

History Of Fergana Valley Irrigation

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Annotation. In the article, the processes of reclamation and irrigation of lands in Fergana valley, as well as, organization of districts and state farms in these areas specialized to cotton - growing on the principles of cotton monopoly policy of the Soviet Government and increase of provision of cotton to the "Centre" and its negative results are elucidated with the help of primary sources.

Keywords: Fergana valley, virgin lands, irrigation, state farms, Soviet government, cotton monopoly.

Relevance of the topic

From the first years of independence, special attention was paid to the issue of impartial and scientific research of the irrigation history of Uzbekistan. After All, The President Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev noted, "today, our systematic reforms in the rational use of land and Water Resources, the rapid introduction of market principles, progressive achievements of Science and technology in the interaction between agricultural entities, increasing the income of farmers through the cultivation of environmentally friendly and export-efficient products are known to everyone" [1,16] are defined as important tasks. Therefore, research into the history of irrigation and assimilation was also considered important at all times.

Methods and degree of study of the subject

The article used such methods as scientific, historical, comparative analysis, problem-periodic, impartial and oral history. The scientific significance of the study has found its expression in the historical-comparative, problematic-chronological methods of mastering and improving the reclamation of deserts in the Central Fergana. In order to further develop and increase cotton cultivation in the Republic, the Soviet government began to pay special attention to the Fergana Valley, a favorable area for irrigation farming. Development work began

under the slogan" the restoration of the steppe – the brave mission".

Research on this topic can be divided into three groups: 1) publications published during the years of Soviet power; 2) studies created during Independence; 3) literature published by foreign authors.

Research results

In the 1950s and 1970s, Uzbekistan and the Ferghana Valley followed the path of extensive and not intensive agricultural development, the connection of these processes with the dual agrarian policy of the Soviet government, especially the development of reserves and gray lands of Central Ferghana, which was officially popularized in 1953-1973. for the purpose, he attached special importance to the "voluntary-compulsory" relocation of the population. It is known that the Soviet government began to pay attention to the Fergana Valley, which is considered a favorable area for irrigated agriculture, in order to further develop and increase cotton cultivation in the republic. Based on these aspects, in the fifth five-year plan (1951-1955) and in the resolutions of the 9th session of the KP (b) of Uzbekistan, held in 1952, the further improvement of cotton cultivation, as well as the expansion of the irrigated land in the Ferghana Valley and the development of reserve lands were emphasized as the main issues. passed. In order to implement the above tasks and the decisions of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Central Committee of the KP of Uzbekistan and the

government of the republic adopted an expanded decision on September 16, 1952, and in it, practical tasks for the development of the first and second turn of the lands of Central Fergana and irrigation were determined [2,26]. At the same time, these decisions noted the appropriation of desert lands in Central Fergana from 1953 to 1958 in the amount of 36,000 ga.

Many decisions were taken by the Soviet government on measures for the development of new lands in the republic and further development of the irrigation system. On November 16, 1952, according to the decision of the Central Committee of the KP of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, irrigation works of 65,000 ga of new and protected lands of Central Fergana were considered [3,31]. Including Yozyovon and Kyzil Tigin deserts - 30,000 ga; According to the Ulug'nor canal system - 6,000 ga; according to the Okhunboboev canal system - 14,000 ga; Reserves and neglected lands occupying an area of 15,000 ga in Fergana, Andijan and Namangan regions [4,35].

The decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU "On further development of cotton cultivation in the Uzbek SSR in 1954-1958" [5,3] dated February 9, 1954 provided for the development and irrigation of 142,000 ga of land in the Fergana Valley, including 116,000 ga in Central Fergana. In particular, 2,803 ga of land was acquired from 1950 to 1954 in Boz district, and 2,960 ga of new land was acquired in 1953-1958 [6,5]. It was shown that the gross area of Central Fergana is 532,400 ga, including the net (net) area of 363,700 ga, of which 190,500 of land was acquired by January 1, 1953 [7, 28]. It was recognized by the Inter-Kolkhoz Soviet that from 1953 to 1956, the "Ferganavodstroy" trust carried out a significant level of work on the development of reserves and gray lands in Central Fergana [8, 5].

According to the decision of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR dated October 20, 1953 "On the expansion of irrigated land in the Uzbek SSR and measures for the further development of water management", the

increase of irrigated areas in Namangan region in 1958 was 38,000 ga compared to 1952 ratio were compared and reviewed. The growth of these areas on Central Fergana lands was 28,000 hectares, and 25,000 hectares should be ready for planting in 1953-1955 [9, 1]. In Central Fergana, the total area of reserves and gray lands under development since January 1, 1953 is 173.2 thousand, including 89.6 thousand in Fergana region, 83.6 in Andijan region [10, 6]. During the years 1953-1955, reserve land in Gulbog state farm amounted to 1.6 thousand, new land to 6.3 thousand, and new land to Damkol new irrigation massif to 3.5 thousand [11,3]. 8-10 tons of cotton was obtained from one hectare of collective farms established on appropriated lands.

