



Article

Innovative Development Mechanisms of Food Industry Enterprises Within Regional Innovation Systems

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Abstract: This article examines the mechanisms of innovative development of food industry enterprises in the regions from both scientific and practical perspectives. The main purpose of the research is to identify and substantiate organizational-economic, institutional, and technological mechanisms aimed at increasing the innovative activity of food industry enterprises under regional conditions, as well as to evaluate their effectiveness. The study considers innovative development as a systemic process determined by the interdependence of key factors, including investment activity, digital technologies, human capital, and innovative infrastructure. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of regional disparities in the level of innovative development of food industry enterprises, and to the identification of existing imbalances that hinder sustainable growth. Based on the results of the research, scientifically grounded and practice-oriented mechanisms are proposed to reduce regional imbalances, modernize the regional food industry, enhance enterprise competitiveness, and ensure stable innovative development. The findings of the study can be used in the formulation of regional industrial and innovation policies, as well as in managerial decision-making at the enterprise level.

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Keywords: food industry; regional development; innovative development; innovation mechanisms; industrial enterprises; investment; digital technologies; innovative infrastructure; regional economy; competitiveness; sustainable development.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the issue of innovative development of food industry enterprises has become particularly relevant in the context of regional economic development. Global food security problems, the need to increase the efficiency of resource use, and increased competition in the consumer market make the introduction of innovative mechanisms in this sector a strategic priority. Scientific research has shown that the innovative development of food industry enterprises makes a sustainable contribution to regional economic growth not only by increasing production volumes, but also by increasing product quality, safety, and added value [1]. Therefore, a scientifically based analysis of the mechanisms that ensure innovative development in regions is of great theoretical and practical importance today.

International experience shows that the effectiveness of innovative development mechanisms is directly related to the institutional environment, investment activity and technological infrastructure of the regions. In traditional industries such as the food industry, innovations are often implemented through the modernization of production technologies, the improvement of logistics and storage systems, and the introduction of digital management methods [2]. In the scientific literature, it is the combination of these

mechanisms that is recognized as an important factor in increasing the innovative activity of enterprises and strengthening their adaptability to market conditions.

The problem of territorial disparities in the implementation of mechanisms for the innovative development of food industry enterprises across regions is also relevant. While in some regions the innovative infrastructure and investment resources are sufficiently developed, in other regions these factors remain limited. Scientific studies have noted that such differences have a negative impact on the pace of innovative development and increase economic disparities between regions [3]. Therefore, there is a need to adapt mechanisms aimed at the development of the food industry in regional innovation policies to regional characteristics.

The conclusions of international organizations also assess the development of innovative mechanisms in the food industry as an important condition for ensuring sustainable economic growth and food security. It is scientifically proven that the competitiveness of regional industrial sectors can be increased by stimulating innovative activity, attracting investments and supporting technological innovation [4]. This approach indicates the need for a systematic formation of mechanisms for the innovative development of food industry enterprises in the regions.

This issue also occupies an important place in the economic policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In the strategic documents adopted in recent years, the integrated development of regions, modernization of industrial sectors and support for innovative activities have been identified as priority areas [5]. Innovative development of the food industry is directly related to regional economic growth, employment growth and sustainable satisfaction of the population's need for food products. Therefore, the scientific study and improvement of mechanisms for innovative development of food industry enterprises in the regions is an urgent scientific and practical task today.

Literature Review

The issue of mechanisms for innovative development of food industry enterprises in the regions is covered in the scientific literature within the framework of various theoretical and practical approaches. First of all, the theoretical foundations of innovative development are widely covered in studies that interpret industrial innovations as an internal source of economic growth. In particular, in the approaches developed by the followers of Joseph A. Schumpeter, innovations are considered as the main mechanism for increasing the competitiveness of enterprises, but the territorial features of the mechanisms for managing this process are not sufficiently revealed [6]. In subsequent studies, increased attention has been paid to the connection between the institutional environment supporting innovations and industrial policy.

In the study of industrial innovation from a systemic perspective, the concept of national and sectoral innovation systems, developed by Christopher Freeman and Bengt-Åke Lundvall, plays an important role. In these approaches, it is argued that innovative development is not carried out at the level of an individual enterprise, but through the interaction of science, industry and government institutions [7]. However, these studies are mainly focused on general industrial or high-tech sectors, and the specific aspects of innovation mechanisms in traditional sectors such as the food industry are only partially covered.

