermelons. Experiences from the previous season, successfully exporting melons to neighboring countries, are planned to be leveraged this year.

“We invested 350 million soums in this year’s harvest, with 150 million soums returned so far,” shares the farmer. “Our crops include late melons, beans, sunflowers, and sesame. The success of the harvest relies on favorable weather conditions and the absence of incurable diseases. In such case, In this case, we can hope to buy one car for a year’s profit. While

the income may not meet our expectations, I remain undeterred. I always strive to innovate and create something new. The deeper you delve into the science of this field, the more earning opportunities emerge."

At the start of the season, melons and watermelons are sold by weight in kilograms at a price of approximately 8-10 thousand soums per kilogram. The main profit is generated when the weight of one melon is at least 8 kilograms. However, as market supply increases, prices decrease, leading to a surplus of goods. Subsequently, individual melons are sold, and even with a cost of 10 thousand soums per melon, the scale of sales can be extensive, reaching thousands or even tens of thousands of units. Even with a melon price of 10 thousand soums per kilogram, the farmer contends with various costs, encompassing seed purchase, fertilizers, equipment payment, labor, and electricity for water production. In the scorching weather on mountain slopes, constant field watering is imperative to prevent crops from drying out, necessitating the continuous use of water pumps. Preliminary estimates indicate that water costs this year will reach 80 million soums, prompting Zarifa to envy farmers with fields next to running water, avoiding expenses on irrigation.

Zarifa emphasizes the direct dependence of agricultural crop development on water supply. For instance, allocating two hectares for planting beans resulted in a bountiful harvest of about two tons this year, largely attributed to a good water supply. However, saving on water in the following year yielded only 800 kilograms of harvest per hectare. Similar challenges are encountered with beans, where growing red beans suitable for storage and export is hindered by the unsuitable climate. Beans demand fertile soil, struggling in saline, thin, acidic, or light sandy soils.

Cultivating crops on hills and achieving a good harvest is no easy feat. These lands aren't conducive to growing winter grains and many other crops, with a limited planting window of 4-5 months due to the climate. This period of time should be used effectively. The last crop is harvested in the middle of October.

With the poor soil quality, the land needs a rest period every two years, and new fields must be created for crops. Consequently, the farmer cannot cultivate all 400 hectares simultaneously, practicing alternating planting to allow the land to rest.

Growing tomatoes and melons require meticulous attention, as even one infected tomato can quickly spread disease. Diseases often manifest on the leaves, necessitating immediate lab analysis and subsequent actions based on the results. Otherwise, one day solved a lot of things. This situation is more difficult in the Jizzakh region. Due to minor missteps during the first two years, Zarifa faced challenges, leading to reduced produce reaching the market due to pest infestation.

Every person learns from their losses. Zarifa has now found her direction and can effectively navigate the challenges of cause and effect. Sometimes, all it takes is a little push to inspire a person.

"When Zarifa suggested starting to grow crops, I already had my own business," says Shohrukh Jumanov. "Initially, I couldn't imagine that she could turn a profit by farming in the barren foothills. However, through her determination and hard work, my wife pursued this venture independently for two years, considering the limited area of land."

As the land area increased, I noticed it became challenging for her to manage the farm. The closure of markets during the pandemic posed difficulties in selling and deliver-

ing products. Before this, she secured a preferential loan of 350 million soums from a bank, and who could have foreseen the onset of a pandemic? Closed roads became a barrier to sales. Despite the challenges, she didn't give up. Witnessing her perseverance, I halted my entrepreneurial activities and promptly assisted her in fieldwork.

Despite her young age, Zarifa plans to engage in live-stock farming, with the construction of a farm underway. The construction of a 5-hectare farm recently commenced, and the foundation is already in place. The energetic farmer aims to focus on poultry farming, particularly chicken breeding.

Zarifa remarks, "We have extensive land that we can't fully cultivate. However, our climate is conducive to livestock farming and growing feed. We can harvest a significant amount of food even between plantings. Since cultivating organic produce involves using local fertilizers, we aim for greater efficiency. With an increase in livestock, we can produce our own local fertilizers, and the funds previously spent on mineral fertilizers will stay with us. This will enhance land productivity, and the potential for a bountiful organic harvest with subsequent export will lead to a corresponding increase in income.

Zarifa, who carefully considers each step, has installed solar panels in her home as an experiment. If the results are positive, she plans to use alternative energy to improve the irrigation system on her fields in the future.

The "Yuksak qoyalar" Company turn blue year after year, day after day. Zarifa Abduganieva's daring business venture has brought abundance to our markets and a good income for her. This is already a source of joy, but the most significant happiness is that she is considered "our entrepreneur daughter," and the elderly offer prayers for her success, saying, "May our daughter Zarifa have good fortune." A selfless and passionate businesswoman has received the blessing of



the people. It's no wonder they say that "people grow from prayers, and the earth turns green from rain."

"My grandchildren will work here in the future," she says, pointing to the vast expanse.

Zarifa's plans are ambitious, and her intentions are noble. There is no doubt that these intentions will empower our efforts to create a New Uzbekistan.

KASHKADARYA REGION

NODIRA BERDIEVA

MAY YOUR DREAMS BE YOUR FAITHFUL
COMPANION, NODIRA!



*... The truth I realized:
love the earth like your
child.*





Understanding Nodira Berdieva's life journey, leading the Khusainov Normurod farm in the Mubarak district of the Kashkadarya region, confirmed that fate sometimes guides a person along unexpected paths. However, the happiness and beauty of the destination are closely tied to qualities like hard work, enterprise, and humanity.

A person with good qualities always aspires to excellence and earns the respect of others. The key is that people believe in them and turn to them for support at crucial moments. Dedication to good deeds brings many blessings. After all, isn't a person brought into this world for a purpose? Great statesman Alisher Navoiy once said, "When your passion serves as a cradle for the people, remember that passion will become a bridge for you."

In 2014, a pivotal moment unfolded during grain sowing when the head of the farm enterprise passed away suddenly. Neither his married daughter nor his son, residing in the capital, expressed any interest in continuing their father's work, unprepared for the responsibilities of field duties, given their chosen professions.

This is when Nodira, who had previously worked in accounting on the farm and studied the principles of agriculture, assumed the role of managing the farm.

With remarkable enthusiasm, she diligently sowed grain on 98 hectares of land in just 10 days.

"I spent my childhood and youth in the city," says Nodira. "City dwellers live in a clean environment; the streets are watered every day, so they are always neat. When I became a farm manager, I had to adapt to rural conditions, life in the fields, and get used to the dust, although it was not easy."

But let's set that aside. What about the capital required to grow any business? There were times when I sold my jewelry to fund farm equipment and used every month's salary, collected in small increments, to plant crops. Despite the sand dunes and difficulties created by hot wind interfering with our work, we, along with 53 employees of our farm, overcome all challenges. The main thing is that we were fortunate, and our efforts paid off with income.

To add to Nodira's words, today's prices favor the farmer who once toiled in the fields growing cotton but did not receive a stable income. The price of cotton, which was sold for several years at 2 thousand soums per kilogram, has now reached 10 thousand soums.





Nodira Berdieva attributes her role as one of the active women and leading farmers in not just the Kashkadarya region but the entire country to the attention she paid to her father's advice.

"I followed my father's advice, and I never had a single bad experience," she says. "To earn respect in my chosen profession, I worked tirelessly and honestly. The truth I realized is that you need to treat the earth as your own child; it's the only way to achieve the desired result. I don't aim to accumulate great wealth; instead, I invest the money I earn in those around me. At our farm, honesty, connection with the land, and mutual understanding are our core principles, embraced by everyone from ordinary workers to me as a leader. I can't stand laziness and dependency because I believe that income and outstanding results are achieved through hard and honest work."

Nodira instills a strong work ethic in her children from an early age. Her children, especially those who joined her in the field, essentially grew up in the field camp. Munisa, her second

child, was born in the spring, a season filled with fieldwork, leaving no room for idleness.

Recalling the birth of her eldest daughter, Nodira mentions that they initially lived in a comfortable multi-story building in the city center. However, the child often suffered from colds. The subsequent two children grew up on the field, accompanying their mother through winter cold and summer heat, but they grew up physically healthy. Nodira attributes this to their upbringing in the fresh air of the fields, exposure to natural sunlight, and consumption of milk and yogurt. Her children never fell ill or needed a doctor.

As the fourth of seven children in her father's house, Nodira was well aware of her rights from a young age. She actively sought encouragement from her parents for every effort and work she put in. Using the money she earned, she bought necessary school supplies like books, notebooks, and pencils.

Nasiba, her older sister, was involved in crafts, particularly gold embroidery. Nodira, assisting her sister in this business, eventually mastered the craft herself. In a way, these early experiences marked the beginning of entrepreneurial activity in Nodira's life.

In the Mubarak district of the Kashkadarya region, where multi-storey buildings are abundant, Nodira Berdieva is not only actively engaged in farming but also runs a business. Her private enterprise specializes in the collection of household waste, contributing to maintaining a clean environment. The company plays a crucial role in cleaning various areas, including residential areas, streets, squares, banks of reservoirs, bridges, underground passages, sidewalks, parks, avenues, public gardens, and undeveloped areas.

In 2020, Nodira Berdieva established the "Chimyon-express," limited liability company creating approximately 50



jobs. The company employs numerous vehicles to fulfill garbage removal agreements with the local population. During autumn, the company's workers collect leaves from ditches, asphalt, and lawns.

Nodira emphasizes that the collected leaves are sent to compost bins. After partially separating household waste from the leaves, the mixture is placed in pits and covered with a layer of earth. Over the course of a year, the pit is filled, and the mass transforms into ready-made vermicompost.

Vermicompost, employed to enhance crop productivity, plays a crucial role in enhancing the fertility of agricultural lands, particularly in gardens where new seedlings are sown.

A discerning woman committed to cultivating top-notch, eco-friendly fruits comprehends the significance of vermicompost. On one hand, it could serve as a genuine tonic for crops and the soil, particularly in areas affected by hot winds.

She is negotiating with Chinese businessmen to acquire waste sorting technology, aiming to establish a safe system for collecting, sorting, processing, and disposing of organic, construction, and medical waste.

Of course, if you add local fertilizer to the leaves, the soil will gain real strength. Nodira's forward-thinking approach extends to the development of the livestock industry. The construction of a modern warehouse on one side of the 300-hectare field is nearly complete.

The farm plans to import 50 head of purebred cattle for fattening. This initiative will produce livestock feed by releasing water into the dry lands of the Mubarak region, contributing significantly to environmental improvement and ecology. Beyond these environmental efforts, Nodira actively participates in planting fruit tree seedlings in furrows and ditches around the fields. The annual total of planted seedlings reaches an impressive 10,000, showcasing her dedication to green initiatives and environmental protection.

The question arises: Why, over the past 10 years, did Nodira not seize the opportunity to cultivate vermicompost, utilize drip irrigation technology, and establish a garden? Were all her efforts, enthusiasm, and aspirations solely focused on cotton and grain production?

There are answers to these questions. For a woman who had never used a hoe before and suddenly took on the responsibility of agricultural activities, it was challenging to immediately implement large projects and achieve significant profits. Each crop requires specific agricultural technology and has its own timing. Simply put, there is a time for everything.

During that period, Nodira had no idea that in field-work relying on risk, unforeseen circumstances related to the harvest awaited her. In the initial years of her activity, plans

for cotton and grain were not fulfilled for several consecutive years. Failure to meet the plan meant a loss for the farm. Without profit, there was no room for dreams and desires.

Towards the end of our conversation, Nodira Berdieva shared another successful plan: installing a drip irrigation system in her newly planted vineyards.

It remains to be added that a hardworking woman farmer, who has achieved significant success in her work, provided employment to dozens of people, and never stops creating, deserves success in everything she undertakes. May flowers bloom along the path of your efforts.

We believe that this ambitious woman will one day achieve all her dreams, and we are confident in it.

May your dreams always be your companions, Nodira!



KASHKADARYA REGION

DILAFRUZ JURAEVA

WHEN A WOMAN'S RESOLUTE SPIRIT
ENCOUNTERS HER BRAVERY

*... Youth is a time of innocence,
and reminiscing about it often
invokes a desire to revisit those
days, though time's current
flows only forward.*





It's incorrect to assume water is an inexhaustible source of good while refusing to recognize its limitations," notes Dilafruz Juraeva, chairwoman of the Kularik Sari Yul farm in the Kasbi district of the Kashkardarya region.

Youth is a time of innocence. and reminiscing about it often invokes a desire to revisit those days, though time's current flows only forward.

However, such a return is impossible. Life, akin to a flowing river, moves swiftly. Despite the fond memories lingering in one's mind, the tie to the unique moments of youth endures. Grateful for everything that exists. Interestingly, as a child, I was a daring girl unafraid of hard work. Vast fields and open spaces became my refuge. Surprisingly, I had no inkling that these fields would one day become my hometown. Today, I can't envision my life without them because it's here that I discovered my happiness. These fields are where my dreams, hopes, and goals were conceived and realized."

In my teenage years, picking cotton with classmates was a common activity. I distinctly remember riding my father's horse, marveling at my own courage. In our family of



eight children – 6 girls and 2 boys – our parents raised us impeccably. While others picked cotton, I expressed interest in field work, sought permission from my father, and, with his approval, joined them. Field work, plowing, and watching the cotton grow fascinated me more than attending weddings. The light breeze and rustling grass captured my attention, shaping my interests into destiny, leading me to find happiness.

In 1995, my father-in-law, recognizing my affinity for the land, offered me a position as he saw my harmonious interaction with both the land and labor. As a bride, I yearned to be in the field and breathe in the fresh air. My father-in-law shared the secrets of successful work in the steppe, taught me how to motivate workers, and soon entrusted me with responsibilities, working shoulder to shoulder with my husband.

During that period, the Kularik Sari Yul farm, now under my management, spanned 16 hectares. However, we successfully cultivated the land, bringing prosperity to our livelihood through agriculture. Consequently, I sought ways to increase yields by embracing innovation and incorporating new technologies, especially considering the perennial water shortage faced by farmers. Back then, seeing farmers flood cotton fields and release water into ditches, I expressed disagreement. "Every drop of water is gold. If wasted now, shortages will follow in the future," I boldly declared. Water use requires responsibility, and I irrigated more fields using less water, recognizing its inherent value. Today, some farmers acknowledge, "Dilafruz, you were visionary. Water scarcity has become a global problem."

Always seeking innovation, I plan to introduce new approaches in agriculture. Testing these methods in my fields, I confidently expect positive results. While our sunny land faces water scarcity, most resources are allocated to agriculture. Ef-



fectively using this valuable resource becomes crucial. Hence, with water-saving equipment and new technologies, we aim to increase productivity and save water significantly in our fields.

Last year, we implemented drip irrigation technology on 20 hectares of our land, and it has proven to be highly effective, leading to significant water savings of 40-45% per hectare and boosting yields by 15-20 quintals. I personally tested this method on my farm.

To ensure a continuous water supply for the drip irrigation system, we drilled an artesian well at the edge of our field. Additionally, we have plans to extend drip irrigation technology to our hard-to-reach fields and install solar panels in our field shed.

I emphasize the impact of global warming on melting snow in the mountains, causing water shortages during summer. I urge for the efficient use of water resources, highlighting that 80% of our water is sourced from abroad. I also bring attention to the fact that the Amu Darya's water originates in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, where glaciers have lost 30% of their volume due to global warming. Many farms have already switched to drip irrigation, and while I can't be certain my explanations influenced this shift, it's encouraging.

