



THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE FERGHANA ECONOMIC REGION IN THE 50S-80S OF THE XX TH CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the state of agriculture in the Fergana economic region in the 50s-80s of the 20th century and the consequences of the agrarian policy conducted by the Soviet government in it are revealed based on the analysis of periodical sources and literature and research works on the subject. Also, after the Second World War, the policy of the Soviet government to develop cotton farming in the Fergana economic region, to have more cotton harvest, to meet the cotton needs of the light industries in the center, to develop new land in the country and to specialize in cotton production. and implications are covered.

KEYWORDS: *Uzbek SSR, Fergana Valley, Soviet Union, national economy, economic region, cotton, agriculture, irrigation-reclamation, state farms, kolkhoz.*

INTRODUCTION

From the middle of the XXth century, special attention was paid to the issue of further development of agriculture in connection with the transition of the Soviet government to peaceful construction works throughout the country, in particular, in the territory of the Uzbekistan SSR. As a result, as in other regions of the republic, in the Fergana Valley, new land development was started. From the center of the Union, at the congresses and plenums of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union), the task of acquiring new lands was determined, including the acceleration of regular land acquisition in the five-year plans [9, – 635 p.]. In the five-year plans of 1946-1950, the main task of agriculture was to carry out irrigation-reclamation works in irrigated agricultural regions. In the process of ensuring the implementation of these tasks, the works on the completion of the construction of the Sarisuy, Bagdad and Soz-Isfara collectors system and the construction of other collectors and irrigation stations in the economic regions of Fergana were accelerated. For example, in the twelfth five-year plans, it was determined to allocate more capital funds for the development of cotton, effective use of available production resources, increase productivity, improve fiber quality, and wide use of scientific and technical progress.

During this period, cotton was a valuable raw material in the economic life of the country, and about 300 different products were produced from it. On average, 30–35 kg of industrially needed fiber was obtained from every 100 kg of cotton. About 3000 meters of fabric was obtained as a result of processing this fiber in textile enterprises. 6–8 kg of lint, 11–12 kg of oil, 2.5 kg of soap and other products were obtained from 100 kg of cotton [1, – 3 p.].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

In the 1950s, the "Ferganavodstroy", "Andijanvodstroy", "Namanganvodstroy" trusts were established in the Fergana economic region. From 1953 to 1973, only "Ferganavodstroy" and the newly formed inter-collective collective farm council took part in the acquisition of more than 50 thousand hectares of new land and the establishment of 3 state farms and 5 collective farms on these lands [15, – 95 p.]. Due to the fact that the favorable climate of the provinces in the Fergana economic region and the sufficient labor resources allowed to accelerate the development of land, on October 20, 1953, the Central Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR "Expansion of irrigated lands and water management in the Uzbek SSR" the decision on further development measures", resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR "On the further development of cotton production in the Uzbek SSR in 1954-1958" (February 9, 1954), The order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Uzbek SSR "On strengthening the irrigation and development of the lands of Central Fergana", the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR "On the development of new and reserve (waste) land for the harvest of 1958" (March 18, 1958), the decision of the Central Committee of the Central Committee of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR "On strengthening the work on irrigation and development of new and reserve land in Central Ferghana" decision (April 21, 1958), Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Central Committee of the CC of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the SSR of Uzbekistan "On approval of the program of construction work on



irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands in 1959” (January 23, 1959), the decision of the Central Committee of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR “On irrigation and development of reserve and gray lands in Central Fergana in 1959-1965” (August 3, 1959), “Construction work on irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands in 1960” of the “Ministry of Water Management of the Uzbek SSR program” (March 18, 1960), on the basis of decisions and orders of the Central Committee of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR “On the development of protected lands in Central Fergana” (May 12, 1961), 60 thousand hectares of protected land were developed in Central Fergana until 1963 [8, – 173 p].