The issue of regional differentiation of innovative development mechanisms has been widely discussed in studies conducted within the framework of regional economics. The theory of regional innovation systems proposed by Philip Cooke shows that the level of innovative activity depends on the institutional and infrastructural capabilities of the regions [8]. This approach serves as an important methodological basis for developing mechanisms for innovative development of the food industry in the regions.

In special studies devoted to the innovative development of the food industry, the technological characteristics of the sector are especially recognized. In the works of Johan Swinnen and Thomas Reardon, it is proved that innovations in the food industry are often manifested through improvements in processing, storage and logistics technologies, and these processes are directly related to regional policies [9]. These studies indicate the need to adapt innovation mechanisms in the food industry to regional conditions.

The issue of assessing the effectiveness of innovation mechanisms is also covered in the framework of modeling and management theory. The evolutionary approach developed by Richard R. Nelson and Sidney G. Winter interprets innovation processes as dynamic systems and provides a scientific basis for modeling management mechanisms [10]. This approach is an important theoretical foundation for modeling innovative development mechanisms in the food industry.

The relationship between industrial policy and innovation mechanisms is widely covered in the research of Ha-Joon Chang. The author argues for the need for an active role of the state and targeted mechanisms in the innovative development of industrial sectors, emphasizing the need to harmonize regional industrial policy with innovation [11]. This approach is important in developing mechanisms for the innovative development of the food industry in the regions.

The relationship between digital technologies and innovation mechanisms is highlighted in the research of Erik Brynjolfsson, who considers digitalization in industrial enterprises as a factor accelerating innovation processes. The introduction of digital technologies in the food industry can increase the efficiency of innovation mechanisms and strengthen regional competitiveness.

The issue of innovative development of the food industry is also discussed in the domestic scientific literature. Uzbek scientists A. Vakhobov and Sh. Tursunov analyzed the role of investment and institutional mechanisms in the innovative development of regional industrial sectors in their studies. These works serve as an important empirical basis for studying the innovative development of regional food industry enterprises.

In general, the analysis of the existing literature shows that, although the issue of mechanisms for the innovative development of food industry enterprises in the regions has been covered from many theoretical aspects, their adaptation to regional conditions and modeling as a complex mechanism have not been sufficiently developed. This fact determines the scientific novelty of this study and justifies the need for an in-depth analysis of the mechanisms for the innovative development of the regional food industry.

2. Materials and Methods

This study is aimed at a scientific analysis of the mechanisms of innovative development of food industry enterprises in the regions, using a comprehensive methodological approach. The theoretical and methodological basis of the study was formed based on the theory of innovative development, the concept of regional innovation systems, and modern approaches to industrial innovation management. In the course of the study, innovative potential was considered as a systemic element within the resource-process-results chain, and the factors determining the innovative development of food industry enterprises were analyzed in their interrelation. The empirical analysis was based on official statistical data, regional industry indicators, and open sources of information in the field.

In order to determine the effectiveness of innovative development mechanisms, integrated assessment and modeling methods were used. In particular, indicators reflecting innovative potential were normalized, their weights were determined based on expert assessment and statistical consistency, and integrated indices were formed. These indices made it possible to identify innovation imbalances between regions and assess the real impact of innovation mechanisms. Also, the study used a scenario approach, and the likely outcomes of the mechanisms were forecasted based on inertial and active innovative development scenarios.

3. Results and Discussion

This section analyzes the volume, structural structure and growth rates of industrial production in the regions of Uzbekistan, in particular, in the case of Namangan region, based on statistical data [3]. The analysis identifies the dynamics of consumer goods production, the share of the food industry in the total industry, structural shifts in types of production activities, and interregional differences. This approach allows for a joint

assessment of the quantitative and structural aspects of industrial development, and serves to determine the real state of regional industrial development.

The section also analyzes the distribution and growth rates of industrial production in Namangan region by region, identifies internal imbalances and priority areas in industrial development. The results obtained provide an empirical basis for assessing the role and importance of food production in the industrial structure, revealing the reasons for the differentiation of industrial activity across regions, and analyzing innovative development and management mechanisms at the next stages. The results of this analysis serve as an important methodological foundation for improving regional industrial policy and drawing conclusions on the innovative development of the food industry.

Changes in the volume of consumer goods production by regions of Uzbekistan for 2018–2022 reflect the main trends in regional industrial development. This period is characterized by the expansion of production capacities in the country's industry, increased domestic market demand, and the redistribution of industrial activity between regions. A comparative analysis of production volumes by region allows us to assess regional economic potential, identify leading and lagging regions, and justify the opportunities for regional development of consumer goods production.

