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# The Essence of the Problem of Poverty in Rural Areas, its Causes, Criteria and Manifestations in Agriculture

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**Abstract**: In this article, we will explain what poverty is, that is, in the world experience and, in our opinion, the definitions given to it, the reasons for its origin. Factors influencing the emergence of poverty, the general possibilities of overcoming it and the methods of measuring poverty in the world experience, ie by what criteria, its manifestation in agriculture, characteristics of the part of the rural population living in poverty we are talking about. And let's take a look at the opportunities available in agriculture to get out of poverty.

**Keywords:** Poverty, world population, poverty reduction, agriculture, farming, measuring poverty.

#### Introduction.

Poverty is one of the most important problems in the world we live in today. The fact that about 8% of the world's population lives in poverty shows us the importance of this problem. This represents an estimated 600,000,000 people on earth who live in poverty, earning less than \$ 1.9 a day. We can understand the importance of this problem from the fact that the Uzbek government personally takes practical measures to reduce poverty. The establishment of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction means that there is a need for a comprehensive fight against this problem. Our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev's address to the Oliy Majlis on the results of 2021 states that more than 12% of the population of Uzbekistan, or about 5 million people, live in poverty. If we look at the manifestation of poverty in agriculture, the importance of using land, farmers, ranchers and horticultural farms in reducing it is obvious.

## Analysis of the relevant literature.

In order to illustrate the essence of poverty in the article, Lev MY's article on poverty and living standards in socio-economic security and Yashar Pashanig's article "Determining Poverty with Multidimensional Statistical Analysis" discuss the modern approach to poverty. We have observed in these literatures that poverty has been studied with new approaches. Khasanov Rustam Rabimovich's article, "Socio-Economic Causes of Poverty," also cites material on poverty. Opinions of Obid Khakimov, Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms on Measuring Poverty We used the views expressed by Kun.Uz in an interview with Sergey Zora, a leading economist at the World Bank Country Office in Uzbekistan, and the local measure of poverty was determined. In the analysis of poverty, information on the demographic situation of the population and agricultural indicators for the years listed on the official website of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was used.

At the same time, poverty is one of the most pressing problems in the world, and a number of tasks are facing the world community to address it. Poverty cannot be completely eradicated, but there are ways to reduce it, measures, methods that have been used effectively in world experience. Each country is taking measures to reduce poverty at the national level, and international organizations are working on a global scale. At this point the question arises, what is poverty, what are its causes, how to fight it.

## What is poverty?

At the most general level, poverty is the lack of acceptable choices across a wide range of important life decisions, i.e., a serious lack of freedom to do what one wants. The inevitable result of poverty is lack and deprivation in many aspects of a full life, which include:

- > Insufficient funds to purchase basic necessities of life
- > Frequent illness and early death
- > The level of literacy and education impairs adequate performance and limits a person's understanding of the world and himself
- Living conditions that endanger physical and mental health
- > The most unsatisfactory and the most dangerous work done
- Lack of dignity, lack of respect by others
- > Exclusion from public affairs [1].

The concept of poverty is not limited to the material conditions of people's lives, but is characterized by poor health, unemployment, social exclusion, malnutrition and lack of personal security, which ultimately leads to a decline in the social status of the population [2].

When we try to understand poverty by its way of life, what kind of family or person do people call a poor family or a person? Of course, poverty is explained by a lack of material resources. For example, to call a family poor, we can also see that this family has poor living conditions at home and no car. Other more complex indicators include the inability of these family members to consume quality clothing and food, the lack of adequate home facilities for the education of children in the family, and the inability of family members to spend their holidays off, lack of financial resources for meaningful spending, for example, inability to use domestic tourism opportunities across the country, lack of access to quality medical services, lack of access to resorts and sanatoriums, and so on. Another worst aspect of poverty is that it creates a chain of impossibilities, and this chain is likely to add a new dimension to itself. That is, as a result of lack of material, the primary needs are primarily food, clothing, and so on. Inadequate medical care increases the likelihood of poor family members contracting the disease, which limits their ability to meet their need for medicines. Lack of opportunities for children to study limits their ability to join the ranks of active people in society. Inadequate rest of working members in the family has led to a deterioration in their mental and psychological state. Loss of access to poor nutrition leads to a decline in the immune system of family members, which increases their chances of getting sick, leading to their exclusion from the family as able-bodied members, and many similar examples can be cited.

