

Beyond the Promise: the hidden cost of imported genetics

Qazaq Aqbas breed association





INDUSTRY CHALLENGES IN 1991-2010

- The collapse of centralized selection after the USSR
- Reduction of breeding stock
- Lack of a clear development program (oil and gas)
- Lack of state support and control
- Data overwriting

NEW ERA OF LIVESTOCK BREEDING



- Amendments to the Law "On Breeding Livestock»
- New financial instruments for purchasing cattle, leasing programs
- New unified program for recording breeding animals
- Thirst attempts to open export markets for beef and livestock
- **Major goal to export 60K tons of beef**



LEGISLATION

OLD

Certified farms for livestock
Regulated by government
Budget
Functionary

NEW

Certified animal
Self regulated by associations
Self budget
Market

SYBAGA PROGRAM

Programme Objectives

- Enhance the genetic potential of beef cattle.
- Reduce meat production costs.
- Consolidate livestock farms and increase their competitiveness.

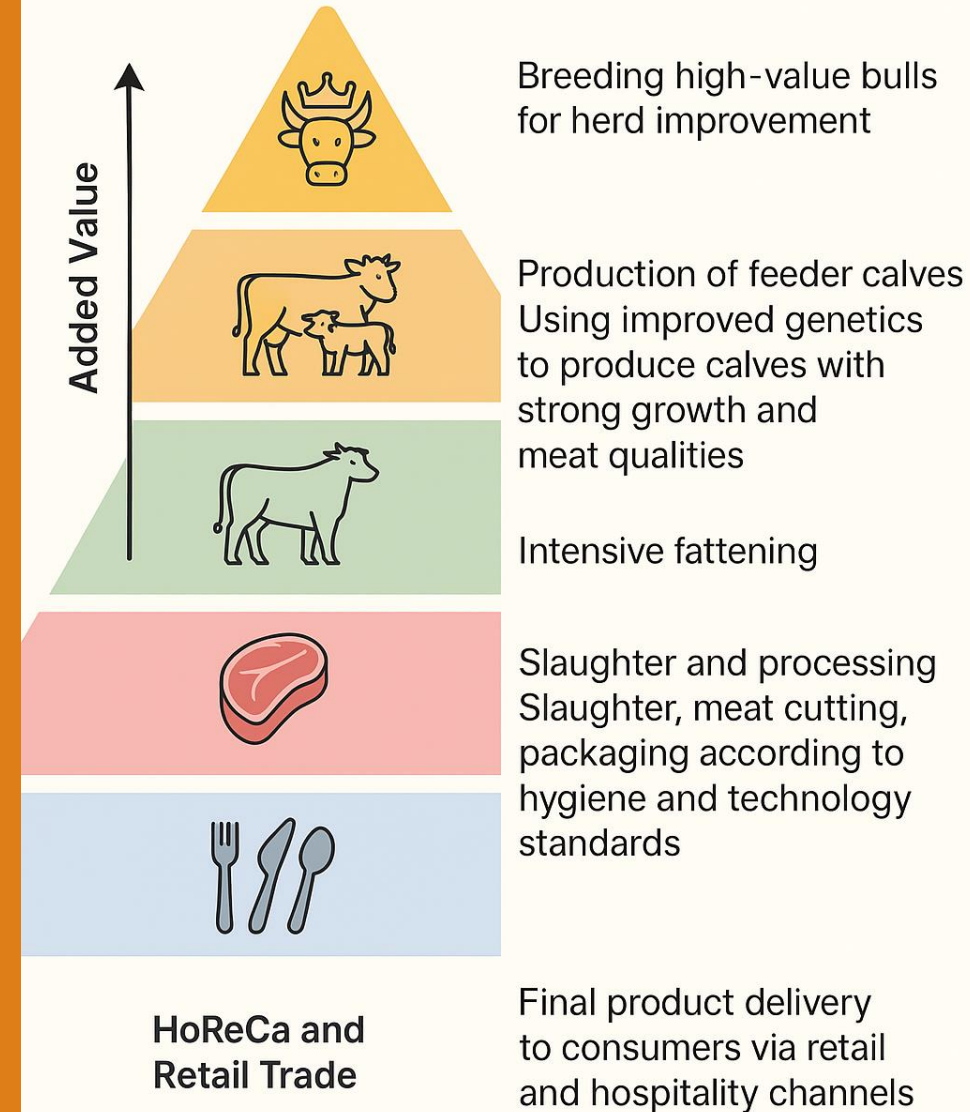
Implementation Mechanisms

- Breed Transformation
- Financial Support
- Subsidy

Results and Statistics

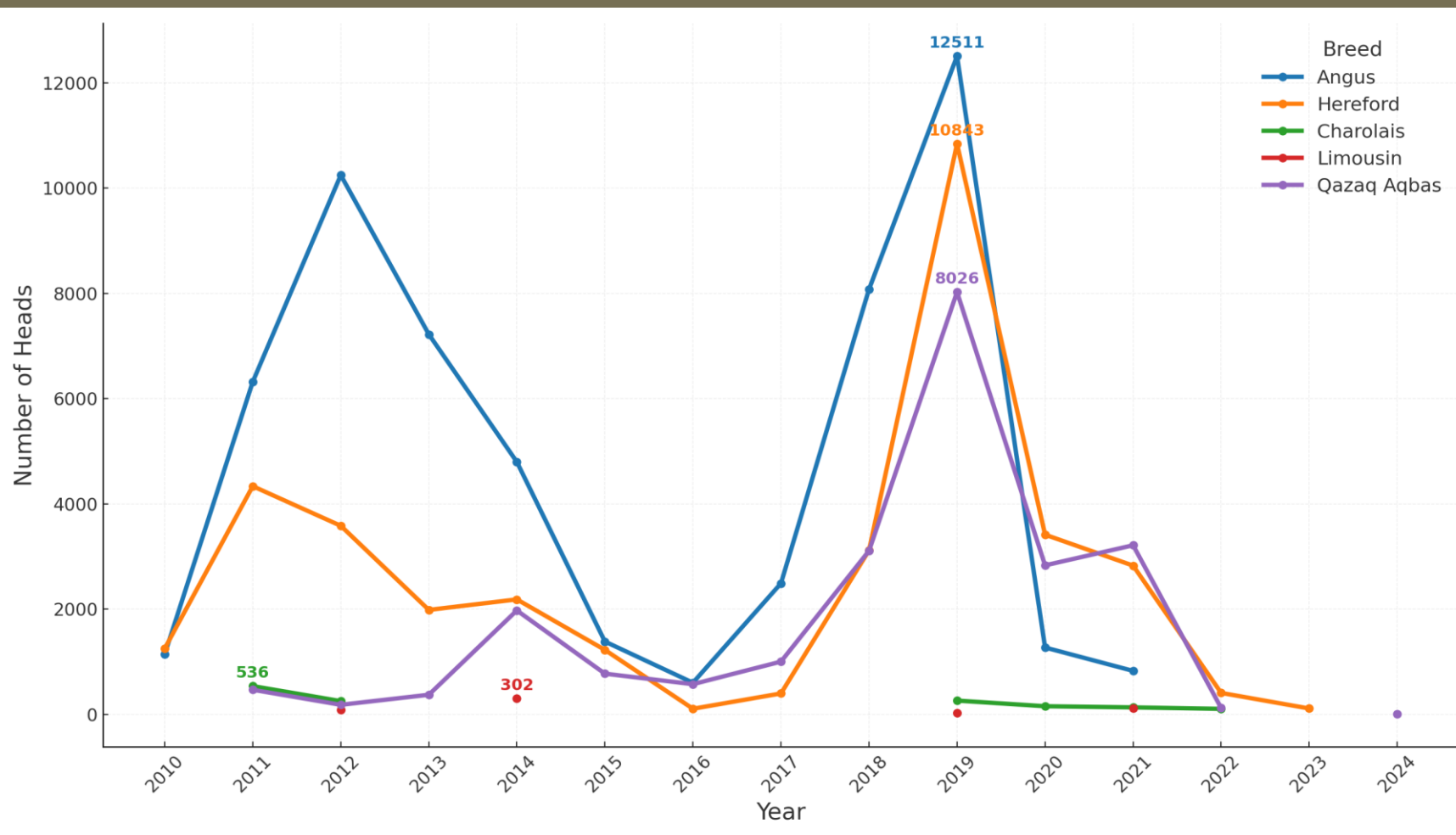
- Since the programme's inception, over 147,000 head of cattle have been acquired .
- As of January 1, 2022, the programme includes 23,500 farms with a total of 1.238 million breeding cows and 32,900 pedigree bulls.

