

**AGRICULTURAL CROPS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE DURING
THE PERIOD OF THE SAMANID DYNASTY (819-999)
(BASED ON INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN SOURCES)**

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***Abstract.** The article examines the role of agriculture in the life of the state and society during the Samanid period (819 – 999) based on written sources. Cereal crops, types of fruits and vegetables and the areas where they were grown, their role in the economy of these areas are briefly analyzed. Also, cattle breeding conditions and the main species of animal are also listed.*

***Key words:** Agriculture, irrigation, the Samanid dynasty, crops, fruits, vegetables, trees, cattle breeding, sheep breeding, horse breeding.*

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural products have been grown in the Amudarya and Syrdarya basins since ancient times. This part of Turan was called Movarounnahr in the sources after the Arab invasion. Later, during the Samanid dynasty (819 - 999), agriculture was revived in the above area, and again, a number of actions were taken to make this sector serve the interests of the local population, not the invaders. After all, in the conditions of the Middle Ages, agricultural products gained strategic importance for countries. Therefore, during the reign of the Samanid dynasty, the type and size of crops in the agricultural sector expanded, irrigation facilities were developed, and agricultural products were widely grown for the domestic and foreign markets.

RESEARCH METHODS

In the study of this subject, first of all, the methods of identifying, describing and analyzing sources of the field of source studies were used. The history of the Samanid dynasty is mainly reflected in Arabic-Persian written sources. In order to adhere to the principle of objectivity and historicity, the study of the subject mainly

covered the works created in the 9-13th centuries, close to the period when the dynasty ruled.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The agricultural sector plays an important role in the economic life of any medieval state. After the Arabs' long policy of conquering Turan came to an end, they implemented their own colonial policies in the area, which included agriculture. In particular, most of the wheat, which was considered as a strategic crop during this period, was taken to the central areas of the caliphate, including Baghdad [1. 269, 248]. During the rise to power of the Somani dynasty, wheat and other agricultural products became important. Based on this, the article intends to focus on the following issues:

1. Agriculture and horticulture.
2. Livestock sector.

Farming. Agriculture remained the main source of livelihood during the Somani dynasty. First of all, through agriculture, the population was provided with food products, and the craft sector was provided with raw materials, the transportation of surplus products to other regions developed trade, and in a certain sense contributed to the improvement of the well-being of the population.

Agriculture is established along the banks of large and small rivers, streams, streams, ditches and other such water sources. Sources provide a lot of information on this issue. In particular, the main river of Sugd region (Samarkand, Bukhara and adjacent lands) was called Sugd river (Zarafshan). The Sugd River (that is, Zarafshan) consists of small tributaries. They are rivers with names such as Buzmojan, Ishtikhan, Karminiya, Shopurkom, Kharqana al-ulya, Kharganrud, Khutfar, Somjan, and rural lands (rustaks in the sources) are located along them [3. 279-302; 8. 362-370].

In Shosh (Tashkent), farming was done along the Ohangaron (in the sources Ilaq) and Chirchik (in the sources Shosh) rivers. Often these rivers are called by the common name Shosh River. In Ferghana and Khojand, farming was mainly done along the Syr Darya and its tributaries, and in Termiz and Khorezm, along the

Amudarya, its tributaries and canals dug from it. The upper reaches of the Amudarya were cultivated along the banks of the Jaryob (Panj), Vakhshob and other rivers [2. 278-280].

In addition, agricultural lands have also become important. They existed in the areas near the mountain. For example, the 10th century geographer Ibn Havqal reported that Abghar, a land in Samarkand, was irrigated by rain, and if one qafiz (about one siqim) of grain was planted there, the harvest reached 100 qafiz, and the main income of the area came from livestock and grain cultivation [6. 11; 3. 382-383].

Among grain crops, wheat, barley, peas, and rice are planted in Bukhara. Wheat, barley, peas, and flax are grown in Samarkand. Although Kashkadarya (Kesh and Nasaf) regions are far from Zarafshan, the lands there were also fertile. A lot of rice was planted in Zorkon of Ferghana. In Khorezm, sesame is grown together with grain products [4. 271, 279-290]. Cereal crops played an important role in ensuring the population's well-being. In addition, cotton and flax were grown for use as raw materials in handicrafts, and alfalfa, alfalfa and other similar plants were grown for animal feed. A large amount of cotton was planted in Bukhara, Samarkand and other regions [5. 556].

Cereal products primarily provided the population with food products, and their straw was used as fodder for livestock and pack animals. Cotton raw material was used as raw material in the textile industry, the stem was used as firewood, and the seed was also used for various purposes. Flax was also used as feed, oil was extracted from it, and the stalk was used as a raw material for paper production. Melons, watermelons, turnips, sugarcane and various greens are grown as the most common crops. Fruits and pulses were brought to the market several times a day, freshly picked, for sale. Field products were also taken to distant countries. In Bukhara, watermelons are packed in copper containers and prepared for sale to distant countries. If they reached their final destination safely, the price was very high [1. 297].

