



# THE RESEARCH OF HISTORY OF LAND IRRIGATION IN CENTRAL FERGANA

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## ABSTRACT

*The author of the article, on the basis of archival documents and scientific and historical sources, studies the history of the beginning of irrigation and land development in Central Fergana in the 40-50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the studied period, the Fergana Valley was the main cotton-growing base and the developed territory in historical sources was called "Karakalpak Steppe". The article also lists the reasons for a sharp deterioration in the land reclamation state of the Fergana Valley due to an increase in salinity, since the extensive path of development of the agricultural sector by the Soviet government during the study period was based on quantitative results.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Fergana Valley, irrigation, reclamation, groundwater, canal, drainage, ketmen, soil, irrigated agriculture, spillway, collective farm, brigade, aqueduct, desert, irrigation, reed, sand dune, collector, salt marsh.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the 40s and 50s of the 20th century, the history of the irrigation of the central desert region of the valley, which is considered the main supplier of cotton raw materials in the historical and geographical sources, is referred to as "Korakalpoq desert", based on archival documents and scientific historical sources, which were not previously used for scientific consumption. Ferghana valley is of urgent importance in studying the history of irrigated agriculture.

## 2. METHODS

The article is written on the basis of generally accepted historical methods - historicity, comparative-logical analysis, sequence, objectivity, critical approach to sources, evaluation of processes from the point of view of the period, and the history of irrigation of central Fergana lands is covered. Also, because the basis of the extensive development in the agrarian sphere by the Soviet government was focused on quantitative results, the reasons for the sharp deterioration of the land reclamation condition of the Fergana Valley land salinity were indicated.

## 3. RESULTS, AND DISCUSSION

In the central part of the Fergana Valley, there is an area called "Karakalpok Desert" in historical-geographical sources, as well as on old maps, which geographically forms the present Central Fergana. Geographically, Central Fergana is bordered by Syrdarya in the north, Big Fergana canal in the south, Kokan in the west, and Andijan oases in the east. Its territory stretches 90 km from east to west and 50 km from north to south. Central Ferghana is the lowest region of the valley [1.10].

The Fergana Valley has long been one of the agriculturally developed regions of Central Asia, and in the first half of the 20th century it was considered one of the main centers supplying cotton raw materials for the light industry of the former Soviet Union. Since the agrarian policy of the former Union government was implemented on the basis of extensive development, the main attention in the field of irrigated agriculture was aimed at increasing the quantity of cotton raw materials in the region due to the development of new lands. Due to the fact that the veer irrigation method, which has its own characteristics, has been used in Ferghana Valley irrigation farming for a long time, this irrigation method was rudely rejected in the 30s of the XX century, and instead of it, "laborless irrigation" was widely used. was observed [2.65].

Therefore, based on the instructions of the Soviet government, in 1933, the main working plan for irrigation of the Fergana Valley was drawn up. According to this working plan, large-scale project exploration and construction work has been started in the valley. To regulate the waters of the rivers originating from the mountains of the valley and to develop the technical aspects of using them for agriculture as much as possible, to lower the level of the Big Fergana Canal and underground seepage waters in this area for irrigating the lands in the central part of the valley, and to drain the excess water in agriculture back to natural water sources. for Sariqjoga, Yozyovon, Faizabad, Baghdad, etc., it was necessary to achieve the development of 200,000 hectares of reserve land in central Fergana [3.163].



According to this adopted plan, the first task that must be performed is to drain the excess water of Shahrikhanso into the Karadarya in the winter season, thereby reducing the level of seepage water that accumulates in the desert in the winter season, and in order to prevent water overflows in the summer season, the Asaka water discharge was built and put into operation in 1934-1936. With the launch of water discharge, it was possible to drain excess water from Shahrikhansoy, Akbora, Aravon irrigation networks during the rainy season in winter, autumn and spring to Karadarya and to reduce the level of underground water in the northeastern region of Central Fergana.

