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# THE ROLE OF CLUSTERS IN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES IN THE CURRENT GLOBALIZATION PROCESS

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**Abstract:** The article examines the significant of clusters in the innovative management of construction materials production enterprises, the organizational algorithm, and the distinctive features of network innovation clusters. The economic efficiency of clustering is evaluated.
**Keywords:** construction, innovative process, management, cluster, innovative industrial cluster, construction materials.

In Uzbekistan, the construction industry has been rapidly developing in recent years, with new materials and technologies playing a crucial role in this process. For instance, in 2022, the enterprises of the "O'z sanoat qurilish materiallari" association produced goods worth 11.2 trillion soums, and in the first quarter of the current year, nearly 100 million dollars' worth of construction materials were exported. This indicates that the construction industry is one of the rapidly growing sectors of Uzbekistan's economy[1]

One of the important directions for developing the construction industry is creating energy-efficient buildings and structures. Indeed, energy resources are becoming more expensive, and saving them can significantly reduce the costs associated with using buildings and structures. From this perspective, energy-efficient construction materials such as basalt thermal insulation boards, basalt stone, and glass wool hold great importance.

To accomplish this task, it is crucial to address pressing issues such as developing innovative projects based on foreign experience while considering local conditions and solving financing problems for promising projects. A cluster-based approach is used to integrate enterprises, government bodies, scientific and educational interests into a unified whole for the purpose of economic development of the real sector of the national economy.

At the same time, enterprises will have the opportunity to ensure competitiveness in the production of innovative products, expand their sales geography, increase production and export volumes, create new high-demand jobs, and obtain financial, labor, and material resources. This approach can be applied not as an independent system with its own unique characteristics and development features, but as an element of the construction cluster in the construction materials industry at present.

According to M. Porter’s theory, a cluster is a group of geographically concentrated, interrelated companies, specialized suppliers, service providers, and related institutions that are simultaneously in competition and collaboration with each other. This integration helps to enhance their competitive advantage and efficiency.

According to data from Harvard Business School, “Clusters account for more than 32 percent of employment in the U.S. economy, and 39 percent of the working-age population in Sweden is employed within clusters. Productivity and wage levels in clusters are significantly higher than the national average”.

[1] Mirziyev, Sh. (2016). "Innovative Clusters: Spiritual and Practical Foundations." Economics and Innovation Journal, No. 2, pp. 77-82

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E. Bergman and E. Freyzer describe an industrial cluster as a combination of non-profit and commercial enterprises, with the aim of improving each individual firm's competitive position through their collaboration. V. Glukhov and A. Babkin highlight that defining a cluster requires regional agglomeration and note the interconnections between firms' research departments and national innovation systems[2]

T. Rasulov emphasizes that "The cluster-based approach to economic development is a modern management technology that provides opportunities not only to enhance the competitiveness of individual regions or sectors but also to improve the competitiveness of the entire country". Another researcher, R. Kholikova, concluded that " A cluster is a coherent network of interrelated firms, companies, financial institutions, research institutes, and other market entities united under a common goal of producing the most competitive and high-quality products"[3]

The Advantages of Establishing an Innovative Construction Materials Cluster in Region:

- Proximity to the Capital and Growing Agglomeration Effects: The close geographical location to Tashkent enhances the influence of the agglomeration effect, fostering economic growth and industry synergy.
- Favorable Transportation System and Logistics Center: The region's well-developed transportation system and the presence of a transportation-logistics center position it as a major industrial and transport hub.
- Increased Labor Potential and Consumer Market Size: The high population density in the area contributes to a larger labor pool and consumer market, amplifying the significance of these resources.
- Human Capital Potential: The region benefits from a strong human capital base, with ongoing efforts to enhance skills and training through foundational enterprises.
- Growing Domestic Demand for Goods and Services: There is an increasing internal demand for goods and services, acting as a driving force for economic development and industry growth.

One of the ways to increase the industry efficiency in the regions is to form business networks on the construction cluster basis, which main goal is to raise competitive advantages . The organizational model can be represented as follows (refer with Figure 2)

[2] Porter M. Clusters and the new economics of competition. // Harvard Business Review. Nov/Dec, 1998, vol.76, issue 6. –P. 77

[3] Rasulov T.S., Maxmasobirova N.U. Innovatsion klasterlarni shakllantirishning Amerika Qo'shma Shtatlari tajribasi // IQTISOD VA MOLIYA/ ЭКОНОМИКА И ФИНАНСЫ. 2017, 7-son

