

Features Of Reform And Development Of Agriculture In The Republic Of Uzbekistan (Using The Example Of The Bukhara Region)

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Annotation.The monoculture of cotton, which dominated the Republic of Uzbekistan for a long Soviet period, seriously hampered the development of other vital sectors of the agro-industrial complex and gave rise to a lot of negative consequences. In some areas, the cotton monoculture occupied the best agricultural lands, displacing other crops that were so necessary for the population. As a result, the level of satisfaction of the population's needs through public production of many fruits, vegetables, melons, and livestock products was low.

The article analyzes the state of the agro-industrial sector in the republic using the example of the Bukhara region over the past thirty years. The state policy aimed at the gradual reorientation of raw cotton production towards the development of grains, vegetables and fruits, and the development of livestock farming, including astrakhan fur, is revealed. The issues of deep structural changes in the agricultural sector and the country's involvement in global integration processes through the creation of clusters, greenhouses, and the Bukhara-Agro agro-industrial economic zone are covered.

Key words: agro-industrial sector, cotton, grains, vegetables and fruits, livestock farming, astrakhan farming, clusters, greenhouses, agro-industrial economic zone,

Introduction

With the acquisition of independence in 1991, the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan developed its own model of economic transformation in rural areas, which included issues of reducing the share of cotton crops, ensuring grain independence, increasing land fertility and increasing the yield of food crops. Reforming agriculture has become a key element of economic transformation, determining the strategy of Uzbekistan's transition to the market, since this industry included over 40 percent of production assets, 60 percent of the employed population, 40 percent of national income, 70 percent of the country's trade turnover. In the period from 1992 to 2015, the production of raw cotton decreased by 0.82 percent, grain production increased by 8.48 percent. And despite the fact that the republic is reducing arable land for cotton from year to year, by 2021 it ranks sixth in the world in its production.

Agriculture in the first years of independence throughout the republic developed against the backdrop of a general decline. A number of factors contributed to this. Firstly, the large area of arable land occupied by cotton limited the possibilities for growing agricultural products necessary for the population; secondly, the transition to market relations, without knowledge and experience and minimal income, complicated the situation of newly created agricultural farms; thirdly, the territory of many regions was characterized by excessive salinity.

The production of two crops – cotton and grain – remained a strategic objective of independent Uzbekistan for almost a quarter of a century. If in 1990 the structure of sown areas was dominated by industrial crops and cotton. by 2012 - grain and industrial crops. The land area for fodder decreased by almost 1.7 times. The redistribution of land to wheat and cotton production leads to a 70 percent reduction in land for fodder, which leads to a shortage of feed and a reduction in the number of

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Scientificessence

The first entrepreneurs in rural areas were dekhkan farms, which received legal and economic rights. By 1994, up to 2,447 such farms had been created in the Bukhara region¹. Great hopes were placed on the development of family entrepreneurship, as a structure interested in its income, in improving the quality and quantity of livestock products. It was planned to assign 13,840 hectares of land to dekhkan and farm enterprises in the region; in reality, only 3,038 hectares of land were allocated and up to 80 farms were created².

The production of the main agricultural products - cotton and grain - was entrusted to farms. State unprofitable agricultural enterprises - state farms - began to reorganize into collective and other forms of ownership, in particular into shirkats. In 1994, during the processes of reorganization of collective farms in the Bukhara region, 290 small and private enterprises, 331 farmers and 7 joint ventures were formed ³. The population of the region was provided with vegetables - by 62 percent, melons - by 76 percent, fruits - by 101 percent, grapes - by 54 percent. Potatoes were supplied from Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, and Czechoslovakia. But gradually the workers of the region began to practice sowing Dutch potatoes⁴.

The adoption of a number of important legislative acts, in particular the Land Code, radically changed not only the attitude towards land, but also created the need for structural economic transformations. Farms with at least 30 conventional heads of cattle had a priority right to receive land. During these years, the share of livestock products increased significantly from 30-35% in 1990 to 45-50% in 1998. But the reduction of arable land for fodder turned into a great tragedy, which turned into a tragedy for the Uzbek village. If in 1980 the milk yield per cow was 1500 kilograms per year, since 2000 - 1600 kilograms (while in Europe and the USA - 8000 kg per year, in Israel - 11000 kg per year)⁵.

In the period from 2007 to 2015, together with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), a project worth \$166.4 million was drawn up, aimed at improving the land reclamation condition, stopping further degradation and increasing land productivity in the Kashkadarya, Bukhara and Navoi regions in total area of 161.9 thousand hectares⁶.

Under the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), a pilot project was drawn up in 2012, which included the tasks of integrated planning of land use management processes for two ecologically and socio-economically representative districts of Zaminsky in the Jizzakh region and Karakulsky in the Bukhara region. The project was designed for 2014-2018 with a funding volume of \$2,513,600, of which \$2,313,600 was financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and \$200,000 by UNDP. The project document addressed the solution to a number of pressing issues, including issues related to land degradation, desertification, natural disasters, including landslides and

¹Akhmedov D.K. Increasing the efficiency of use of land and water resources in cotton farming (on the example of the Bukhara region): Author's abstract. dis. ...cand. econ. Sci. – Tashkent, 1993. – P.12.