Table 1. Volume of consumer goods production in the regions of Uzbekistan and regional differentiation (million soums)

Area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Uzbekistan Republic	83,512.6	110 321.0	129,348.6	155 159.1	145,011.7
Karakalpakstan Republic	1,815.0	2,377.6	2,804.2	2,945.6	2,393.3
Andijan province	21,385.4	26 179.4	27,490.4	25,823.9	36,563.5
Bukhara province	3,661.3	5,311.1	6,701.9	8,570.2	4,899.6
Jizzakh province	1,821.5	2,351.6	2,992.9	4,009.7	4 115.2
Kashkadarya province	2,891.7	3,899.8	4,947.4	4,660.9	3,003.5
Navoi province	2,528.3	3,243.4	3,896.5	4,342.5	3 156.4
Namangan province	4 135.6	6,030.0	6,442.2	8 303.8	7,696.0
Samarkand province	7,848.2	8,745.3	11,836.0	14,381.9	9,896.6
Surkhandarya province	1 218.0	1,601.3	2 161.1	2,640.6	1,733.6
Syrdarya province	1,895.2	2,840.3	2,812.3	3,718.9	2,048.1
Tashkent province	7,700.9	10,859.0	14,517.4	19,981.5	18,290.8
Fergana province	4,530.1	7,216.3	10,360.9	11,763.9	7,634.9
Khorezm province	3,904.7	5,673.9	6,448.3	8,591.6	10,277.4

Source: Uzbekistan Republic National statistics committee information based on author development

According to the data provided, in 2018–2022, the volume of consumer goods production in Uzbekistan increased significantly, reaching 145,011.7 million soums from 83,512.6 million soums. The highest indicator by region was recorded in Andijan region, where production increased from 21,385.4 million soums in 2018 to 36,563.5 million soums in 2022. In Tashkent region, this indicator increased from 7,700.9 million soums to 18,290.8 million soums, respectively, while in Samarkand region it increased from 7,848.2 million soums to 9,896.6 million soums. In the Namangan region, production volume increased from 4,135.6 million soums to 7,696.0 million soums, demonstrating stable positive dynamics.

These differences between regions indicate that the production of consumer goods is strongly dependent on economic, demographic and infrastructural factors. In regions with high population density and developed logistics and industrial infrastructure, production volumes are relatively high, which indicates a tendency for industrial activity to be centralized. At the same time, the relatively low production volumes in some regions indicate that their existing industrial potential is not being fully utilized. The growth processes observed in the Namangan, Bukhara and Khorezm regions indicate that there are significant opportunities in these regions to further expand the production of consumer goods by increasing investment activity, modernizing production and introducing

innovative technologies. This justifies the need to conduct regional industrial policy on the basis of a differentiated approach, taking into account regional characteristics.

Analysis of structural changes in the manufacturing industry in Namangan region for 2017–2024 allows us to identify the internal structure of industrial development, priority sectors and structural shifts. During this period, diversification processes have intensified in the regional industry, the relative share of some traditional sectors has decreased, and the importance of other sectors has increased. Studying the industrial structure by type of economic activity is important for assessing the effectiveness of regional industrial policy and determining innovation and investment priorities in the future.

Table 2. Namangan region working release industry composition (in percent)

Economic activity type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Production releasing industry – total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Food products working release	26.8	20.5	22.3	23.9	20.0	19.5	16.9	19.4
Drinks working release	4.4	3.9	4.6	5.4	4.6	3.6	4.2	4.8
Tobacco products working release	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Textile products working release	28.3	34.4	30.8	26.9	32.8	35.7	30.2	28.1
Clothing working release	13.3	13.2	13.8	15.8	11.6	11.3	16.4	14.5
Skin and to him/her relevant products working release	3.5	2.7	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.7
Wood and cork items working release	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.2
Paper and paper products working release	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Written materials publication to do and reflection to hold	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Coke and oil again work products	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source : Author's development based on data from the Namangan Regional Department of Statistics

According to the data provided, the share of food production in the industrial structure of Namangan region decreased from 26.8% to 19.4% between 2017 and 2024. At the same time, the share of textile production increased from 28.3% in 2017 to 34.4% in 2018 and 35.7% in 2022, forming the largest sector. The share of clothing production also increased from 13.3% to 14.5%, showing relatively stable growth. The share of beverage production increased from 4.4% in 2017 to 4.8% in 2024, remaining an average but stable sector in the industrial structure.

