

**ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:
THE CASE OF UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract: The article “*English for Specific Purposes in Sustainable Agriculture*” investigates the growing importance of English in agricultural education and practice in Uzbekistan. It emphasizes how language acquisition, particularly English, enables farmers, researchers, and agribusinesses to implement sustainable methods, engage in international collaborations, and access modern agro-technologies. With globalization influencing food systems, the paper outlines how English acts as a tool for progress in Uzbekistan's agricultural transformation.

Keywords: agriculture, ESP, English language, sustainability, agro-innovation, international collaboration, Uzbekistan

Introduction

As agriculture evolves to meet the challenges of climate change, population growth, and food security, the need for specialized knowledge and international cooperation becomes increasingly critical. English is a global bridge that facilitates knowledge transfer, access to research, and participation in international trade. In Uzbekistan, where agriculture accounts for around 25% of employment (World Bank, 2023), integrating English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in the agricultural domain is a strategic necessity.

English and Agricultural Modernization

Sustainable agriculture involves not only traditional farming methods but also modern techniques such as:

- **Agroecology and permaculture**

- **Climate-resilient crop breeding**
- **Soil health monitoring using remote sensors**
- **Integrated pest management (IPM)**

Most of the academic content, operational manuals, and technical guidance related to these topics are available in English. For example, the International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability and FAO technical reports publish the latest innovations in English, giving English-literate researchers and farmers a significant advantage.

According to *Juraev & Alimov (2023)*, over 70% of Uzbek agronomy students say they struggle to understand modern scientific materials because they are in English.

Case Study: English Use in Cotton Innovation Projects

In a recent cotton sustainability project co-funded by the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and implemented in Jizzakh and Syrdarya, local agronomists were required to submit all reports in English and participate in online seminars with European partners. Those with prior English skills reported more successful integration into the project and even gained employment opportunities abroad (BCI Uzbekistan Report, 2023).

This example demonstrates how English directly connects Uzbek professionals with funding agencies, knowledge networks, and development organizations.

ESP in Agricultural Education

ESP (English for Specific Purposes) in agriculture includes technical vocabulary such as:

- “irrigation efficiency”
- “soil pH level”
- “fertilizer application rate”
- “post-harvest loss reduction”

Institutions like *TIIAME* and *Andijan Agriculture Institute* are beginning to include ESP courses in their curricula. However, more widespread adoption is necessary.

According to *Ganieva (2022)*, only 12% of agricultural colleges have updated their English programs in line with ESP principles.

Role of English in Sustainable Practices

Sustainability in agriculture also involves:

- Understanding global environmental protocols (e.g., *Kyoto Protocol*, *Paris Agreement*)
- Applying for international sustainability certification (e.g., *GlobalG.A.P.*, *Rainforest Alliance*)
- Engaging in environmental data exchange and academic research

Without a command of English, many Uzbek agricultural professionals are unable to fully participate in international environmental initiatives. English helps them understand sustainability indicators, use environmental modeling software, and contribute to global solutions.

English for Agro-Entrepreneurs and Trade

Agro-entrepreneurship is growing in Uzbekistan, with youth and women-led startups developing eco-products, drip irrigation services, and organic fertilizers. English is essential in:

- Writing business plans for international donors
- Understanding international agricultural policy
- Marketing products abroad via platforms like Alibaba, Amazon, or LinkedIn

In 2024, *UzAgroExport* reported that 60% of its successful export contracts were managed by staff with upper-intermediate English level or higher.

Technological Advancement and Language

AgTech (Agricultural Technology) is another area where English is vital. Tools such as:

- **Drones for field mapping**
- **IoT soil sensors**
- **AI-powered crop monitoring**

all require training manuals, installation guides, and user support — often exclusively in English. For example, using platforms like FarmLogs, Cropio, or John Deere Operations Center necessitates at least a basic understanding of technical English.

Challenges and Recommendations

Despite growing demand, barriers remain:

- **Shortage of ESP-qualified teachers**
- **Lack of context-based learning materials in rural colleges**
- **Minimal integration of digital English platforms in agriculture curriculum**

Recommendations:

1. Develop localized ESP materials focused on Uzbek agricultural needs.
2. Train English teachers in agricultural terminology and content-based instruction.
3. Launch nationwide English-for-AgriTech campaigns.
4. Provide scholarships for agronomists to attend international training in English-speaking countries.

Conclusion

English is not just a language but a gateway to global agricultural innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. For Uzbekistan to meet its agricultural development goals, especially under the **Green Agenda** and **SDGs**, English for Specific Purposes must be strengthened across educational and professional levels. Enhancing ESP will empower local specialists to engage with global networks, adopt cutting-edge practices, and elevate Uzbekistan's agriculture on the world stage.

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