



Mastering of virgin lands in Uzbekistan (as an example of Surkhan-Sherabad deserts, 1950–1980)

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ABSTRACT

In the article, under the influence of the agrarian policy of the Soviet government in Uzbekistan in the 1950s-1980s, the issues of the mastering of virgin lands in Surkhan-Sherabad, the establishment of regions and cotton fields on new lands were thoroughly analyzed using the information from archival documents and periodical press publications.

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O'zbekistonda qo'riq yerlarning o'zlashtirilishi (Surxon-Sherobod cho'li misolida, 1950–1980-yillar)

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

agrar siyosat,
qo'riq yerlar,
o'zlashtirish,
paxta maydoni,
viloyat,
Surxon-Sherobod.

Maqolada 1950–1980-yillarda O'zbekistonda sovet hukumatining qishloq xo'jaligi siyosati ta'sirida Surxon-Sherobodda qo'riq yerlarni o'zlashtirish, yangi yerlarda viloyatlar va paxta maydonlarini barpo etish masalalari arxiv hujjatlari va davriy nashrlar ma'lumotlari yordamida atroflicha tahlil qilingan.

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Освоение целинных земель в Узбекистане (на примере Сурхан-Шерабадской степи, 1950–1980 гг.)

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

аграрная политика,
целина,
освоение,
хлопковое поле,
район,
Сурхан-Шерабад.

Статья подробно анализирует влияние аграрной политики советского правительства на развитие сельского хозяйства в Узбекистане в 1950-1980-е годы. Основное внимание уделено освоению целины в Сурхан-Шерабаде, формированию областей и созданию хлопковых полей на новых землях. Анализ проведен на основе архивных документов и материалов периодической печати.

INTRODUCTION

Mastering measures of the Soviet government focused on the Surkhan-Sherabad deserts from the 1950s. People who previously lived in villages were forcibly and voluntarily relocated to the desert areas based on the Soviet resettlement policy to carry out these mastering measures. For example, “In 1954, the inhabitants of Boysun, Darband, Khojabolgan, Machai villages were relocated to develop the Sherabad-Beshkoton desert and develop agriculture” [1, p.134]. At the heart of this practice, in turn, were measures to expand cotton cultivation and obtain more crops from it. Under the influence of the agrarian policy, in 1954, in the southern oases of the Surkhan River, the “Sredazgiprovodkhoz” institute, with the addition of Sherabad lands, created 183,600 ha of land, 120,000 ha of new land, development, and irrigation project. Land irrigation and 800 million seasonal control of the flow of the Surkhan River were ensured by the South-Surkhan reservoir with a capacity of m^3 . A large part of the land, especially the vacant land in the Khoja-Ipak system, was experiencing a water shortage [2, p.78], and this problem became an obstacle to the acceleration of large-scale development works.

RESEARCH METHODS

In the article, methods of direct historical comparison, comparative analysis, and accuracy were used in modern historiography. Through these methods, an attempt was made to draw relevant scientific conclusions about the Soviet era.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

On July 8, 1957, the Surkhandarya Regional Irrigation System Administration and the Surkhan Inter-Kolkhoz Council, and on February 3, 1958, the “Uzgiprovodhoz” Institute developed a plan for economical use of water in the region. In 1959, the “Uzgiprovodhoz” institute created a project for the development of irrigation works. According to him, there are 95,500 hectares of irrigated land in the northern regions of Surkhandarya region, of which 65,700 hectares were irrigated in 1958, and the remaining 29,800 hectares were empty [2, p.79]. The total water supply in the Surkhan River oasis was 75% per year. The following activities were carried out to fulfill the tasks of the general project:

1. The amount spent on the reconstruction of the main and main water supply systems of the lands not supplied with water in the steppe is 6.3 mln. amounted to rubles. Concrete pavements were laid in Topolang, Dashnabod, Khoja-ipak, Sangardak, and as a result, the volume of water intake from the Topolang and Sangardak rivers in August and September increased to 25-30%.

2. Groundwater was used for irrigation, and water was extracted from a depth of 70 m in the places where stones protruded from the bottom of the Khojaipaksoy River in Shorchi district.

3. 6.1 thousand hectares of land in the Akmasjid massif were irrigated from the Kafirnigon river, a 33.5 km long main canal was built, and 2.4 thousand hectares were irrigated with water discharge. The remaining 3,800 hectares of land were irrigated from this canal by driving a car from 47 to 104 meters above. 3.13 million rubles were spent on these activities.

4. 17.55 million rubles were spent on the implementation of the existing irrigation system and general reconstruction works ruble was appropriated [2, p.81]. As a result of the command policy of the Soviet authorities, the level of additional provision of the irrigation system in the months of August-September was 75% of the total amount of 103 million m³. In general, the increase in the volume of irrigated land was as follows: the total volume of land not supplied with water increased by 76.4 thousand, of which 12.8 thousand were accounted for by underground water, in this account, the increase was 22.8 thousand, and 1.2 thousand was accounted for by underground water formed The area of land supplied with water was 19,100 ha, with an increase of 7,000 ha, totaling 95,500 ha [2, p.82].