Activities in this regard, of course, also affected land reclamation and irrigation works. “Ferganavodstroy”, “Andijanvodstroy” and “Namanganvodstroy” trusts established in the Fergana valley, as well as the regional irrigation departments, during 19 years (between 1953 and 1972) carried out earth excavation and concrete and reinforced concrete works in the volume of 1634039 m³, of which 650526 m³ in Fergana, 833821 m³ corresponded to Andijan, 149692 m³ to Namangan region [7, – 173 p.]. At the same time, allocation of capital funds from the state budget and the indivisible fund of collective farms for the development of reserves and gray lands in this economic region has been increasing year by year. Districts, settlements, and residential buildings rose in the newly opened areas. However, the new lands in these areas were not exploited on scientific grounds and the establishment of large cotton fields in their place, the use of toxic chemicals to increase the yield of cotton, led to the destruction of the ecology and environment. At this point, it should be noted that during this period, ¾ of the republic's agricultural output fell on farming, and the rest fell on livestock [2, – 14 p.].

The increase in cotton cultivation in many cotton-growing districts and state farms in the Fergana economic region indicates that the center has strengthened the practice of cotton monopoly here as well. At that time, cotton was the main crop of the republic's agriculture, and Uzbekistan was in the first place in the Union in terms of cotton cultivation, supplying 64.1% of the cotton of the USSR. Also, according to historical scientists, the development of brownfields is a clear expression of the extensive development model of the field, and it was not scientifically approached in depth. The constant expansion of cotton planting areas by the political leadership of the USSR, and the careless attitude towards environmental disasters that could be caused by the massive construction of water reservoirs on rivers for irrigation purposes deepened the current situation [13, – 132 p.].

During the years under review, the policy of economic regionalization of the Soviet state continued, and in this process reforms were also carried out in agriculture. As a result of the activities of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and the Soviet of Ministers of the USSR on the transfer of state farms completely to the farm account, by July 1, 1967, a small group of state farms in Uzbekistan itself was transferred to the farm account. In this process, in 1957-1960, 84 large specialized state farms were established across the republic at the expense of farms with low economic growth. Mainly, problems such as the poor land reclamation condition in the farms located in the Kokan zone of the region, poor quality of salt washing once a year caused the quality of cultivated products to decrease. For example, in “Nayman” state farm, soil salinity was very high compared to other regions [5, – p. 66.].

At this point, it should be noted that in order to increase productivity in the newly established state farms, special attention was paid to strengthening their material and technical base, and funds were regularly allocated by the state. In 1963, the effectiveness of these established state farms was reviewed at a meeting of the Central Asian Agricultural Institute. It was noted at the meeting that these established state farms managed to deliver 74,000 tons of cotton. It was necessary to keep an accurate account of the funds allocated for production in the state farms transferred to the economic account, to ensure the equal development of all branches of agriculture. However, in the 1960s, 71 state farms in the republic ended the year with 13 million rubles, while 50 farms underperformed the set plan by 8.6 million rubles and faced significant financial problems. In Fergana, there are state farms that have been operating at a loss for many years, and only Sokh state farm ended the year with a loss of more than one million rubles instead of the set income of 304,000 thousand rubles [6, – p. 64.].

Such shortcomings are characteristic of other regions as well. In 1967, due to the inability to properly use the resources for the development of production, the existing state farms in the republic handed over the products that should be handed over to the state in the amount of 7 million rubles. One of the main reasons for such shortcomings was that the farms spent too much money on administrative work. According to statistics, in 1967, 544,000 rubles were spent from the monthly salary fund of state farms. In order to prevent these shortcomings, it was determined that state farms should be transferred to the farm account, and short-term and long-term loans from banks should be established. State farms that received loans were supposed to serve the development of all branches of agriculture. “Savai” state farm in Andijan region, which is part of the Fergana economic region, was also transferred to the account of such a farm. According to the end of 1967, this state farm paid off its loans from the bank and produced an additional product of 514 thousand rubles beyond the plan [6, – p. 65.].

In the analyzed years, cotton raw materials made up most of the products transported from the Fergana economic region. Cotton fiber was sent to textile factories in the center, West-North, Siberia, Ukraine, Volgaboyni, Kazakhstan and other regions. Large quantities of vegetable oil, fruit, silk gauze, ozokerite, viscose, kirza, belts for driving machines, diesels, pumps were transported[3].

Even in the cotton sector, following the prescribed plan has led to vices such as overwriting in the sector. At the same time, the lack of material interests among people has increased the cases of irresponsibility in their work. The cotton fields of



Uzbekistan, as well as all cotton farms in the Fergana Valley, had many deficiencies. One of the main ways to use labor force in the rapidly growing republic was the development of cotton growing, as it takes 39 man-hours to grow one centner of cotton and 6.8 man-hours to grow one centner of grain, that is, 6 times less labor in the state farms of the republic [10, - p. 10.]. However, people's irresponsibility, lack of material benefit from their work, successive plans, naturally remained one of the main obstacles to development.