Preparation of new land for irrigation and melioration in Fergana region was different in the indicated years. In 1956 and 1957, there was a partial decline in the level of new land preparation, but in the following years there was an increase in this area. Re-occupation of reclaimed land with crops has been increasing year by year [13,2].

On March 18, 1957, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Uzbek SSR issued an order "On strengthening the irrigation and development of Central Ferghana lands" in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers of the KP of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR dated February 26, 1957 [14,107]. Based on it, the plan for irrigation and economic development of Central Fergana lands in the period of 1956-1961 established 80,000 hectares of reserves and gray lands, including 32,000 ga in Fergana region, 28,000 ga in Andijan region, In Namangan region - 20,000 ga. On August 17, 1957, the complex scheme of new land development and irrigation in Central Fergana was considered by the chairman of the executive committee of Andijan region at the meeting of the technical council. At the meeting, it was noted that the scheme of irrigation and development of new lands took 173.2 thousand, of which 36.4 thousand in Andijan region, 49.7 thousand in Namangan region, and 87.1 thousand in Fergana region [15,12].

On March 18, 1958, the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the decision "On

the development of new and reserve (waste) land for the harvest of 1958." According to the decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 23, 1957, preparation for the development of new and reserve lands for the harvest of 1958, it was noted by the Council of Ministers of the USSR that 36,200 hectares of land in the republic's regions and the Karakalpakstan ASSR is being unsatisfactorily developed. As of March 10, 1958, only 25,000 ga of irrigation and melioration were prepared, and according to the plan, the planning of the area from 29,000 ga to 17,200 ga was carried out [16, 9]. The executive committees of Ferghana, Namangan and Andijan regions were assigned the task of canceling all debts of collective farms and ensuring indebtedness to the Inter-Kolkhoz Soviet for the construction of the Central Ferghana waterworks.

On April 21, 1958, the Central Committee of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the decision "On strengthening the work on irrigation and development of new and protected lands in Central Ferghana" [17,95]. According to the 1957 plan, an area of 12,600 ga was to be prepared for irrigation and melioration by the Ministry of Water Management of the USSR and its "Ferganavodstroy" construction trust, and instead 4,600 ga was prepared.

As of January 1, 1959, 377,826,00 thousand rubles of capital funds were prepared for the operation of all Central Fergana facilities, of which only 172,644,64 thousand rubles were allocated for operation [18,43]. On January 23 of this year, the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the SSR of Uzbekistan adopted the decision "On approval of the program of construction work on irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands in 1959" [19, 36]. According to this established plan, the amount of irrigated land in the Central Fergana massif was planned to be 13,000, but in practice it was 10,230, including 7,228 for planting in 1959 [20, 285]. On August 3, 1959, the Central Committee of the CP of Uzbekistan

and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted the decision "On irrigation and development of reserve and gray lands in Central Fergana in 1959-1965" [21,48]. On the basis of this decision, a large amount of work was carried out to further increase the water supply of Central Fergana regions and improve land reclamation. "More than 36,000 hectares of gray and neglected abandoned lands were included in the agricultural turnover, more than 250 km of highways were built, and 22 collective farm settlements were established" [22,24].

On November 9 of this year, in accordance with the above decision, the Andijan Regional Department of Agriculture announced the order "On the irrigation and development of reserve and gray lands in Central Fergana in 1959-1965" [23, 203], and 24.8 hectares to be newly developed in Central Fergana in 1959-1965. The task of land preparation in the amount of ha was approved by district [24,26].

During 1959, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management of the UZSSR was tasked with reviewing the main scheme of irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands and its projects on separate areas, expanding the area of project farms by 2.0 - 2.5 thousand ha [25,52].

On March 18, 1960, the Ministry of Water Management of the UzSSR announced the order "On the program of construction work on irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands in 1960" [26, 67]. In this order, the plan of the Ministry of Water Management of the UZSSR to provide the facilities of Central Fergana with capital funds was established and the "Ferganavodstroy" trust was approved to be provided with funds in the amount of 111,151 thousand rubles in 1960. On March 21, 1960, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Ukrainian SSR issued an order "On the approval of construction work programs for irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands in 1960" [27,124]. On July 14, 1960, the decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR "On the implementation of the plan for the payment of funds from the indivisible fund of collective farms for construction works on irrigation and development of new lands" was supposed to spend 43,210 thousand rubles on

construction works by the inter-collective soviet, but in practice only 17,874 thousand rubles were used. "Ferganavodstroy" trust invested 10,629,000 rubles out of 22,400,000 rubles for the construction of water management [28, 28].

