

Kazakhstan among top three importers of Uzbek fruits and vegetables

14 February 2025 | News

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Kazakhstan ranks among the top three importers of fruit and vegetable products from Uzbekistan. According to the Statistics Agency under the President of Uzbekistan, the country supplied 520.5 thousand tons of fresh and dried vegetables and fruits to Kazakhstan last year. This accounted for 25.6 per cent of Uzbekistan's total fruit and vegetable exports.

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Overall, Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable exports grew by 15.6 per cent in volume and 31.2 per cent in value, generating \$1.5 billion in revenue. Russia was the top market in monetary terms, purchasing \$632.9 million worth of produce—a 44.7 per cent increase from the previous year. Pakistan ranked second, importing \$192.3 million, followed by Kazakhstan, where exports surged 56.6 per cent to \$189.8 million.

The strengthening of Uzbekistan's trade ties with Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan—three member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)—is partly attributed to Uzbekistan's observer status in the bloc. Uzbek officials highlight the benefits of closer integration, including streamlined logistics and enhanced trade facilitation.

The export basket of fruit and vegetable products of Uzbekistan is diverse, with only three types of vegetables - onions, cabbage and carrots - accounting for 39 per cent of its total volume. Over the first nine months of last year, farmers of Uzbekistan sent 584.1 thousand tons of such agricultural products to other countries for a total of \$130.1 million.

Of the fruits, the largest volumes of deliveries in the first three quarters of last year were observed for grapes, peaches and apricots: a total of 276.5 thousand tons worth 254.8 million US dollars. Judging by the growth dynamics, these fruits are in good demand in other countries: the physical volumes of grapes supplied increased by 51 per cent, apricots by 52.9 per cent,

and peaches by 43.6 per cent.