



**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COTTON AUTHORITY IN THE UZBEKISTAN
SSR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

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ABSTRACT

After the end of the Second World War, great changes took place in agriculture in Uzbekistan. During the war, the economy, especially the agricultural sector, suffered serious losses. Due to the war, able-bodied men went to the front, machinery was drawn to the needs of the front, and agricultural processes were derailed. In such a difficult situation, the Soviet government was forced to implement major economic and administrative measures aimed at restoring agriculture. At first, special attention was paid to the cultivation of cotton, because cotton was of strategic importance for the Union. Therefore, a cotton monopoly was established in Uzbekistan, and this situation had a serious impact on the republic not only economically, but also socially.

KEYWORDS

KPSS, Central Fergana, UZSSR Council of Ministers, Yozyovon and Kyzil Tigin deserts, Ulughnor Canal, Ferganavodstroy, Mirzachol, Glavgolodnostepstroy

Introduction

As a result of the establishment of the cotton monopoly, economic activity in the country was almost completely directed to cotton production. Almost all sections of the population, especially the rural population, were attracted to the cotton industry. Due to labor shortage, even youth and young children were attracted to cotton picking. According to the central policy of the state, a sharp increase in the volume of cotton production was required, which limited the production of other agricultural products in the villages of Uzbekistan. As a result of the expansion of cotton fields, there was a shortage of food products, which greatly affected the daily lifestyle of the population.

Decisions made at the 19th Congress of the CPSU on the development of new lands and the expansion of cotton fields were of strategic importance for the Soviet government. However, along with the positive aspects of this policy, unilateral development of agriculture and the emergence of environmental problems were also one of the unexpected consequences.

In the resolution of the 19th session of the CPSU, great attention was paid to the issues of construction of irrigation facilities and expansion of irrigated land. This plan was an important component of the Soviet government's long-term strategy for the development of the agricultural sector, in particular, the strengthening of cotton production. In particular, the resolution pays special attention to the following projects: "... to continue the construction of irrigation systems in the basins of the Syrdarya,

Zarafshan and Kashkadarya rivers, Central Fergana, Kuban-Yegorlik system, Ortataikai reservoir and Katta Chu canal”¹.

On November 16, 1952, the Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the USSR decided to irrigate 65,000 hectares of new and protected lands in Central Fergana. The resolution included the objective of increasing agricultural productivity by further expanding irrigated agriculture and bringing new land into use.² 30,000 hectares in the Yozyovon and Kyzil Tigin deserts, 6,000 hectares in the Ulugnor canal system, 14,000 hectares in the Okhumboboyev canal system, and 15,000 hectares in the Fergana, Andijan, and Namangan regions, based on the plan for the development of the reserve and abandoned lands, has been in the process of land development in Central Fergana since 1953. started One of the most important tasks in this process was the effective management of water resources and the establishment of irrigation systems.

Since 1953, a special construction trust "Ferganavodstroy" was established for the development of Central Fergana lands, and this team played an important role in the development work. During 1953-1956, a total of 192,459 thousand soums were spent on capital construction works in this area. The main part of capital construction was carried out at the expense of indivisible funds of collective farms. Local youth actively participated in this process. In particular, 1,700 young people came and contributed to the development of protected lands in Central Fergana in response to the appeal of 1954.

During 1954-1958, a plan to develop 600,000 hectares of land was implemented in Uzbekistan, which was one of the important steps aimed at further increasing the country's cotton production potential.³ The decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU dated February 9, 1954 "On the further development of cotton production in the Uzbek SSR in 1954-1958" was one of the important documents aimed at strategically strengthening cotton production in Uzbekistan. This decision included further improvement of cultivation and processing of raw cotton, expansion of cotton cultivation areas and increase of mechanization in this sector.⁴

The decision sets the task of significantly increasing the volume of cotton production by modernizing irrigation systems, developing new lands and building irrigation facilities. In 1954-1958, expansion of irrigated lands in the republic by 600,000 hectares and further increase of cotton cultivation areas were shown as one of the priority tasks. It is also important to strengthen mechanization and provide agricultural machinery.

