



FOREIGN MISSIONARIES OPINIONS ABOUT CROPS IN THE KHIVA KHANATE

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ANNOTATION

This article clarifies the crops, fruits, vegetables and trees planted by the population of Khiva during the khanate. The article is based on the diaries, memoirs and writings of foreign travelers, military personnel and ambassadors. By reading this article, you will get acquainted with the fruits and vegetables of Khiva Khanate grown during XVIII-XIX centuries, which are well appreciated and popular in the world market.

KEY WORDS: Blankennagel, Y. Hanikav, A. Vamberi, Gladyshev and Muravin, N.N. Muravyov, O.O. Shkapsky about the crops of Khiva, melons of Khorezm, apples of Khazorasp, pomegranate and pears of Khiva, rice of Gurlan, wheat, oats, hard labor of the khanate population in agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

Looking at the medieval history of Khiva, we witness the feudal disintegration, robberies, inter-tribal and inter-state wars. The destruction of the Mongol period and the collapse of the Timurid empire left the life of the khanate in disarray. Moreover, the rapid influx of nomads from the surrounding steppes forced the population to live in a more unstable and warlike environment. Also, this area is surrounded by deserts, sand dunes, and in summer the population suffered from hot summers, drought and sandstorms.

The Khiva's people, whose main economic life was based on agriculture, fought both with nature and with the surrounding peoples to get the harvest from the land. Despite such difficulties, the fame of the products grown in the khanate spread to Europe and China and attracted the attention of foreigners.

LITERATURE REVIEW

XVI-XIX centuries are also characterized by the growing interest of major powers such as Great Britain and Russia in the khanates of Central Asia. Several missions from these countries, consisting of soldiers, doctors, scientists, surveyors, visited the khanates. The state's roving missionaries collected detailed information about the country and published their major works.

Diaries and reports written by Major Blankennagel ("A trip from Orenburg to Khiva in 1793-94", published with explanations by V.V. Grigoriev in St. Petersburg, in the printing house of the Marine Ministry, 1858), Gladyshev and Muravyin ("A trip from Orsk to Khiva and back, conducted in 1740-1741 by Lieutenant Gladyshev and geodesist Muravyin"), Armenia Vamberi ("Journey through Central Asia", Moscow, Eastern Literature, 2003) give us very valuable information about various fruits and crops grown in the khanate. Shkapsky's special works were devoted to the agricultural activities of Khiva people. ("Amudarya sketches", Tashkent. 1900, "How Khiva's people conduct field farming on their waterless lands." Moscow, 1900). G. Baziner also paid special attention to the crops grown, their quality, use, since he is a botanist and gardener ("G. Baziner's journey through the Kyrgyz step in Khiva").

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In writing this article, methods of objectivity and reality were used to cover history. The data of foreign authors on crops in the Khiva Khanate were compared and analyzed



ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

All missionaries who were in the Khiva Khanate highly appreciated the hard work of the population of the Khanate. They emphasized that the Khiva's people deserve praise with regard to their cleverness and hard work in cultivating their fields. Only these two qualities are due to the fact that the sandy-clayey and saline soil gives a good harvest [1]. As an example, O.O. Shkapsky said about the hard work of the Khiva's people "The best part of the Khiva Khanate lies near the Amu-Darya River, which flows along the entire eastern borders of the Khanate. This best part of the khanate, where all the fields and gardens lie, became so only because the Khiva's people work hard on it. If they abandoned their fields and scattered, then the sands brought the whole country and instead of gardens and fields, all over the khanate would turn into a dead desert. Only constant labor makes this part of the khanate a grain-growing country"[2]. And the rains of the Khiva country are very rare and therefore there is nothing to hope for God's moisture. Therefore, the Khiva' people have to work hard for the earth to give birth to bread. How much of this work they must do and how great is this work.

Despite all the difficulties, the Khiva's people sowed various crops and many of them were famous in Europe and China.

Gladyshev and Muravyin who visited Khiva in 1740-41 gave a description of the fruits of the land that grow in the khanate. "They sow bread, wheat, spelled, barley, Sorochin wheat, millet, zyungar, masy, kunzut, cotton paper and tobacco; the earth is silty with sand: and water is poured into the arable land from the canals, they plow on the ground and drive carts. Vegetables and fruits: apples, alimurut, pomegranate, raisins, oleaster, mulberry, peach, watermelons, melons, cucumbers, carrots, turnips, radish, cabbage, onions, mustard. Planted trees in gardens; are birch, aspen, veil, willow, wiping-willow, turanga, a tree mulberry"[3]

