



TRAINING OF EXPERT PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD OF IRRIGATION IN UZBEKISTAN (1951-1990)

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ABSTRACT

The article reveals the training of specialists in the field of irrigation in Uzbekistan in 1950-1990 at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers and their contribution to the development of irrigation and agriculture with the help of primary sources. In addition, it was analyzed that the leading positions in the Ministry of Water Resources were occupied by representatives of other nationalities.

KEY WORDS: *Uzbekistan, soviet government, irrigation, land reclamation, specialist, virgin lands, cotton monopoly.*

INTRODUCTION

Uzbekistan is considered to be a region with a unique professional experience in the traditions of farming culture in the Central Asian region, and during the Soviet rule, the republic was further improved as a base school for the fields of irrigation and melioration. The Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, founded in 1934 (now the National Research University “Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers”), has played the role of this center for several decades. Highly educated irrigator personnel were also trained at the hydromelioration faculties of the Samarkand Agriculture and Andizhan Cotton Growing Institutes (now the Andizhan Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnologies). At the same time, the Soviet government also attached great importance to the system of training personnel with secondary special education. However, management positions in water management agencies were also filled with personnel from other nationalities who were unfamiliar with local conditions and farming culture.

RESEARCH METHODS

The Soviet authorities made several decisions on the training of water management personnel. In particular, on May 12, 1951, the decision of the USSR Council of Ministers “On expanding the training of technicians of hydraulic specialties” was adopted. This decision was developed based on the decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR dated March 1, 1951 “On expanding the training of engineers and technicians in hydraulic specialties” [1.p.1]. According to him, a number of tasks were assigned to the Ministry of Cotton. For example, from the 1951-1952 academic year, the Samarkand agricultural technical school was reorganized as a hydromelioration technical school, and 90 people were admitted per year, and this technical school was included in the Ministry of Water Management of the UzSSR, as well as four new academic years in Andizhan, Namangan and Bukhara agricultural technical schools. organization of annual educational hydromelioration departments (it is planned to receive and train 240 students out of 80 students in all three regional technical schools in this academic year).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Allowing the ministries, departments and organizations of the UZSSR to allow students admitted to the two-year hydromelioration and hydrotechnical departments of technical schools to study without being separated from production, and students admitted to Andizhan, Namangan, Bukhara, Samarkand and Khorezm regional executive committees for the new academic year by August 1, 1951 It was proposed to provide Andizhan, Namangan and Bukhara agricultural technical schools with 100 beds, Samarkand hydromelioration technical school with 90 beds, Khorezm hydromelioration technical school with 150 beds [1.p.2].



At the beginning of 1952, the total number of workers and engineer-technical employees of the Ferghana Valley water utilities and the “Ferghanavodstroy” trust was 2,188, and in 1958, it was 3,011. In 1970, this indicator equaled 4,899 people in the “Andizhanvodstroy” and “Ferghanavodstroy” trusts, of which 1,301 were excavator drivers and their assistants, 531 were scrapers, 546 were bulldozers, 231 were graders, 163 were tractor drivers, and 931 were concrete workers. But by the beginning of 1972, “Ferghanavodstroy” alone lacked 46 excavators, 182 scraper-bulldozers, 108 construction workers and other mastering specialists [3.p.69].

On June 24 of this year, the order of the Ministry of Water Management of the UZSSR “On measures to further improve the selection, training and placement of personnel in the Ministry of Water Management of the UZSSR and its local organizations” noted the following views on the work of personnel: “Until now, 75% Engineers, 74 hydrotechnics of the section have been working without professional knowledge, 41% of heads of irrigation system departments, 74% of district water management heads, 30% of chief engineers of irrigation system departments worked in engineering positions with lower professional education. A number of engineering positions in the ministry’s apparatus were filled with non-specialized personnel. The training of personnel from local nationalities in the Ministry and its territorial bodies was not well established. However, Uzbeks made up 2% of the total composition in the ministerial apparatus, 3% in water management of Bukhara region, and 6% in Samarkand” [4.p.16].

According to the data, during the Soviet era, the members of the Ministry of Water Management were a minority of the local people. At the same time, in the above order, a number of deficiencies in improving the qualifications of water management personnel were also noted: “The personnel department, heads of departments, departments of ministries and heads of regional water management departments did not deal at all with the issue of creating a reserve for nominating candidates for management work. Activities for improvement of practical (job-related) qualification of employees have not been organized. For this reason, there are 329 unfilled positions in the ministry apparatus and its local bodies, of which 32 are managers and 297 are specialists” [4.p.15].

