



MEASURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN KHOREZM BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LANDS (COTTON, GROWING, RICE GROWING ON THE EXAMPLE OF 1950-1970)

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ABSTRACT

This article describes in detail the rapid development of the cotton industry in the Uzbek SSR in the post-World War II years, including in the Khorezm oasis, and the measures taken in this direction were carried out through the widespread mobilization of regional farmers.

KEYWORDS: *Collective farm, state farm, cotton growing, irrigation, land reclamation, oasis, mechanization, water construction, raw materials, agriculture, tractor.*

INTRODUCTION

Improving the productivity of irrigated lands, improving land reclamation and water supply has always been one of the most important issues of the government of Uzbekistan. Because the Khorezm oasis is an oasis based on an artificial irrigation system, the development of internal irrigation networks and reclamation of irrigated lands has always been of special importance for this region.

Especially in the post-World War II years, Uzbekistan has paid special attention to the development of the cotton industry, especially in the Khorezm region, and the following information is a clear example of this.

The content of the issue. In the post-World War II years, many measures were taken to revive the country's economy and agriculture. In particular, the decree of the central government "On measures for the further development of cotton growing in collective and state farms" in 1949 ordered to continue the development of agriculture and the widespread use of technology in the development of new lands, as well as instruct the mechanization of irrigation and land reclamation.

In 1950, the area of irrigated agriculture in Khorezm region was 143,000 hectares, and by the end of the year it was set to reach 148,000 hectares [5]. Measures in this direction could be implemented through the widespread mobilization of farmers in

the region. Thanks to the introduction of consistent agro-technical measures in the region, the opportunities for high yields of agricultural crops have expanded. If in 1943 the cotton yield in the region was 5.0 c, in 1949 - 9.3 c and in 1950 - 13.6 c [6]. In 1950, the farmers of Khorezm region delivered 140,000 tons of cotton to the state [1]. However, the yield was below the set 20.0 c. Taking into account the current situation and identifying measures to address the shortcomings, the regional leaders paid special attention to the development of cotton growing.

With the help of the Center, the efforts to conduct agricultural production on a scientific basis, increase the use of machinery and mineral fertilizers, improve irrigation and land reclamation have begun to bear fruit. In 1950, land was allocated for an experimental field in Khiva district for cotton selection and testing of new varieties.

At the VII plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan on October 9-10, 1953, in order to eliminate backwardness in the Khorezm region in 1954-1958, the task was set to expand the sown area for cotton from 103.0 to 108.0 thousand or 5000, to increase the yield from 20.5 to 26.0 thousand, to increase the gross harvest from 211.0 thousand tons to 281.0 thousand tons [5].

In February 1954, the negligence of the construction of waterworks was sharply criticized,



and the task was set to take urgent measures in this regard. In particular, as a result of increasing the level of mechanization of water construction, by 1956 it was required to ensure the cleaning of 90% of canals and 80% of inter-collective irrigation stations and ditches using excavators and other excavating mechanisms.

In 1956, the Central Government adopted a resolution on "Measures to further financially stimulate the cultivation and processing of raw cotton". Accordingly, the task was set to raise the cost of raw materials, provide surcharges for overharvests, reduce the costs of collective farms in front of the machine and tractor station (MTS) by 40%, reduce the cost of mineral fertilizers, and also abolish the payment for water [8].

In 1956, large-scale development and irrigation of Mirzachul began. Although there were no large areas for development in Khorezm region, the experience of local farmers in reducing soil salinity and forming reclamation networks was important. In particular, for many years, the method of scraping the top layer of areas covered with salts, using special mechanisms, has been widely used. The experience in this area was further enriched by the honorary academician of All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences named after Lenin A. Madrimov.

From January 1, 1958, the purchase prices of agricultural products were increased, taxes for members of collective and state farms were reduced, the price of mineral fertilizers was reduced, and payments for irrigation of lands were abolished. The implementation of these measures had a positive impact on the increase in production volumes and productivity.

At a time when the cotton sector was the leading sector in agriculture, the scale of measures to introduce complex mechanization had increased. Since the machinery was mainly under the control of MTS, work began on the construction of special sheds on collective farms for the permanent storage of part of the tractors.