²State Archives of Bukhara Region f.1459., op.1., storage unit 28., page.179.

³State Archives of Bukhara Region f.1459., op.1., storage unit 28., page .272-273.

⁴State Archives of Bukhara Region f. 1459., op.1., storage unit 27., page23.

⁵UNDP Analytical Note, 2008 - No. 1. – P.2.

⁶Feasibility study of the "Livestock Sector Project in the Republic of Uzbekistan" //

http://www.uzaifsa.uz/sites/default/files/inline/tehniko-konomicheskoe_obosnovanie_proekta_ UNDP and GEF are starting to implement a new project in Uzbekistan //https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/21382

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mudflows, deforestation, impoverishment of pastures, which directly affect the development of karakul farming⁷.

At the initiative of the President of the Republic Sh. Mirziyoyev, in 2017, the development of the entire agro-industrial complex was critically reviewed, since the share of agricultural products in the country's gross domestic product did not exceed 17 percent, and product processing did not reach 10 percent, while 51 percent of the population lived in rural areas terrain. The share of the employed population in the agricultural sector accounted for 3.7 million people or 27.2 percent of the total number of employed⁸. In the course of radical reforms in the agricultural sector, special attention began to be paid to the widespread introduction of innovative methods in the form of agricultural clusters with new forms of management and association on the principles of cooperation. The intensification and diversification of the agricultural sector has been carried out with a gradual transfer of the entire cotton-growing complex to a cluster form of organization of production, ensuring an increase in productivity.

Results

Intensive measures to improve the land fund and expand the area for agricultural products in the Bukhara region lead to the fact that by 1993 the area of irrigated land amounted to 198.1 thousand hectares. The region achieved a supply of 370 thousand tons of cotton, despite the fact that in some areas, due to the lack of spare parts for cotton picking machines, cotton was collected mainly by hand. They paid 100 rubles for one standard ton of cotton, 2 rubles for 1 kg of hand-picked cotton. The region produced up to 3 million tons of wheat per year, while the population of the region in these years was 1024.2 thousand people, of which 68 percent lived in rural areas and only 32 percent in cities⁹. The state of irrigation and reclamation structures in these years created problems in the use of land and water resources in the region. In addition, the most intensive processes of agricultural pollution were noted in the Bukhara region. Irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of water, taking more than 90% of the volume of water resources used¹⁰.

To provide financial support to agricultural enterprises, the government of the republic, with the participation of the International Bank for Development and Reconstruction (IBRD), drew up a project for 20 years, which entered into force in 2002 in the amount of 36.14 million US dollars, including a five-year grace period. However, if in 1990 in the Bukhara region the area of highly saline land was 16.5 thousand hectares, by 2000 it increased to 31.2 thousand hectares¹¹

In addition, imposing extremely high taxes on cotton compared to other crops results in a lack of incentive for farmers to grow cotton. Although, in the republic as a whole, the share of cotton fiber processing increased from 12 percent (in 1991) to 24 percent in 2002, in the overall calculation of net revenues of 20-22 percent of GDP, in 2003-2004 the maximum income tax was up to 30 percent. Sowing wheat after cotton reduced its yield, since previously the soil for cotton was restored by sowing forage. The most affected areas in the republic were Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya regions¹².

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) // https://dnb.info/1224689240/34

⁷UNDP and GEF are starting to implement a new project in Uzbekistan // https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/post/213 ⁸Naumov Yu., Pugach I. Problems and prospects for the development of livestock farming in Uzbekistan.

⁹State Administration of Bukhara Region f. 1459, inventory 1, storage unit. 10. page 1.

¹⁰Aminova, A. M. (2022). The Lower Reaches Of Zarafshan Region: Socio-Ecological Problems And Ways Of Their Solution. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(7), 2772-2780.

¹¹Chembarisov E., Lesnik T. Some problems of reclamation of saline lands in Uzbekistan. Ways to increase the efficiency of irrigated agriculture // Collection of scientific papers, (55), 126-134.

¹²Taxation of cotton growing in Uzbekistan. Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Division (ECSSD) Europe and Central Asia Region// <u>https://documents1.worldbank.org</u>

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In 2016, the lowest share of arable land in the republic was noted in Navoi region - 3 percent, in Bukhara region - 8.9 percent, while in Khorezm region - 96.1 percent, in Fergana region - 95.1 percent, in Syrdara region - 93.3 percent¹³.

One of the promising industries in the Bukhara region is livestock farming, in particular karakul farming has been in need of modernization for many years. Despite the fact that in the 90s the Bukhoro-Karakul association was created in the region, where 290 thousand astrakhan sheep were kept, and purchase prices for astrakhan sheep were set at an average of 600 rubles per piece; wool - on average 120 rubles per 1 kilogram¹⁴, by 2004, the production of Karakul sheep skins decreased from 1.4 million pieces (in 1990) to 700 thousand pieces. This circumstance was facilitated by the deterioration of land, lack of fodder, and desertification.