Every field comes with its unique challenges, but with patience, perseverance, and endurance, difficulties can be overcome. My accomplishments during these days were not achieved without hard work. There were times when authorities attempted to take away my land, and our crops faced moisture deficiency due to changing climatic conditions and sudden warming. In challenging situations, loyal supporters are rare. When the cold threatened the seeds we planted, I didn't contemplate retreating; instead, I stood my ground. I engaged in a dialogue with my fields, expressing genuine concern for them. Through patience and overcoming various obstacles, I came to the realization that a person who strives will undoubtedly achieve success. It's not without reason that they say, "Whoever strives, it is given to him."

I distinctly felt that success follows hard work when I was granted the opportunity to meet with the President and engage in a conversation with him. This unexpected encounter marked a significant event for me. With excitement, I shared the details of our farm's activities, along with my dreams and plans for the future, with the country's leader. I am aware that not everyone is fortunate enough to experience such happiness. As a rural woman who toiled in the fields and discovered her place in agriculture, I consider it a privilege.

Currently, the size of our farm has expanded to 100 hectares, specializing in the production of cotton, grain, and livestock. Livestock products are cultivated on 10 hectares of land, where we tend to cattle and also house 5 Korabayir horses. One of these horses holds particular sentimental value to me, as it was a gift from my father to my daughter. Our horses, named Kuyun and Tufon, display intelligence and excellence in every aspect.

A decade or so ago, predictions were made to me: "Dilafruz, over time you will have 100 hectares of land at your dis-



posal. You will lead a team of 10-13 people. You will become a mentor for 80 girls and will drive a modern car." Back then, I found it hard to believe, considering it a fairy tale. Achieving this level seemed akin to digging a well with a needle for an ordinary rural woman.

Though it might sound immodest, I can affirm that I have now become one of the renowned farmers, not just in the Kasbi region but also in the Kashkadarya region. Our income has steadily increased year after year due to timely field and agrotechnical work. Over time, we acquired Matiz, Damas, Cobalt cars, and a Belarus tractor. For a farmer, technology serves as their wings, and I comprehend this truth in the course of my work. The technology we employ demonstrates its effectiveness by contributing to increased productivity.

Honestly, I can't envision my life without open spaces and land. With the onset of early spring, I eagerly relocate to my two-room field house, eager to commence my work as swiftly as possible. Despite the absence of a university edu-

cation, I strive to find my place in society. My endeavors are dedicated to providing my children with a university education. Nevertheless, the thought of halting never crosses my mind. To keep pace with the times, staying informed about all the events unfolding in life is crucial.

Specifically, global economic challenges, climate fluctuations, and extreme weather conditions can be surmounted through innovation and human intelligence. The modern farmer is required to be a researcher, climate scientist, economist, and innovator. The challenges that life presents us with carry significant responsibility for the farmer. I am consistently prepared to shoulder this responsibility, contribute to creating a future for our beloved country, and play a part in the development of the New Uzbekistan.



NAVOIY REGION

NILUFAR NURIDDINOVA

THE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT WATER FROM THE GROUND
AND TRANSFORMED THE STEPPE INTO A GARDEN

...If a person wants, he can turn the desert into a fruit garden, and ruins into a flower garden; our activities are an example of this.





Every day, as Nilufar and Orifjon returned from the rugged hills, thoughts of creating a garden in those empty spaces and making them greener occupied their minds. However, it wasn't just about planting heat-resistant seedlings; the challenge also involved bringing water to the area that used to be pasture. Life and imagination, as it turns out, are two different realms. Whatever the soul desires, if only it could be realized. Various conflicting thoughts spun in their brains; their eyes were timid, and their hands felt weak. The notion that a beautiful garden could thrive in these places haunted them. Yet, the hard work and invested money of Nilufar and Orifjon were not in vain. Life reached the hills, and the first shoots of the garden bloomed. After countless efforts,



a pond was dug, and a well-tended garden emerged. Nilufar Nuriddinova, the head of the Behisht Olma Uzumlari farm in the Kuchchi mahalla of the Khatirchi district in the Navoi region, is this courageous woman who fears no hard work and is the mother of three children. Alongside her husband, Orifjon Suyarov, they successfully raised their children and created a beautiful garden surrounded by hills.

Their eldest child, Sadokat, graduated successfully from the University of World Languages, and next child, Marufjon, is currently a 5th-year student at Samarkand Medical University. The youngest in the family, Aziza, is in the 6th grade.

"If a person wants, he can turn the desert into a fruit garden, and ruins into a flower garden; our activities are an example of this," says Nilufar Nuriddinova, the head of the Behisht Olma Uzumlari farm. In 2017, we acquired 10 hectares of land on a hill 12 kilometers from our village and started gardening. Three hectares are dedicated to viticulture. During the garden setup, there were skeptics who said, "You are wasting money in vain; you won't achieve the expected income from this place." Like the fingers of a hand, not everyone shared the same opinion, some people supported us. If you see the apple, peach, and quince seedlings planted in our garden, your eyes will gleam with happiness. We have planted the "Giant" and "Black kishmish" grape varieties on our three hectares of land, and next year we will begin harvesting. Besides viticulture, we are also involved in raisin production. From 3 kilograms of grapes, you get 1 kilogram of raisins. On average, you can obtain 1 ton of sweet raisins from 3 tons of grapes. In essence, you can prosper by selling raisins; you just need to choose the right grape variety.

These hills, once used for grazing, have now transformed into orchards that bring joy to the eyes. Nilufar, inspired by the proverb "A good man leaves a garden," is happy that she and

her husband adorned this abandoned place, creating a garden that delights the eyes and warms the heart. The sight of fruit trees and greenery in the garden fills the heart with joy. Interestingly, the “Black kishmish” and “giant” varieties were propagated through grafting. The “Husayni” variety is moisture-resistant, while the “Black kishmish” and “Giant” varieties are heat-resistant. Notably, the garden is irrigated using drip irrigation technology from China.

“Despite the coldness of underground water for trees, it can both cool them and lead to the drying out of roots,” explains Nilufar Nuriddinova. “In the hills, temperatures often exceed 50 degrees, and the ground warms up. Previously, we watered the vines with underground water, causing frost and drying out of the trees. This experience taught us, and now we pump out the water, soften it with sunlight, enrich it with minerals, and then water the garden. In 2022, we introduced a drip irrigation system in our 10-hectare garden. This year, our vineyard was expected to yield a harvest, but April frosts damaged the flowers and fruits. But because we sheltered the vine for the winter, we managed to avoid frosts and harvested part of the crop. Next year, we anticipate an even richer harvest. Our efforts are primarily aimed at creating and enjoying a beautiful garden, not just maximizing income. The beauty of the garden, fresh air, and clean water fill us with joy.

Building a garden on a hill far from the village is challenging, and protecting this green area from the vagaries of



nature and livestock is equally challenging. Many are aware that spring floods and rains can lead to mountain floods, washing away crops on the hills. To preserve and protect garden trees from such situations, the local protection method is employed. This is a convenient and inexpensive approach where the perimeter of a 10-hectare garden is dug up two meters deep and one meter wide using an excavator. The resulting soil is thrown towards the garden, creating a hill, and trees are planted. It's a relatively cheap but very useful way to protect the garden from livestock and floodwaters. If the land in such an area is fenced with wire and filled with bars, it would cost 100 million soums and more labor. All that's needed is 3.5 million soums and two hours of excavator time.

It's not by chance that they say, "Livestock farming takes one year, agriculture takes ten." For nearly seven years now, many have admired the activities of the Behisht Olma Uzumlari farm, which has transformed hillsides into a beautiful garden, planting tree seedlings that can withstand mountain cold. The adoption of drip irrigation technology marks a crucial step in conserving water and enhancing tree productivity.

"Farming is a test of human patience," shares Nilufar. Her husband serves as her close assistant and advisor during challenges. On many occasions, when setbacks and financial strains arose, and thoughts of giving up on the garden surfaced, he offered encouragement, saying, "Don't say that. This year might not have been great, but next year, there'll be a bountiful harvest. Creating a garden isn't easy; it requires a lot of effort." He remains optimistic about exporting their products, believing that even foreigners will fall in love with the grapes ripening in their garden. Nilufar herself favors the Husayni grapes, and the "Giant" grapes are thriving. Another 3 hectares of uneven land were leveled for 70 million soums, and they began cultivating over 4,000 varieties of "Giant" grapes.



In recent years, Uzbekistan has made significant strides in viticulture, creating new varieties, expanding exports, and cultivating technical grape varieties. Dynamic women like Nilufar play a pivotal role in these achievements.

In essence, while our tables are consistently graced with sweet grapes and fruits, ongoing efforts are directed toward sales, export, processing, and the production of finished products. Reforms are underway to intensify work in this direction further. Currently, Uzbekistan boasts 182.1 thousand hectares (107 thousand productive) of vineyards. Plans for this year include growing 2 million tons of grapes, with 298.6 million tons earmarked for export, contributing to the export of high-value products. From 2021 to 2023, 88.3 thousand hectares were developed, including 14.4 thousand hectares of new vineyards added in 2023. Intensive efforts persist in creating another 28 thousand hectares of vineyards by the year's end.



Despite the demanding nature of the work, farmers labor in the vineyards from early spring to late autumn. The processes, ranging from tending to the vines, watering, fertilizing, pruning, harvesting ripe grapes, sorting raisins, sun-drying raisins, and ultimately cleaning, pruning the vines after harvest, and gradually burying them in the fall, continue intensively each year. This demonstrates the hardworking nature of our people, always ready to contribute to the prosperity of the country.

Cultivating grapes and turning them into raisins is no easy feat. It's heartening that more artisans like Nilufar are unafraid of the challenges of viticulture and work diligently. With time, the thousands of saplings planted on the hills will transform into a sizable garden.

Currently, the family is gearing up for another commendable endeavor. Nilufar and Orifjon adhere to principles that guide their work: "Take care of three things: preserve the

life of the soil, conserve water, and utilize alternative power sources." Hence, they plan to implement solar panels in 2024. After researching various foreign-made products of different sizes, they intend to make a purchase when the size and price become acceptable.

NAMAGNGAN REGION

HALIMA MIRAHMEDOVA

SUCCESS COMES AFTER HARD WORK

...It's not as simple as I thought.





This is how Halima Mirahmedova, the head of the farm “Akhsi Farel Service” in the Uychi district of the Namangan region, responded to the young people.

“If you haven’t eaten the fish prepared by Halima, then you weren’t born yet.”

“Indeed, the taste is excellent, and what coziness and comfort there is, yes, this woman has a guardian angel.”

“You’re right, this woman is very businesslike, but everyone is grateful to her; she receives the people’s blessing...”

When Halima heard this, joy appeared on her face. After a while, she felt as if there was a lump stuck in her throat. Tears appeared between her eyelashes, and her cheeks glowed. Because her life’s path was embodied before her



eyes. It wasn't easy for her. Today she realized that success comes only after hard work, and hard work requires patience, persistence, and action with a clear goal. "You know, 15 years was enough. She lived for 15 years in a whirlwind of trials. In fact, life is a battlefield, and if you stand on the battlefield, you only have to search. Otherwise, she, being a kindergarten teacher, would not have dreamed of becoming a head of such a large business. She believed that raising children and earning a living from her profession was enough. And life challenged her to fight. She lost her job when she was only 25 years old. And God hates idlers. Inaction created the impression in Halima that she has lost something, has lost the fight for life.

Her husband is a man with a kind heart. Although he is a tractor driver, he has a high reputation among the people. Sometimes he selflessly serves people. Getting the blessing of the people is not an easy task. Halima is happy that she connected her life with such a kind person and has three children. In addition, it is necessary to raise three children, care for them, shape their character, and prepare them for life in society. Even a tractor driver's earnings may not be enough to provide for the whole family. Halima thought about how she could also contribute to providing for her family. True, after leaving work, she tried herself in various professions. She even traded at the market. She worked in the kitchen and tested herself in the field, working under the scorching sun.

In the 2000s, the state introduced new benefits and conditions to encourage entrepreneurs in the fishing industry, aiming to enhance food security and supply our markets with this scarce food product. While the state aims to support entrepreneurs, the crucial question arises: can the entrepreneur effectively utilize the opportunities provided? This question also preoccupied Halima. When she shared her thoughts with



her husband, he questioned, "You don't know much about this industry, can you handle it?" Halimahan replied that she needed to research, learn, and immerse herself in this area before achieving results. She was confident that with a clear goal, a promising business plan, and state support, becoming an entrepreneur was feasible. "I feel like I'm going to be successful," she said firmly, and her husband supported her idea.

The Norin River flowed near Halima's father's house. As a child, her brothers often went fishing, and young Halima always followed them. Pleasant memories of childhood pushed her to pursue this field. Looking back, it can be noted that Halima's knowledge at that time was very basic.

"I used to think that if you throw a fish into the water, it will grow," shares Halima, a resident of the Uychi district of the Namangan region. "It turned out to be not as easy as I expected." Going through many difficulties associated with fish farming, Halima faced situations where she couldn't repay the bank loan on time. Recalling those challenging days, she expresses how her family had to sell their large yard and move into a smaller hut built for security next to an artificial lake. Initially, my children, accustomed to a vast yard, found it challenging. Witnessing this, I quietly shed tears. I didn't want to reveal my vulnerability to my children and husband, although he too was concerned despite his silence.

Challenges fortify a determined individual to an extent that is hard to fathom. Those lacking willpower may surrender, but Halima never entertained the thought of giving up. Her silent tears served as a symbol of her resolve to face the challenge head-on. Gradually, the results of her hard work began to appear. Small fish emerged from the fry of the artificial lake, growing into larger fish, pleasing to the eye. Then, Halima had another idea: she thought it would be more profitable to cook the fish and deliver it to customers than to sell it alive. This brought her a good income as a reward for her hard work.

However, even here, difficulties awaited Halima. Her soul suffered the most when she looked at her son helping his mother, cleaning fish in the winter cold. Yet, time heals everything, and the daily experiences seemed to confirm that life was changing.

Since 2014, the income of the entrepreneur, who bravely faced life's trials, began to increase. In other words, she had stood the test of life, earning a good income and building a comfortable house. They purchased the necessary equipment for the farm, a car, and everything essential for their existence.

Today, the farmer has built 8 artificial lakes on 4 hectares of land, growing silver carp, white carp, and carp.

"We named our farm 'Akhsi Forel Service,' but we still haven't thought about raising trout," says Halima Mirakhmedova ("Forel" means trout from Russian language). The world's favorite trout, the kingfish, comes with its own set of challenges. Raising this type of fish, which can thrive in cold water down to 15 degrees Celsius, and making a profit from it wasn't easy. Known for its delicacy, it is also called the flower fish. Its propagation in the climatic conditions of Namangan, in an adapted pond, requires special attention and knowledge.



Halima achieved this too. In the winter of 2023, a special lake was created on an area of 100 square meters by digging and extracting underground water from a depth of 8-10 meters. In May, 300 trout fry, thrown into the pond as an experiment, already weighed 2-2.5 kilograms by September. Thus, in the conditions of the Namangan region, they began to take special care of this unique type of fish. Previously, special feed for fish grown in farm ponds was imported from Poland at great expense. This process was quite cumbersome. Recognizing the need for an alternative given the rarity of the imported feed, it underscored the profound expertise that this entrepreneur holds in the field. Halima and her husband deliberated on the matter and reached a resolution: they would start producing their own fish food.

