

## **Latvian Experts Introduce Uzbek Farmers to the Benefits of Cooperation and Explore the Situation in the Andijan and Fergana Regions**

The visit to Uzbekistan took place on 12–15 May 2026 within the framework of the project **“Strengthening the economic capacity and efficiency of small and medium-sized farmers in Uzbekistan,”** during which a Latvian delegation composed of representatives from the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LLKC) and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency of Latvia (CFCA) visited the country.

During the visit, the first seminar for farmers was held in Samarkand, focusing on how cooperation and working in cooperatives can strengthen farm resilience and improve livelihoods. The seminar brought together more than 20 farmers who discussed key practical challenges and showed strong interest in cooperation opportunities and participation in the project. LLKC experts **Edgars Linde** and **Liene Feldmane** shared Latvia’s experience in cooperative development.

During the continuation of the visit, the delegation explored the situation in the Andijan and Fergana regions, visiting agricultural initiatives such as horticulture, vegetable production, greenhouse farming and export-oriented activities, and meeting with regional and local government representatives to discuss cooperation opportunities and support mechanisms for farmers. The visit was organised by the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment of Uzbekistan and the **International Institute for Central Asia**, as well as the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Uzbekistan.

The visit provided a basis for selecting regions where the project will support the establishment of viable agricultural cooperatives. The project envisages the creation of three cooperatives, one in each selected region. The Latvian delegation concluded that Uzbekistan has made significant progress in recent years by introducing modern technologies, adapting crop varieties and strengthening logistics chains, while farmers are increasingly using opportunities provided by cooperative legislation and state support measures.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Central Finance and Contracting Agency of Latvia (CFCA) in cooperation with the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LRATC).