On August 16, 1952, a special decree of the Ministry of Water Management of the UZSSR “On further improvement of the quality of personnel training for water management bodies” [5.p.90] was issued. In it, it was agreed to allow the water management agencies of the republic to increase the number of students in the two-year education by 30 people per academic year and, accordingly, to reduce the number of students in the four-year department by 30 people. In the 1952-1953 academic year, a total of 718 students studied at the Tashkent hydromelioration technical school under the Ministry of Water Management, including 230 students at the 1st stage, 158 at the 2nd stage, 200 at the 3rd stage, and 130 at the 4th stage [6.p.11].

Soviet authorities sent personnel from the center in order to fill the local water management agencies with personnel. In particular, “In 1953-1954, 107 people from graduates of higher educational institutions and technical schools, including 37 people from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, 13 people from the Moscow Institute of Water Management, 9 people from the Kyiv Hydromelioration Institute, as well as Leningrad, Saratov, Omsk, Yerevan, Rostov, were involved in the construction of Central Ferghana. and young professionals came from other cities” [7.p.11]. According to the information, the personnel sent from other republics were not aware of the natural conditions. Because of this, there were many problems in the cultivation of agricultural products for the needs of the local population.

On October 31, 1955, the order of the Ministry of Water Management of the UzSSR “On working with personnel in the system of the Ministry of Water Management of the UzSSR” was published [8.p.41]. It evaluated the activities of the ministry in terms of personnel training. In particular, the ministry has not fully implemented the restructuring of personnel selection, placement, and training. Some positions of the ministry’s offices remained vacant, they lacked personnel. As mentioned above, during the Soviet rule, most of the management positions of the irrigation system were occupied by personnel belonging to other nationalities. This aspect was also clearly visible in the number of students in technical schools, which are secondary educational institutions. In particular, 1056 (42.0%) of 2483 students in technical schools were representatives of the local population, and 7 of them were Uzbek girls. Due to the lack of classrooms in some technical schools, training sessions were conducted in two shifts, due to the lack of dormitories, 1,700 students were accommodated in private apartments [8.p.44].

Training of personnel with higher education and scientific potential for the water industry network was launched at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers. Including, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers trained many engineers and scientists from Asian, African and Latin American countries. This work was started in 1956. Representatives of Mongolia, Cuba, Vietnam, Egypt, Afghanistan, Ghana, Mali, Somalia, Kenya, Nigeria, Syria, Uganda, Yemen, Tanzania and other countries studied here, graduated from post-graduate studies and received scientific degrees. 289 specialists were delivered to 36 countries of the world in 7 years [9.p.25].

The Soviet authorities also emphasized the system of training irrigation personnel in the Ferghana Valley. In 1956, the number of highly educated specialists working in the irrigation system of Ferghana region was 485. In order to further develop the cotton industry, secondary special educational institutions were also established in the occupied desert areas. In particular, 7 agricultural mechanization schools and 2 state agricultural technical schools were opened in Mirzachul during 1956-1966. As of January 1, 1966, about 3,000 people studied in these technical schools. These educational institutions trained mechanist, technician-builder and small agronomist cadres for farms to be established in the newly irrigated zone [10.p.63].



Four reclamation technical schools in the republic have trained middle-level specialists - irrigators for the irrigation system. In addition, other republics of the Union have trained irrigator specialists for the water management of Uzbekistan. In 1958, 6,000 specialists, including 2,000 engineers and 4,000 technicians, worked in the irrigation of Uzbekistan [11.p.9].

In 1961, the total number of mechanized personnel in state and collective farms was 71 thousand, by 1965 they were 98.9 thousand, and in 1967 they were 108.9 thousand. In 1961, the total number of specialists with higher and secondary specialized education sent to project organizations was 69. Although the decision of the party-government adopted in 1963 on the development of the Karshi desert as a priority, it was indicated to "take care" of those displaced to the desert, but these tasks were not fulfilled in time [12.p.66]. As a result, the lack of personnel in this area has become more intense. The Soviet government reacted brutally to this situation. In 1969, in order to prevent dissatisfaction, a special law of the government was adopted, in which the following was determined in order to ensure the permanent stay of young specialists sent to conservation farms after graduating from a vocational school:

First of all, if a young professional who has graduated from a special educational institution quits his job at his own will, he must return all the expenses spent on training him in a vocational and technical educational institution to the farm or special educational institution.

Secondly, the following words should be written in the labor book of the person who was dismissed in this way, that is, "he was dismissed by his own will, but without the consent of the administration and public organizations."

Thirdly, when re-employing a young worker with the above-mentioned employment record, the company that employs him must pay the entire cost of training him in a special educational institution to the company where he previously worked from his personal income [13.p.20].