The scientific classification of historical sources indicates that in the second half of the 19th century, the territories of villages such as Nasriddinbek and Solimakhsum, located in the eastern part of the territory of the current Boz district, located at the foot of Shakhrikhansoi, were appropriated by the local population, and the villagers were engaged in agriculture, cattle breeding, and kidney farming in these areas. In order to supply these villages with water, Mazgilsoy and Khanariq irrigation networks were built by the residents of Ko'kan khanate by means of "hashar". [4.4].

In this area, in 1935-1936, an artel of merchants belonging to the national industry was formed. The carpet weavers, who were members of the artel, were engaged in weaving carpets on the eastern edges of the desert during the summer months. In 1939, the construction of the Shahrikhansoy-Sariqjoga fortress began. The creation of this settlement would have improved the opportunity to develop the lands of Central Fergana.

In May 1939, a meeting was held in the city of Fergana, the center of Fergana region, with the participation of regional water management, agricultural specialists, and brigadiers, where the measures to develop the lands of Central Fergana were discussed. In the decision taken at this meeting, each district in the valley was assigned the task of developing a certain amount of desert land and turning it into arable land. In August 1940, a meeting was held in Boz district with the participation of the leaders of Andijan, Kurgantepa, Shahrikhan, Oltinkol, and Izboskan districts and the chairmen of collective farms, in which, depending on the size of the collective farm in each district, labor force and financial capabilities, from 20 to 150 hectares of reserve land was distributed on the basis of development rea. . In particular, 350 hectares of land were measured in Izboskan district[5.119].

In the spring of 1940, mobile brigades from 33 collective farms from Andijan district, 23 from Kurgantepa district, and 17 collective farms from Oltinkol district entered the Central Fergana steppe, irrigating and cultivating the protected lands in the desert. But for the kolkhozes, taking over the desert and farming on these lands was carried out in very difficult conditions. The main reasons for this were the low capacity of the collective farms, the involvement of the main labor force in the construction of large irrigation facilities, the proximity of the seepage waters on the appropriated lands to the surface, the excessive salinity of the lands, and the difficult working conditions of the appropriators of the lands.

1941 war Due to the start of the war between Fascist Germany and the Soviet Union, the development of Central Fergana lands became more difficult. However, in return for the use of available opportunities, mainly women, elderly people. Thanks to the work of teenage children, in 1942-1943, the Yaipan and Ayridin canals were paved and cleared of mud. By 1944, irrigation networks were allowed to be drawn from these ditches to irrigate collective farm lands.

After the end of the Second World War with victory, the decision of the government of Uzbekistan on March 15, 1947 to accelerate the development of Central Fergana lands became important [6.277-280].

In this adopted decision, the population forcibly relocated to the desert should be exempted from agricultural taxes and other payments for up to 5 years, preferential loans and non-refundable aid money for the purchase of livestock and household goods, and the construction of housing for displaced farmers. shown. In addition, 200 soums were given to heads of families who moved to the desert, 150 soums to each family member, 2,000 soums to buy a pet, and 5,000 soums to buy household items. In addition, 150 kilograms of wheat were allocated to each household, and 40 acres of land were allocated to each family for homestead [4.11].

This government decision was the first government-level decision on the irrigation of Central Fergana lands, and it served as a basis for further measures for irrigation development of Central Fergana lands.

In the five-year period after the war, the construction of the water discharge (collector) to Sariqjo, which was started in 1939 to improve the melioration of 120,000 hectares of irrigated land, was built and put into use in 1947. As a result of these measures, in 1946-1948, a total of 21.4 thousand hectares were planted in Andijan region. A total of 52,000 hectares of new land was developed in the regions of the Fergana Valley[7.25].4.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, it should be noted that the issue of land acquisition of Central Ferghana was put on the agenda in the 40s and 50s of the 20th century in order to increase the supply of cotton raw materials necessary for the light industry of the center during the authoritarian regime.



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