Value Chain in Beef Cattle Production





PUREBRED BEEF CATTLE IMPORT

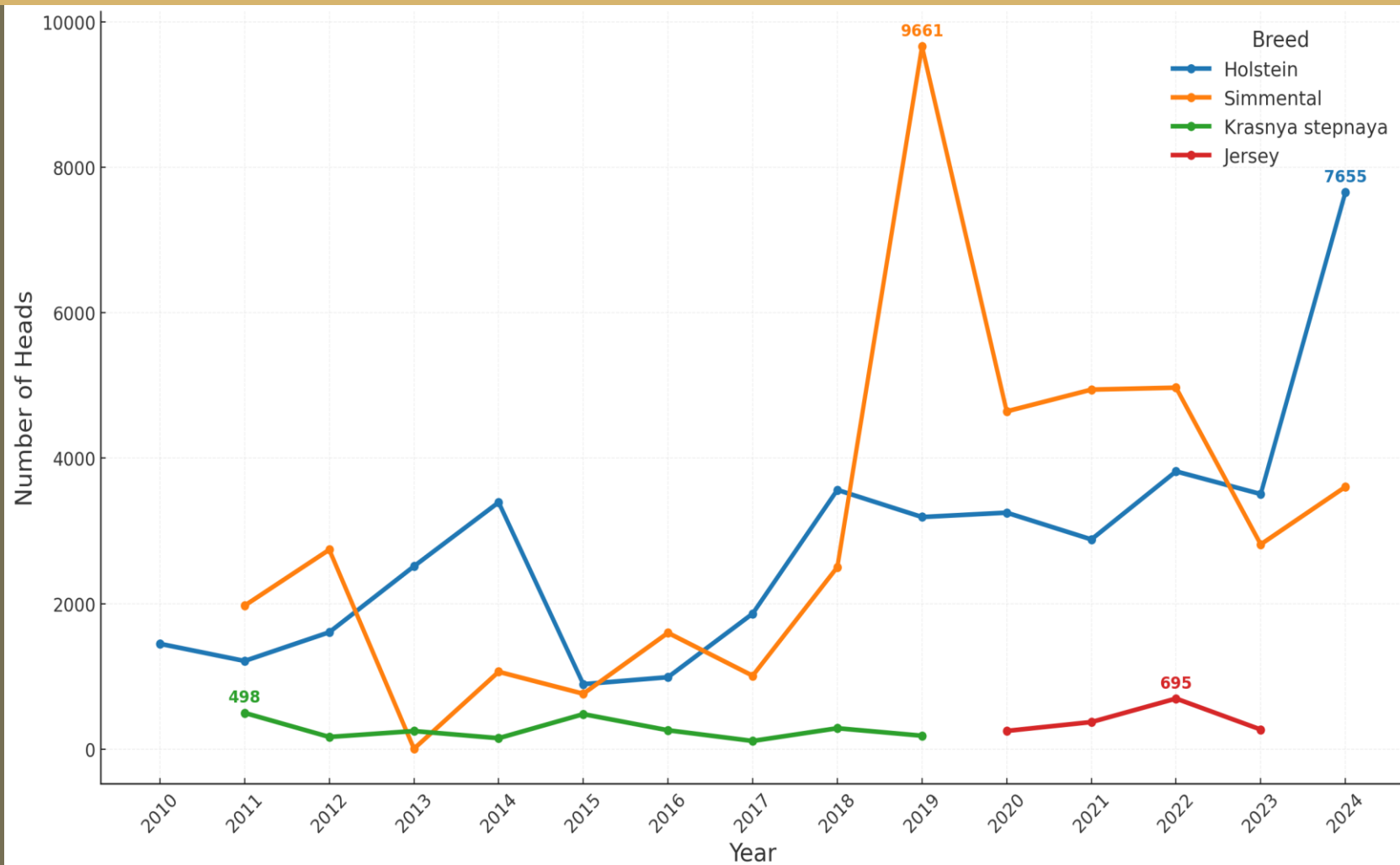


140K heads imported in 14 years

- Angus – 56K
- Hereford – 34K
- Qazaq Aqbas – 22K
- Qalmaq – 22K



PUREBRED DAIRY CATTLE IMPORT



127K heads imported
in 14 years

- Simmental – 42K
- Holstein – 41K
- Jersey – 1,5 K

**Till today 10K in
average annually**



History of the Qazaq Aqbas Breed

1930s–1950s

Created by crossbreeding local cattle with Hereford bulls

Goal

Develop a beef breed resilient to harsh steppe conditions

Key Traits

High beef productivity, endurance, and hardiness

Role

Main genetic resource for Kazakhstan's beef industry



History in numbers

- 1991** 1.5 million head in the national herd
- 2008** Only 75K remained after economic decline
- 2018** Recovered to 250K thanks to support programs
- 2024** 600K+ head – strong recovery continues