The amount of funds spent on the development of irrigation works in North Surkhandarya is 37.07 million 0.388 thousand rubles per 1 ha of irrigated land area, 1.24 thousand per ha of cotton growing area, 12.186 million investment in agricultural development, the total amount of investment spent on irrigation construction and agricultural development was 49,261 thousand rubles [2, p. 83].

The former government fought hard for the development and development of irrigation in this area, as well as for the establishment of cotton fields on reclaimed land. In particular, on November 26, 1961, at the meeting of the Technical Council of the Ministry of Water Management of the UZSSR, the "Irrigation development scheme in the north of the Surkhandarya region of the UZSSR" was considered [2, p.76]. This development was presented by the "Uzgirovodhoz" institute, where the current issues related to irrigation were discussed in detail. In particular, it was mentioned that there is 280 thousand ha of irrigable land in the oases of the Surkhan and Sherabad rivers of the Surkhandarya region, of which 128 thousand were developed in 1958, and 152 thousand were lying vacant. Knowing well that this oasis has very favorable natural and climatic conditions and allows for further development of cotton cultivation, the Soviet authorities instructed to use of the waters of the Surkhan River and its Sherabad tributary to develop it. However, during this period, their natural potential was fully utilized. The Soviet authorities determined the need to carry out measures to regulate the flows coming to the rivers to increase the water supply of the area and develop new lands. In 1961, an irrigation and state farm construction trust was established in the Sherabad desert in the South Surkhan reservoir area to strengthen the establishment of new reserve state farms. At the end of this year, a new state farm with a total irrigated area of 8,226 ha was established based on 6 departments of the "Yangiabad" state farm. The main adopters are young people, 300 young people came here from the mountainous Boysun region in March 1962 [3, p.62]. It seems that the central government has instructed to involve everyone in the development work.

Opening and irrigation of new lands in the Surkhan-Sherabad steppes became the center of attention of the party-government bodies. Following the decision of the Council of Ministers of the UzSSR of July 18, 1977 "On the progress of works on integrated

irrigation and development of the land of the Surkhan-Sherabad deserts”, the Ministry of Agriculture of the UzSSR issued an order on July 27 this year [4, p.33]. It was noted that “Uzglavvodstroy”, the Ministry of Rural Construction of the UzSSR, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Surkhandarya Regional Executive Committee carried out irrigation activities for the irrigation of gray lands in the Surkhan-Sherabad deserts and the construction of new state farms. In particular, in the initial construction, 356 million capital funds of 333.3 million rubles were used and included in the main fund, 81,200 new lands were prepared and used for agricultural use, 511,500 m² of the residential area, at the same time, schools, preschool institutions, stores, clubs, baths, and other cultural and household facilities were built [4, p. 34].

The pace of work of the UzSSR Council of Ministers of the State Farm and Water Management Departments on the development of new land was increased and the decrease in the efficiency of capital funds was prevented. In this regard, mainly the following activities were carried out:

- preparation of new state farmlands in terms of irrigation and melioration and construction of settlements has been strengthened;

- 16.9 million souls to 8.8 million for construction and assembly works and to “Uzglavvodstroy” and 8.1 million was allocated to the Ministry of Rural Construction of the UZSSR;

- “Uzglavvodstroy” and the Ministry of Rural Construction of the UzSSR took necessary measures to develop the production base and fully utilize the existing capacity of the construction industry. Under the influence of the cotton monopoly policy, several significant works on the development of the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis were carried out. In particular, by 1980, 40,000 ha of new land was developed in the oasis, and 28,700 ha of land reclamation was improved [5].

In 1983, the total irrigable land in the Surkhandarya region was 376 thousand ha of irrigation capacity of the Surkhan River (due to the regulation of its flow in the South Surkhan, Uchkizil, Degrez, and Oktepa reservoirs) is 2220-2000 million m³. During this period, 75-90% of water needs were met. Taking into account the use of additional water sources, the water deficit is about 130-250 million m³. Because of this, about 260,000 of the irrigable lands were irrigated [6, p.62]. To increase water supply in the region, the length of concreted networks increased, their length reached 3199.36 km in 1983 [7], including inter-farm networks - 596.07 km, intra-farm networks - 2603.29 km. In 1982, there were 34 engineering facilities for water discharge in inter-farm networks [8].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Soviet government, like other regions, paid great attention to the development of the reserve and gray lands in Surkhan-Sherabad. These measures were closely related to the colonial practices of the former government, known as evictions and cotton monopoly: many families were forcibly relocated from different parts of the republic, even school children were mobilized for exploitation, etc. In return for such large losses, cotton plantations were established on the appropriated lands, where fine fiber cotton was grown mainly for the needs of the center. A large number of state-owned farms specializing in cotton growing, established in these lands, made a significant contribution to the development of cotton growing in the republic. However, most of the cotton raw material grown in these areas was transported to the center.

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