It is clear from these colonial arrangements that the young professionals sent to the protected lands had great difficulties in finding other jobs if they could not adapt to the living conditions. However, despite this, the number of personnel working in the Karshi Desert did not decrease significantly. Because Karshi Polytechnic has become a real source of training of specialists and middle managers. It has trained more than 3,000 young professionals to work on construction sites. "Karshistroy" employed 1,520 highly educated and about 1,400 specialists with secondary specialized education. A shortage of personnel was observed in Boz district irrigation organizations in Central Ferghana region. There was a lack of specialist hydraulic technicians, engineers, and plumbers in the district water industry. In 1965, 64 employees worked in Boz district water industry alone, but most of them were not suitable for their current positions. There were 32 such employees. Therefore, the district executive committee asked the regional governing bodies to assist in sending the graduates of the hydromelioration school to Boz [14.p.68].

The decision of the Council of Ministers of the UZSSR and the Central Committee of the UzCP of May 11, 1966 and December 31, 1966 "On further improving the efficiency of the system of improving the qualifications of agricultural specialists and leading personnel of collective and state farms" performed moderately by the heads of trusts and collective farms [15.p.11].

At the same time, the retraining of senior staff and specialists was not well established in 1966-1967 and 1967-1968 academic years. As a result of this, training in the department of retraining of managerial personnel at the Tashkent Institute of Agriculture was delayed for two weeks. The facts show that there were also cases of forced return of specialists who went for training. Instead of 75 zootechnicians-poachers, only 45 people studied at the faculty of Samarkand Agricultural Institute. Instead of the planned 45, 35 engineers-hydraulic and mechanical specialists were trained at the faculty of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers.

For two years, 152 instead of 180 trainees studied at the training department of the Faculty of Higher Education at the Tashkent Agricultural Institute, 180 instead of 288 at the Faculty of Agricultural Specialists of Samarkand Agricultural Institute, and 73 trainees instead of 96 at Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers. In 1970, 8282 students studied at Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, this figure was 2367 more than in 1965 [16.p.326]. Specialists who graduated from the institute were engaged in solving the important problems of irrigation, complex mechanization of cotton growing, raising of farming culture.

In order to regularly supply the Union with cotton, the Soviet authorities paid great attention to the system of training middle-level agricultural and water management personnel. Because of this, their number increased. In the ninth five-year period (1971-1975), 6 hydromelioration technical schools trained water management personnel with secondary special education. In particular, Tashkent, Samarkand, Andizhan, Urganch, Surkhondarya and Nukus hydromelioration educational institutions have been operating. These educational institutions trained 8,496 specialists in hydromelioration, hydrotechnical construction, mechanization of hydromelioration works, and automatic operation of the water management system. It can be said that they continued to grow. In particular, in 1971 - 1349, in 1972 - 1558, in 1973 - 1981, in 1974 - 1790 and in 1975 - 1818 young specialists with secondary technical education were trained. In this five-year period, the number of engineers and technicians of the Ministry of Water Management of the UzSSR with higher education also increased. Their number was 2164 in 1971, 2368 in 1972, 3337 in 1973, 4941 in 1974, and 6139 in 1975. During five years, 5487 specialists from higher educational institutions were sent to water management organizations [17.p.321].

It is clear from the given information that in accordance with the agrarian policy of the center in the field of cotton growing, the number of technical personnel training in the field of irrigation in the republic gradually increased from year to year. However, the lack of personnel in the field of irrigation and melioration was noticed in some areas. It is worth noting that the lack of qualified specialists (especially in the newly developed lands) was considered a serious problem. The authorities and the heads



of most agricultural enterprises were not engaged in creating conditions for specialists to stay at work. Young professionals who graduated from universities and technical schools and were sent to villages were not provided with enough housing, they often did not work in their specialty [18.p.553].

In many irrigation departments of the republic, highly educated specialists were particularly lacking. However, since the establishment of the “Ferghanavodstroy” trust, 1,028 specialists with higher education and 1,372 specialists with secondary special education have been sent to it. A rapid turnover of personnel was observed in the trust systems. For example, in 1972, 1,896 people were hired at Ferghanavodstroy, 966 of them left, and the same number were re-employed.

Mechanizers and irrigators were very necessary for the use of technical devices, equipment and mechanisms in the water management system. In particular, in 1972, there were 187,800 specialists in various professions in collective and state farms of Ferghana Valley, 7,930 of them were agronomists, zootechnicians, irrigators and other personnel. Including, there were 1,258,000 specialists with special secondary education. In 1973, mechanics made up 13% of the employees of collective farms in the republic, and their ranks expanded considerably. However, in the 1980s, the number of mechanized personnel decreased. For example, in 1980, the number of mechanics was 120.1 thousand, in 1985 it was 121.1 thousand, and in 1990 it was 70.3 thousand [19.p.29].

