



AGROECOTOURISM NATURE, OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT STATUS

Oybek Zoirovich Khaydarov

Doctoral Student of the Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

Abstract

The article discusses one of the promising areas in the economy - agroecotourism, which contributes to the state budget, and also helps to attract foreign investment in the country's economy. The characteristics of the development of agroecotourism in various countries in comparison with the Republic of Uzbekistan are reflected, the country's tourism potential is analyzed, its strengths and weaknesses are identified.

Key words: agroecotourism, farmstead, development, problems, stimulation.

Agri-ecotourism is one of the priority areas in the field of tourism, which is developing rapidly and is strongly supported by the governments of many states. This is due to the fact that more and more foreign citizens prefer farmsteads in order not only to relax, but also to get acquainted with the culture, life, traditions and nature of other countries. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) notes that agro-ecotourism combines various types of tourism, thereby developing dynamically in many countries of the world [1]:

- 25% of it consists of ethnotourism, the purpose of which is to familiarize tourists and sightseers with the traditions, customs and culture of the countryside;
- 35% is ecotourism, involving visits to natural areas;
- 15% is allocated for cultural and educational tourism with visits to various historical and cultural attractions;
- 25% falls on the share of active tourism, which involves active travel in natural areas.

In European countries, this area of tourism occupies the second position after the beach type of recreation. It accounts for approximately 20-30% of total income [2]. Thus, agro-ecotourism provides employment for the rural population, reduces the migration of rural residents to large cities, and is also an affordable form of recreation. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, agro-ecotourism is one of the dynamically developing and priority areas, as it contributes to the development of the economy and infrastructure in the country. The development of this sphere in the Republic began relatively recently (in 2006, the first farmsteads appeared in the Surkhandarya region). Every year the number of farmsteads increases, so in 2012 only 34 farmsteads were registered, as of the end of 2021, there are 2319 farmsteads in the Republic of





Uzbekistan, income from this type of activity exceeded 8 million dollars [5]. As noted earlier [3], such dynamics indicates significant positive trends in the development of agroecotourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The high importance of the development of agroecotourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan is due to the following reasons:

Firstly, this direction, like the entire tourism sector as a whole, is a source of additional inflow of foreign currency and replenishment of the state budget of the country, and also contributes to the inflow of investments. All this favors the development of tourism infrastructure, rural areas are brought into proper form.

Secondly, by opening their own farmsteads, the problem of employment of the population and the search for jobs is being solved. The welfare of the population is improving.

Thirdly, a positive image of the country abroad is formed.

For more efficient implementation of activities in the field of agroecotourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan, a public association "Recreation in the regions" was created, whose members are rural residents who develop various activities to ensure the competitiveness of the services offered and access to foreign markets [2].

Issues related to the development of agro-ecotourism in Uzbekistan were covered in their works by Uzbek and Russian research scientists. The works of these authors contain information about the tourism potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan, priority areas that contribute to the beneficial development of agroecotourism in the country.

Despite the fact that the field of agro-ecotourism contributes to the overall development of the country, making it attractive to foreign citizens, there are a number of problems that are faced not only by the subjects of agro-ecotourism, but also by the state that controls this industry. Therefore, the purpose of our study is to highlight these problems and suggest ways and measures to eliminate them.

Based on the data presented, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference in the indicators of the development of agroecotourism in the countries under study. The number of farmsteads in the USA is about 87% more than in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in the Republic of Poland - by 27%. This is due to the fact that countries differ in the size of their territorial boundaries. Accordingly, the level of income from such a large number of farmsteads in the United States and Poland is much higher than in Uzbekistan [4].

As for the prices for services provided on the territory of Uzbek farmsteads, there is a problem of discrepancy between the price and the quality of the services provided.





This is due to the fact that many owners of farmsteads do not have the necessary skills to run a business in the field of agroecotourism.

Table 1. Comparative characteristics of the agro-ecotourism sector by country

Comparison indicators	Republic of Uzbekistan	USA	Republic of Poland
Founding year	2006	1980	1990
Mandatory conditions for the farmstead	1) permanent residence of the owner in the farmstead; 2) the availability of free rooms for tourists (no more than 10); 3) implementation of activities for the cultivation and processing of agricultural products; 4) organization of leisure activities.	1) the owner is obliged to live with the guests; 2) providing from 6 to 10 rooms; 3) meals (breakfast, possibly dinner); 4) the presence of one common room; 5) lack of a restaurant or bar.	1) the residential building belongs to a rural estate; 2) rooms are provided only for tourists; 3) the number of rented rooms should not exceed 5.
Average cost of living	\$15–20 US per day (sometimes up to 40–100 dollars USA)	\$151 USA per day	\$6–23 USA per day
Number of farmsteads	2319	More than 18 thousand	8000

Conditions specific to the implementation activities in the field of agro-ecotourism, have many common features. However, the following points should be noted: in Uzbekistan, the number of rooms intended for tourist accommodation should not exceed 10, while in the USA this norm varies from 6 up to 10 and depends primarily on the state in which where the farmstead is located. In farmsteads in Poland, the number rooms that can be provided to tourists should not exceed 5. Also, the presence of a common room in American farmsteads is an important component for the emergence of a trusting relationship between owner and guests. In the Republic Uzbekistan it's optional so the same as the location next to the territory farmsteads of various establishments (bars, restaurants). The same conditions apply to for the Republic of Poland. Analyzing the development of agroecotourism in Republic of Uzbekistan should stop on external and internal factors.

Let us dwell on the existing problems of the development of agroecotourism in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. One such problem is the homogeneity of the



services provided by farmsteads. Identical services attract little not only foreign tourists, but also citizens of our country [1].

To collect statistical data on foreign tourists who visited Belarusian farmsteads, the owners of farmsteads should keep a book of inspections, which must be registered with the tax office no later than one month from the date of their tax registration. It is also necessary, before January 10 of the year following the reporting one, to provide the tax office with information on the conclusion of contracts for the provision of services in the prescribed form. Contracts should be kept for 3 years [5].

Thus, stimulating the development of agroecotourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan will improve the efficiency of this sector, increase the share of exports of services in the tourism market and, accordingly, increase the inflow of foreign currency into the country. The development of tourism activities will contribute to solving such important issues as employment in rural areas, restoration and restoration of cultural, architectural and natural monuments, as well as more rational use of land resources. The creation in Uzbekistan of public organizations such as "Recreation in the regions" and "Agricultural and ecotourism" and the interest in this area of state bodies will contribute to the popularization and development of rural tourism, as well as the development of the rules of doing business in the field of agroecotourism.

It is worth noting that one of the promising areas in tourism is the creation of inclusive tours that will facilitate the unhindered visits to farmsteads by people with disabilities. At the moment, only a few hotels can provide conditions for the disabled, but the cost of living is quite high. Nevertheless, the owners of farmsteads in various regions of Uzbekistan organize special holidays in nature for disabled children and orphanages every year.

However, the preparation of premises for the reception of people with disabilities is carried out at the own expense of the owners of farmsteads. However, due to the receipt of high profits from the sale of services in the field of agro-ecotourism, as well as the optimal taxation system, the creation of such conditions for the introduction of inclusive tours will not be a problem for the owners of farmsteads, moreover, the availability of such services will significantly increase the number of arrivals, will contribute to the formation of a positive image, as well as to increase the competitiveness of services provided on the territory of the farmstead.





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