True, this work couldn't be carried out without studying the experience of feed manufacturers and thoroughly analyzing their technologies. Therefore, the composition of the feed was carefully examined by specialists in a dedicated laboratory. Subsequently, we started considering the purchase of equipment for feed production. As the saying goes, "He who

strives finds opportunity," and we succeeded. Today, the feed produced on the farm not only satisfies our own needs but is also supplied to other fisheries in the area.

The best part is that the food products we produce are not inferior to foreign ones. According to observations, a 100-gram fish gains weight up to 200-300 grams in 10-15 days. The production volume of silver carp and carp has now increased even more, and soon we will also include trout dishes.

In the future, the farmer plans to quickly introduce modern methods and intensive technologies, improve the condition of water bodies, and radically update existing material and technical means. In turn, they intend to further increase fish production volumes.

"Before, our family did all the work," recalls Halima. "We couldn't afford to hire workers. Now we have more than 200 workers. We prepare delicious dishes from our own fish. We also started poultry farming, which helps provide our workers with dietary food during lunch. In addition, we produce window frames and iron gates. The activities of our sewing workshop are also expanding, providing employment to more than 50 young people, mainly women in our area."

Life itself is a great teacher, akin to a vast school where the years accumulate into lessons. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to designate Halima Mirahmedova as the founder and current "professor" of this school. She demonstrates the capacity to navigate through difficulties and extract life's lessons, akin to a skilled mathematician applying knowledge and potential. Her three children have found their places in life, and soon her grandchildren will grow to become wings for their grandmother.

Our conversation with Halima was vibrant, delving into memories of the past and aspirations for the future. As we de-



parted, Halima's eyes lit up when a boy of about 8-9 years old entered the house with a bag on his shoulder. "This is my first-born, my beloved grandson, mother's support, and my light of hope," she said, embracing and kissing him on the forehead.

"We have traversed challenging trials and reached the point of great achievements. We still harbor the determination to overcome several more hurdles," Halima shared. The truth is, as long as life continues, she does not contemplate giving up the fight. Dear grandchildren, maturing before her eyes, will carry on her work. Perhaps they will play a role in building New Uzbekistan. The foundations of the Third Renaissance that we are constructing will soar even higher through their contributions. After all, a structure with a sturdy foundation endures over time.



The life journey of Halima Mirakhedova from Uychi, transforming from a humble educator into a respected and well-known entrepreneur, serves as an exemplary lesson for all women. The ranks of her admirers are expanding. "What is the secret of your success?" – she often receives questions like this. "If you don't shy away from hard work, success is yours," Halima replies with simplicity. Indeed, in this simplicity lies true greatness.

NAMANGAN REGION

RANO KORIEVA

I APOLOGIZED TO THE CROPS THAT WITHERED
DUE TO THE LACK OF WATER...

In reality, establishing a garden is not such a straightforward task. Planting seedlings, creating a garden, and obtaining a rich harvest require specialized knowledge and experience.





These words are from Rano Korieva, a farmer from the Uych district of the Namangan region. Her statement reflects a sincere love for the Motherland and loyalty to the land where she was born and raised. When people are filled with love for their crops, land, and fields, they cannot contain their emotions. Even when they witness their dry field, they may cry, like Rano, embracing their “dead” crop and seeking forgiveness if necessary. After all, the farmer sees their crop as their own child, feeling its breath, growth, and “joy.” Rano communicates with plants, sharing in their pain.

These are the qualities possessed by Rano Korieva, the head of the Barnogul Ziyo Fayz farm. She exudes authority – a woman with a strong character, accountable for her words. Always eager for innovation, she diligently incorporates best practices into her work.



With a sharp mind, she quickly absorbs useful information and effortlessly calculates figures in her head. Speed, agility, and leadership consistently bring her success. One day, when the combine operator fell ill during harvesting, Rano took the wheel of the combine to ensure that the work continued without interruption. Two hours later, when the driver's condition improved, he returned to his duties. In those critical moments, when every minute counted, the equipment didn't stand idle, and the work persisted. She even joked, "I can control all the vehicle except the plane..."

While cotton and grain are prevalent crops in Uzbekistan, almost every farmer grows them. Rano's experience in walnut cultivation is noteworthy. Three years ago, she planted the Chandler walnut variety on two hectares of her farm, and this year, these trees are already bearing fruit. Characterized by large fruits, thin shells, and white kernels, they yield an average of 40 kilograms in 8 years. Consequently, a walnut grove of 2 hectares can produce 16 tons of harvest. With the yield of these trees reaching 180–200 kilograms in 15–20 years, the potential income can be estimated, considering the average price of a walnut is 30 thousand soums.

According to statistics, more than 2 million tons of walnuts are grown annually worldwide. Over the past 4 years, consumption of this product has increased by 20%. The United States, Chile, Ukraine, China, and Moldova are among the countries exporting the largest volumes of walnuts.

"In reality, establishing a garden is not such a straightforward. Planting seedlings, creating a garden, and obtaining a rich harvest require specialized knowledge and experience," R. Korieva emphasizes. "A simple mistake in choosing a seedling or improper care of trees can lead to the garden losing fruit, and the harvest may not meet expectations". The choice of walnuts is driven by the fact that they are a zero-waste

product. Fruits, shells, and membranes inside the fruits can all be sold. Walnuts can yield up to 500 kilograms of harvest for many years. Additionally, they adapt to various types of soil, grow well in both mountainous and steppe regions, and do not require significant labor.

Various parts of the walnut are widely used in folk medicine. Walnut leaves, flowers, unripe fruits, shells, kernels, and oil all have their uses. For example, unripe fruits are beneficial for anemia, and jam made from them is effective in treating hypertension and diabetes. A tincture made from the leaves is recommended for stomach ulcers, atherosclerosis, and even for healing purulent wounds. A decoction of the leaves can also prevent hair loss and accelerate hair growth.

R. Korieva is not only an agronomist but also possesses the ability to communicate with every plant in the field. This skill was tested during the extreme cold of the winter of 2023 when she impressively saved the walnut trees from winter loss, using her expertise, including the technique of filling furrows with water to water the trees.

In another instance in 2015, when the summer was extremely hot and there was insufficient water, only 60 out of 100 hectares of the farm were irrigated. Due to the heat, it was not possible to save crops on about one hectare. The weak stream of water flowing through the fields did not reach the crops in time, partially evaporating due to the high temperature, causing the growing crops to wither. Feeling guilty, the farmer hugged the withered crop, cried, and asked for forgiveness from crop. The workers on the sidelines, witnessing this sad moment, also had tears in their eyes. Thus, the love for the land and hard work extends to the 18 workers around.

She grew up here early, graduated from the Agricultural Institute in 1991, and returned to the collective farm. Working her way up from foreman to chief agronomist and chairman

of the enterprise, she founded a farm on 40 hectares of land in 2006, where the soil was saline and equipment could barely reach. Throughout these years, her husband, Komiljon Juraev, has consistently supported her.

In fields where the cotton yield previously did not exceed 20 centners, the yield increased by one and a half times in three to four years. Another 50 hectares of degraded and low-yield lands were later added to these areas, and within two years, they achieved the expected harvest in these newly acquired lands.

The farmer acknowledges the complexities involved in processes related to land, emphasizing that things do not always go as expected. In 2012, for example, the farm faced a test when frost damaged wheat planted on 30 hectares, resulting in a debt of 77 million soums. With the support of her husband, they quickly replaced the frozen wheat with corn and mung bean crops. Her 30 years of experience taught her the unforgiving nature of mistakes in agriculture. One mistake made within a year takes three years to correct. Over time, they managed to get rid of the debt and began to turn a profit. Currently, she manages 120 hectares of land.

Dividing 17 hectares into approximately 100 plots of 1500 square meters each, she handed them over to young people interested in agriculture. She provides advice and assistance with her equipment as needed.





Rano often emphasizes the values of kindness, loyalty, and generosity, as her actions align with these virtues. Looking at the farm fields from above reveals a beautiful landscape, meticulously cultivated with no uncultivated, hilly, or marshy areas. The ditches, like the main ditches, are carefully dug, creating a landscape that seems meticulously drawn. This result is a testament to the hard work, skill, aspiration, and innovation applied to the farm.

Such beauty in the field not only pleases the eye but also enhances the environment. Rano uses water judiciously, recognizing that mineral and topical fertilizers can be washed away by excessive water. She loves working in the field, singing songs and carefully inspecting each crop that sprouts from the ground. The songs she composes for wedding ceremonies give rural weddings a special charm, with the fields and crops being the first listeners, swaying in the wind and inspiring Rano.

In 2017, attention was directed towards the creation of greenhouses in Uzbekistan. In this farm, always ready for innovation, a greenhouse with an area of half a hectare was built.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, and even early watermelons were grown here for experimental purposes.

Efficiently utilizing natural resources, Rano introduced drip irrigation in the greenhouse. Currently, efforts are underway to explore the possibility of using solar panels to heat the greenhouse. She plans to study the products of several companies and enter into contracts, as the primary goal is to use technologies that do not harm the environment, produce organic food, and handle chemicals in agriculture with care and competence.

Each completed project undoubtedly brings income to the farm, ensuring the welfare of all workers, not just the farmer herself. Increased material interest serves as motivation for more effective work. Moreover, the farmer, committed to charity, constantly helps families in need. For instance, a family with a child with a defect received assistance in treatment and surgery, allowing the boy to return to life and grow with his peers. Two years ago, she helped another needy family build a house and organized their wedding. Recently, she provided a place in the field camp for a man facing housing difficulties and undergoing surgery for a herniated disc.

"Every year our profit increases, and our life becomes better and better," says R. Korieva. "In fact, I started this job not with the goal of getting rich or attracting attention but with the intention of helping my fellow villagers by doing what I love." Her children, a son and a daughter, found their place in life and both became doctors. The income from the land is sufficient for their existence, allowing them to help their people and those in need. She strives to pay each of her employees a salary within her capabilities. Over the years, she worked hard to keep her employees satisfied, and it proved to be a blessing. Starting with only one tractor in 2006, she and her husband now manage an enterprise called "Yerkurgon Tekhnika,"

with about twenty pieces of equipment. In addition to their fields, they have the capacity to provide technical services to every landowner in the Uychi district.

Last year, Rano participated in an exhibition in Dubai and signed an agreement to export mung beans to the country. With the earnings from exports, there are plans to install drip irrigation equipment on 20 hectares of land this year.

The farmer mentioned that the height of her plot near a residential area is 14 meters, making it unsuitable for planting crops. The plan is to construct a flour mill and a retail outlet on this site. Additionally, there are plans to create a green area by planting poplars in the adjacent area for 500 meters. Research indicates that by planting beans and brooms around the given area, the land can be effectively utilized, and the grown products can be supplied to the market.

Rano, whose eyes gleam with enthusiasm, was awarded the Shukhrat medal by Presidential Decree last year. Her hard work, a life spent in the fields, and sleepless nights became the key to recognition for an ordinary rural woman.

As we journey along, we will explore the lives of sincere and innocent residents of the foothill village adjacent to the hills, finding answers to the questions on the tip of our tongues. When contemplating the women and people of this village, the words of the elders, who understand life more profoundly than us, with their hands open in prayer, saying, "My daughter Ranohon, find blessings in your life," touch our hearts. Rano deeply understands that hearing such kind words is great happiness. She forgets all her fatigue, and her desire to live and create becomes even stronger.

SAMARKAND REGION

MALIKA SUVONOVA

WE UTILIZED DRIP IRRIGATION FOR CULTIVATING CROPS

*... I did not pray
to the Creator for
wealth; I sought love,
kindness, and peace.
Thanks to God, He
granted me all of
these.*





The morning arrives, marking the beginning of a new day. A dark-eyed woman with thick eyebrows bakes pumpkin samosa in an oven situated beside a vegetable garden where various vegetables have ripened. From the other side of the yard, intermittent sounds of cows calling for their mistress can be heard.

The woman, striving to milk them quickly, closed the stove and headed to the barn with a bucket. She milked three cows in a row, reserving the rest of the milk to feed the calves.

Meanwhile, the bread and samosa were browning. Closing the lid of the milk pot and reducing the heat, she went to the garden to gather grass for her cattle. Suddenly, her attention was drawn to the cries of her grandson. A peculiar feeling arose in her heart: "He is the child of my child, and therefore the dearest of all, just as the kernel is more delicious than the seed." Realizing that her daughter-in-law quickly soothed the child, she felt relieved.

After collecting a bale of grass from the garden, she discovered that the milk was already ready. The woman swiftly and skillfully carried out her tasks, following a clear plan for the whole day. Suddenly, a thought occurred to her, and she drank a bowl of hot milk in one gulp, snacked on two pieces of samosa, and headed to the field.

Approaching a plot of land rented from a farmer, not far from her home, the days she had lived flashed before her eyes. In fact, there is not a day when she does not remember her childhood. With gratitude for everything she had been given, she repeated: "Thank you for what You have given me."

Malika grew up worthy of her name. As she grew up, many matchmakers visited her house, each vying for her hand. Fate smiled at her, making her a bride to her nearest neighbor. It is said that a good girl is married off quickly, even in her own village. A few years later, the young family moved to a new house. When her eldest sister-in-law went to work, Malika came to house of mother-in-law and did household chores. Every day, her father-in-law raised his hand in prayer, saying, "Bless your life, my daughter." She always remembered the lessons of her departed mother, who said: "Strive not to gain wealth but to gain blessings."

It was the 2000s. Malika's husband, a high school physical education teacher, was unable to work due to illness. The family, which had three daughters and one son, needed to provide food. The family barely made ends meet on the husband's salary and income from 1800 square meters of land. Now that her husband's salary was gone, it became more challenging to meet the family's needs. What to do?

Malika did not lose heart. She took up the matter decisively. Realizing that she would now have to earn money for her family on her own, she focused on the 1800 square meters of land. This became her new source of income. Malika redoubled her efforts by working in the field and earned a good income from it. The next year, she rented another 1 hectare of land from a neighboring farmer.





Malika worked with great diligence, and her body was filled with new energy. This strength arose from her devotion to family and love for children. As the saying goes, "He who knows the matter always wins." After harvesting early spring potatoes in June, she quickly replaced them with bell peppers. In the fall, she sold her crops right in the field. In this way, she alternately grew different types of vegetables – cabbage, onions, and tomatoes. Intermediaries buy the harvest for 1,000 soums, and Malika sells it on the market for 2,000 soums. Working in the fields until noon, she delivers her harvest to the market in the evening.

During the harvest season, she has to travel to the market three times a day. She used the family's savings to buy a car, as she needed to meet the growing demand. Her son, who was still small, helped his mother by placing a thick blanket on the car seat to make himself appear taller. Thus, he delivered the harvest to the market.

Malika mastered farming under the guidance of her father, often turning to him for advice. This is probably why, when she visited her father, her parents were interested in her work in the field and her current plans. Before his death, her father called her and said: "Thinking about your life, I realized that I had never asked about you: what is in your soul? What are your dreams? Are you healthy?" He admitted that he always cared only about gender, and asked her not to be offended,

since everything he did was for her own well-being. "Be happy, I'm happy for you!" – he added, and, having expressed his feelings, he left for another world.