Advantages of Qazaq Aqbas



Adaptation to Extreme Climates

Tolerates +40°C to -40°C. Ideal for pastures in steppes, semi-deserts, and mountains



High Meat Productivity

Bulls 800-1000 kg, cows 450-550 kg. Carcass yield up to 60-62%. Excellent marbling



Strong Immunity & Hardiness

Low veterinary costs. Thrives even on poor pastures



Excellent Maternal Traits

High calf survival (95%+). Adequate milk for natural calf rearing

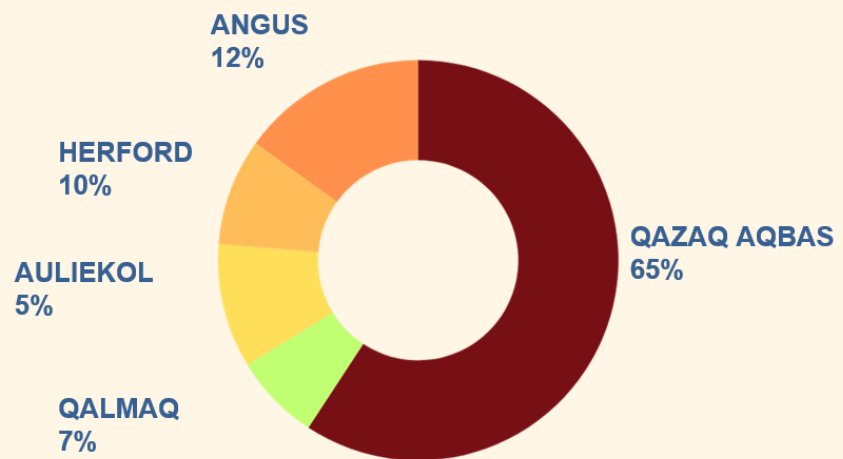


Economic Efficiency

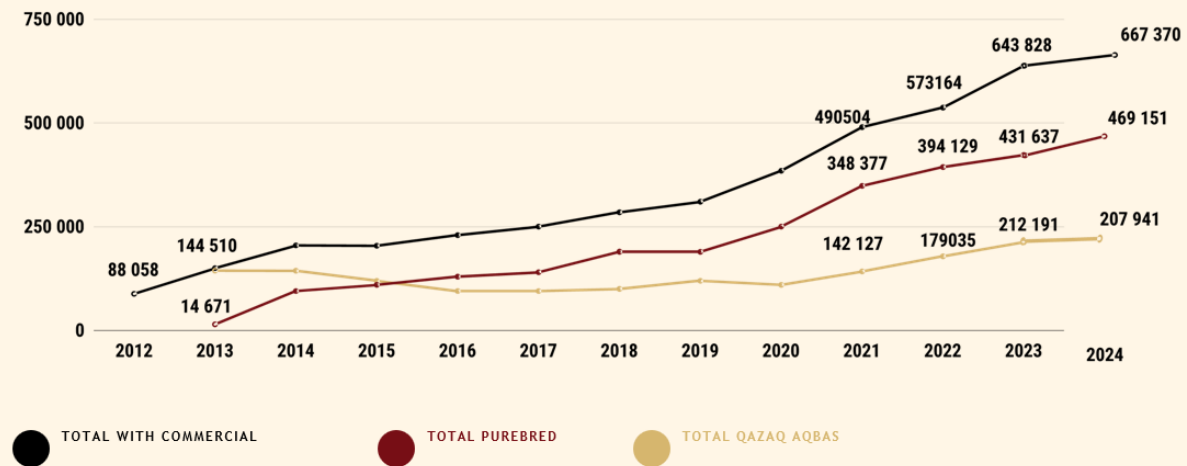
Low maintenance costs
Fast ROI due to hardiness



