DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF NANOTECHNOLOGY IN UZBEKISTAN: SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND INDUSTRIAL IMPLEMENTATION

Djurayeva Dilafruz Avazovna
Lecturer of the Department of " Dietetics and Nutrition"
of the University of Bucheon

Abstract. *Nanotechnology has become one of the most rapidly developing interdisciplinary fields worldwide. In Uzbekistan, the formation of nanophysics and nanotechnology research began in the mid-1990s and has since evolved into a strategic scientific priority. This paper presents an overview of the development of nanotechnology in Uzbekistan, focusing on institutional infrastructure, key research directions, industrial applications, and practical implementation in medicine, energy, and agriculture. Special attention is given to the role of national scientific programs, technology transfer initiatives, and international collaboration. The results demonstrate that large-scale integration of nanotechnology contributes significantly to technological modernization, sustainable development, and the enhancement of national scientific capacity.*

Keywords: *nanotechnology, Uzbekistan, nanophysics, biomedical applications, energy efficiency, agriculture, scientific development, innovation policy*

1. Introduction

Nanotechnology is recognized as a key driver of technological innovation in the 21st century. Its applications extend across electronics, medicine, energy systems, materials science, and environmental technologies. Developing countries increasingly view nanotechnology as a strategic tool for enhancing industrial competitiveness and scientific potential.

In Uzbekistan, systematic research in nanophysics and nanotechnology began in the mid-1990s. Prior to this period, the republic had accumulated substantial experience in solid-state physics, nuclear physics, nonlinear optics, and soft condensed matter physics. These scientific foundations enabled the gradual integration of nanoscale research into national scientific programs.

Between 2012 and 2020, nanotechnology was officially designated as a priority area in the national strategy for scientific and technological development. This policy decision stimulated institutional expansion, applied research programs, and industrial implementation projects.

2. Materials and Methods

This study is based on:

- analysis of national scientific development programs;

- review of institutional reports from the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan;
- evaluation of applied research outcomes in medicine, energy, and agriculture;
- synthesis of published scientific literature on nanotechnology development.

Comparative analysis methods were applied to assess international experience, particularly the technological development model of South Korea, which has demonstrated rapid advancement in nanotechnology commercialization.

3. Results

3.1 Institutional Development and Research Infrastructure

A national framework for nanotechnology development has been established under the coordination of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Research activities are conducted at multiple institutions, including:

- the Department of Thermal Physics;
- the Institutes of Nuclear Physics, Chemistry, Physics of Polymers, and General and Inorganic Chemistry;
- the Scientific and Technological Complex “Fan va Taraqqiyot” at Tashkent State Technical University.

These institutions implement multidisciplinary projects focused on nanoparticle synthesis, nanomaterials engineering, and applied nanodevice development.

3.2 Technological Innovations in Nanomaterial Synthesis

In recent years, energy-efficient technologies have been developed for the synthesis of nanoparticles, including silver, copper, carbon, and titanium. These technologies are characterized by reduced energy consumption and improved production scalability.

The State Joint-Stock Company “Uzkimyosanoat” has actively participated in the development of nanocatalysts for chemical and petrochemical industries. These catalysts improve reaction efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

3.3 Biomedical Applications

Nanotechnology plays a particularly important role in medical innovation. Clinical trials conducted in 2014 at the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center of Dermatology and Venereology demonstrated the therapeutic effectiveness of silver nanoparticle solutions for inflammatory skin diseases such as eczema, contact dermatitis, and fungal infections.

One of the notable pharmaceutical developments is the antiviral preparation “CelA-Gripp,” which has shown effectiveness in influenza prevention and treatment.

Nanostructured polymer-based wound dressings incorporating silver nanoparticles have been developed as domestic alternatives to imported products. These materials promote accelerated wound healing and enhance immune response in patients with burn injuries and chronic wounds.

Furthermore, the Center for Molecular Medicine and Nanotechnology established at the Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education focuses on improving

immunocytochemical, immunoenzymatic, and radioimmunological diagnostic methods, enabling early detection of genetically determined diseases.

3.4 Energy and Industrial Applications

Joint projects between RUSNANO and the National Holding Company "Uzbekneftegaz" have introduced advanced technologies aimed at improving energy efficiency and energy conservation in the oil and gas sector.

One of the key applications is geotechnical monitoring systems designed to enhance the safety and operational reliability of main gas pipelines.

3.5 Agricultural Innovations

Nanotechnology-based products have also been introduced in agriculture. The biologically derived product "Uzkhitan," obtained from silkworm pupae, has demonstrated significant improvements in crop productivity, seed germination rates, and resistance to environmental stress factors.

Another important development is the polymer-based growth regulator "Polidef," which prevents premature drying of cotton bolls and improves cotton yield stability.

Additionally, environmentally safe plant protection agents, growth stimulators, and seed encapsulation technologies have been developed to enhance agricultural sustainability.

4. Discussion

The results indicate that Uzbekistan has established a comprehensive nanotechnology ecosystem integrating academic research, industrial production, and applied innovation. The national development strategy emphasizes technology transfer, import substitution, and environmentally sustainable production.

International experience, particularly that of South Korea, demonstrates the importance of coordinated state policy, long-term investment, and industry–science collaboration. Uzbekistan's approach reflects similar principles and has already produced measurable technological outcomes.

However, further progress requires continuous modernization of laboratory infrastructure, expansion of international research partnerships, and increased private sector involvement.

5. Conclusion

Nanotechnology development in Uzbekistan represents a strategic pathway for strengthening national scientific capacity and promoting sustainable economic growth. The integration of nanotechnologies in medicine, energy, and agriculture has already demonstrated significant social and economic benefits.

Continued investment in research infrastructure, human capital development, and international collaboration will be essential for maintaining long-term competitiveness and innovation leadership.

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