On May 12, 1961, the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted the decision "On the development of reserve lands in Central Ferghana" [29, 232]. In this decision, the Ministry of Water and Agriculture of the UZSSR, the Andijan regional party committee and the regional executive committee approved the

proposal to end all irrigation works in Central Fergana lands in 1965. From 1953 to 1961, 60,600 ga of land was prepared for irrigation and melioration, and in 1960, 41,000 ga were planted in collective farms and state farms [30, 16]. In 1961-1965 - in 1961-1965 - irrigation of all the remaining reserve lands in the area of 122.2 thousand hectares of the Central Fergana lands, 67.8 thousand hectares in the Fergana region and 54.4 thousand hectares in the Andijan region, according to the decision to complete the general works of the Central Fergana lands. It can also be seen from the table below [31, 237].

Table 1 Preparation of Central Fergana lands for agricultural development and irrigation-melioration (1961-1965) (in thousand hectares)

№	Name of provinces	Prepared in terms of irrigation and melioration	Agriculturally appropriated	Economically appropriated collective farms	Economically appropriated state farms
1	Fergana	67,8	54,5	28,7	25,8
2	Andijan	54,4	46,5	31,5	15,0
Total		122,2	101,0	60,2	40,8

As can be seen from the figures in the table, the entire land of Central Fergana was prepared in terms of irrigation and melioration in the total volume of 122.2 thousand ha. This is a much higher indicator in the field of land preparation for irrigation and melioration compared to previous years. Agricultural development works in 1961-1965 totaled 101 thousand, of which 60.2 thousand fell to collective farms, as well as 40.8 to economically appropriated state farms.

In a short period of time, the following proposals of regional organizations were accepted in 1961-1966, taking into account the development of reserves and gray lands in Central Fergana and the possibilities of collective farms in the Fergana Valley. According to it, 20,300 hectares of existing state cotton farms on reserve lands and 17,300 hectares of state farms will be established in Fergana region, 8,600 hectares of existing state farms and 20,600 hectares of state

farms will be established in Andijan region [32, 3].

Until July 1, 1961, the Inter-Kolkhoz Soviet worked in the regions of Fergana and Andijan on irrigation and development of Central Fergana lands. In 1960, the Inter-Kolkhoz Soviet 7710 ha discussed the issue of preparation of land for irrigation and melioration. 2,240 of them belong to Andijan region, 5,470 to Fergana region. In the report of 1961, only 6333 ha of land in Fergana region was prepared for irrigation and melioration [33,21]. Of that, 5030 were allocated for initial preparation of reserve lands, and 1303 were allocated for repeated works on previously prepared lands.

In the decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on September 2, 1962, development and irrigation works carried out in Fergana and Andijan regions of the UzSSR, that is, in Central Fergana lands, were envisaged [34,15]. Over the past years, a significant amount of work has been done in Central Fergana. 60,000

new lands were brought into agricultural circulation, 22 new collective farms and 2 state cotton farms were founded, many irrigation and drying collective farms, highways and collective farms and state farms for 26 settlements were established.

Before 1964, more than 2,000 km of various canals, more than 2,000 km of underground canal-pipes and collectors, and more than 7,000 hydrotechnical structures were built in the newly irrigated massifs of Central Fergana [35, 48].

According to the decision of the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 21, 1964 "On preparation of new and gray land for planting in 1965" by the Fergana Regional Rural Executive Committee during the period of planting new land in the region in 1965 - 6093, of which 984 came from agricultural turnover in 1964, 3958 ha were prepared for planting in Central Ferghana, and new preparation work was carried out on 1151 ha [36, 36].

In 1966, there were 5,590 lands to be developed in Boz district, and the work on development of new lands was carried out in an unsatisfactory manner. In particular, over the last five years, 2,880 new lands were appropriated in the district, and about 6 million rubles were spent on these works [37, 3]. As a result of such poor quality of work, 2,258 hectares of land were left out of agricultural use in district farms. It is especially regrettable that 241-351 hectares of land in Kalinin and Mingbulok state farms, Ulug'nor state farm, and Zhdanov collective farms have gone out of agricultural use [38, 88]. If in 1966 678 hectares of land were to be developed, the plan in this area was fulfilled by 98%. In farms such as "Mingbulok" and "Partiya XX sezdi" the land development plan was completed by 86-74%.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the high level of development of irrigation and land reclamation works in the lands of Central Fergana, as well as the development of Agriculture in particular in the cotton sector, brought some negative consequences along with the positive aspects. The development work here

was carried out in the 1950s and 1970s. However, in this past period, decisions issued by government bodies were not implemented in many places on the issue of mastering fear and Gray lands, on the allocation of capital funds to them. Especially the capital allocated for the development of protected lands was not used in full condition, and the funds were left without development.

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