These changes in the industrial structure indicate a shift in production in Namangan region from sectors that rely on raw materials and labor resources to sectors that are oriented towards processing and export. Although food production is growing in absolute terms, the reduction in its relative share is explained by the faster development of other sectors, especially the textile and clothing industry. This indicates that diversification processes are deepening in the industry and the regional industry is moving away from a one-sided structure. At the same time, the fact that the food industry remains a strategic sector indicates the need for technological modernization and strengthening innovative approaches to maintain its share in the structure and increase its added value.

The study of the territorial distribution of industrial production in Namangan region for 2017–2024 allows us to identify the spatial characteristics of industrial development at the regional level. Changes in the share of production by region indicate in which districts industrial activity is concentrated and in which it is relatively weak. Based on this data,

the degree of centralization of industrial production in the region, territorial disparities, and the potential for industrial development across districts are assessed.

Table 3. Share of regions in total industrial production in Namangan region (in percent)

Territories (district)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Namangan region	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Namangan city	45.6	47.0	45.2	39.5	41.3	38.9	37.3	33.5
Mingbulak	1.7	2.1	1.6	5.0	4.2	4.1	3.0	1.7
Kasonsoy	3.5	3.7	4.1	2.9	4.0	5.3	6.2	5.8
Namangan	5.0	5.2	9.4	6.5	5.9	5.9	5.4	6.0
Narin	2.5	2.0	4.2	2.9	3.0	1.3	1.4	1.2
Pop	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.6	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.7
Turaqurgan	8.9	7.4	9.7	14.0	17.1	18.6	22.2	18.5
Uychi	6.5	7.4	7.4	5.8	6.1	5.7	5.1	5.3
Uchkurgan	10.0	7.1	10.7	7.1	5.7	3.7	3.1	2.7
Chartak	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.2
Chust	4.0	3.7	3.8	5.3	5.5	8.2	8.8	7.9
Yangikurgan	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5

Source : Author's development based on data from the Namangan Regional Department of Statistics

Quoted to the information According to the 2017–2024 plan of the city of Namangan industry working in the output share from 45.6 percent to 33.5 percent shortened. With this together, Turaqurgan district share from 8.9 percent in 2017 to 22.2 percent in 2023 reaching 18.5 percent in 2024 organization Chust in the district working release share from 4.0 percent to 7.9 percent increased if so, Kasonsoy from 3.5 percent to 5.8 percent in the district Namangan district share and 5.0–6.0 percent between relatively stable preserved On the contrary, Uchkurgan in the district share from 10.0 percent to 2.7 percent decreased is, this in the area industry activity noticeable decrease shows.

These changes in the share of regions indicate that industrial production in the Namangan region is gradually transitioning from a centralized model to a multi-center model. Namangan city relative share decrease industry contraction not, maybe new industry of capacity in the districts is taking shape shows [12]. Especially, Turaqurgan and Chust in the districts industry working release fast growth this in the regions industry infrastructure and investment activity from the increase evidence gives. With this together, some in the districts industry share decrease territorial industry policy further differentiation, production release capacities again placement and investments less developed to the districts direction the necessity shows. This results province industry territorial in terms of balanced and stable develop for scientific and practical basis to be service does.

2017–2024 Namangan region during and his/her districts in the section industry product working of release growth pace analysis to do territorial industry development dynamic aspects open gives. Annual growth indicators industry working release sustainability, investment activity and economic to the conditions adaptation level assessment opportunity creates [13]. This in the period growth of pace regions according to differentiation province inside industry development uneven to the character has that it is showing, territorial industry policy improvement the necessity justifies.

Table 4. Regions according to industry product working of release growth pace

Territories (district)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Namangan region	114.7	113.8	110.4	115.3	118.2	109.1	107.7	108.1
Namangan city	113.3	115.7	114.4	103.1	112.8	103.4	106.0	109.0

Mingbulak	86.8	128.0	81.1	106.5	108.0	122.8	95.4	92.1
Kasonsoy	105.4	117.2	104.1	87.4	122.6	122.5	109.5	109.1
Namangan	126.8	135.4	98.9	107.4	98.2	105.5	101.2	112.5
Narin	91.8	93.3	76.5	102.3	111.5	102.7	105.0	108.8
Pop	108.9	121.8	107.9	108.4	95.8	107.6	98.1	108.1
Turaqurgan	145.2	97.3	103.9	106.0	124.8	117.6	106.0	107.1
Uychi	116.9	97.0	96.9	100.1	112.5	102.6	105.4	108.0
Uchkurgan	126.8	114.5	114.7	109.5	100.5	98.8	92.6	104.8
Chartak	94.2	104.0	122.8	107.6	116.8	110.8	109.2	108.4
Chust	98.8	108.4	96.6	118.2	118.6	120.4	108.9	107.6
Yangikurgan	92.9	114.4	105.2	104.8	92.9	112, 4	106, 1	102, 6