During this period, Andizhan Hydromelioration Technical College trained personnel in the specialties “Hydromelioration”, “Hydrotechnical construction”, “Mechanization of hydromelioration works”. According to the tariff notice dated April 15, 1974, 73 teachers in the technical school, 57 of them were full-time teachers, 16 worked on a substitute basis [20.p.113]. In the academic year of 1973-1974, there were 1,455 students of the Andizhan hydromelioration technical school, most of whom were hydromelioration students. studied in the specialty.

According to the 1976 state table approved by the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Management of the UZSSR, Andijan Regional Irrigation System Department was filled with specialist personnel. As of January 1, 1977, 2460 people worked in the regional irrigation system. Among them, 1056 engineers and technicians, of which 130 have a higher education, and 467 have a secondary education. At the same time, 12 of the workers who worked in the water industry studied in part-time departments of higher educational institutions, and 28 in technical schools. In 1976, 14 engineers-technicians advanced their qualifications [21.p.21].

According to the decision of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 11, 1974 “On the activities of agricultural organizations on the improvement and retraining of leading personnel and team, state economy specialists”, taking measures to improve educational and methodological work, apply advanced innovations, Tashkent irrigation and was entrusted to the rector of the Institute of Agricultural Mechanization Engineers. Also, to develop the schedule of sending to the Ministry of Agriculture of the SSR, regional agricultural departments for training in 1976-1980 according to the established plan, to send those who have a higher education in agriculture and have at least 5 years of work experience after graduation, to train 250 places in the institute was assigned the task of building educational facilities for students of the faculty. On January 21, 1976, the collegium of the Ministry of Agriculture of the UZSSR adopted a decision on the implementation of this decision by the faculty of training under the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers and agricultural organizations. It is noted that 3,325 agricultural and water management managers and specialists have been trained since the establishment of the training faculty at the institute. In the ninth five-year period alone, 2,227 specialists were educated. Instead of 420 students in the 1974-1975 school year plan, 424 people were trained [22.p.215].

At the Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers in Tashkent, the system of training specialists was further formed in the tenth five-year period. For example, “In this five years, 14,500 students (9,000 of them in the full-time department) studied in 18 faculties in its 3 branches. They were trained in 14 specialties and various technical and economic specializations. The institute's annual enrollment reached 3,740, with 1,980 engineers graduating annually (of which more than 1,500 were contributed by full-time departments). In the years of its activity, the institute trained more than 28,000 specialists for the national economy, including 7,350 specialists in the tenth five-year period”[23.p.56-58].

In 1979 itself, 644 engineering and technical employees of “Karshistroy” improved their skills in short-term courses and seminars. 3,500 skilled workers were trained without separation from production, 239 people occupied occupations close to each other. However, during this period, the number of mechanists working permanently in the state farms of the Karshi Desert was decreasing year by year. For example, in the 11th state farm named after the 50th anniversary of the USSR in the Nishan region, 48 people who graduated from agricultural technical schools came in 1979-1982, and during this period, 46 young mechanics left their jobs voluntarily. In such conditions, it is difficult to hope that skilled mechanized personnel will be permanently employed in the state farms of the Karshi desert [24.p.20].

In the 11th five-year period, mechanics made up 63.4%, land reclamation workers 14.2%, cattle breeders 13.4%. Their training was carried out in permanent courses organized in 212 vocational and technical educational institutions. In Andizhan region alone, in 1987, at the request of the regional water management department, the Ministry of Water Management sent 26 specialists with higher and 41 specialists with secondary education. As of January 1, 1988, 3,591 people worked in the department. Among them, 1018 people worked as engineers, 429 people worked as technicians, of which 357 people have higher education, and 858 people have secondary and special education»[25.p.6].



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the issue of training personnel for the irrigation sector in Uzbekistan was a constant focus of the Soviet government. Because the irrigation works were primarily directed to the development of cotton cultivation. Soviet authorities developed measures in both areas and tried to implement them throughout the period of their rule. In order to realize this goal, the work of training qualified specialists in the fields of irrigation and cotton growing has been launched. Professional personnel with higher education in the field of irrigation were trained at Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, Samarkand Agricultural Institute and Andizhan Cotton Growing Institute, and middle-level personnel were mainly trained at hydromelioration technical schools and mechanization schools.

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