If we analyze these and many other examples of poverty and its consequences, we will understand how important this problem is and how important it is to develop measures to combat this problem. There is a very apt saying of our people that it is better to prevent a disease than to cure it. Of course, in order to treat the disease, it is necessary to know where



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it came from. It is also important to know what its causes are in order to fight poverty. Now let's look at the reasons for its origin

The existence of poverty is a social phenomenon that depends on the level of the economy and the effectiveness of reforms. New economic relations and economic fundamentals lead to one form or another of poverty. On the surface, poverty is self-reliant, and the individual feels guilty for living in poverty. Of course, every person and family is responsible for their own well-being. However, for this to happen, economic relations in society and the rule of law must be able to fully disclose human activity in all its aspects. The most important of these rules is economic freedom.

Each entity will be economically active within its capabilities and will have an income commensurate with the available resources. Freedom of action does not mean market equality, but the right to make independent decisions. Therefore, poverty should be viewed not only as a subjective phenomenon, but also as a product of an objective process. The objective process, on the other hand, is influenced by specific factors and emerges as the root cause of poverty. In particular, in the period of economic transformation, economic, social and political processes are the causes of poverty and scale [3].

Poverty-related variables are used for statistical analysis of multidimensional poverty. These factors vary from country to country. They can be divided into the following 4 groups[1]:

- > characteristics of the region;
- > Features of settlements:
- > characteristics of households:
- > personality traits.

The specific features of the region include:

- isolation or remote area (underdeveloped infrastructure, difficulty in entering markets, low use of services, etc.);
- resource base (natural resources, soil quality, etc.);
- precipitation, climate and environmental conditions (drought, floods, earthquakes, etc.);
- > territorial authorities and administration;
- inequality.

Zones include the following features:

- > level of infrastructure development;
- > land distribution;
- level of social welfare and access to services;
- > social infrastructure / social capital.

Features of the house include:

- > the size of the household:
- ➤ household structure (demographic burden per worker, dependency burden);
- > gender of the head of the family;
- real estate, land and means of production (tools, tractors, vehicles, etc.), housing;
- > structure of employment and income;

> health status and level of education.

Personal characteristics include:

- > age;
- > level of education:
- > employment;
- > income;
- > health status;
- > ethnic origin [1].

Poverty is important social problem in any economic system. The scale of poverty varies depending on the volume of gross domestic product, the method of its distribution, the production capacity of the country, the living standards of the population. This problem has a negative impact on the economic development of the country, causing structural inconsistencies in the labor market, disrupting economic and social ties, reducing the volume of deposits of the population, leading to a decline in aggregate demand, low purchasing power.

Statistical analysis of poverty shows that the main factors influencing poverty are employment, education level, family composition, and natural (environmental) conditions. To determine the extent of the impact of these factors, the correlation factors between poverty indicators are examined. However, such an analysis does not provide the characteristics of the region, households and settlements, as well as the level of socioecological and socio-economic development of the country.

We have seen that one of the main factors contributing to poverty is unemployment. So we need to look at the root causes of unemployment. There will of course be an unemployed class in every society, but the fact that they are higher than the alternative point will cause the poor class in this society to exceed the norm. The economic potential of the country is one of the factors contributing to the increase in the number of unemployed among the ablebodied people. The industrialization of the country's economy, export potential and business opportunities in the country can also be one of the factors leading to the expansion of the unemployed. In rural areas, the majority of the population is employed and materially supported by external migration due to a lack of jobs. So what is the reason for this? The main reason for this may be the inability to process the products produced in the region, add value to them and take full advantage of export opportunities. And one of the main reasons is that agricultural lands are not distributed according to the demand in the world consumer market.

**Table 1. Permanent population - Total** (per year; thousand people)

Regions	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021
The Republic of	24487.7	26021.3	28001,4	31022.5	33905,2	34558.9
Uzbekistan						
The Republic of	1503	1569.9	1632	1763.1	1898.3	1923.7
Karakalpakstan						
Andijan	2186.2	2342.7	2549.1	2857.3	3127.7	3188.1
Bukhara	1419.3	1507.6	1612.5	1785.4	1923.9	1947.1
Jizzakh	974.8	1043.3	1116.8	1250.1	1382.1	1410.5
Kashkadarya	2166.8	2378.5	2616.1	2958.9	3280.4	3335.4