In 2012, Malika's husband brought apple tree sprouts from Kashkadarya. The day was cold, it was impossible to sit outside, but it was also impossible not to plant the sprouts. Tightly dressed and with her back tightly tied, Malika went to work. She cut the sticks and tied them into bundles of 100 pieces. Several such bundles were prepared, as money was needed to buy flour and butter.

Thus, every spring in subsequent years, Dilmurodjon brought sprouts from the neighboring region. The prepared cuttings were used for propagation of varietal fruits in many gardens of the district. Every year, Malika prepared rootstocks for hundreds of apple, pear, and other fruit trees. Small cuttings take root quickly – within a year.

Thanks to her efforts, her children successfully found their place in life. She married off two daughters and arranged a marriage for her son. The youngest daughter entered to the University to become a primary school teacher on the merit basis. Malika is raising four grandchildren. Her husband's health has improved markedly, and he deeply values his wife and is her advisor. The family already has several cars. What else does a person need besides all this?

Immersed in her memories, Malika did not notice how she reached to the field. This year's tomato harvest was very bountiful. Thanks to the fact that she delivered her products to the market first, profits were also impressive.

Malika Suvonova lives in the Ilmobad mahalla of the Toylok district of the Samarkand region. At first glance, her life path is no different from that of other rural women. However, she is unique in her patience. Even in the most difficult mo-

ments, she does not complain or ask for help. She relies on her strength and love for her family.

"I've known Malikakhan since childhood," says Mavlyuda Khodiyeva, a women's activist from the Ilmobod mahalla. "She is very hardworking, honest, inquisitive, and never rests. I have never seen her idle, gossiping, or arguing with anyone. She is always busy. We meet her in the field, in the market, or while doing household chores. She doesn't talk behind anyone's back but always addresses the person directly. Happiness follows such a woman."

Malika, in consultation with her husband and drawing on her many years of experience, treats the field with local fertilizers at certain periods. She rarely uses chemical sprinkling fertilizers. Out of curiosity, she installed a drip irrigation system on part of the property as an experiment. This method brought a good harvest of onions but did not work as well for potatoes. "I may not have fully mastered it yet," she says.

When the day reached noon, Malika returned from the field. Waiting for her at home were several bundles of cuttings that had been ordered. Now she had to deliver them to their owners.

From August to September, when the tree trunk is usually empty, high-quality grafting work is carried out. High-quality fruit cuttings are grafted onto trees with fruits of lower quality to obtain a productive variety. For example, you can graft a pear onto a quince, a mulberry onto a mulberry, or a cherry onto a plum.

"I did not pray to the Allah for wealth; I sought love, kindness, and peace. Thank God, He gave everything," says Malika Suvonova. – "Every year we get 2-3 harvests from the land, we earn 100 million or more with our honest work. My mother gave a lot of advice, saying: "There is no benefit to

anyone who complains. Be with your family, work hard and eat what you earn honestly." "I began to develop following these instructions. Honestly, for someone, every sum may be worth nothing, but for me, it is valuable because it is the result of my work."

Malika said that she and her husband now equally share daily chores around the house and work in the fields. "I live with the feeling that I am happy because I wanted to have such a family," she adds.

When evening came and the veil of night began to spread across the world, Malika hurried home. Taking the sweet grandson from the arms of his daughter-in-law and pressing him to her chest, all fatigue was instantly forgotten. "In fact, this is the taste of life," her lips whispered. She perked up at the sound of a sweet song coming from afar:

They queried the mother: "Speak, what's your desire?"

The mother responded: "For my legacy, let my children aspire..."



SAMARKAND REGION

NILUFAR MARUPOVA

THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

*...Twice a year, we grow
lettuce between the trees.*





Najmiddin and Nilufar contemplated building a comfortable home for their family. They realized it wasn't that simple, especially with no steady income, expensive building materials, and living in a village without a permanent job. The idea seemed confusing, but they thought about the potential of their land. Nilufar's father was experienced in gardening, and they decided to develop abandoned land on the outskirts of the village.

Despite the challenges, they transformed the thorny and grass-covered field into arable land. Using technology, they leveled the land, cleared it of thorny fields, and transformed it into arable land. However, due to unsatisfactory soil quality, the harvest of tomatoes and potatoes was small. Recognizing this, the family elders concluded that creating a garden was the most productive use of the land. They decided to plant local five-star velvet apple trees on 80 hectares of land and apricot, peach, and plum seedlings on the remaining areas.



Previously, Nilufar and her husband worked as ordinary laborers in a large garden, gaining valuable experience in tree care. Drawing on this experience, they began the work of creating their garden, facing the challenge of limited funds. The young family had depleted their savings, and the task of establishing the garden seemed overwhelming.

In the process of leveling the land, building a house, and establishing the garden, the young family found themselves in debt. In 2012, determined to pay off this debt and fulfill their dream of a garden, the couple decided to travel to Russia. Nilufar, skilled in sewing and cooking, found work in a distant country. She worked as a dressmaker during the day and prepared baked goods, such as bread and samosa, in the evening, delivering them to the market. Customers who tried her products became regulars, praising her cooking skills with comments like, "Nilufar, you cook very tastily, in a special way."

However, working abroad posed numerous challenges. According to Nilufar, "You even have to pay for air. Every month, you have to pay for a 'patent,' and housing expenses add up. Sometimes, the police can stop you on the street for endless payments. Sometimes, expenses increase so much that there is nothing left of the money earned." Realizing the difficulties, the young family decided, "It's better to go home and work in the garden again," and returned to their original occupation.

Fortunately, the parents managed to pay off their debt with the money sent to them every month. With the remaining funds, they embarked on building a garden. Their children, Shahboz and Anisjon, aged 14-15 at the time, became valuable assistants to their grandparents in creating the garden.

Desiring prosperity for both the garden and their children, the family named the new garden "Shahboz and Anisjon

Gardens.” They built a small house for living and working at the edge of the field and began developing their garden.

During every spring and autumn, Nilufar’s father brought armfuls of fruit trees, renewing both withered ones and those with low yields. Over time, the number of trees in the garden, producing better and more abundant harvests, gradually increased. Vegetable crops grown among the new plantings further boosted the family’s income.

To efficiently use the land, during the period of young seedling growth, inter-row spaces were cultivated for potatoes and vegetable crops, resulting in a bountiful harvest. Annually, an average of 10 tons of fruit were collected from 80 hectares of apple trees. Six tons were supplied to the apple juice production plant, and the rest was sold. As the trees grew taller, creating shade, corn and beans were planted between the rows, and feed was prepared for livestock 2–3 times a year.

In 2017, the Marupov’s family completed the construction of their garden and initiated the building of a greenhouse



on 2000 square meters. Currently, they are experimenting with growing lemons on 400 square meters. To facilitate work in the greenhouse and amid the rows of the garden, they acquired a mini-tractor and a motor-cultivator.

“Our greenhouse operates without a stove, and we don’t use gas or coal for heating,” explains Nilufar. “It relies on natural heating. We dug 2-meter-deep holes and planted lemon seedlings in them. Planting lemons in a trench prevents freezing, requiring only a modest amount of heat. When constructing a greenhouse, it’s advisable to create trenches from north to south or from northeast to southwest. This ensures uniform sunlight for the lemon plants throughout the day. As each tree matured and began bearing fruit, we started harvesting around 400 kilograms of lemons from our lemon grove. We also grow lettuce between the trees twice a year.”

During the cold winter of 2023, the lemon grove faced unusual low temperatures. To counteract the cold, the family utilized coal, providing essential warmth and saving most of the trees. Additionally, a fumigation method was employed to safeguard the gardens from extreme frosts. Dry objects were burned or “smoke bombs” were ignited to create a smoke screen. Despite some freezing, lateral branches sprouted in the seedlings come spring.

Recent years have highlighted the adverse effects of climate change on Earth, including Uzbekistan, negatively impacting biodiversity and causing harm to productivity and quality, especially evident during periods of extreme cold.

According to Nilufar, despite her upbringing working in fields and picking fruit in the garden, she had never experienced such extreme cold before. Consequently, she believes that expanding naturally heated greenhouse space is essential for the future.

"We have five sisters in our family," says the youngest, Navruza, Nilufar's sister. "My sister is the most dynamic among us. Thanks to her organizational skills, she manages her time effectively – working, attending weddings, and engaging in fieldwork. You won't catch her standing still. Whether she's tending to the soil, cultivating eggplants and sweet peppers, or selling at the market, she's always on the move. She even finds time to care for the greens in the lemon grove in the greenhouse. In addition to everything, every spring she cultivates 10 boxes of silkworm."

Last year, Nilufar participated in the Farm School project by JSCB Agrobank and the Ministry of Agriculture. Through this program, she expanded her agricultural knowledge and acquired new insights. For instance, she learned that increasing the dose of insect control chemicals could be counterproductive and that excessive fertilizer application to wheat might negatively impact crop quality. This experience enriched Nilufar's understanding of soil fertilization and preparation, leading to a realization of her mistakes. Her farm now employs more than 10 tons of local fertilizers per hectare of land.

Nilufar Marupova, relentlessly pursuing her goals, plans to venture into cherry cultivation based on the knowledge gained from the farm school. Previously, she hesitated due to the relatively low yield of cherry varieties and the additional time required to yield fruit.

It is now known that employing innovative technologies for planting and cultivating cherries can significantly boost productivity by expecting a harvest of 12–13 tons instead of the usual 8–10 tons. The recommended practices include utilizing drip irrigation, ensuring timely control of diseases and pests, and incorporating grafting. Grafting cherry cuttings onto existing plum trunks in the garden can yield a large and

tasty harvest in just two years, a significant improvement over the traditional 5-6 years.

This upcoming fall, Nilufar plans to graft cherry cuttings onto trees at the edge of the garden. Cherries are highly sought after in Uzbekistan's markets due to their taste and health benefits, with the country boasting 337.3 thousand hectares of cherry orchards, primarily owned by residents and farmers. Popular cherry varieties include "Valery Chkalov," "Voskhod," "Revna," "Napoleon," and "Stella."

Throughout this process, Nilufar adheres to the fundamental principle passed down from her parents: "Whatever you plant, always ask for a share and abundance for many." She firmly believes that this blessing will result in a bountiful harvest for her garden. "My parents cultivated 4000 square meters of land, and thanks to the income from it, they raised their five children and prepared them for adult life. We are also accustomed to work. When I grow up, I will follow the path of my parents," dreamed Nilufar, and this dream has now come true.



This enthusiastic gardener is eager to cultivate blueberries, introducing a new product to our country's markets. Blueberries, priced between 3 to 10 dollars per kilogram, yield around 5 kg per bush after six years. Typically, at least 3,000 bushes are planted per hectare. With an expected harvest of about 1.5 tons of blueberries per hectare after five to six years, one can earn around 45 thousand dollars per season, considering the wholesale price of about 3 dollars. Currently, Nilufar is researching methods to expedite the fruiting of this berry.

As an experienced seamstress, Nilufar dreams of opening a sewing workshop to create beautiful dresses. Since her daughter and daughter-in-law are studying primary school teaching methods, the family is also contemplating the idea of starting a private kindergarten.

It's worth noting that earlier in our article, we shared the story of Nilufar's struggle to find funds for building a house, which led to debt and working abroad. Today, she enjoys the "fruits" of her garden, created with her own hands. They have housing, sufficient funds—everything they need for a fulfilling life. Nilufar Marupova's life philosophy, as the head of the diversified farming enterprise "Shahboz-Anisjon Gardens" in the Samarkand region, is encapsulated in the words "Whoever created the garden has achieved his goal."

SIRDARYO REGION

AZIZA SAIDKULOVA

POULTRY FARMING STANDS OUT AS A LUCRATIVE
YET HIGHLY DELICATE INDUSTRY

...With my earnings barely covering basic expenses, I pondered extensively on ways to enhance my financial situation and secure a more comfortable life.





It's common knowledge that poultry farming in Uzbekistan is a complex yet profitable sector, acknowledged as one of the seven treasures. The ongoing global population surge accentuates the significance of food security, particularly with economic challenges affecting many nations. In such circumstances, the production of chicken meat, a dietary staple, assumes heightened importance.

Upon closer inspection, chickens are indeed a valuable asset. The beauty of it lies in the fact that you can raise chickens right at home, in a corner of your house, yielding a substantial income for the family budget. Aziza and Nodirbek, residents of the Ulugobad mahalla in Gulistan, Sirdaryo region, serve as a prime example of successful engagement in this activity. Thirteen years ago, they initiated their family business by raising 200 chickens at home.

"We purchased the chickens from a neighbor," recounts Aziza. "Around the same time, after constructing a two-room house and starting to live independently, we already had three children. You know, a young family always faces economic needs."

My husband's income as a taxi driver barely covered our living expenses, prompting me to explore ways to improve our financial situation for a more comfortable life. This led me to the decision to venture into raising chickens, aiming to witness firsthand the potential income it could generate. I designated a portion of the kitchen for this purpose and began raising chickens in a paper box. Initially, it didn't captivate my

interest, but over time, I developed a fondness for these harmless creatures. As we started receiving 160-180 eggs daily and selling them for 200 soums each, I realized the promising prospects this business held for us. Our livelihood has indeed been blessed.

While we were fortunate with these chicks, caring for them proved to be no easy task. They say, "Everything is given to those who are patient!" No income comes effortlessly; the key is patience. Chickens require meticulous care for four months, including essential vitamins, three meals a day, and vaccinations. For instance, missing the prescribed vaccine within 18 days could lead to illness. After four months, they start laying one or two eggs.

Profits start rolling in after six months, and during this time, eggs need to be collected hourly. Chicks should be replaced every two years. Once you immerse yourself in it, you'll learn everything you need to know.

To expand our business, I constructed a dedicated building behind our house and began raising chickens in wire cages. Initially prepared for 500 chickens, we later expanded the facility to accommodate an additional 500. Currently, we have a poultry house for two thousand birds.



Based on their own experience, the young family discovered that raising meat poultry was not only easier but also more profitable. In 2014, they began generating substantial profits by raising broiler chickens. Aziza took care of the birds, ensuring their well-being, while Nodirbek actively organized the delivery of chicken meat to customers. This collaboration proved successful, and their effective distribution of responsibilities yielded positive results. They inadvertently transformed into successful businessmen, realizing that their lives had improved and wealth had accumulated. The saying "Effort in work is the key to a good life" seemed to echo in their journey.

According to recommendations, maintaining good health involves consuming an average of 10 kilograms of poultry and 100 eggs per year. These dietary products offer significant benefits to the human body. Aziza finds joy in her work, especially when she hears people expressing blessings for her family. She also emphasizes the importance of food safety. Aziza believes that if every family embraces an entrepreneurial role, issues like shortages and deficits can be overcome. Achieving this goal requires in-depth knowledge in each area.

"To obtain broiler meat, which is used for dietary food, chickens are rapidly fattened. Heavy and early maturing



broiler crosses like 'Ross-308,' 'Cobb,' 'Hubbord,' 'Cornish,' 'White Plymouth,' 'New Hampshire' are used for this purpose," explains Aziza. "The live weight of broiler chickens reaches 2.3-2.5 kilograms in 38-42 days. It's crucial to technologically slaughter broiler chickens raised for meat within 1-2 days, as missing this period will result in rapid weight loss."