The field of agriculture gained great importance during the Samanids period. By the Arabs, Turan was, in a certain sense, turned into a food-producing area for Baghdad, or the central regions of the Khorasan province, and this situation continued during the Samanid period. For example, the famine that hit Baghdad, Khurasan in 733 was caused by the cessation of bread from Movarounnahr. Such a situation was also observed in 816-817 [1. 269, 246]. Arab support for the Samanids' rise to power was also, in a sense, to ensure that there would be no interruptions in the supply of wheat to the territory of the caliphate. The shipment of grain and other products to Khurasan and Baghdad continued during the later years of the Samanid dynasty.

Cereal and pulse crops constituted the main part of the state's income during the Samanid dynasty. For this reason, special attention was paid to the development of this field. Also, the population was interested in the development of this area to a certain extent. In Bukhara, one jarib (1260-1592 sq. m.) of land provided the livelihood of one family [5. 556]. According to Mukaddasiy, the crops grown in all the villages near this place were collected in Avfar, two stages away (about 80 km) from Samarkand. The harvest of this area alone was able to supply Sugd and Bukhara with grain for two years [4. 279].

The Samanid dynasty tried to increase the volume of various ready-made handicraft products instead of imported wheat and to make wheat mainly an export product.

Horticulture. The development of this field was also paid attention to during the Somonid dynasty. Grapes, apples and other fruits in Bukhara [8. 283], walnuts, grapes, mulberries in Samarkand, grapes, walnuts, apples and other fruits in the mountains between Ferghana and Turkestan, and the land of Khorezm produces walnuts, grapes, sesame, olives, figs and other fruits from the areas around Nishapur, pomegranates, red apples, Balkh in Zabulistan, grapes, raisins, almonds, sesame, figs, pomegranates, citrus fruits (lemon) are grown in Juzjan and Herat. Kesh and Nasaf were warmer than other areas and the fruits were picked earlier and transported to other areas. In Ferghana's land called Shikit, there was a

lot of walnuts, and a thousand of them were sold for one dirham. Those who were able to store grapes in Khorezm until next year. Khorezm plums were dried and taken to the regions of India and China [5. 564-570].

Willows and other trees are mainly planted to obtain raw wood. Willows are also planted along ponds in cities. For example, in Nasrobod in Ferghana, aqtols were planted a lot [4. 271].

Horticultural products are mainly grown for consumption as food. They are eaten wet, dry and processed. The leaves of some trees were used to feed silkworms, young varieties of mulberry were also used in the paper industry, and their wood was used as firewood, as a material for building houses, and as raw material for making carpentry products. During this period, there is almost no information about newly introduced crops. However, there is information that lemons and other citrus fruits were widely distributed in the territories of the Somonites as a ready-made product.

Methods of protecting crops and increasing yields. To protect the crops, a clay human figure was made and placed slightly raised on the ground in the middle of the field. Teenagers worked there all day and drove the birds. They chased away the birds by beating drums or metal vessels [8. 280]. Also, bird manure, sheep and goat dung were used as fertilizer for crops. In some regions, the organization of planting work is extended until the end of spring. They used methods such as grafting trees, artificial pollination of flowers, protecting fruits, feeding trees, treating plants, land and fruits from special diseases, changing the colors of roses [5. 570-574].

Cattle-raising. Livestock is grown in large quantities in mountainous, mountainous, desert, steppe regions. Large cattle, camels, horses were bred from large cattle. Kesh, Balkh camels were famous. Horses were bred in Khuttal, Ferghana, Shosh. Camels were raised in Zam, special breeds of horses and foals (mules, mules) were raised in Gharchistan. Horses known as "Cotton Horses" were bred in Herat and camels were bred in Sarakhs. A lot of camels were taken from Tokharistan, Ghazni, Kuhistan to other regions [5. 576-578]. In Shosh, some

people had 100 to 500 horses, or even more. Livestock was raised on a small scale in individual households. There was not a single yard in Shosh without a stable [7. 199]. Cattle are mainly bred for meat and dairy products, hides and other things. Oxen and camels were also used for plowing the land and moving the mill, transporting the threshed crops in the mill.

Horses, camels, and sheep were raised mainly in Samarkand [3. 365]. A muhaddi scholar named Abul Hasan Muhammad ibn Muhammad Jamal said that there is a type of sheep in Bukhara that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Large livestock markets were established in Hashimjirdi, Chaganiyan, Ferghana, and many sheep were sold. Khorezm also had a lot of livestock, livestock products, and furs. Kimukht (leather), goat skin, colored rabbit fur, etc. were grown there [5. 578].

CONCLUSION

According to the fragmentary information in the above sources, the area ruled by the Samanid dynasty played an important role in supplying the population with agricultural products on a global scale during this period. The representatives of the dynasty focused on establishing and expanding trade in wheat, barley, cotton and other such strategic crops. Also, domesticated animals have become important in the economy not only in desert-steppe regions, but also in regions where agricultural products are grown. Because the parts of crops that are not consumed by humans are fed to livestock. The above activities are important in providing people with food and enriching the state treasury through their trade and taxes.

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