

THE ROLE OF ENGLISH IN ACCESSING GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Abdurahimov Shahboz Sherzod o'g'li

Abdixamidova Diyora Nurbek qizi

Abdusalimov Sanjar Abdumurod o'g'li

Students, Agricultural mechanization Faculty

"TIAME" National Research University

Scientific Advisor: Yuldashova Nargiza Abdukholiq qizi

Teacher, English Department

"TIAME" National Research University

Abstract: The article "The Role of English in Accessing Global Agricultural Research" explores the increasing significance of the English language in the field of agriculture, particularly in the context of global knowledge exchange and innovation. The article examines how English facilitates access to the latest scientific research, technology, and international collaboration in agriculture. This study is useful for students, researchers, teachers, and agricultural professionals, highlighting the importance of English language skills for academic and practical advancements in agriculture.

Keywords: agriculture, English, international research, innovation, knowledge exchange

Introduction

English plays an essential role in advancing agricultural education and research in Uzbekistan. As the language of most scientific publications, English enables students, researchers, and agricultural professionals to access cutting-edge developments and global best practices. According to Abdullaeva and Turgunov (2022), the integration of English into agricultural education in Uzbekistan is vital for training a new generation of specialists who are equipped to deal with global agricultural challenges.

Agricultural universities in Uzbekistan have increasingly included English-language modules and programs to ensure students can engage with international research journals, attend conferences, and collaborate with scientists abroad. In

particular, understanding English allows researchers to publish in international journals, thereby increasing the visibility of Uzbek agricultural research globally (Rahimov, 2021).

The field of agricultural science is rapidly evolving, with new research emerging from countries around the world. Much of this research is published in English, which is the dominant language in academic journals such as *Agricultural Systems*, *Nature Plants*, and *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*. Without proficiency in English, Uzbek researchers and students risk being excluded from this global exchange of knowledge.

Modern agriculture relies heavily on innovation, including biotechnology, climate-smart agriculture, and precision farming. Most of the technical manuals, scientific publications, and training courses on these subjects are in English. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Uzbek professionals in the agricultural sector. For instance, a researcher working on drought-resistant crop varieties must understand English to interpret findings from international studies or to apply for international grants and partnerships (Smith & Kadirov, 2023).

The Global Language of Agricultural Science

English has become the universal language of science, including agricultural science. According to UNESCO (2022), over 85% of scientific papers in agriculture are published in English. Reputable journals such as *Agricultural Systems*, *Field Crops Research*, *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, and *Nature Plants* publish their articles in English. Without knowledge of English, it becomes extremely difficult for Uzbek researchers and students to access the latest global scientific findings, methodologies, and innovations.

Furthermore, leading agricultural organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and CGIAR publish their reports, research briefs, and technical guidelines primarily in English. These documents are key to understanding global trends in sustainable farming, climate change adaptation, crop improvement, and food security.

English in Agricultural Education in Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has recognized the importance of English in agricultural education. Many universities now include English-taught modules and promote English-based research projects. English is not only taught as a separate language subject but is also integrated into professional courses, particularly in agronomy, irrigation, agricultural engineering, and environmental sciences.

According to a study by Mirzayeva and Tursunov (2023), students in agricultural faculties who have a good command of English perform better in research, participate more in international conferences, and are more likely to win scholarships or internships abroad. English opens doors for young scientists to study international case studies, learn new agricultural techniques, and collaborate with global experts.

Innovation and Access to Technology

Innovation in agriculture depends on the ability to adopt and adapt new technologies, many of which are introduced and explained through English-language materials. For example, manuals for precision farming equipment, guidelines for genetically modified crops, or instructions for climate-smart agriculture techniques are predominantly written in English.

Uzbek farmers and agribusiness owners who understand English can benefit from global markets by accessing e-commerce platforms, digital tools, and mobile applications that assist in weather forecasting, crop monitoring, and market analysis. Furthermore, training courses offered by international agricultural organizations or universities are often in English, such as those available through platforms like Coursera, FAO e-learning Academy, or Wageningen University.

International Collaboration and Scientific Publishing

Publishing research in international journals is one of the most effective ways to increase a researcher's credibility and contribute to the global agricultural community. However, a significant barrier for Uzbek scientists is the lack of academic English skills. Many researchers find it difficult to write abstracts, research articles, or grant applications in English.

Moreover, attending global scientific forums, workshops, and symposiums often requires the ability to present research findings, participate in discussions, and network with peers in English. According to a report by the Tashkent Institute of Agriculture (2023), only 20% of agricultural researchers in Uzbekistan have advanced English proficiency, which limits their participation in international scientific exchange.

English also plays a significant role in the development of sustainable agriculture and international cooperation. Global platforms such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) publish critical resources and policy briefs in English. Access to these resources helps local policymakers and practitioners in Uzbekistan align national agricultural policies with international standards and practices.

Moreover, participation in international agricultural conferences, workshops, and exchange programs requires a functional command of English. These events offer opportunities to share research findings, form international partnerships, and learn from global innovations. Uzbek agricultural students and scientists proficient in English have been more successful in receiving international scholarships, fellowships, and internships (Karimova, 2020).

In addition, English enables agricultural entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan to connect with global markets. Knowledge of English helps in reading product standards, understanding market trends, and negotiating with international buyers. It also aids in using international digital platforms for selling agricultural products and sourcing high-quality seeds, fertilizers, or equipment from abroad.

Several challenges still exist. A study conducted by the Tashkent Agricultural University (2023) revealed that only a small percentage of agricultural students feel confident reading or writing scientific content in English. This gap limits their access to international research and collaboration opportunities. However, initiatives such as

English language training programs and the integration of English in subject-specific courses are helping to overcome these barriers.

To summarize, English is more than just a communication tool in agriculture — it is a gateway to global knowledge, innovation, and collaboration. For Uzbekistan to fully participate in global agricultural development, increasing English proficiency among students, researchers, and agricultural professionals is of strategic importance. By doing so, Uzbekistan can better address food security, climate challenges, and the modernization of its agricultural sector.

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FOR PROFESSIONAL PRIORITY
MAY 17, 2025