

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTON IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE XX - 20 YEARS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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Annotation: This article describes the work done in the field of agriculture in the Uzbek SSR in the XX-20s, especially the decisions and decrees of the government for the development of cotton. In addition, issues such as the socio-economic life of the population engaged in cotton growing are covered on the basis of sources.

The study of agriculture in the SSR of Uzbekistan in the XX-20s is one of the most pressing issues facing the history of our country and requires objective, comprehensive coverage. It is known that the development of cotton growing and irrigation in Central Asia under the former Soviet Union led to water shortages, and that the Central Asian republics, particularly Uzbekistan, were subordinated to the central interests of agriculture in irrigation and land reclamation. Scientific research is being carried out in areas of special importance, such as the impact of¹.

We can see that the essence of the cotton policy pursued during the colonial period became clear after the October 1917 coup. In particular, the Soviet government established the General Cotton Committee (Glavhlopkom) under the Supreme Soviet of National Economy and approved the Turkestan ASSR Cotton Committee as its subordinate organization. In addition, the "Regulations and regulations on the state organization of cotton growing, ginning industry and cotton production" were adopted, thereby strengthening the state monopoly on cotton production in the territory of Uzbekistan. As a result, farmers have committed to continue planting cotton in subsequent years. "One of the main conditions for increasing cotton production was semi-binding contracts with local officials. The guards would whip the villagers and force the population to deliver their cotton to the company's warehouses".

From the early days of the October 1917 coup, the dictatorial Soviet government consolidated cotton production as a state monopoly. This policy remained unchanged for more than 70 years, despite the colonial nature of the Soviet regime and all its efforts and attempts to modernize it.

In addition to resolving complex social problems by force, the Soviet regime also mastered the art of deceiving the people. For example, the land was initially declared entirely "public property". However, according to the decree of the RSFSR Central Election Commission of February 14, 1919, in Turkestan, as in Russia, all lands, regardless of who used them, were declared "single state property", which during the communist ideology ruled that »As the most basic form of land use. Land use alone was described as "transient and lifelong." It was now noted that a working farmer, charikor, or laborer could use the land only through his own labor, and that hired labor and the renting of private land were completely forbidden².

¹ З е л ь к и н а Т. И. Очерки по аграрному вопросу в Средней Азии. -М., 1930. -С. 38.

² Голованов А.А. Крестьянство Узбекистана: эволюция социального положения 1917–1937 гг. – Ташкент: Фан, 1992. С-36.

The Center and the Cotton Committee of the Republic of Turkestan, in their instruction on March 10, 1918, "On measures to assist farmers in planting cotton," noted that the first variety of seeds could be obtained at 8 soums per pound (in gold). However, the farmer had to have a certificate stating that he was indeed a "laborer" - a cotton grower and that he did not use hired labor. Such restrictions have dashed the hopes of Uzbek cotton farmers for a "socialist system," and similar formalities have intensified during the entire Soviet dictatorship, when farmers have not been able to enjoy their produce.

Another mistake in the reorganization of agriculture was that communes, state communities, and other new Soviet farms, which had been formed since 1918, were instructed not to distribute confiscated land to poor peasants, and all lands were made obligatory to be given to collective farms³. The execution of this work was entrusted to the land departments. From the present point of view, the question was raised in such a way as to educate the peasant in accordance with the rules of "community order" and to force him to work through a policy of coercion.

In addition, in particular, farms were, in the first place, less powerful in terms of material production. Second, agricultural machinery and equipment were scarce or almost non-existent, all of which did not meet demand, and there was a shortage of specialists and organizers. In addition, the party and soviet authorities forcibly involved farmers in the establishment of collective farms, and these farms did not last long because they did not adhere to the principles of voluntariness.

From the second half of 1919, the center pursued a policy of land acquisition in Turkestan from the end of 1917 and the nationalization of the cotton industry in 1918-1919, the confiscation of property and food and livestock of the rural population on the basis of militarized food supply. the peculiarities of economic enslavement in the country, reflecting the colonial nature, became apparent. In particular, the resolution adopted at the VIII Congress of Turkestan Soviets (September-October 1919)⁴ in accordance with the instructions of the center and under the constant pressure of the Turkic Commission's "paratroopers" stated that "Turkestan's economic policy is strictly in line with Russia's economic policy." a power was created that supplied raw materials and waited for the "mercy" of the "red empire", without rights, without the right to own its own natural resources.

In addition, while the growth of independent farms appears to have been driven by the end of the use of hired labor, in practice it has led to an increase in the number of poor. Sadly, the average farmer became poor. For example, if in Samarkand region in 1917 there were 0.5% of the poor, in 1920 this figure was 3.3%. In Syrdarya region, it increased from 4.4% to 6.9%. (Archive). As soon as Lenin realized the deplorable state of Turkestan's cotton industry, in a circular letter to the Turkestan Communist Party on January 11, 1922, he outlined "ways" to increase cotton production under the new economic policy. The letter urges small landowners and artisans to retain a portion of their produce, to have greater freedom in trade and commerce, to clearly define taxes and levies in favor of the state, and to support hardworking landowners and cotton growers, artisans, and laborers. giving great freedom was shown.