RATIO BEEF CATTLE BREEDS

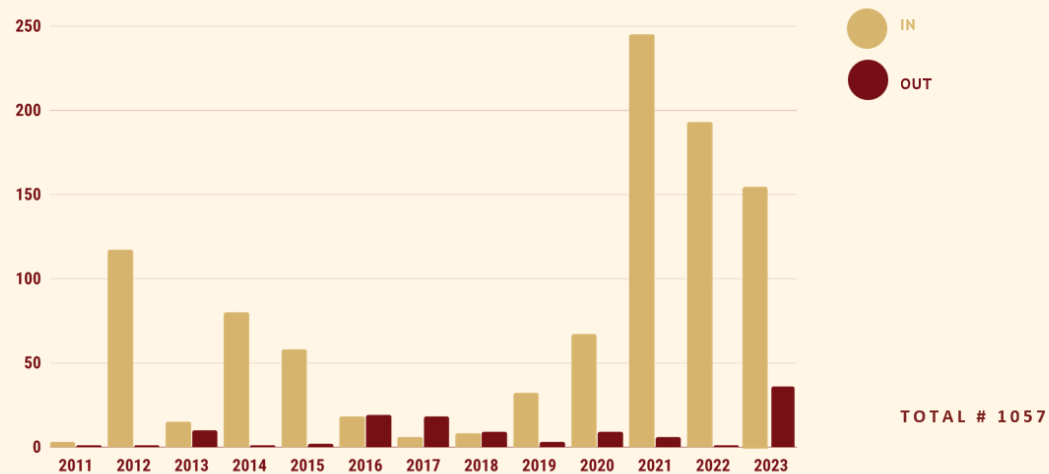


CATTLE GROW

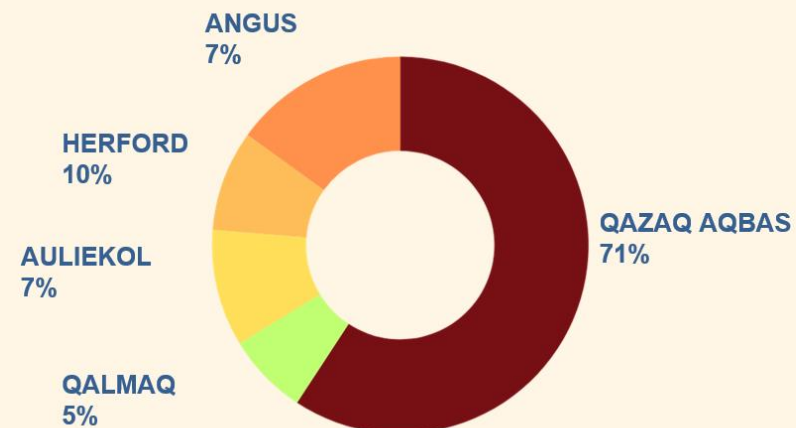


MEMBERS GROW

Qazaq Aqbass association



RATIO SELLING





Challenges

- Positioning
- Progress
- Productivity
- Risk of being swallowed by other breeds

Respond

- Development program
- New technologies
- Promotion

Development program

- All breeders devided in 4 classes
 - TOP genetics
 - Main
 - Half commercial
 - Commercial
- Education
- DNA for SIREs
- Selection monitoring





CLASSIFICATION BY DEVELOPMENT LEVEL

1st Class (TOP FARMS) 63 members

- Sale of bulls and heifers without restrictions
- DNA-confirmed pedigrees
- Animal testing (Vytelle SENSE)
- Digital recordkeeping
- Artificial insemination programs

2nd Class 410 members

Sale of bulls and heifers to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class farms

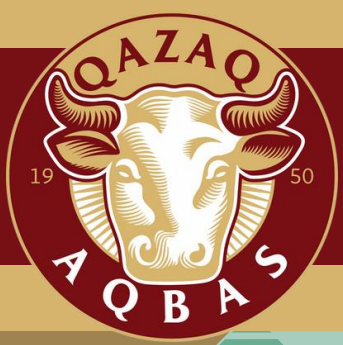
3rd Class 547 members

Sale of bulls only to 3rd and 4th class farms

4th Class 15,861 breeders

Commercial livestock production

RESPONSIBILITY AND IMPACT



TESTING STATIONS



- Feed intake focus
- More outcome with less income
- Methane emissions reduction
- Durable cattle for local conditions
- Care for the environment



PROMOTION





COOPERATION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

NEXUS Project “Facilitating investment in the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia”

The nexus approach aims to:

- Build institutional and individual capacity to integrate nexus considerations into policies and projects in Central Asia.
- Mobilize finance for projects delivering nexus benefits and promoting regional cooperation on climate, energy, water, and food security.
- Strengthen political dialogue to foster trust and drive high-impact cross-sector investments in energy, water, and land use security.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. SET LONG TERM VISION
2. ADOPT NEW TECHNOLOGIES
3. TRUST in HERITAGE & DEVELOP LOCAL GENETICS
4. SMART POSITIONING ON EXPORT MARKETS
5. INVEST IN HUMAN CAPITAL

БАЯРЛААА!!!

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