Birds can be sold as early as 30 days of age, reaching a weight of 1.2 kg, especially if there is an order. Such birds are in demand in canteens and shops due to their convenience for grilling. Some customers prefer a 3kg chicken. The heavier the bird and the higher the market price, the more profit can be earned. For instance, this year, during the fasting month and the off-peak wedding season, poultry meat cost about 20-25 thousand soums. However, during the wedding season, the price rises to 30 thousand per kilogram.

The family supplies the market with an average of 150-200 birds at wholesale prices every day. This implies that family members need to rise early and act swiftly. Through accurate calculations, the family invested in equipment to clean chicken feathers after slaughter in a halal way. They now offer bird cleaning services to other poultry farmers at a rate of 1200 soums per chicken.

While these processes demand additional labor, the family, when unable to manage on their own, enlists the help of 3-4 neighbors, offering them a daily wage. The blessing of honestly earned money has become evident in their lives. Their homes are more comfortable, and they can easily fulfill their children's education fees. Currently, the eldest son Kamiljon is studying at Tashkent Financial University, and Hasanboy is pursuing studies at Bukhara Medical Institute. Parental assistants, Husanboy and Nozimahon, also successfully fulfill their responsibilities. Aziza reflects on the past challenges in her life and expresses gratitude to Allah for the success achieved.

She believes that it all happened due to honest work, perseverance, and determined action in achieving their goals.

The family now receives a monthly income of 10-12 million soums. During holiday months, when the demand for goods increases, the income amount rises even more. This is why they often say, "Profit and loss live side by side; you don't know where you will find it and where you will lose it."

In 2015, a long-awaited girl brought joy and blessings to the family. Aziza, influenced by fairy tales, educational stories, and meaningful books, nurtured Nozimahon into a close assistant and adviser. Even her brothers, studying at the university, sometimes turn to her for answers to pressing questions. The family has established a tradition of friendship with books, reading, and sharing.

"When Azizakhon became a bride, two other daughters-in-law still lived in our house," shares her mother-in-law Gulsinai Saidkulova. "Thank God, despite our large family, we lived together in the same yard for 11 years. All my daughters-in-law are serious and patient. Aziza is kind, hardworking, and full of strength and energy. She always achieves what she sets her mind to. Sometimes, when I ask where she is, she jokes: 'I'm at pop-singer's concert.' My daughter-in-law loves to enjoy good music. I really appreciate this quality of hers. A soul filled with love for music is capable of good deeds."

Aziza and Nodirbek meticulously clean cages, remove equipment, and disinfect premises after each poultry delivery to the market. Only after this do they introduce the next batch of chicks. Birds are kept in cages with multi-tiered compartments based on their weight, emphasizing the importance of cleanliness and order.

They have been supplying products to the market for 13
120 years, receiving gratitude from many families for the food they

produce. The market counters are stocked with dietary products from chickens raised under their care, and, as entrepreneurs, they feel a responsibility for the welfare of the country. Isn't this the essence of happiness?

Aziza recalls a proverb: "A chicken needs both grain and water." With a smile, she checks her watch – t's time to feed the chickens. This moment marks the beginning of the development of her business and an increase in income.



SURKHANDARYA REGION

IQBOL MUMINOVA

THE MODERN FARMER NEEDS TO POSSESS THE SKILLS
OF A RESEARCHER, CLIMATE SCIENTIST, ECONOMIST,
AND INNOVATOR

*...You will continue my work in
the future, but for now, consider
creating a small garden
and trying gardening.*





Everyone is born for happiness. However, what if a woman aspiring to build her castle of happiness resides in a secluded rural area with limited job opportunities, a lack of economic resources, and developmental delays?

Can an ordinary rural woman fulfill her dream?

Certainly, she can. It requires only strong will and perseverance. Love for life, enthusiasm for work, dedication to her occupation, and self-confidence will be pillars of support on the path to achieving her goal.

The example of Iqbol Muminova, residing in the Uzun district of the Surkhandarya region, illustrates that even in remote rural areas, one can not only live comfortably but also realize great plans that benefit many people.

Iqbol Muminova spent her childhood years in the village of Serkharakat, Uzun region. Born in 1973, she decided to study as a nurse after graduating from school. After getting married and having two children, she tragically lost her husband at the age of 28, in the prime of his life.



With the loss of her husband came not only personal grief but also the loss of her home and peace. Despite these challenging circumstances, Iqbol Muminova, along with her two children, lived in a house that belonged to her late husband's father. The rural woman, despite her difficult circumstances, did not complain about her fate. From that moment on, her life began to undergo significant changes.

She left the house she shared with her late husband to his relatives.

When a woman loses her husband, the father often becomes the primary source of support. Seeking advice, she turned to him.

Her father, experienced in agriculture, dispelled his daughter's grief with decisive words and directed her towards the right path, assessing her capabilities in the challenging situation.

" You will continue my work in the future, but for now, consider creating a small garden and trying gardening.

Initially hesitant about the unconventional proposal, especially for a 28-year-old nurse with two children, and she was at first hesitant to accept it. Given the irregular duty days for nurses and the subsequent impact on their salaries, the nurse's income became insufficient after taking on the responsibilities of both parents.

Starting a garden is often considered a wise choice, and Iqbol Muminova initiated her journey by establishing a small garden, utilizing 8 hectares of land, upon her father's suggestion.

Before this venture, she built a two-room adapted house on the plot provided by her father, marking the beginning of an independent life with her children. Now, she enjoys the comforts of a two-story modern house, a car, and several businesses, all contributing to her complete happiness.



However, in her youth, she had nothing but hopes and dreams.

In horticulture, income arrives once a year when the crop ripens, but daily expenses demand regular funds. To address this, Iqbol decided to start her own business. In the Uzun district, she established a passenger and transport association. Hearing about this new initiative, cab drivers flocked to join the association, recognizing its necessity. Soon, the number of drivers joining the association reached 500 people.

Conscientious work yielded swift results, and Iqbol's life took a positive turn. Her son started attending school, and her daughter joined kindergarten.

By 2020, Iqbol's life underwent significant changes, driven by her decision to establish a farm for cotton and grain cultivation, a commitment inspired by her father's expressed wishes.

At the age of 91, her father, experiencing declining health, conveyed a crucial message during one of her visits:

"The time has come to hand over my work to you, my daughter. Do not be afraid of this work; the blood of heroes and riders flows in your veins. Heroes can accomplish whatever they set their minds to."

Iqbol was left speechless. How could a single woman manage cotton production and grain cultivation? Admittedly, she had grown up working in the fields, thanks to her father's

farming. In those early days, there were no hired workers; family members performed the main tasks. With nine children in their family, she and her siblings often toiled in the fields from a young age. Recalling her childhood, she mentioned that from the age of 10, her father, like the other children, assigned her 5 hectares of land to cultivate. Despite this background, she lacked the confidence to take on the responsibility for all these tasks.

When her father suggested applying to the district administration to become a farmer, her initial response was a brief, "I can't handle it."

Her father persisted, urging her to reconsider.

Life often takes unexpected turns, altering a person's destiny. A few days later, her father passed away, turning his words to his daughter into a sort of testament.

From that moment, Iqbol Muminova embarked on her journey in the field of production activities. In 2020, she established a farming enterprise on 46 hectares of land and successfully realized her plan within the first year, turning a profit.

The following year, she won another 30 hectares of land through a tender, expanding her management to a vast farm covering 76 hectares.

This is the story of a woman who, having lost her husband at a young age, overcomes challenges and evolves into an entrepreneur, creating job opportunities and benefiting numerous individuals.

Let's explore how many people Iqbol provides with work and, consequently, income.

The enterprise under her leadership employs 20 people. The sewing workshop, initiated with a 33 million soums loan, has 11 employees, currently managed by Iqbol's daughter. Her

farm has a staff of 21 workers, with the workforce increasing to 80-100 seasonal workers during the harvest season. Such accomplishments by a simple rural woman are truly uplifting.

She achieved all this during 17 years of active involvement in business and agriculture.

However, there were moments when tears fell in the fields while caring for cotton threatened by disease or water scarcity. During those times, she spent months in the fields, personally plowing and replanting cotton on 20 hectares of land, even moving there with her bed and dishes. Recalling the times of economic hardship, she remembers irrigating acres of cotton fields day and night with her teenage son because she couldn't afford workers, and they had quit their jobs. She underwent three surgeries, but adversity didn't deter her; instead, it fueled her strength and expanded her experience.

If you were to meet and converse with Iqbol Muminova, an entrepreneur who found happiness in her work, you'd be immersed in a world of remarkable achievements.

"Being a woman in society is challenging; we are surrounded by both good and bad people," says Iqbol. "If you struggle with your work or face difficulties, you are criticized for working. People suggest that a woman should only engage in light work or stay at home, waiting for a prosperous life. Such sentiments are openly expressed."

Sometimes, people wonder why a woman would engage in so many agricultural processes. I often find myself alone among 300-400 men at agricultural events and meetings. Even my brother, who is also a farmer with 30 hectares of cotton land, faces criticism. Some say to him, "Why does your sister need to be involved in agriculture? She should stick to her nursing profession."

When you're in need, relying solely on the help of relatives won't provide you with bread or clothing. What need of yours will their assistance be enough for? It's challenging when you lack these essentials. Thankfully, through my work, I've achieved a standard of living no worse than others. I don't rely on anyone for bread. People often say to my face, "You have money, a profession, a house. Stay at home, why bother?" They question why I need a field and why I involve myself in such strenuous work. But for me, the love for the land, the Motherland, and the soil holds a unique taste. Even in the challenging conditions of the open field, I find happiness because this work brings a special harmony and incredible satisfaction.

Inspectors often come out, see me walking barefoot in the mud, and suggest giving up the farm, saying, "Why do you need all this?" I respond with a smile, turning such comments into a joke: "Don't upset me with those words." Sometimes it does make me angry, but what can I do when I have such a deep love for the earth?

This year, I once again proved to myself how strong my attachment to the land is. I invested one and a half billion soums and won the tender for the right to work with the land for 31 years. I happily say to myself, "So, what will they say now?"

While talking with Iqbol, you'll feel your mood lifting, and a sense of strength flowing into you. Throughout the conversation, you'll begin to discover new facets of the character of this simple rural woman.

"Another hobby of mine is beekeeping," she continues. "I have 20 bee boxes, yielding 200-300 kilograms of honey every year. I share part of the surplus, fulfilling family needs, as gifts to relatives and sell the rest."

When you learn about Iqbol's future plans, you will have even more respect for this seemingly simple yet energetic woman.

She aims to build a boarding house for elderly and lonely people, seeking their blessing. Additionally, she intends to produce vermicompost by introducing innovations in agriculture.

"I will breed worms for vermicompost," she says. "Chemical fertilizers are harmful to the earth and consumers, and we need to shift to environmentally friendly products. Vermicompost is beneficial for the fields in this regard."

They plan to continue their business and install solar panels, providing a constant income source even during the winter when agricultural work is suspended. "I will sell excess electricity," she says.

Iqbol built her palace of happiness through honest work. Her family is exemplary and content. Her daughter is married, leading a harmonious life with her husband and two children.

Now, Iqbol wishes for her son to find similar family happiness.

She has an excellent reputation among the people and never tires of sharing her experience with young individuals. In the Uzun district, she holds a place of honor and is respected. We hope to see more such women in our country.

SURKHANDARYA REGION

GUZAL MISIROVA

BRIDE FROM BANDIKHAN:
A GIRL WHO RADIATES FIERY ENERGY

*... In a family where there
is something you like, there
will be no quarrels and
unnecessary conversations.*





Recalling her childhood years, Guzal Misirova, born in Bandikhan in 1990, emphasizes that she grew up in her father's house, surrounded by an atmosphere of work.

This experience became incredibly useful for her in the future, as she started her family and ran a household on her own, playing a key role in building a prosperous life.

Her impeccable childhood was spent in the Bandikhan district of the Surkhandarya region. Due to the special conditions of the desert, making a living here is more difficult than in other places. Achieving success becomes possible only when family members are united in soul and body, working together to run the household.

As the saying goes, "He who is raised by a father directs the arrow, and he who is raised by a mother sews clothes." Guzal was a support for her parents in overcoming the worries associated with animal husbandry. She actively participated in the weddings and hashars of her neighbors, always striving to be ahead in every task among all the girls.



In 2011, when she turned twenty-one, the most important event in the life of the steppe girl took place. This event confirms that indeed "a girl is a sling stone." Guzal became the bride of a large family living in the neighboring Angor district.

In the house where she became a bride, two older daughters-in-law lived, and 11 people occupied the large house. Despite the fact that the men in the family were engaged in their professional activities, all the income they received was used to provide for the economic needs of this crowded house."

There is an old saying in Surkhandarya: "Blessing comes from the feet of the bride and from the shepherd's stick."

Our hero Guzal became a blessed bride. She expressed her proposals to her father-in-law and mother-in-law, which could help increase the income of a large family:

"Compared to our Bandikhon district, the Angor district has enough water for agriculture, and the land here is fertile. I believe that by building a large greenhouse, we will be able to harvest crops all year round. In this way, we brides will also be able to contribute to increasing family income."

Based on the saying: "Listen to the words of an adult when necessary, and pay attention to the young when necessary," the family accepted the bride's idea. and began by building a small greenhouse on 200 square meters of land.

First, tomatoes were planted in the greenhouse. The bride from Bandikhon labored lovingly on the seedlings along with her other daughter-in-law, who lived with her in the big house. She regularly took care of watering and fertilizing the plants, mainly using local fertilizers that do not harm the soil.

In early spring, the tomatoes in the greenhouse turned red and ripened, pleasing to the eyes.



Seeing the rich harvest, the household also rejoiced. At first, they regularly delivered produce to the area's farmers' market, selling it there. Over time, buyers began to get used to the quality of their goods, and as a result, on the days of tomato picking, the buyers themselves came to them.

Guzal kept daily records of tomato sales. At the end of the season, they earned 25 million soums. Even a very experienced farmer could not earn this amount. And with the harvest of cucumbers grown on the other side of the greenhouse, they received another 15 million soums.

When the father-in-law saw that his daughters-in-law, who spent time at home, were successfully making money and bringing blessings to their home, he decided to build two more greenhouses for them the following year. Of course, the basis for this was the funds received for the tomatoes grown in the original greenhouse.

"At first, we had a greenhouse on 200 square meters of land," says Guzal Misirova, a family entrepreneur. "After that, we built 2 more greenhouses of 500 square meters each, for a total of 1000 square meters. Our experience has increased significantly. Now the income from three greenhouses has increased significantly. We decided to invest and bought a dairy cow in the first year. The next year we took two bulls for fattening. All this was achieved thanks to honest work, our efforts, and love for the business.

The family has been growing food in a greenhouse for 6 years now. Over the years, they not only increased their income but also improved their relationships, becoming more harmonious and friendly to each other. By helping their neighbors, they gained their respect. The purchase of a new car for their large farm not only reduced the distance but also facilitated the work of transporting goods.

It has become obvious how important greenhouses are on farms, especially during the pandemic. Even when it was difficult to ship food from afar, the tomatoes, cucumbers, and herbs grown by their family ensured the prosperity of the table of people from Angor district.

During this time, their family grew. They have a son and two daughters. The eldest daughter is 12 years old. They are well-fed and happy, receive a good upbringing.

