

THE PROCESS OF IRRIGATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LAND IN CENTRAL FERGHANA (50-60 YEARS OF XX CENTURY)

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ABSTRACT: *The article describes, with the help of primary sources, the processes of development and irrigation of lands in Central Ferghana, as well as the increase in the delivery of cotton to the Center and their negative consequences.*

KEY WORDS: *Agriculture, cotton industry, land development, land irrigation, virgin lands, fallow lands, irrigation, melioration.*

INTRODUCTION

It is known that in the 50-70s of the XX century agriculture developed in Uzbekistan, including the cotton industry. In order to further develop the cultivation and multiplication of cotton in the republic, the Soviet government pays great attention to the territory of the Ferghana Valley. Which was considered the most suitable place for irrigated agriculture. In view of this, in the fifth five-year (1951-1955) plan, as well as in the resolutions of the IX Congress of the Communist Party (b) of Uzbekistan (1952), the main task was to further develop cotton growing, as well as expanding the amount of irrigated land in the Ferghana Valley and developing virgin lands.

RESEARCH METHODS

As indicated above, the main tasks and in order to fulfill the orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on September 16, 1952, an expanded resolution was adopted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party (b) of Uzbekistan and the government of the republic. It outlined the first and second regular development of the lands of the Ferghana Valley, as well as practical tasks in the field of irrigation[1.26]. At the same time, the resolution emphasized from 1953 to 1958 the development of 36,000 hectares of waterless desert lands of the Ferghana Valley.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

During these years, the Soviet government made many decisions and decrees regarding the development of new lands and the further development of the irrigation system of the republic. In particular, from November 16, 1952, on the basis of the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (b) of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, work was considered to irrigate the new and virgin lands of Central Fergana on 65,000 hectares [2.31]. The ordinance divided the area as follows:

1. Waterless steppes of Yazyavan and Red Tigin - 30,000 ha; 2. Through the Ulugnar Canal system - 6,000 ha; 3. According to the system named after the Okhunboboev Canal - 14,000 ha; 4. Virgin and abandoned lands with a total area of 15,000 hectares in three (Fergana, Andijan and Namangan) regions.

The process of developing the territory of Central Ferghana on a large scale began in 1953. At that time, its total area was 532.4 thousand hectares, and the net area was 363.7 thousand hectares [3.28]. Of this, until January 1, 1953, there was a need to develop 173.2 thousand hectares of land. Its 130.4 thousand hectares belonged to the Fergana region, and 42.8 thousand hectares to the Andijan region [4.13].

On February 9, 1954, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU adopted a resolution "on the further development of cotton growing in 1954-1958. in the Uzbek SSR. According to this document, it was planned to develop and irrigate land in the Fergana Valley of 142 thousand hectares of area, as well as 116 thousand hectares of area in Central Fergana [5.3]. In order to develop virgin steppe lands on the territory of the Ferghana, Andijan and Namangan regions in 1953, a special construction trust "Ferganavodstroy" and the Ferghana Intercollective Farm Council were formed. With the assistance of these organizations, a lot has been done in the development of new lands. In Central Fergana, from 1953 to August 1, 1956, the following funds were spent for capital construction works [6.32].

Expenditure of funds for capital construction work in Central Fergana (1953-1956). Including thousand rubles.

№	Years	The indivisible fund of collective farms	From the state budget
1	1953	16574	17788
2	1954	45330	18062
3	1955	53295	15328
4	1956	21660	4422
Total		136859	55600

On February 26, 1957, the Central Committee of the Communist Party (b) of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution number 99. According to this resolution, on March 18 this year, the Ministry of Agriculture, number 55, issues an order “on strengthening work on irrigation and land development Central Ferghana” [7.107]. On the basis of this order, the plan for irrigation and development in relation to the farms of the lands of Central Fergana in the period 1956 - 1961 was - 80.0 thousand hectares of virgin and fallow lands, including these lands were distributed by regions in the following way: in the Fergana region - 32.0 thousand ha, in Andijan region - 28.0 thousand ha. and in the Namangan region - 20.0 thousand hectares[9].

During 1954-1962, in the Andijan and Fergana regions of Central Fergana, the irrigation and reclamation preparation of new lands and newly occupied developed lands gradually increased. This process can be seen in the following tables (with hectare count) [8.57].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the lands of Central Ferghana, irrigation and reclamation work developed at a high level, as well as agriculture, including cotton growing. There were positives, but there were negatives as well. In this place, land development work continued from 1953 until 1973. During these years, on the tasks of developing virgin and fallow lands, for this purpose, the allocation of funds and the decision of the government in many places were not fulfilled.

In turn, the development of new lands increased the cultivation of cotton year after year. This process further strengthened the autocracy of cotton in agriculture. In the expansion of cotton growing, a sense of proportion was not respected, scientific recommendations were not ignored, crop rotation was not violated, and so on. As a result, the complexity in the development of new lands was grossly violated, ignoring the diversified development of the social economy contributed to the forced penetration of cotton monoculture into the economy.

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