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SPACE CAPABILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ECONOMY OF AZERBAIJAN

Abstract

Purpose: Azerbaijan is a country with emerging economy and vast oil and gas resources. In order to transfer the economy from the gas/oil sector to other sectors and diversify the economic growth, Azerbaijan realizes the importance of using satellite collected information to monitor the environment for future economic activities. With food and agriculture product prices going up during recent Covid-19 crisis, Azerbaijan sees a good opportunity to invest into agriculture industry and animal farms. Methodology: Azercosmos scientists use space capabilities of Azersky for helping to properly manage natural resources, protect people, property, and the environment from extreme weather events, and address the climate crisis. With a limited water supplies, uneven distribution of population across the country, newly integrated territories after the Karabakh war, it is crucial to determine the right places for new economic activities while preserving and extending natural parks in the country. Results: From the three satellites in the possession of Azercosmos, only one satellite (Azersky) observes the territory of Azerbaijan. Data collected from space helps us to improve national preparedness and reduce the impacts of extreme weather, natural disasters, and climate change in a manner that better addresses the needs of vulnerable communities. We have contributed to the economic integration of the Karabakh territories by suggesting the right places for new smart cities, proposing new road and communication lines without impact to the environment. Conclusions: The scientist and staff of Azercosmos are using space capabilities and satellite information to help diversify the economy of Azerbaijan. We also consult the government of Azerbaijan on locating right places for future agriculture and farm industries. Areas for discussion: We are looking for partners to share a large scale satellite information on the extreme weather, natural disasters, and climate change, which will be helpful for us to predict the impact on Azerbaijan economy.