"In a family where there is something you like, there will be no quarrels and unnecessary conversations," says Guzal Misirova. Our work is not difficult, and the income we receive is sufficient to provide for our large family. We pass on the experience of rural youth who come to learn to work. A person's



happiness and the future of his family are in his hands, and this largely depends on the woman. Our people have a saying: "A woman can raise a man, making him strong, but she can also destroy him, turning him into black earth." This is not said in vain. A woman should be able to give her husband the right advice on preserving and using family income, directing increased income to work that brings future income. In this case, everything improves: success attracts new successes, money brings additional funds, and even more opportunities come from above.

They plant tomatoes in the greenhouse in December and harvest in February. When tomato bushes stop bearing fruit, greens are planted instead. Thus, products are grown in the greenhouse all year round.

An ordinary rural woman, Guzal Misirova, found happiness thanks to her enterprise, education, and enthusiasm. Her husband appreciates her very much, and her children love her dearly. She enjoys a well-deserved reputation and respect among her neighbors.

"When you serve many people, when you share your experience and knowledge, it's happiness," she says with a smile. "You shouldn't avoid work for this. If you know the essence of the work, you will have fewer problems. Sweet is the bread earned by honest labor. Your life will be full of meaning."

Indeed, if you have the desire, you can achieve any noble dream you want in your life.

The life of Guzal Misirova, working independently and benefiting her family and people, can become a good example for rural women.

TASHKENT REGION

SHOHIDA SAIDGOZIEVA

I LIVE IN MIRACLES...



*... A miracle does
not arise on its own;
it is created by human
hands.*





– **This is true.** you don't believe it? If you don't believe it, listen carefully to my thoughts," says Shohida Saidgozieva, who lives in the Almazor mahalla, Zangiata district, Tashkent region.

When I was a child, it would have been difficult for me to believe the prophecy that, in the future, I would become an entrepreneur growing various vegetables for markets. In 1994, I graduated from the 33rd secondary school of the Zangiata district and entered the faculty of the native language and literature of Tashkent Pedagogical University. I dreamed of pursuing my favorite profession, teaching, and raising a new generation.

However, life goes on as usual, not always the way we expect. In our family, there is a tradition of marrying off girls and boys at an early age. According to this tradition, I was married off at the age of 18, and my education was left behind.

Our family consisted of 15 people, and my father-in-law was a famous vegetable grower. I helped him and also cooked flatbread in the tandoor. My children were born one by one. We built two greenhouses on five hundred square meters of land and grew tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, potatoes, and even carrots. My husband worked as a truck driver, and my other daughter-in-law was involved in buying and selling groceries. The rest of the family was busy with their work. The care of the site was left to my father-in-law and me, and thus I became his student, without even realizing it.

A few years later, we built our own house and organized our farm. The base of our greenhouse is a two-story iron structure covered with cellophane in a "vacuum thermos" style. During the cold season, it is supported by coal, ensuring the safety of the crop. We installed the boiler with an automated system we created ourselves. On cold days, we add one cartload of firewood every hour. For example, if I am on duty from 19:00 to 24:00, then the next period is the responsibility of my husband, and then my son. Thanks to this maintenance of heat during the day, we do not have to burn wood.

In addition, the greenhouse features a rain irrigation system. We plow five acres of greenhouse land with ketmen to a depth of half a meter, then carefully level it, like the palm of your hand. We never bring agriculture vehicles to this place, ensuring that not a single weed remains in the greenhouse. If weeds appear, their seeds may fall to the ground, causing them to reappear the following year. Therefore, we take preventive measures to avoid this issue.





To prepare the soil for planting, we mix local fertilizers with phosphorus mineral additives in small quantities, as the soil's quality won't improve if excessive amounts are used. We embrace challenges and are willing to exert the effort needed for a bountiful tomato harvest. This involves carrying out sequential biological treatments without skimping on necessary mineral preparations. Careful nurturing of each seedling can result in a yield of 4 to 6 kilograms per plant. Subsequently, we plant cucumber and eggplant seedlings in the vacant spaces, expecting an income of at least 10 million soums. Overall, we earn an average of more than 60-70 million soums annually from the 500 square meters greenhouse.

I enjoy discussing my work in the greenhouse because, frankly, the process itself fascinates me. Witnessing a plant with blossoming leaves and a beautiful flower brings me joy. Parenting the plants feels akin to caring for them. The rows of growing sprouts make me envision myself as a "teacher" entering a greenhouse, where they seem to greet me before I move on to the next "lesson."

Over time, we organized weddings with the funds we earned, and vehicles such as Zil, Damas, and Cobalt have become reliable supports for our family.

It is indeed true that what goes around comes around. There were times when we harvested more than four times a year. Due to our passion for this work, the difficulties seemed



less noticeable. Every early morning, we enter the greenhouse, tie the grown branches of plants with thread, water them, and enrich them with vitamins. Inside the transparent dome, plants cannot receive enough vitamins from the sun, so we spray microelements.

Despite our best efforts, if we do not plant alternately, the soil will weaken. Therefore, after careful analysis, we began rotating different crops. For example, if one year we grow bell peppers, the next year we plant tomatoes. In the year of tomatoes, we grow cucumbers in April, greens in June, white lettuce at the end of August, and garlic in the fall. In the year following tomatoes with bell peppers, the harvest continues until September. Between the rows, we place eggplants, mung beans, and corn to ensure the soil receives a variety of nutrients.

We also prioritize soil restoration. Every fall, we conduct a week-long soil flush, where water enters from one side and exits from the other. This process promotes soil maturity and increases crop yields. However, in the next two years, this method turned out to be ineffective: the number of insects increased, and the yield relatively decreased. The soil is also tired, and now we have decided to give it a year of rest. We opened the greenhouse, and if there is snow, the earth will receive life-giving forces, promising us a good harvest in the coming years.



If you don't innovate, if you don't move forward, you risk getting stuck. Before starting any work, we conduct a profit and loss analysis. This helps determine the exact parameters of land, water, and crop planting. According to our calculations, growing organic products brings a stable income. Taking this into account, we showed interest in this area. We rented 1000 square meters of land from a neighboring farmer, and at our own risk, we began growing strawberries. The winter of 2023 was cold, but the sight of crimson strawberries on white snow brought joy. The harvest was bountiful, and each kilogram was sold at a price of 250 thousand soums. Buyers themselves came to pick up the goods directly from our homes.

This year, we rented one hectare of land. We plan to plant strawberries on 4000 square meters and carrots on the remaining land. Farming is a family enterprise, and we are all in it together. My son is planning to grow strawberries in a

greenhouse. Considering that this requires more finance, and this year our greenhouse is resting, next year we decided to conduct an experiment with growing strawberries.

For over twenty years, I worked in a greenhouse, taking care of my children, the family farm, and growing crops.

I think I should continue my education because I am passionate about literature and journalism. People continue to study even at 70 years old, but I just turned 40. I am studying part-time in primary education at Chirchik Pedagogical University. I learned a lot and realized that I need to constantly develop to pass on my knowledge to my grandchildren and raise them to be smart. I also work in the local community administration. I have a daughter-in-law, she is a seamstress. In the future, I plan to provide her with the opportunity to obtain higher education at a university.

My life is not wasted. I don't spend time on meaningless conversations. I've learned to appreciate work and find joy in every plant I cultivate. It's a genuine miracle for me to witness ears of corn grow from seeds, bloom, and then transform into a bountiful harvest. I've created this miracle and am happy to live in its magic.

In this strong and powerful, yet modest, polite, and simple woman, you see a happy Uzbek mistress of the family. Thanks to people like Shohida, our country is prospering, and market stalls are filled with a variety of dishes in winter and summer. Miracles happen every day as long as those who miraculously transform their small land into a real paradise and enrich themselves and the dastarkhan of the entire people exist.

TASHKENT REGION

ZEBO KHAITOVA

PATHS TO PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE

*... I believed that
in life, everything
depends on
intentions.*





Zebo Khaitova hails from the Pakhtachi district of Samarkand, an area known for agriculture and cotton cultivation. Despite being the youngest of 7 children in the family, she didn't shy away from work, spending her childhood in the cotton fields alongside her peers.

Taking inspiration from her mother, Zebo realized the crucial role of a woman as the sun of the family. This understanding became invaluable as she navigated through adulthood with various responsibilities.

Zebo, a dreamer with aspirations reaching the skies, completed the 9th grade and continued her study in pedagogical at college. Initially, she organized educational activities at the mahalla school, conducted club classes, and prepared for university entrance exams.



However, fate took a different turn as her parents couldn't refuse the request of close relatives, leading to Zebo's early marriage.

Unfortunately, this decision did not strengthen family bonds, resulting in a breakup.

Rural women are known for their hard work, but in the rapidly changing era, this trait alone isn't always sufficient. Adequate compensation for their efforts is equally crucial.

During a summer break, Zebo and her friends sought employment in Tashkent, as higher-paying jobs were scarce in the village. Her impressive qualities caught the attention of a woman named Khusnora, whose brother, Akbarali, lived in the Kibray district.

... The matchmakers from Tashkent arrived in Samarkand, and destiny intertwined their lives.

In 2017, Zebo became the bride of Kibray. Despite financial challenges, she chose to work, despite her husband's suggestion to stay home. Since he lacked a specific profession and a stable job, he earned income through his old car. The meager pension of 450 thousand soums from the elderly mother-in-law barely sustained their household.

At that time, Zebo was listed as unemployed in the "Women's Notebook" (by Social services) of the mahalla. During a conversation with a mahalla activist, she expressed, "If I could get a soft loan, I would start a business." Encouraged by the support of mahalla residents, she was granted a preferential loan of 33 million soums.

While 33 million soums might not seem substantial to some, especially for established businessmen with thriving enterprises, the key is how it will be utilized.

Zebo, an ordinary rural woman, effectively leveraged this money to enhance her well-being and create a content life. In 2021, she raised 1000 quails on a 750 square meters yard plot. Initially focusing on quail eggs, she earned 4-5 million soums in the first year. In 2022, she expanded her venture to include quail meat production.

Through the collaborative efforts of Zebo and her husband, they now produce 150-200 kilograms of quail meat monthly. Recognized as an eco-friendly product and valued by consumers, quail meat commands a higher price compared to other poultry. Depending on the season and buyer demand, the cost ranges from 60,000 to 80,000 soums. Some may prefer 210 grams, while others opt for quails weighing 280-300 grams.

Zebo remarks, "If we consider the average price of 150 grams at 70,000 soums, it surpasses 10 million soums." To de-



termine net profit, they deduct feed and electricity costs. On average, the net profit amounts to about 5 million soums every month.

There are clients, and the demand is sufficient. We even receive orders for quail meat from neighboring countries, up to 1 ton. However, there is a current lack of facilities to care for quail on such a scale. If authorities allocate more space in the future, we have a well-developed business plan ready for creating a quail farm, waiting to be implemented.

The family pays a monthly sum of 1 million 400 thousand soums to repay the loan. All meat and egg products are produced within the household itself. Even the head of the family, who initially showed no interest, was inspired by his wife's efforts and has become actively involved in her affairs.

When asked why she chose quail breeding and where she learned from, Zebokhon responds,

"If I tell you, you won't believe it," with a laugh. She discovered this through social networks, aligning with the current times.

She researched on YouTube to find a business that could yield the best and fastest results with the least amount of money, and that's how she landed on quails. I searched for an individual with quail chicks around Kibray, eventually acquiring 1000 quails from Shukhrat, my mentor in this venture. These were of the "Japanese-Manchurian" speckled quail breed. Subsequently, we invested in essential equipment for quail rearing, including an incubator, a fan, and other required items.

"I wanted to buy 200 or 500 chickens at first. But my experienced mentor gave me the right guidance: 'If you start with a small investment, the profit will be less. In fact, you will need the same amount of time for 200 chickens as for 1000

chickens.' Now I pass on the same advice to my students, sharing all the secrets of the profession from beginning to end. I want them not to give up at the first difficulties."

We started with 1000 chicks, and unfortunately, 200 of them died due to my inexperience. However, the remaining 800 quails began laying more than 600 eggs daily. Initially, I carried them in a bucket to the Kibray market, but sales were slow. Seeking a better approach, I visited grocery stores and spoke to the clerks. They suggested that if the eggs were packaged, they would consider taking them for sale. Following their advice, I went to the Urikzor market, acquired everything needed for packaging, packed the eggs, and distributed these products to 25 nearby grocery stores. This helped us establish a network of buyers, and our products began selling rapidly. As a result, our lives became more prosperous, and with the funds remaining after covering the cost of feeding the quails, we were able to improve our living conditions. Now, our house has everything we need.

For a year, Zebo focused on raising quails that laid eggs. Through her own experience, she concluded that breeding quails for meat is more profitable. After studying this method, she identified the white quail breed as effective and found suitable chicks. Developing your network is crucial in any business, and Zebo's success story is a testament to that.

A person who works with enthusiasm and interest doesn't get tired. Zebo serves as an example for local women, and her family business confirms the saying: "Whoever strives, gets it." She has taught her husband to work actively and practically demonstrated to her relatives and neighbors what a simple housewife is capable of. Additionally, she actively helps those in need and willingly shares her experience with those who aspire to work.



In the future, Zebo plans to establish a large farm and raise 5-10 thousand quails. Among her dreams is the intention to open a family kindergarten at home.

"I believed that in life, everything depends on intentions," says Zebo. "My intentions are coming true one after another. I dreamed of having a small yard and bringing happiness to the person with whom I would live. My dream was to change his lifestyle and, at the same time, his life. Thank God, we are happy. We overcome difficulties together. The quail is truly one of the seven treasures. It has brought peace to our lives and blessings to our family. That is why we have gained the respect of others."

"Are you a bird of luck in the world?" – this is the chorus of the song. Someone dreams of a distant bird of happiness, as described in fairy tales. And Zebo, one might say, has turned the quail into a bird of happiness and good luck for her life, family, and home.

In fact, if you look deeper, an enterprising and hard-working woman is a real bird of happiness and good luck for her family. It is important that her wings never break. May she continue to fly high.

FERGANA REGION

OZODA ABDURAZZOKOVA

THOSE WHO EARN MILLIONS FROM RASPBERRIES

... A farmer growing medicinal fruits must be not only wise but also patient.





Innovative research is being conducted in Uzbekistan on the effective use of agricultural land to obtain more income from it.

One of these energetic women is Ozoda Abdurazzokova, who lives in the Dilkusho mahalla of the Fergana district. For several years now, she has been growing raspberries on 4500 square meters and attracts dozens of her neighbors to work.

Since Ozoda's native profession is pedagogy, she worked for several years in a preschool educational institution in the district. During her maternity leave, she dreamed of creating a garden and taking care of other things. As you can see, dreams have become a reality. She heard that the apricot orchard was for sale and began buying it through a tender. In 2002, she, with husband Madrahim, decided to take part in a tender to create a garden of 0.7 hectares and won it. Her husband was also the son of a farmer, so they started gardening together. However, apricots turned out to be less productive than expected. In addition to the fact that the profit from the garden was lower than expected, the trees suffered from the cold in those years.

Then, instead of dried apricot trees, pomegranate seedlings were planted. Currently, 50 pomegranate bushes are grown on an area of 2500 square meters. And in place of the remaining dead trees, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, and onions were first planted. After the result did not give the expected effect, it was decided to plant raspberries.



