

# Meet Your Farmer

## Rahmat Kobilov



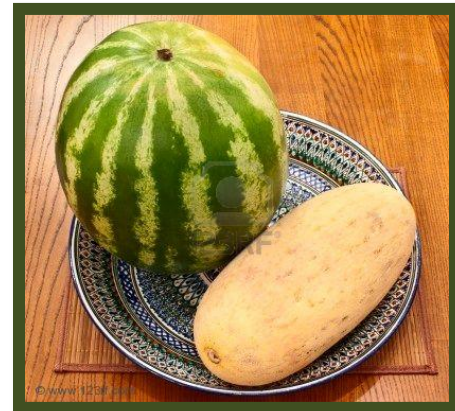
“I would like to share it [the Uzbek melon] with the people ... of the United States ... [My contribution to] the United States is going to be the Uzbek melon!”

### Background:

I came to the United States in 2005 fleeing my home-country of Uzbekistan after the major political demonstration, the Andijan Uprising, created danger for many Uzbeks. Escaping the socio-political turmoil of my homeland I have brought 15 years of extensive traditional farming experience to the irrigated farm land of Arizona.

In South-Chandler I cultivate a few acres at Gila Farms. My motivation to work hard stems from my family still living in Uzbekistan and my newfound family, the Phoenix-Uzbek community. On the farm I produce a variety of vegetables and locally famous Uzbek melons that are devoured by Phoenicians every summer. My delicious organic produce can be seen at the local farmers' markets where I collaborate with other refugee farmers. I am

an active and proud member of my community where fellow Uzbeks and I participate in an Auto Repair business as well as the newly opened Golden Restaurant in Phoenix. My wish for the future is that the people in the United States know that my mouth-watering melons are the hard work and product of Uzbeks everywhere.



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