

## REFLECTION OF THE HISTORY OF COTTON FARMING IN THE COUNTRY OF TURKESTAN IN ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS (EXAMPLE OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD)

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Abstract: In this article, on the basis of archival documents of the 118-fund of the Kokand branch of the Russian for Foreign Trade Bank, from the source point of view, certain issues of the history of the development of cotton growing in the Ferghana region during the colonial period are analyzed. Some information was introduced into scientific circulation for the first time.

*Key words:* archive, bank, cotton growing, source study, circular, bill, credit, tariff, insurance.

### **INTRODUCTION**

We know that after the independence of our country, we had the opportunity to restore the past history of our people, which was distorted during the previous regime, and to shed light on its forbidden issues objectively and on a scientific basis. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, noted: "In the great history, nothing goes without a trace. It is preserved in the blood and historical memory of peoples and is manifested in their practical work. That is why he is powerful. Preservation of historical heritage, study and passing it down from generation to generation is one of the most important priorities of our state's policy" [1.29].

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

Due to the independence of Uzbekistan, historical events are approached based on universal, national values, and they are covered objectively [2. 157].

Information on the history of the development of cotton growing in the Turkestan region, in particular in the Ferghana region, can be found in the documents of the funds belonging to the banks that operated in the territory of the Turkestan General Governorate, which was part of the Russian Empire in the late 19th - early 20th centuries, kept in the National Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Circulars, letters and correspondence of the management of banks,



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minutes of meetings of accounting committees, annual reports, balance sheets and information compiled on them, main and cash books and other financial materials, official requests of legal entities for loans, i.e. lending, and individuals Administrative documents with different names, such as petitions, are important written sources on the development of cotton growing in the Turkestan region, especially in the Ferghana region, during the colonial period [3. 112].

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

It is known that by the end of the 19th century, the areas where "American" cotton was planted expanded. This cotton was grown mainly in the regions belonging to the Turkestan General Governorate. During this period, the Ferghana Valley took an important place in the production of cotton [4. 26]. Income from cotton was high in all respects. Therefore, as a valuable and fast-buying plant, cotton was grown as much as possible in the region [5. 99].

Usually, banks gave money to companies with 8-9% profit, but companies transferred this money to the cleaners at 12-16%. And the cleaners gave a certain part of the money to the strollers with a profit of 25-40 percent. In the Ferghana region, there are eight banks engaged in the purchase of cotton, such as "Russko-aziatsky", "Sibirsky torgovyy", "Voljsko-Kamsky kommerchesky", "Moskovsky kommerchesky", "Russkogo dlya vneshney torgovli", "Moskovsky kupechesky", "Azovsko-Donskoy kommerchesky". [6. 130-131].

In this article, we will analyze from the point of view of sources the information about the issues of cotton production, stored in the funds of the National Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan and available in the fund 118 of the Kokand branch of the "Russkogo dlya vneshney torgovli" bank. Manager of the Kokand branch of "Russkogo dlya vneshney torgovli" bank. In his report to the inter-institutional council held on December 27, 1914, Bauer highlighted a number of issues related to increasing productivity in the cotton industry of Turkestan.

Regarding the need for credit, it is emphasized that providing cotton growers with credit on the basis of moderate and agreeable mutual agreements is one of the important tasks in solving the task of developing cotton growing in the country,



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due to the fact that the care of the cotton crop requires large expenses. According to the procedure of granting loans applied up to that time, the farmers received the zakalat directly or through intermediaries from the companies buying the cotton, and with this, the farmers were obliged to deliver the predetermined amount of raw cotton harvest in the future. The cleaners borrowed money from banks and large cotton and manufacturing companies and gave farmers an unlimited advance payment for future cotton raw materials. In 1908-1911, the Chistas began to develop their work further, providing the peasants with money and expensive products, stealing them, and turning them from one another to their side. As a result, the harvest did not cover the expenses, they were in debt, and from the beginning of 1912, it can be observed that the situation did not correspond to the normal state. Now, due to the difficult financial situation of chistachi, many of them have stopped their activities.