If you enter her raspberry garden, your soul will simply enjoy. Among the green bushes, fruits shimmering like red tape became a sign of the abundance of the harvest. They are collected twice a year. That is why the villagers compare this healing fruit to a treasure found on the site. Of course, it's true; if raspberries bring in millions of money, then this is a real treasure!

Raspberries are cultivated in every yard as much as possible, bringing blessings to households. The great news is that a family with 1000-1500 square meters of land can earn up to 15 million soums annually. The raspberry market is highly sought after, supplying not only to the valley area but also to all regions and cities of Uzbekistan, and even exported to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

Ozod and her husband set an example for fellow villagers in raspberry cultivation and seedling preparation. Considering that the wholesale price of one kilogram of raspberries is 18-20 thousand soums, it's easy to calculate the income received per season. Additionally, fruits such as pomegranates and apricots are grown in the 3000 square meters garden. To utilize the land more efficiently, raspberries are also cultivated between the vines.



"The raspberry bush is very suitable for our climate; it develops quickly here," notes Ozoda. "Two years after planting, the first harvest begins, and by the third year, it bears fruit much more abundantly. The seedlings we received from our Kyrgyz friends started bearing fruit within a year. Harvest is collected twice a year – first in May–June, and the second from August until the snow falls. Better care leads to higher productivity. This year, the wholesale price of one kilogram of raspberries reached 25 thousand soums. You'd be surprised to know how much income we get from 0.45 hectares. This is why we've been farming for 21 years."

A family receives an average of 12–14 centners per hundred square meters. The weight of one raspberry fruit is 5–6 grams, and it stands out for its healing properties. Raspberries, with red and sometimes yellow fruits, contain up to 11.5% sugar, 1–2% organic acids, B vitamins, carotene, and aromatic substances. The fruits are mainly consumed fresh, and preserves, jams, and juices are prepared in the canning industry.

The nature of our country is truly remarkable. While the Kyzylkum deserts experience heat, the Shakhimardan mountains receive rainfall. Consequently, the fruits and vegetables cultivated in these regions exhibit distinct characteristics. If

you commend Oltiarik's cucumbers, locals might counter with pride in their grapes. Likewise, praising Sherobad's pomegranates may offend the people of Kuva, known for their sought-after garnets. Now, large raspberries from Vodil have joined the ranks.

In 2010, 0.45 hectares of land were transformed into raspberry fields. Initially, a thousand raspberry seedlings were planted on a 300 square meters plot. Over the years, the seedlings multiplied, with planting occurring in early spring or late autumn, maintaining intervals between rows of 1.5 meters and between bushes of 50 to 70 centimeters. Raspberries annually produce an extensive number of rhizomes, actively absorbing nutrients from the soil.

Given the susceptibility of raspberry bushes to diseases, careful agrotechnical measures are essential. For instance, during budding and post-harvest, they are sprayed with a 1% solution of colloidal sulfur. Depending on soil fertility, applying 60-80 kilograms of organic fertilizer per hectare annually or biennially is recommended to ensure a bountiful harvest. Manure, phosphorus, and potassium fertilizers are applied in the fall during plowing, with nitrogen fertilizers applied in the spring before soil loosening.

Locals refer to these plantations as "red gold." If not renewed every seven years, the yield decreases. Abnormal cold last year damaged almost 50% of the raspberry branches, resulting in a low yield for the first harvest. Fortunately, raspberry branches grow frequently, and the cold didn't impact the sprouts, which are now lined up like pearls.

Indeed, raspberries are a crop that thrives with care and attention. The bushes are sensitive, disliking both drought and excessive moisture. Insufficient moisture weakens bud growth, leading to their drying out and thinning. This results in small berries, and many dry out before ripening. Adequate



moisture, especially during shoot growth and fruit ripening, is crucial.

Planting a medicinal plant seedling involves ensuring that the root collar aligns with ground level. Roots should be evenly distributed in all directions, and after burial, they are filled with 5–6 liters of water. The holes are enriched with manure, peat, etc., and excess parts are trimmed.

Raspberries are propagated through rhizomes, roots, and cuttings. After harvesting seedlings grown on furrows, one-year-old branches are retained, while two-year-old branches are pruned. Raspberries flourish in fertile, well-fertilized soils with good moisture, drainage, and groundwater at least 1.5 meters deep. Watering is done 10–15 times a year, with each session boosting yield, reaching an average of 80–120 centners.

"A farmer growing medicinal fruits must be not only wise but also patient," - advises Ozoda. Raspberries are delicate, but those who care for them will reap the rewards. Regular

pruning is essential to prevent overripening. Fruits intended for consumption or processing on the day of collection can be picked without the stalks. In the first days of ripening, the crop is harvested every 2 days, and after completion, every 4 days. Harvesting is done in 1.5-2-kilogram containers, yielding about 200 kilograms per harvest. Raspberries are picked in the morning or evening when the weather is cool. Next spring, the family plans to plant new seedlings on 1500 square meters of land. These lands rest for two years, during which potatoes, corn, and tomatoes are cultivated. Then they plant raspberry seedlings again. Last year, the plants on 2000 square meters of land were renewed. Since the preparation of raspberry seedlings is well-established on the plot itself, the family has no trouble finding fertile, high-quality seedlings. After all, this product is cultivated on their own. It has become a tradition to annually harvest and supply 3000 seedlings to the market. Each seedling is sold for 2-2.5 thousand soums and has its loyal buyers. Ozoda and her husband plan to harvest even more seedlings this year. Considering that 3 thousand seedlings will be placed on 10000 square meters of land, one can assume that the raspberry fields will expand even further. If each household in Vodil prepares this much seedlings... Can you imagine?

Many admire the harmony, prosperity, and peace in Ozoda's home. Earnings have increased the number of livestock, two sons have earned university degrees, houses have been built, and new structures erected. Currently, the university education fee of the son is being paid, and the younger one is excelling in school. Family vehicles have been acquired, and there is enough machinery for land cultivation.

We want to emphasize that completeness and harmony in the family are the result of diligence, deep knowledge of their work, and high efficiency. A person who is inactive can-

not create an adequate amount of material wealth and earn the respect of the people. It's simple arithmetic. Ozoda and her husband have already realized this. Their family example vividly demonstrates that systematic and purposeful work always leads to success.

Today, Ozoda is the beloved grandmother of three wonderful grandchildren. As the saying goes, "the fruit is sweeter than the seed," she loves her grandchildren very much and strives to raise them as hardworking as she is. Her children and daughter-in-law assist in fieldwork. Like their industrious mother, they aim to earn the respect and blessings of the people. After all, prayer is a great reward. To receive it is the greatest happiness. Ozoda Abdurazzokova's life path is a worthy example, living in this happiness that she has created with her own hands.

"As long as there are villages, cities flourish and are well-groomed," says Ozoda. – That's why our state is carrying out consistent reforms to develop villages, improve the living standards of people living there, and increase family incomes. I am happy to be at the forefront of these reforms.

Indeed, Ozoda is right. According to her, the nature of our country would not be harmed if everyone considered it their duty to improve and enhance the country.

FERGANA REGION

SAYYORA ZARIPOVA

HOW DO WOMEN OVERCOME
THE CHALLENGES OF FARMING?



*...In open fields,
we rely on risk.*





“When I remember this incident, my heart breaks,” says Sayyora Zaripova, head of the Jami-lakhan-Sayorakhon farm in the Uzekistan district. Seven or eight years ago, when I first started raising silkworms, I got 10 boxes of silkworms. At that time, I was not aware of the difficulties, but they became noticeable later. When I saw a worm crawling on a leaf, my heart was filled with love, and I exclaimed: ‘Oh, my darlings!’ and began to put mulberry leaves. However, at some point, I noticed that their number increased sharply, occupying as many as 6 rooms. At first, there were only a few leaves, but then there was a shortage of food. Due to my inexperience and lack of leaves, many of the worms died. As a result, I delivered only 200 kilograms of cocoons instead of the planned 557 kilograms. Looking at the dead worms, I shed many tears. This mistake still haunts me, and I cannot forgive myself...”

Sayyora, who founded the farm in the winter of 2016, has not yet come to her senses, but the silkworm season has already begun. “You will get a good profit, take more cocoons,” the officials said, leaving her 10 boxes of silkworms. The newly established farm didn’t have any silkworms “experienced enough” to care for them. In subsequent years, Sayyora “received the light.” Now no one can bring her down because she has learned to listen to her heart, and not to the advice of others. She no longer takes more than 5 boxes of silkworms. This year she collected more than 310 kilograms of cocoons. Considering that the standard requirement is 58 kg per box, this is a good indicator. The reason is that many mulberry seedlings were planted as experience was gained, and a strong food supply was established.

Now she deeply feels like a head of the farm. She mastered the skills of obtaining high yields not only of cocoons but also of other agricultural crops. In particular, she has accumulated unique experience in creating a garden that should be widely implemented. Is it possible to create a garden on 9 hectares of steppe land? This path has been found."

In 2019, she planted drought-tolerant varieties of apples, peaches, apricots, almonds, and walnuts. Can you imagine how happy she was when there was a harvest of apricots, walnuts, and almonds this year? Apples yielded 500 kilograms, almonds – 600 kilograms. Thanks to the rapid ripeness of peach seedlings, 15-20 tons of high-quality fruit were collected during the season. Wholesale buyers purchased peaches from the garden for 4-5 thousand soums per kilogram.

"Not everyone can decide to create a garden in the steppe areas," says S. Zaripova. "Because the summer is very





hot. Also, there is a hot wind. One seedling is grown with great difficulty. Perhaps that is why very few people come here to create a garden. No one could dare such a difficult work. To plant a garden, you need to survive all the 'evil discontents' of the climate. For example, even on this steppe region, you can create a garden if you water and care for it in time. I experienced this myself. Today we planted more than ten fruit trees in our garden. The reason is that market demands change every year: if the price of peaches rises one year, the price of apples will rise next year. Then, if one is not sold or the harvest is low, another will compensate for it. Also, the specialist must know well which tree his land 'loves' most. Now I can say for sure that peaches and apricots can be harvested in abundance on our lands."

Sayyora spoke in detail about her beautiful garden and each tree that she cares for with love. All trees in the garden are selected taking into account quality; the highest quality and original varieties are planted. Most of them are grafted onto seedlings of wild bitter peaches and apricots. This also worked well because wild varieties can be resistant to climate change and produce good harvests. Because Sayyora has chosen varieties that are resistant to high temperatures, climate change, and drought, she generates income from these lands and ensures abundance in the domestic market.

Please note that there is a unique technology for creating gardens in the steppes and obtaining tons of selected

fruits. What about cotton farming? Growing cotton, for example, requires efficiency, careful use of every drop of water and seed. For this reason, drip irrigation has been started on 15 hectares of the 47 hectares of land where cotton is sown. The reason is that the water problem is very serious, and the water is collected in the pond through several drains. Then, a "water locking" system is applied to fields where water does not reach. To further increase yields, drip irrigation was introduced in 2020. Subsidies covered 108 million of the 300 million soums spent on this.

As a result, the productivity of the land, which in the early periods was 10 centners per hectare, reached 35 centners. Once the tender cotton was barely visible among the weeds, but now there is not a single weed left in the field.

"In the first years of our activity, we had to go through a lot of difficulties," Sayyora says, recalling those difficult times. "We used local fertilizers extensively to improve the quality of the land. We have faced lot of difficulties until we cleared the earth of weeds. You know, although we have been operating at a loss for about four years, we have not abandoned our intention. It's good that my husband, father, and brother supported me financially and morally. In addition, we received a loan from the bank. Back in 2020, before the introduction of drip irrigation, we ran out of cotton already from its first harvest. Sometimes you want to give up on everything. It makes me feel sorry for all the hard work we put in. It's impossible to refuse when you see these blooming and growing crops."

Today, not a single farmer can succeed without science, new varieties, good care, and innovative technologies. Sayyora herself is not inferior to some scientists in developing new methods. See, in order to protect the crop from insects and pests, castor beans and pumpkins are planted every year along the edges of fields and ditches. Castor bean seed re-



tains moisture in the soil. Since the trunk and leaves are oily, all insects stick to it. The pumpkin “attracts” aphids, which attack the cotton. The function of mulberry seedlings planted in rows is to reduce soil salinity. Do you see that these discoveries of hers can be called innovation? Of course, they can.

The most interesting thing is, what can you say about growing rice in the steppe region? After all, rice grows in full water! Sayyora also found an appropriate method. Every year, on almost one hectare of land freed from grain, a variety of black rice is sown, the yield of which is about one ton. Since this variety is resistant to water, it is sufficient if it is planted like wheat and watered little by little.

According to Sayora, if all the factors that negatively impact the harvest, especially climate change, are not taken into account, it is impossible to work hard and leave empty-handed. Because climate change is very noticeable here. One example is this year’s abnormally cold winter, which damaged wheat stalks. It’s good that 22.5 hectares of the field were sown with a cold-resistant variety of wheat. But even then, the yield was almost 20% lower. Some neighboring farmers were losing money, so they liquidated their grain fields and replaced them with cotton seeds.

“In open fields, we take risks,” says Sayora. “In this regard, the advice of agronomists is also useful. The most important thing is to plant and grow seedlings on time. For

example, if the planting of cotton is delayed by ten days because of rain, the harvest will be delayed by a month. That's why I take weather and climate change into account when planning. Thanks to the experience of the farmers and agronomists around me, I learned a lot."

If you don't shy away from work, you can reach great heights. Who would have thought that a simple housewife raising three sons would one day manage such a large plot of land? Even though her father was a carpenter and her mother a nurse, her small plot is thriving. Perhaps the love for the land in Sayyora was awakened from this small piece of land.

Sohibjon, Sayyora's brother, also contributed greatly to her finding her place in society and becoming one of the mentioned famous farmers. Although Sohibjon learned carpentry from his father, he developed a love for the land. Despite the lack of free land on his property, he found ways to express his passion for agriculture. He shared his dream of creating large gardens with his sister. Sometimes, he would go to a nearby farmer's field and help with gardening work. In 2015, one of the farmers he knew said that he was unable to make a profit from the land and wanted to return the sown areas to the state. Then Sohibjon consulted with his father, sister Sayyora, and son-in-law Ahadjon, after which they agreed to participate in the tender.

At this time, her children became assistants, and Sayyora had much less housework. She decided to farm with her brother.

Today, the increase in yield in these territories is also due to the introduction of crop rotation, i.e., sowing mung beans and corn in fields cleared of grain. The number of livestock hooves also increases, which is of great importance when enriching the land with local fertilizers. They can go door to door and collect local fertilizers without being lazy.

She is currently interested in solar panels because the effect of drip irrigation is hindered by frequent power outages in remote areas. When the power goes out, the water pumped through the drainage stops at the point where it reached, and the process takes a long time to restart once the power is restored. Consequently, the irrigation process, originally designed for three hours, can extend up to a whole day.

When we asked Sayyora about the profit she had made, she mentioned that over the past three years, she had successfully paid off the loan and its interest, amounting to 270 million soums. Now, the money earned will remain as profit. All this is a practical manifestation of hard work, a deep understanding of the work, the implementation of innovative technologies, and effective operation in the face of global climate challenges and water scarcity.

Once, Sayyora was asked, "Why do you, as a woman, choose to be a farmer?" After a moment of contemplation, she fixed a sharp gaze into the eyes of the questioner and responded, "Enriching the country's dining table with tons of the best fruits and supplying the domestic market with food in winter and summer is more valuable to me than the income I earn." If every person values the land they were born and raised on and strives to create material wealth from it, then there will be no more prosperous country than ours.