Although field work is done quickly in the cotton fields, the quality of the work is not fully paid attention to, when the fields are plowed, the fields are not cleared of last year's cotton stalks, and in some places, stones. For example, in the collective farms named after Okhunboboev, Hamza Hakimzoda, Fergana district, Vodil district, and "Yosh Leninchi" in Fergana district, no attention was paid to the straightness of the rows when sowing seeds. In Tasloq, Altiariq, Chinabad districts and several other places, although land softening (cultivation) was demanded, the tractor cultivation was carried out very slowly. In addition, in Andijan and Namangan regions, work on cotton fields was not carried out on time [12]. Chasing the number of seeds only as a result of actions towards the implementation of the given plan, the seeds sown were not processed in time [11]. The strict requirement to fulfill the given plan, pomposity, lofty slogans created the conditions to chase after the quantity, not the quality of the product.

In 1951, in the discussion of the results of the investigation carried out by the Bureau of the Central Committee of the CP(b) of Uzbekistan, it was noted that "the Kaganovich district party committee of Fergana region did not ensure the implementation of the decision of the IX plenum of the Central Committee of the CP(b) of Uzbekistan" "On harvesting and preparing the cotton harvest of 1951". According to the decision, "... the district party committee did not take measures to strengthen cotton harvesting and preparation, as a result, instead of handing over 14.4% of the annual plan to the state, only 8.4% of cotton was handed over to the state in the last five days of September. As a result of the fact that the district party committee allegedly carried out all the work in the field of organizing cotton production with wrong methods, instead of conducting mass-political work among collective farmers and expanding socialist competition, they engaged in administration, several primary party organizations in the collective farm stayed away from cotton production and did not organize in this work, labor it was noted that they did not fight to strengthen discipline and increase labor productivity of collective farmers. As in all regions of Uzbekistan, men rarely go to the cotton fields here, they are mainly engaged in "second-level" jobs, the pickers did not fulfill the set norms, no measures were taken against those who violated labor discipline, hot meals were not provided to the pickers, advance payments were not provided on time. it was noted that there was no control, even that the collective farmers did not receive 1 million 220 thousand soums of salary for the working days of the previous years. In the 1951 harvest season, 313 cotton picking machines were idle in the province under various excuses. As a matter of fact, these circumstances were connected with the poor organization of mass-political work in the collective farms at that time. Even in 1951, a series of measures aimed at improving mass-political work among the growers were determined[15]. In general, since the 1950s, administrative-commandism has been the basis of the Soviet government's management, which has led to negative situations such as management of work, overexploitation of rural resources.

In the researched years, several plans and scientific hypotheses were developed for the further development of cotton cultivation, and Fergana economic region was lagging behind in terms of applying local fertilizers to crops in agriculture over the years. By November 1970, in the period between the completion of the assigned tasks and the development of his scientific projects, there was a need to improve irrigation channels on 948,200 hectares, to improve and build ditches on 787,200 hectares, and to build capital on 989,300 hectares. it was decided to carry out the work. There is a need to improve land reclamation of about 1,400,000 hectares of land in the republic. As a result, 6-7 centners of cotton was harvested less per year, more than 37 percent of the irrigated lands in the republic became saline, and 400-500 thousand tons less per year was harvested due to salinity [4, - p. 28.]. In the Fergana economic region, the total salinized land in this period was 12 percent in Namangan region, 21.7 percent in Andijan region, and 51.7 percent in Fergana region [4, - p. 28-29.].

CONCLUSION

In short, after the end of the Second World War, the Soviet government paid special attention to the issue of further development of the national economy of Uzbekistan, especially in the Fergana economic region. As a result, as well as other regions of the republic, the development of new lands in the Fergana Valley was accelerated. He implemented unscientific programs in order to get more profit in the newly opened areas. As a result of excessive planting of cotton in this economic region and wrong measures, the conditions of land salinization have increased. As a result, such conditions did not allow to obtain expected results in agriculture or led to low yields. As a result of disorganized and improper development of new lands in a short period of time, Fergana Economic Region has caused several problems in agriculture.

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