In 1958, it was planned to cultivate 27,000 hectares of cotton fields in the region with the help of tractors, and to harvest 24,000 tons of crops from 15,000 hectares of land [8].

In 1958, as a result of the transformation of the MTS into service stations and the sale of their machinery and equipment to state farms, some strong farms received additional tractors, machinery and equipment, while backward and economically insolvent farms were deprived of such opportunities. Therefore, in the process of enlarging the collective farms, the weak ones were added to the strong.

Due to the serious attention paid to cotton growing, Khorezm region has been fulfilling its plan and obligations to sell raw materials to the state every

year since 1956. That year the yield was 20.5 c, in 1960, 25.4 c were harvested per hectare of irrigated land. The number of farms in the region with high yields and new achievements has increased. As a result, 36 of 91 cotton farms harvested 25 centners, 34 farms 30 centners and 21 farms 30-35 centners.

On December 9, 1960, the Khorezm region was instructed to grow 265 thousand tons of cotton, develop 3 thousand hectares of new land and allocate 1,000 hectares for cotton. In 1961, the area of arable land in the region reached 153.0 thousand. 142.9 thousand hectares of cotton and 3.5 thousand hectares of rice were placed in the main land fund. Due to the limited arable land in the region, high results were achieved in return for increasing crop yields for many years.

By 1963, 310,000 tons of cotton were harvested in Khorezm region, and the yield increased to 31 c. By this time, Khorezm had earned the high title of "torch" as the region with the highest yields not only in the republic but also in the country.

Thanks to the courageous work of farmers of Khorezm region, the plan for the production of raw cotton, set for 1965, was exceeded. The total harvest was 352,000 tons. The increase in agricultural culture allowed to increase the yield from 24.3 c to 34.9 c. In 1966, 330,000 tons of raw cotton were harvested in Khorezm region and the yield reached 35 c/ha [8].

Some collective farms in the region have achieved high results in the cultivation and delivery of raw cotton to the state. In particular, in 1966, the Lenin collective farm in Yangiaryk district raised 37.5 tons of grain from 1,425 hectares, fulfilling the plan by 125 percent. Yields were increased by 7 c per hectare.

In 1965-1968, 50 million 900 thousand soums were spent on cotton growing in the region, while in this period only the value of cotton delivered in excess of the plan amounted to 70 million soums. In 1968, the value of gross agricultural output in the province was assumed to be 100 percent, of which 89 percent was accounted for by cotton, 2.5 percent by other agricultural sectors, and 8.5 percent by livestock.

There was no doubt that the development of cotton growing is beneficial not only at the regional level, but also on the example of each collective farm. If in 1964 the farms of the region earned 117 million soums, in 1970 this figure exceeded 200 million soums. The wages fund on collective farms increased by 16 percent, and the wages of their members by 27 percent [7].

By the mid-1960s, a number of agricultural experiments in the Khorezm oasis had been summarized. In particular, new knowledge and experience of popularizing such events as leaching and plowing of saline soils, the use of effective sowing methods, the widespread use of agrotechnical



rules, mechanization and chemicalization to obtain high yields were popularized.

Many years of observations have made it possible to regulate irrigation in the oasis. In particular, after the cotton sprouts, its root system is developed to a certain extent, that is, by June, it is watered for the first time. After each watering, the cotton is cultivated and fed between rows. Soil salinization is also done by frequent watering of the field. After the harvest, from the first half of September to December, the irrigation networks are cleared of mud, and the groundwater level drops sharply.

In the conditions of Khorezm during this period completed the sowing of seeds in a short time, strict adherence to the rules of agrotechnics, accelerated the maturation of cotton and created a factor of high yields.

CONCLUSION

Without taking into account the natural features of Khorezm region, land development has been carried out extensively. The formation of a large material and technical base for the development of the industry in the oasis met only the needs of the center.

For the rapid development of the agricultural sector, the opening of new irrigated arable lands and the expansion of existing ones has become a key issue, the organization of new land development in the region began on a scientific basis, as a result of which the complex development of state farms began.

With some growth in cotton and rice cultivation in the oasis, little attention was paid to horticulture, melons and vegetables, and livestock was in a state of disrepair. As a result, the problems in growing such products have become transverse.

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