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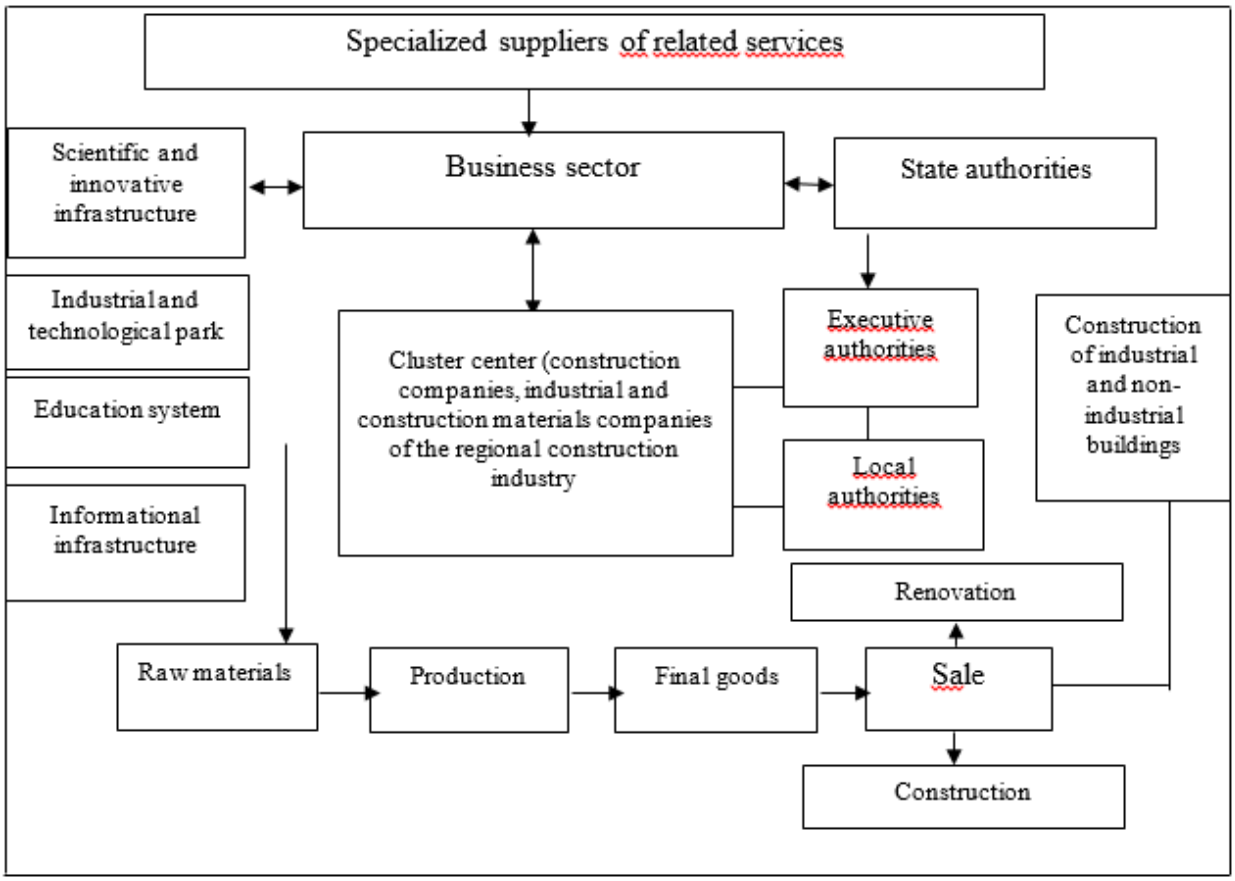


Figure 1.

To forecast the future state of the industry and ensure its high efficiency, it is essential to develop and implement preventive solutions that create the necessary conditions for future success. The government's support for the development of clusters should include the following interrelated measures aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the cluster:

1. Creating Favorable Conditions for Cluster Development: Assist in establishing a supportive environment for the growth and development of the cluster.
2. Assessing Long-Term Demand for Cluster Products: Evaluate the long-term needs of society for the cluster's products to align with future market requirements.
3. Forecasting the Level of Competition in Local and Global Markets: Predict the competitive landscape both locally and globally to better prepare for future challenges.
4. Supporting the Development of Related and Auxiliary Sectors: Foster the growth of complementary and supporting industries, which are crucial for enhancing the overall effectiveness of the cluster's activities.

The Economic-Social Efficiency of Clusters is Distributed According to the Following Directions:Stimulating Scientific Research and Accelerating Development: New producers from other industries stimulate scientific research and provide new strategies, thus accelerating the development process; Facilitating Free Exchange of Information: There is a free flow of information within the cluster, and innovations spread rapidly through consumer and supplier channels; Creating New Opportunities Through Competition: Interactions within the cluster lead to the emergence of new opportunities in competition; Enhancing Human Capital and Innovation: Clusters create new opportunities for the development of human capital and the integration of scientific ideas into production.

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In conclusion, it can be stated that among the reforms currently being implemented in our country, the cluster system holds significant importance. The main tasks of the reforms carried out by our government include effectively utilizing innovative activities within the cluster system. To achieve this, our country needs to advance the cluster system along an innovative path that meets contemporary demands within a short timeframe.

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