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Navai	783.3	810.2	851.6	913.2	997.1	1013.6
Namangan	1924.3	2073.2	2258.5	2554.2	2810.8	2867.5
Samarkand	2670.3	2867.1	3119	3514.8	3877.4	3947.7
Surkhandarya	1736.7	1894.9	2075	2358.3	2629.1	2680.8
Syrdarya	642.2	672.2	714.4	777.1	846.3	860.9
Tashkent	2350.2	2452.3	2585.9	2758.3	2941.9	2975.9
Fergana	2664.4	2840.9	3074.6	3444.9	3752	3820
Khorezm	1323.9	1432.8	1561.6	1715.6	1866.5	1893.3
Tashkent	2142.3	2135.7	2234.3	2371.3	2571.7	2694.4

From the data in Table 1 above, we can see that the population increased by 14.1% between 2000 and 2021. In the valleys, the figure was 14.9% in Namangan, 14.3% in Fergana and 14.6% in Andijan, respectively. It should be noted that currently 28.6% of the country's population lives in the Fergana Valley. This means that about 1/3 of the nation's consumers are in the valley provinces.

**Table 2. Main indicators of agriculture** for 2000-2009 are based on the XXTUT classification. The data for 2010-2020 are based on clarified (revalued) data Preliminary data for 2021

Indicators	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021
Arable land for agricultural crops, thousand hectares	3778.3	3647.5	3708.4	3694.2	3396.1	3260.7
Agricultural production, bln. som	1387.2	5978.3	30856.7	99604,6	250250,6	302524.9
including:						
Farming	696.8	3323.1	18119.0	55429.2	123858.8	151083,4
Cattle-raising	690.4	2655.2	12737.7	44175.4	126391.8	151441,5
The growth rate of agricultural production is in percent compared to last year	103.1	105.4	106.3	106.1	102.7	103.6
including:						
Farming	103.1	107.0	105.9	105.5	103.2	103.1
Cattle-raising	103.0	103.6	106.9	106.9	102.1	104.1

From the statistics in Table 2 above, we can see that the area under crops used in agriculture has decreased by almost 13.7%. This is due to the increase in demand for housing due to population growth and the consequent intensification of the urbanization process. The intensification of the urbanization process is good, but it has a direct impact on the depletion of land resources. This makes it necessary for us to use land resources more rationally and efficiently. Today, however, rational attitudes toward land resources have declined significantly.

**Table 3. Permanent population-Village.** (per year; thousand people)

Regions	2000	2005	2010	20 15	2020	2021	2022
The Republic of	15322.2	16579.4	13575.5	15274.5	16761,1	17048.5	17338.7
Uzbekistan							
The Republic of	778.8	805	811.7	890.1	967.8	981.7	994.3
Karakalpakstan							
Andijan	1528.7	1649	1190.7	1357.3	1493.8	1522.2	1554.3
Bukhara	978.6	1059.4	990.1	1107	1214.4	1231.7	1251
Jizzakh	680.1	730.3	590	660.5	734.1	750.5	768.1
Kashkadarya	1615.5	1789.5	1480.4	1684.4	1870	1902.6	1948.3
Navai	466.6	488.6	430.7	464.7	509.4	516.6	528.4
Namangan	1201.7	1299.6	799.7	935.4	995.7	1010	1031.6
Samarkand	1946.2	2130	1958,6	2177.8	2439.1	2489	2548.2
Surkhandarya	1391.9	1529.3	1307.1	1513.1	1675.1	1709.6	1749.9
Syrdarya	436.1	462	419.7	440.5	485	494.2	504.3
Tashkent	1400.5	1486.4	1292.7	1408.1	1495.2	1506	1464.5
Fergana	1009.2	1111.7	1032	1156.6	1247.2	1266.5	1288.1
Tashkent c.	•	-	-	-	•	-	-

The population in rural areas increased by 13.1%. As a result, the labor force among the rural population has increased. Due to the fact that rural areas are less industrialized than urban areas and business opportunities are also much lower, the number of unemployed people is forced to migrate to urban areas or migrate externally. Therefore, there is a need to create additional jobs in rural areas. The main feature of land resources is that it has no reproductive properties. On the contrary, the volume decreases and the quality decreases as a result of continuous use. The population is growing. Between 2000 and 2021, the population of Uzbekistan increased by 14.1%. This means that the number of consumers has also increased.

There are three approaches to the definition of poverty in the economic literature: absolute line; with the distribution of relative properties and subjective valuation methods into monetary and non-monetary. But recently, based on a combination of these characteristics, an alternative concept called the multi-criteria poverty line has been developed. Since our goal is to study mutak poverty, we see the measurement of this type of poverty.