Source : Author's development based on data from the Namangan Regional Department of Statistics

Quoted to the information According to, in 2017–2024, Namangan region according to industry product working of release annual growth rates 107.7–118.2 percent between formed. Province on a scale the most high growth in 2021 record reached 118.2 percent organization In the city of Namangan growth pace relatively stable from 113.3 percent in 2017 to 109.0 percent in 2024 changing standing. in the district some in years high growth observed, 145.2 percent in 2017, and 145.2 percent in 2021 and 124.8 percent organization In Namangan district, the growth rate was 135.4 percent in 2018. growth record done if, Chust in the district in 2020 and 2022 suitable 118.2 and 120.4 percent respectively at the level high growth pace observed.

Regions according to growth of pace such different appearance in Namangan region industry development unstable, but positive to the trend has that it is shows. Some in the districts high growth pace new industry of projects to work unloading and investment currents activation with explained, other in the regions and growth slowdown there is working release of capacity limitedness or external economic factors impact with depends on. In general when receiving, growth of pace regions in the section sharp differentiation in the province industry in development one kind approach ineffective that it is shows [14]. Therefore, in the future industry policy of the regions growth potential and economic specialization into account received without differential in a way take to go necessity to the surface is coming.

Take visited analyses 2017–2024 in Namangan region during industry products working release size, composition and territorial in the distribution noticeable positive changes face that gave shows. Industry working release absolute size and annual growth pace province in the economy industry support to the network around from going evidence gives. With this together, regions in the section industry activity uneven distributed, some in the districts high growth pace in the background in others relatively slow development being observed This situation is determined. industry in development territorial differentiation strong that it is and working release potential one kind at the level to work that it is not being put shows [15].

Results in Namangan region industry development centralized from the model step by step many centered to the model passing by confirms. Namangan city in industry relative share decrease industry potential decrease not, maybe working release of capacity to the districts moving means. Especially, Turaqurgan, Chust and Kasonsoy in the districts industry working release acceleration in the province territorial industry base expanding evidence gives. With this together, some in the districts growth of pace instability industry in development territorial features into account received differential approach the necessity shows. In general received, received results industry innovative basically, regions in the section balanced develop through Namangan region economic stability further reinforcement possible scientific in terms of justifies.

4. Conclusion

This research in the regions food industry enterprises innovative develop mechanisms scientific basically analysis to do, their efficiency assessment and territorial to the conditions suitable management approaches offer to reach The research focused on results innovative development processes only technological updates with without limitation, but institutional environment, investment activity, human capital and management mechanisms harmony through formation showed. Obtained conclusions regional industry policy improvement and food in the industry stable innovative development provide for important scientific and practical basis to be service does.

Research the results generalized without following main conclusions separate show possible : firstly, in the regions food industry of enterprises innovative development level regions in the section noticeable differs and this differences mainly innovative of mechanisms formation level and management to the quality related ; secondly, innovative of potential existence innovative of the results automatic to the surface to come does not guarantee, but him/her effective management mechanisms existence solution doer importance has ; thirdly, regional innovative in development inertia approaches innovative activity limiting if it is active and targeted management mechanisms innovative processes accelerates ; fourth, innovative development in providing resources, processes and results between balance violation territorial imbalances strengthens.

Scientific based from offers one as in the regions food industry enterprises innovative develop according to integrated management mechanisms current to grow necessity is based on. In this innovative potential management single indicators system based on not, maybe resource base, innovative processes activity and final the results cover recipient integral approach through done increase This is necessary. approach territorial innovative politics in planning priority directions determine, investments effective distribution and management of decisions effectiveness increase opportunity gives.

Practical in terms of, in regions food industry innovative develop for to the regions customized differential politics mechanisms current to grow recommendation Innovative infrastructure and resource base relatively developed in the regions high technological and for export directed innovations support to the goal appropriate if, innovative in low-potential areas institutional the environment improvement, personnel preparation and elementary innovative initiatives encouragement priority to be This approach is necessary. regions between innovative differences to reduce service does.

Also, innovative development in providing modeling and scenario approaches management to practice current to grow important scientific and practical offer as previously is pushed. Inertia and active development scenarios compare based on innovative politics probable the results in advance assessment, risks reduce and strategic decisions acceptance to do efficiency increase possible. As a result, in the regions food industry of enterprises innovative development systematic, predictive and stable character profession national of the economy competitiveness to strengthen service does.

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