The truth was on the farmer's side. The burden of our nation does not go unfulfilled because of such selfless and enthusiastic women. For them, benefiting people is not only a duty but also a source of great happiness. As long as there are people like Sayyora in our country, our nation will always be happy.

KHOREZM REGION

SAIDA AHMEDOVA

IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED OUR HONEY,
THEN YOU'VE BEEN MISSING OUT...

*...The true blessing lies
in honesty and integrity.*





Honey is a unique product that doesn't turn sour or spoil; instead, it becomes even more healing with time. Bees, tirelessly traveling hundreds of kilometers from flower to flower to collect honey, require dedicated care and attention. To undertake this task, one must work diligently, akin to a bee. Only a patient, strong-willed, and caring individual can thrive in the field of beekeeping and reap its invaluable rewards.

In the Khorezm oasis, we find a dedicated beekeeper, Saida Ahmedova, whose honey is highly sought after in the market. Guests who taste her honey at the table express delight, marveling at its exquisite flavor. Such exceptional products are cultivated by Saida, who serves as the head of the household service "Amu Asali" in the Gurlan district.

"Beekeeping is demanding but highly profitable," says Saida. "Engaging in beekeeping can swiftly improve the financial situation of a low-income family, provided they do not shy away from the hard work. For instance, a family caring for 100 bee colonies can live in abundance. With proper care, one bee family produces 15 to 30 kilograms of honey. Last year alone, we harvested 55 tons of honey from our apiaries. The market price for one kilogram of honey ranges from 50,000 to 100,000 soums. You can calculate for yourself the value of 55 tons of honey. Honestly, everything I've achieved is thanks to honey bees. We employ ten people on a permanent basis, and during the honey harvest season, we hire an additional 15 people. Our standard of living has improved significantly – our children are attending educational institutions, we've built new comfortable houses, and acquired cars and working equipment."



Saida's life journey is straightforward, much like that of others: she married Zokirjon in 1995 and has been immersed in the world of beekeeping ever since. The family she joined has been involved in beekeeping since the sixties when Zokirjon's grandfather, curious about the field, set up 10 beehives in his yard. Over time, the number of families and honey production grew, leading to surplus food sold to neighbors and eventually to the market.

In 2000, when Zokirjon, the eldest son, moved into a separate house, his grandfather chose to live with the young family still interested in beekeeping, sparking Saida's own interest in the profession. She delved into the intricacies of beekeeping, a venture that proved lucrative for the family. Currently, Saida tends to over a thousand bee families, Zokirjon manages five hundred, and their eldest son, Khushnudbek, oversees more than five hundred bee families.

Last year, they achieved a remarkable production of 55 tons of honey, resulting in substantial profits. Additionally, they initiated breeding work in their apiaries, with plans to sell queen bees from the coming year.

Bees are not just a source of income or creatures with medicinal benefits; they play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and enhancing agricultural productivity. Through their pollination efforts as they collect honey, bees contribute to the renewal of plants, adding new life to the ecosystem.



"Due to the excessive use of toxic pesticides, bee colonies are declining," says Saida with concern. "This is often linked to global warming, and I believe that bees suffer from the indiscriminate use of pastures and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers by farmers. With disappearing cultivated and wild plants in pastures, bees are left without food. By providing larger pastures for bees, the plants in these areas can pollinate, bloom, seed, and bear fruit. Bees play a crucial role in the food security chain, and if they disappear, this chain will break. After all, bees are the only insects that collect nectar."

Each bee alights on more than a thousand flowers to collect a drop of nectar. To produce one kilogram of honey, bees travel about 400,000 kilometers. 80–90 percent of plant reproduction and life expectancy depend on bees. They are entrusted with the crucial task of pollinating trees and plants, ensuring they bear fruit. This beneficial insect brings immense benefits to the global economy through its pollination properties.

Countries with developed beekeeping have shown that pollinating crops with bees increases productivity by 20–30%. Orchards' fertility can rise by 2–3 times, and the yield of certain fruits can surge by 8–10 times.

Have you ever heard of bees attacking another hive? This information was new to me during a conversation with Saida. If the distance between beekeepers is less than 3–4 kilometers, the weather is hot, and there are no plants producing juice, bees may "invade" weak colonies without a mother bee, taking away honey food from these families.

"Sometimes we observe bees flying alone in the air," says Saida. "It indicates they were attacked by strong bees, invading their nests. If the attack is not prevented, many bee colonies may perish. We work hard to avoid this situation. Firstly, we aim to place hives at least 3 kilometers away from other beekeepers. In an apiary with a weak colony lacking a mother bee, we reduce the number of wax frames until they are completely covered with bees. If there's a spot around the nest where even a drop of honey has fallen, it's immediately sprinkled with soil or cleaned with a rag soaked in kerosene. If an attack is sensed, kerosene or Vietnamese balsam is applied to the board in front of the hive opening. Since kerosene dries quickly, it should be used frequently. Alien bees flying around the nest are dispersed by spraying water or using a broom. This prevents robbery. Such an unpleasant situation can only be stopped when sap begins to flow from nature or when it gets colder and starts raining."

No profession is without worries and difficulties, and beekeeping is distinct in its complexity. Those who engage in this field, braving the rainy days of spring and the summer heat, transforming steppes and fields into their habitats, are well-acquainted with the challenges of honey production.

"We raise most of the bees in the wild nature of Karakalpakstan," says Saida. "Some are cultivated in cotton fields in our residential area. Cotton fields cover a vast area, and cotton flowers yield excellent honey. Recently, high-quality honey is obtained from saffron and clover flowers. If farmers are allocated more land for planting such crops, soil fertility will increase, and it will be possible to harvest alfalfa seeds and gather honey from its flowers.

Honey buyers seek pure honey as artificial alternatives become more prevalent. Some even adulterate pure honey with unknown substances to increase its volume and profit.



Clearly, such practices harm the reputation of genuine honey producers.

"You're right," Saida asserts. "There are those who try to make a living this way. However, a genuine beekeeper avoids such practices. Throughout all the years I've been in this business, I've only sold pure honey. Honesty and integrity are our blessings. If liquid honey is mixed with ink and doesn't dissolve, it's not pure honey. Otherwise, it indicates a high-quality product."

During the period of rapid bee growth in early spring, when their need for nectar and pollen is high, weather conditions can impact the amount of available nectar. It's crucial to provide bees with food during this period, and we accomplish this by offering the bees last year's frame honey, honey, or sugar syrup. Feeding with sweet syrup begins long before the honey collection season, ensuring the bees have enough if natural nectar sources are insufficient. If we can't provide them with fields containing nectar-rich plants, or if their productivity is low, we supplement their diet with sweet syrup.

In our 30 years of beekeeping, we maintain integrity and believe in the blessings that honesty brings. Starting from October, we prepare the bees for winter by placing 10–15 kilograms of honey in frames in each hive, enough for the winter.

Dozens of young people receive training in the secrets of beekeeping at the Amu Asali homestead service every year.

They undergo "master classes" covering beeswax processing, box making, honey extraction equipment preparation, and other technical aspects of the art.

The primary beekeeper, who supplies the majority of products to military units in Nukus, sells the remainder to buyers in Tashkent. There are plans to expand the business and begin product processing. To achieve this, a contract for the purchase of Chinese equipment for packaging products has been signed, capable of packaging products in containers ranging from 5 grams to 3-4 kilograms.

Additionally, there are plans to open a medical center for bee sting treatment in the near future. Otabek, the youngest child in the family, is receiving education at the Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute to provide qualified personnel in this area.

Beekeeping is actively developing in Uzbekistan, with more than 20,000 beekeepers caring for 1.1 million bee colonies. The annual honey production exceeds 25,000 tons, including mountain honey (10%), cotton honey (50-55%), desert honey (camel thorn, *Psoralea L.*, frankincense, *Asafoetida*, licorice) (30%), and honey from various flowers (5-10%). The country is adopting foreign technologies, improving beekeeping practices, and developing this sector with state support through benefits and relief for beekeepers, contributing to increased honey exports to other countries. Last year, 68.3 tons of natural honey and 265,941 packages of bee colonies were exported to the USA, Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, and Japan, showing positive export dynamics compared to the first months of the year when 238,902 packages were exported.

When bees land on a flower and start collecting nectar, they leave a trail behind them. This trail serves as a guide for their partners, preventing them from wasting time by flying to the same flower. In this natural phenomenon, you can witness



a genuine miracle. Saida Akhmedova, a devoted beekeeper dedicated to caring for these remarkable creatures that interact and support each other, considers it her civic duty to contribute to her country. Committed to assisting people in the region where she was born and raised, she deserves the honorary title of a generous woman, and her reputation continues to grow among the people.

KHOREZM REGION

YULDUZ KARIMOVA

A STAR SHINES UNDER THE TRANSPARENT DOME



...The income is in proportion to our efforts.





– **Blessed be Yulduz**, who shortens our distance to the market. – Why don't we take advantage of the fact that tomatoes and cucumbers ripen right here, in Yulduz's greenhouse? Saving on transportation costs and affordable prices are great benefits. – How do you feel about the fact that our fellow villager Yulduz has become a businessman? Do you know how much Yulduz earns from 400 square meters of the greenhouse? It would be wonderful if more such nimble and skillful women appeared in our area.

– Well done, she works hard, earns money, and puts in the effort, which brings her satisfaction.

Similar conversations are often held among residents of the Pakhtakor mahalla, Khonka district. Residents of the area are delighted with Yulduz, envy her, and happily buy products created by her hands. How did Yulduz Karimova achieve such success, and why does her greenhouse bring such a bountiful harvest (Uzbek word "Yulduz" means star)?

"Many people, having built greenhouses, not only did not make money from them but also did not achieve a good harvest," they say, admiring her skill in managing the greenhouse.



If you ask Yulduz Karimova, she will smile sweetly and say: "There is no secret to it. If you are not afraid of hard work, just master the science of growing tomatoes or cucumbers in a greenhouse." In the end, luck always favors those who are not afraid of work.

If we consider her life path, then, like many other girls in the area, she was married off in 1999, the same year she graduated from secondary school. She did not have time to engage in her profession due to raising consecutive children and household chores. No wonder they say that time is like a flowing river. In the blink of an eye, her eldest daughter Maftuna is studying business organization in Poland, and the youngest Madina went to study at the University of Information Technologies in Tashkent.

Allabergan, her husband, is a driver who transports goods to distant countries. Yulduzhon being left alone at home, began to search for a suitable activity for herself. Immersing herself in the internet in search of information about the benefits of greenhouses and methods of caring for crops, she decided to invest her efforts in using her 400 square meters of land in her yard. "There is so much free land here where you can make millions of money," she exclaimed joyfully. It was as if she had discovered something important, something that piqued her interest. It is important that a person has an idea, and that idea is born. Now it was time to bring it to life.

After consulting with her husband, Yulduz first built a greenhouse on 200 square meters of land. She also found secrets on the internet for growing tomatoes and cucumbers in a greenhouse. At first, she was overcome by doubts about possible financial losses, but as the saying goes: "Work undertaken at risk is completed before the minds of those who only think." Soon, she decided to act more boldly. The results exceeded expectations, and from that moment Yulduz found



herself a useful and exciting activity at home. Since 2017, Yulduz Karimova has been demonstrating her experience and the results of her work by organizing a greenhouse on 400 square meters of land in her yard. Thus, it raises the important question that even in the absence of work and unfavorable conditions, it is possible to find opportunities to earn money and improve the financial situation of the family. She supplies our people with fresh cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbage, and various types of greens.

Over the course of eight years, Yulduz installed two greenhouses in her yard, each of which occupies two acres, and introduced a drip irrigation system there. A drip irrigation system provides plants with the right amount of water in the root zone at the right time to meet their needs. Especially in the hot climate of Khorezm, the use of drip irrigation helps reduce the number of weeds in the fields and reduces the cost of fighting them. Thanks to the analysis of many years of scientific research, the introduction of drip irrigation technology makes it possible to obtain abundant tomato harvests.

In the conditions of Uzbekistan, implementing a profitable commercial idea using a greenhouse is quite possible. A

small greenhouse placed in the yard can eventually turn into a stable source of income. This is especially true considering that fresh and environmentally friendly products grown in optimal conditions will always be available. Yulduz successfully demonstrated this approach in practice on her farm.

"It's also important to keep the greenhouse temperature moderate," she says. "People who grow food under film know this very well. For example, for cucumbers, the air temperature should not fall below 25-28 degrees on sunny days, 20-22 degrees on cloudy days, and 18-20 degrees at night. These conditions contribute to the good development of plants, ensure a good harvest, and prevent the spread of various diseases. Following this regime, by the end of August, we will be able to collect 10 tons of cucumbers from those planted in February. In September, it is planned to plant cabbage and then spinach.

Currently, the cucumber and tomato seedlings in the greenhouse have begun to bear fruit, which will soon ripen. We ask the housewife: "How much profit do you make?"

"The income is commensurate with our work," says the owner of the house. "We don't complain. Together with our children, we work to ensure that harvest is always good. Buyers themselves come and pick up food from our home. Our life is smooth, our table is always plentiful. We make our dreams come true through this greenhouse. This season, we made a profit of 25 million soums. When you see the results of your work, fatigue immediately goes away, and you will feel satisfied with it."

To contribute to the Green Space project, consistently implemented in our country, Yulduz plans to create a garden on unused land by the side of the road, planting seedlings of various fruit trees such as walnuts, apricots, and apples. This spring, she experimented with growing strawberry seedlings



in a greenhouse. In 2024, with a successful harvest and sufficient profit from strawberries, she plans to start growing lemons. She has many plans and strives to realize them. Imagine, she was left alone at home and didn't know what to do. Look at her now – with her drive, effort, and hard work, she has built her own business, strengthened her family's budget, and most importantly, made a huge contribution to food security and is now receiving the recognition she deserves. The example of Yulduz becomes especially important during the period of globalization processes in the world.

According to UN research, the world population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, with a projected peak of 11 billion by 2100. Population growth, limited resources, and climate change pose urgent challenges, questioning whether humanity can feed itself.

Indeed, modern farming methods and innovations such as crop protection, breeding, and the use of artificial fertilizers are important elements in meeting the current demand for food. However, with population growth forecasts and resource constraints, the next wave of innovation will be needed to strike a balance between producing more food and keep-

ing the planet sustainable. For this, efficient use of every area of land and the introduction of advanced technologies such as drip irrigation systems are critical, especially in conditions of water scarcity.

In general, it is important that everyone, regardless of their occupation, participates in growing food on their plot of land and tries to make the most of every piece. In this context, the efforts of Yulduz Karimova represent an exemplary approach that meets modern requirements. We support the idea of spreading similar initiatives in different regions. It is commendable that she has created a green kingdom under a transparent dome and shares it with society. May the stars like Yulduz always shine under these transparent domes!





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Author: Sayyora Shoyeva

Editor: Sirojiddin Vohidov

Idea by: Adiba Ahmedjanova

Advisors: Shakhnoza Zafari, Mukhabbat Turkmenova

Layout by: Aleksandra Povarich

Design by: Aleksandra Povarich, Otabek Eshmatov

Photos by: Otabek Eshmatov, Abbos Egamberdiev,
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at Angor district administration, Surkhandarya region

Iqbal Omonboyev, Press secretary of the Fergana
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