In order to strengthen the state monopoly on the growth of cotton production in the new economic policy, on September 13, 1921 a special regulation "On state organization of cotton growing, ginning industry and cotton production" was adopted. sheath work was done. In reality, however, the Bolsheviks aimed to keep the leading sector of the economy, the cotton industry, in the hands of the state, and to make Uzbekistan a major supplier of raw materials to the Russian textile industry. Therefore, on September 22, 1921, the Cotton-Growing Center (Tsentri-Khlopok) under the RSFSR was transformed

³ Распоряжение комиссара по хлопку Туркестанской Республики Наша газета, 1918, 10 марта.

⁴ ЎзР МДА, 17-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 36-иш, 22–25-варақлар.

into the General Cotton-Growing Committee (Glavkhlopkom), and subordinate cotton-growing committees were established in the cotton-growing republics as well.

Historical documents of that period testify that the strengthening of state monopoly on cotton was the most "urgent" in the congresses, gatherings and resolutions held in the center and Turkestan. For example, on December 16, 1921, at a meeting of the RKP⁵ (b) Turkestan Bureau and the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the Turkestan Communist Party, the resolution "On State Monopoly on Cotton and Pricing of Cotton" stated: "Cotton must recognize state monopoly"¹

Another example is the decision of the Central Committee of the RSFSR on January 1, 1922 to implement the decision of the Central Committee for the Restoration of Cotton in Turkestan of December 24, 1920 on the program for the restoration of cotton in Turkestan. The planting of cotton in the desyatina land was decided.

Thus, the policy of occupation of Turkestan markets, initiated by colonial Russia, finally came to an end during the communist empire with the formation of the Central Asian Economic Council. In this way, the center exercised its monopoly on raw cotton throughout the Soviet era.

Along with the Central Commission's Turkic Commission and the Turkic Bureau, the Central Asian Economic Council has established centralized governance in the three republics and strengthened the transportation of raw cotton from Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm by building support structures in line with "communist ideology" .

Although the land was given to them in the 20s, it was not possible to get a high yield due to the lack of modern techniques, the lack of agrotechnical knowledge in their operation, and the lack of irrigation facilities.

In particular, this was negatively affected by the backward material and technical base in the country. It was very difficult to provide agriculture with machinery even during the Tsarist period. From 1900 to 1916, only 2,400,000 soums were allocated to provide Central Asian agriculture with machinery and technical equipment. It should be noted that 93 percent of the above equipment was purchased by the invaders from Russia, and 7 percent of the equipment was purchased by the local representatives⁶.

The common people were armed with extremely simple, simple equipment such as a plow, a trowel, a hoe, and a scythe. Many farms did not even have these weapons. Since the 20s, some progress has been made in providing farmers with equipment. (Table 1)⁷.

Inventories, as a percentage of the previous year	1925-1926	1926-1927	1927-1928	1928-1929	1929-1930
1. Plugs	8178 -	11586 141,1	22388 194,1	53074 237,1	85499 161,1
2. Storms	5604	9270	15513	29794	44573
3. Cotton seeders	1556 -	2581 165,9	4974 192,7	9915 199,3	23984 241,9

⁵ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президенти Девони Архиви (бундан кейин ЎЗР ПДА). 60-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 1667-иш. 58-варақ.

⁶ Социалистическая реконструкция хлопководства. М., - Л. 1934, 99-бет.

⁷ Раззоков А. Ўзбекистон пахтачилиги тарихи. Тошкент,. “Ўзбекистон”, 1994 й. 134-бет.

4. Cultivators	1360 -	2304 169,4	4152 180,2	10825 260,7	No facts
1. Plugs	8178 -	11586 141,1	22388 194,1	53074 237,1	85499 161,1

During this period, the first tractors gradually began to enter our republic, and their number increased more and more. (Table 2)⁸. In 1929-1932, 2.5 billion soums were spent in Central Asian republics to improve the material and technical base of agriculture.

	1925-1926	1926-1927	1927-1928	1928-1929	1929-1930
Number of tractors	484	1063	1200	1525	2301
As a percentage of last year	-	219,6	112,9	127,1	150,9

Car tractor stations played an important role in improving agriculture and improving the material and technical base of cotton growing. In 1930, there were 6 car tractor stations in the republic, but by 1931, this number reached 48, in 1932 - 67, and in 1933 - 72. In 1931, 343,000 plots of land were plowed with the help of existing car tractor stations in the republic. But at the same time, the role of mechanization in planting, cultivating, and harvesting remained low. As a proof of our opinion, it should be said that in 1933, on all collective farms, only 1,730 hectares of land, or 0.2% of all cotton fields, were planted with the help of tractors.

Thus, formal barriers, informal instructions and directives in the implementation of "military communism", "new economic policy" and "land and water reform" created an ineffective economic suffocation mechanism of the Soviet regime and turned Uzbekistan into a supplier of raw cotton. This priority continued until the collapse of the communist state.

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⁸ ЎзР МДА, 17-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 36-иш, 19-25-варақлар.