Major Blankennagel, who visited Khiva, also described the map of crops. He mentioned that, in Khiva, the following field fruits were grown in abundant quantities: Sarachin millet, wheat and sorghum. Sorghum is a plant that has a great resemblance to sugar cane. When it reaches the proper measure, it grows at the top of a head in two fists, in the size of grapes, composed of white grains in the size of a large fraction. This plant was useful for residents: grains served instead of oats for horses and cereals for people, used for livestock feed, and reeds and millet were burned instead of firewood. The following fruits were grown in a smaller amount - flaxseed, barley, peas, beans and lentils; a lot of cotton paper, tobacco and sesame (The seed from which a delicious oil was squeezed out, used instead of milk oil by noble and common people). Garden plants, such as melons of various kinds, watermelons,

carrots, onions and radishes were grown in abundance; vegetables, such as peaches, apricots, apples, pears, plums, mulberries and all sorts of grapes were cultivated in a great number. Hay was obtained by sowing woodpeckers, which were mowed up to five times a summer. [4]

A. Vamberi also wrote on his book that he was repeatedly mentioned about the fertility of the Khiva soil. He admired the most valuable fruits of the earth. Vamberi wrote "especially, I must note the cereals, good rice, mainly of Gurlen, the finest silk in Shahbad and Yangi Urgench, cotton, ruyan (buyan), which is the genus of the root from which the red paint is extracted. And fruits are better than which grown in Persia and Turkey, even in Europe. Wonderful apples of Khazoras, pears and pomegranates of Khiva, and incomparable delicious melons are famous to distant Beijing. Even the ruler of the Heavenly Empire did not forget to claim several Urgench melons among the annual gifts that brought to him from Chinese Tartary"[5]. Vamberi did not forget to mention that these melons were given a good price even in Russia, so that whoever takes away the air melons returns with a truckload of sugar. And Vamberi himself brought seeds of four different varieties to Hungary in order to know how to produce crops in the lowlands of Hungary.

Melons and zucchini played an important role in the life of the Khiva people. Vamberi mentioned that the population, trapped in the war with the Kungrats, shouted "Uch oy sovlukim (three months of sour milk), Uch oy kovun (three months melon), Uch oy kovok (three months pumpkin), Uchoy chovok (three months fish)" [6]. They wanted to tell them that they have a special meal for every season of the year, which they can reach without leaving the city, that they does not need bread and cannot be forced to be defeated because of hunger.

Baziner also had some information about the crops of Khiva. During his travels G. Baziner noticed a saxaul forest. He was surprised by the size of this tree and wrote "saxaul reaches from 15 to 20 feet in height, and only up to 8 inches in diameter, is very knotty and leafless, and instead of leaves it has two scaly cones at the junctions of branches; its grayish trunk describes various curvatures and is never straight; it is extremely dense, but fragile; throughout Khiva they use the coals of this tree: it is not suitable for any other use "[7].

More information can be found from other authors. G. Danilevsky wrote about fruit varieties. According to him, there were five different varieties of apricots in Khiva. He had a very large collection, plums of four varieties, peaches of three varieties, apples of four varieties, grapes of ten varieties. The author said that Khiva people respected quince, which was eaten as a vegetable and had a pleasant sour taste [8]. There was also a fig tree. The Khivans buried only pomegranates, fig trees and vines for the



winter. For others, however, no precautions were taken against the cold. In the case of severe frosts, the collection of fruits was not as abundant as in the warm winter, but the trees themselves never bent. The inhabitants of the khanate also specially raised the silver and pyramidal poplar. They were high and were used for buildings, for laying ceilings and for connections between walls, as well as for boats. They made carts and a wheel from narvan and karaman.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the Russian missionaries left precious materials about the crops grown by the population of the Khiva Khanate. According to their data, crops in Khiva can be classified as follows.

1. Crops grown for human consumption: wheat, oat, millet, rice, mung bean, legume, in addition, onions, carrots, and melons, watermelons and pumpkins.

2. Crops grown for livestock feed: barley, clover and densely seeded slush.

3. Crops grown for oil extraction; sesame, partly cotton and cannabis.

4. Crops grown for spinning: cotton and cannabis

5. Plants grown for dyeing; madder, licorice

6. Trees planted for buildings and household items; narvan, caraman, poplar, mulberry tree.

Another conclusion can be drawn that some crops, like potatoes, cabbage, beets, began to be sown only in the 18th century. According to Shkapsky, they sowed these vegetables only for sale by the Russians. And we can know on the basis of their materials that the Khiva's people sowed five varieties of wheat, of which three varieties of winter and two varieties of spring. Winter crops were sown in September, and spring crops in March.

Any fruits that were characteristic of the Khiva climate were very good, as it was said, were grown abundantly, if there was no shortage of water; without watering, even the largest trees withered. The alder genus made up the entire timber there; they planted it and several times in the summer they similarly were watered.

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