According to the absolute approach, poverty is defined as derived from the minimum consumption basket. Households that do not have the resources to meet the basic needs of family members are considered poor. The value of the minimum consumer basket is scientifically based and approved by the government of the country. This approach is used to assess the poverty line in a particular country. The World Bank's Poverty Index is used for international comparisons. Its PPP value in 2015 was \$ 1.9 [4]

This method of measurement is a small consumer basket, which includes not only food, but also non-food products, minimal services, etc. Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms Obid Khakimov said in an interview with Kun.Uz. the country has a poverty rate of 12-15% among the population. Where do these numbers come from? These numbers are formed taking into account people's daily minimum expenses. This amount is not taken into account. At this value, the solvency is converted into a number in the local currency. That is, purchasing power parity (PPP) is calculated by the conversion factor. For example, in 2018, for Uzbekistan, this coefficient was set at 1784 soums for 1 US dollar PPP. According to estimates in 2020, this amount amounted to 5,600 soums per capital [5]. In Uzbekistan, a family with an average of 5 family members has an average monthly



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income of more than 840,000 soums, which separates the family from the poverty line. Today, about 12% of Uzbekistan's population lives in poverty. This means that about 5 million people in Uzbekistan live in poverty. A lot of work is being done by the government to reduce this amount. For example, the Ministry of Economy and Poverty Reduction was established to reduce poverty. The Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support has been established to systematically organize work with citizens and hold them accountable to the government. In order to identify the poor and take the necessary measures to help them out of poverty, the position of assistant governor was introduced in the mahallas. As part of the program to reduce poverty in rural areas, the practice of seasonal land distribution has been introduced. In order to ensure employment, the practice of providing low-interest loans to citizens has been introduced. But the question arises as to whether all this work is yielding good results. The question arises as to how much poverty hinders the development of Uzbekistan in sufficient numbers and what effective methods are available in Uzbekistan to reduce it. To find answers to these questions, we can use the results of scientific research of hundreds of scientists around the world, the experience of countries around the world, the diligence of our people and many other factors. Our goal is to conduct research and make recommendations for the effective use of rural opportunities in reducing poverty in rural areas of Uzbekistan. Today, agriculture alone accounts for 28 percent of GDP. It employs more than any other industry 27 percent of the total workforce, or more than 3.65 million citizens. Despite the severe socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic in Uzbekistan, this sector remains an important driver of economic growth in the country. In 2019, 9.6% (3.2 million) of Uzbekistan's population lived below the poverty line for \$ 3.2 a day, which is lower than the average income. Uzbekistan is one of the countries in the world with an international poverty rate. About 80 percent of the country's low-income population lives in rural areas, and their incomes are almost entirely dependent on the agricultural sector. It is estimated that in 2020, due to the outbreak of coronavirus, poverty in Uzbekistan began to rise for the first time in two decades. Nevertheless, there is an opportunity to create more jobs in agriculture than at present. It is estimated that between 700,000 and 1.3 million new workers can be employed in the agricultural sector each year through careful government support and investment. This is more than enough to address the issue of job creation for the 600,000 young people who fill the labor markets across the country each year [6].

Based on this information, Uzbekistan has a great opportunity to provide employment in rural areas, improve their living conditions, increase the welfare of the population in rural areas. Most of the land in rural areas is attached to centralized farms, which are mainly engaged in the cultivation of cotton and grain on the basis of a state order. A large part of the population, able to engage in agriculture, earns their income mainly from the purchase of vacant land from farmers and the planting of seasonal crops. There is no fully transparent system of land allocation for those who want to engage in horticulture and agriculture. As a result, a large proportion of the rural population does not have a sufficient source of income to meet their needs, and a large proportion of the population may go abroad for work or become unemployed. causing The able-bodied part of the population is forced to earn an income by doing seasonal work. As a result, effectively using the experience of the population in agriculture and horticulture, this opportunity is not fully used to provide employment and increase their welfare.