In the case of loans, lending banks, it can be said that since 1912, the State Bank has provided small amounts of money for a short period of time, that is, seasonally, to rural communities, and started to provide assistance to the population engaged in agriculture. Village communities were instructed to establish credit societies with at least twenty-five members and apply for loans. After the bank inspectors check the data, the bank determines the amount of funds to be given to each team from 3,000 to 10,000 rubles. When the money comes back, the bank redistributes the funds for the next stage of the society's activities.

This method of providing credit to the population engaged in cotton farming is considered the most profitable and rational means. In this way, rural communities took a loan from the State Bank at a low interest rate, became guarantors for each other, decided by themselves and distributed the funds among the members of the community. In the future, the expansion of such small credit will undoubtedly lead to the development of cotton farming. However, this credit operation will reach its goal only when it expands quickly and systematically, and only when the amount of the given loan exceeds one million rubles, and for Ferghana alone it reaches five million. The State Bank is the only institution that



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successfully and directly conducts this credit operation with the cotton growing population [7, 1-5].

The activity of private commercial banks was also discussed, and it was emphasized that it is not necessary to hope that commercial banks will directly help and support the cotton farmers, and it is necessary to give them a special authority by the government to allocate small loans to farmers by one or another bank. As for the quality of cotton seed, since 1907-1908, the amount of fiber obtained from raw cotton has gradually decreased, and each pood (measurement of weight equal to 16.3 kg) of first grade fiber is now 134-142 pounds of raw cotton in different regions of Ferghana. It is noted that 122-132 pounds of seed cotton was required to obtain one pound of fiber. This difference in the weight of fiber from 8 to 10% significantly reduces the total amount of fiber harvest by 500-700 thousand poods in Ferghana alone. it is stated that they earn a small amount up to now.

In addition to the deterioration of the quality of the fiber, the amount of natural moisture in the seeds and fibers is increasing, and this deficiency hinders the sale of second-grade fibers in Moscow. loss is emphasized. However, it has been shown that the reason for the deterioration of the amount of fiber obtained from cotton is that in the following years, symptoms of deterioration of cotton seed varieties are observed, and the cotton does not ripen well, and this situation can cause a great danger for the country's cotton production.

In these fund documents, it is an urgent task to replace and update local cotton seeds with American varieties, however, due to the high cost of seeds brought from America and the high demand for these seeds to supply the entire country, it is too much to use American seeds for a certain amount of cotton production. It is emphasized that it is appropriate to distribute and distribute the first grade seeds obtained from here to the favorable regions and sell them to farmers in other regions at a slightly higher price to cover the initial costs.

Also, in the archival materials, the expansion of cultivated areas is discussed, the issue of the development of cotton cultivation, its close connection with the issue of irrigation of favorable and vacant lands in the country, the issue



of private entrepreneurs renting state-owned plots of land in 1912-1913 is also described in the report.

Regarding the regulation of the previous irrigation system, it is shown that the issue of regulation of the irrigation system is considered very important, its technique is simple and there are many shortcomings and defects. In some cases, during the peak period of irrigation of the cotton crop, some regions suffered from water shortages, while others used water in abundance, the flood of 1913 in Andijan district, the constructions in the main canals were assessed as poorly built, and consequently, when new equipment was used, the supply to the main canals it was shown that the amount of supplied water and the number of branches of small ditches can be increased.

In addition, it is stated that the regulation of the previous irrigation system will undoubtedly strengthen the cotton farms and increase the total yield by 20 to 30% [8. 6–10].

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that archival documents related to nongovernmental organizations, especially banking institutions, which operated in the Turkestan Governorate in the late 19th - early 20th centuries, are important written sources for studying the history of the development of cotton growing in the country.

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