The sericulture industry also faced a number of material and financial problems in the first years of independence. This is despite the fact that the industry provided employment to thousands of households in rural areas. To modernize the industry, create new production facilities with the attraction of foreign investment, expand the range of finished products that are competitive on the world market, in 2006, measures were taken at the state level to create new plantations for the production of live silkworm cocoons with development prospects until 2010. For the Bukhara region, as a leader in this industry, the highest plans were set to increase the production of live cocoons from 2543 tons in 2006 to 3090 tons in 2010.

From 2008 to 2011, silk production in Uzbekistan increased by 42 percent, occupying a leading place among the CIS countries. Products in the form of raw silk, silk thread, yarn, fabric were mainly exported to countries such as Iran, Bangladesh, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Russia. In 2012, the Association of Silk Breeders and Silk Fabric Manufacturers "UzbekistonIpagi" ("Silk of Uzbekistan") was created, and in 2016, Uzbekistan took third place in terms of production volumes after China and India¹⁵.

By 2017, eight clusters were created on the territory of 11 districts and the city of Bukhara on an area of 97,900.0 hectares of cotton fields. In 2017-2018, the production of finished textile and clothing products amounted to 6.5 thousand tons of yarn, 9.0 million p/m of fabrics. In 2019, among the leading Andijan, Samarkand, Namangan regions of the republic, the volume of raw cotton production in the Bukhara region was increased by 3 times. In 2021, the growth in textile production compared to 2018 was ensured by 1.9 percent¹⁶.

A system of year-round sowing of various agricultural crops will be gradually introduced, including an increase in the production of fresh vegetables and fruits using the hydroponics method, which allows the plant to be fully supplied with water and nutrients. On the initiative of the head of state, in 2018, the first agro-industrial economic zone in the republic, "Bukhoro Agro", was created in the study area, where 69 entrepreneurs created modern greenhouse farms on an area of over 450 hectares.

As a result of measures taken to ensure high yields when growing grain crops through the phased introduction of a cluster system in 2021-2022, 8 grain clusters were created in the region with a production capacity of up to 21,555 tons¹⁷.

In order to increase the breed of astrakhan sheep, export of astrakhan sheep in all regions of the republic that have pastures before July 1, 2021, it was ordered to create astrakhan breeding clusters for breeding pedigree small ruminants. According to the target parameters of the Bukhara, Kashkadarya, and Navoi regions, higher indicators for the production of astrakhan smushka were determined. Among the regions of the republic, the largest share of the total number of Karakul sheep

¹³State Committee on Statistics "Statistical materials on agriculture 2016."

¹⁴Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 104, dated

March 6, 1992 "On purchase prices for wool and astrakhan fur" // https://lex.uz/docs/400003

¹⁵Khurramov Sh. Sericulture of Uzbekistan - under manual control // Regional business June 9, 2016 ¹⁶Statistical yearbook of the Bukhara region for 2018-2021 - P.15.

¹⁷Bukhara region. Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2022.//

https://www.agro.uz/ru/svodnaya-spravka-po-buharskoy-oblasti/

as of January 1, 2022 is in the Bukhara region - 32.5 percent, Kashkadarya region -26 percent, Navoi region - 24.9 percent¹⁸.

Summary

Thus, during the restructuring of the agro-industrial sector in the first years of independence, measures were taken to increase the land area for grain, but dependence on the production of raw cotton for many years hampered the development of the fruit and vegetable sector, and the area for fodder was reduced. In conditions of underdeveloped market infrastructures and limited capabilities of karakul-growing state farms, this industry was engaged in fulfilling the smallest parameters for the delivery of finished products. As a result of one-sided development, the republic's agriculture developed for almost a quarter of a century within the framework of a narrow one-sided direction.

An analysis of the creation and functioning of business enterprises on the territory of the Bukhara region showed the existence of a number of problems related to swampiness, salinity of arable land, lack of feed for the development of livestock, financial resources for doing business, etc..Despite the variety of forms of ownership, farms and dekhkan farms are becoming widespread with the gradual introduction of a system of negotiated prices for the purchase of agricultural products. Socially, during the formation and development of various forms of ownership, the material well-being of rural residents of the region increased somewhat.

In 2017, profound long-term tasks emerged in all spheres of socio-economic life. Considering that many sectors of the national economy are developing depending on agriculture, the target parameters for the production of many agricultural crops have been revised. An important step was the decision to abolish the practice of the plan for the production and sale of raw cotton established by the state, and the volumes of grain sold to the state were reduced by 25 percent, programs were adopted to increase agricultural production with parameters for the export of fruits and vegetables.

The main components of the new innovative reforms were clusters in the fruit and vegetable, cottontextile, grain, meat and dairy industries, as well as the first agro-industrial economic zone "Bukharaagro", and thus the tasks of increasing and expanding the production volumes of competitive food products based on deep processing were solved agricultural and livestock raw materials.

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¹⁸Karakul farming is most developed in the Bukhara region // https://agronews.uz/2022/07/04//

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