Given the favorable climatic conditions, fertile lands and working people of Uzbekistan, agriculture and horticulture play an important role in agriculture. To do this, the necessary opportunities must be created for the active and able-bodied population. First of all, an open, transparent and bureaucratic system of land allocation should be established for the

population to engage in farming and horticulture on a regular basis. To do this, it is necessary to establish a system of allocating land to citizens in the form of long-term farms and horticulture, selling them through open electronic auctions without the participation of individuals, or giving them to the poor for a certain period of time. From 2021, this system will be partially implemented by the government. This year, in most areas of the Fergana Valley, 10 hundred square meters of land have been allocated to each unemployed youth. However, due to the fact that these lands were given only for 1 planting season, these lands were mostly separated from arid lands, the amount of allocated lands was not enough to meet the basic needs of 1 person for 6 months and so on. Sold by a number of landowners to a certain person in the amount of 0.5, 1 hectare and more which led these unemployed youths to continue to live in the same unemployed condition as before. At this point, another question arises. If the allocation of these lands is increased enough, for example, around 0.3-1, is it possible to fully ensure that unemployed young people work regularly on these lands? In our opinion, this cannot be a complete solution to the problem. Why? Let's say that the lands are allocated through a transparent system, where the stratum or unemployed youth get. One solution to this problem is a system of lending landowners for these expenses. Does lending solve this problem? Who can guarantee that these funds will be spent wisely by the landowners. It is possible that the money will be used by landowners for other purposes. In this case, in our opinion, on the basis of agreements with the owners should be established complex service outlets for them on a fee basis or through other payment methods. It is advisable to use the private sector in the organization of these outlets. These outlets provide mechanization to farmers in preparing their lands, providing them with the necessary seeds, cultivating crops, providing them with mineral fertilizers, meeting the demand for chemicals to protect plants from pests. and provide timely services to farmers, such as harvesting them. It is also advisable to establish private agronomic centers that provide paid services to farmers. Now we face the problem of selling these products. Through this, we can provide employment to a large part of our migrant population abroad and the able-bodied unemployed in rural areas. These lands are used by the population to grow large quantities of vegetables, melons and horticultural products. Grown products completely cover the domestic market, leading to lower prices in local markets and the opportunity to export surplus products. To do this, we need to study the world market and consider the possibility of growing export-oriented products. We also need to take advantage of the opportunity to establish the cultivation of imported agricultural products through localization. Currently, the world market is in great demand for melons and horticultural products grown in Uzbekistan. But we need to develop a structure to facilitate the export process of these products. We also need to consider the storage system of cultivated products. Because we can see that the export potential of perishable products is high. The perishable nature and low product prices are observed during the ripening season, which prevents farmers from earning a satisfactory income and also has a significant impact on export prices. For example, if we look at the price of cherries in 2021, at the beginning of the ripening season, the prices were around 20,000, but by the end of the season, the prices had dropped to 3,000. This had a major impact on gardeners 'incomes. If we look at cherry prices in 2020, prices have not fallen below at least 20,000. It can be seen that prices in 2021 were several times higher than prices in 2020. In the autumn of 2021, cherry prices have risen several times. If small refrigerators were established among the population, it would be possible to raise incomes to an alternative level by storing their products during the ripening season. The reason for such a drop in prices seems to be the inability to cook these products at the same time and keep them under normal conditions, as well as the decline in demand on the world market.

#### Conclusion .





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In conclusion, with about 5 million people in Uzbekistan living in poverty, there are many practical steps that the government needs to take. With our article, we want to say that we must first understand what poverty is. It is advisable to use international experience and practices in the study. The reasons for its origin are then examined. The reasons vary and each region or society has its own reasons of origin. Therefore, we can use international experience only in terms of object research methods. The causes of poverty in Uzbekistan and its manifestation in rural areas are different from those in Africa or Europe. The manifestation of poverty in rural areas can be influenced not only by material factors, but also by the skills, knowledge and experience available to the subject of poverty, and the opportunities provided by the government to develop their abilities and talents. In reducing poverty, it is advisable to consider not only the income but also the costs of the subject. In reducing poverty in rural areas, we need to consider the wide use of analytical conclusions of academics and the benefits of its implementation. Given the lack of investment in agriculture, offering broad-based and long-term Michik investment projects to investors will help attract the poor to active economic life. Taking into account the use of the \$ 1.9 index used in the world criterion of poverty, we have seen that around 12% of our population lives in poverty, but the income of European countries is less than 60% of the average income of the population. As a result, we cannot compare the given figure with those of European countries. We conclude that poverty is not a periodic problem but should be addressed on a regular basis. Even the most developed countries are taking steps to reduce poverty. Therefore, there is a need to use the results of fundamental research in the study of the object.

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