At the same time, this decision affected economic and social development. Measures such as increasing labor productivity, creating new jobs, and increasing the income of the population have been reflected in agriculture. With the adoption of the decision, investments and government support for the cotton industry increased, which made the production of raw cotton a strategic central government policy. The decision envisages development and irrigation of 142,000 hectares in the Fergana Valley, including 116,000 hectares in Central Fergana. From 1953 to July 1, 1957, the "Ferganavodstroy" trust carried out major works in the field of water management construction for irrigation and drainage of Central Fergana massifs. After the establishment of the trust, large-scale

¹ КПСС съездлари, конференциялари ва Марказий Комитет Пленумларининг резолюция ва қарорлари. III қисм. – Тошкент: Ўздавнашр, 1954. – 739 б.

² Andijon viloyat davlat arxivi (AVDA), 608-jamg'arma, 1-ro'uxat, 932-yig'ma jild. 12-varoq.

³ Насритдинов Қ.М. Ўзбекистонда ирригация-мелиорация қурилишининг ривожланиши ва унинг ижтимоий-иқтисодий оқибатлари (1981-1990 йиллар): Тарих фан.номз. ... дис.- Андижон, 1994. – 147 б.

⁴ Namangan viloyat davlat arxivi (NVDA), 275-jamg'arma, 1-ro'uxat, 1341-yig'ma jild. 7-varoq

construction and development works began in Central Fergana. More than 285 million soums were spent by construction organizations, most of this amount - 185 million soums - was financed from the indivisible fund of collective farms. 65 million soums were allocated for the equipment of the trust from the state budget, and more than 35 million soums were allocated through direct contracts with other organizations.

The total cost of all works on irrigation and land development in Central Fergana was 393.8 million soums. Of this amount, 162.7 million soums were spent on the construction of water management, 24 million soums were spent on providing the trust, and 158.1 million soums were allocated for the construction of agriculture. Also, 78.9 million soums were allocated for construction works related to the development of productive forces.

These extensive construction and financing measures have been an important part of the irrigation and development of protected lands in Central Fergana and the development of agriculture in the region.⁵ As a result of the development of Central Fergana lands, the cotton growing industry has also developed. In particular, in the Namangan region, the number of collective farms acquired during this period was 48. The newly developed lands in the province are located in Damkol, Oqqum, Momokhan, Achchik kol, Naiman and Boz massifs.⁶ The community formed on the appropriated lands is 8-10 s from one hectare of farm land. cotton crop was obtained. 18 - 20 years ago in the "Gigant" collective farm of Zadaryo (Mingbulok) district, from the first periods of exploitation⁷. "Iskra" and "Moskva" in Kirov district, "Galaba" and "1-may" collective farms in Okhunboboyev district, located in Sokh-Isfara and West Yozhyovon massifs in Central Fergana region of Fergana region, were effective in developing new lands. the first year - in 1964, 20 p. per land. from, in 1965 - 26.3 s. and in 1972 47 s. was obtained from⁸.

At the beginning of 1955, two months of irrigation-reclamation works were carried out in all districts of Mirzachol, which made it possible to prepare 23,916 hectares (of which 9,556 were new) of land for planting. Excavators working in two shifts were used for cleaning⁹.

Since 1956, the process of development of reserve and gray lands in Mirzachol has started. Many decisions and orders were issued by the Soviet government on new land acquisition measures and further development and improvement of the irrigation system in the republic. On August 6, 1956, the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a decision "On irrigation and development of reserve lands of Mirzachol in the Uzbekistan SSR and Kazakhstan SSR to further increase cotton production."¹⁰

According to him, in order to manage the implementation of water management works in Mirzachol and to coordinate the activities of various ministries and agencies involved in the development of protected lands in Mirzachol in the territory of the UZSSR, the General Directorate of "Glavgolodnostepstroy" was established under the Council of Ministers of the UZSSR. According to the above decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR

⁵ Farg'ona viloyat davlat arxivi (FVDA), 1151-jamg'arma, 1-ro'yxat, 80-yig'ma jild. 8-varoq.

⁶ Namangan viloyat davlat arxivi (NVDA), 275-jamg'arma, 1-ro'yxat, 1341-yig'ma jild. 4-varoq.

⁷ FVDA, 1151-jamg'arma, 1-ro'yxat, 14-yig'ma jild. 9-varoq.

⁸ Гофуров А. Ирригация ва мелиорацияни ривожлантиришнинг иктисодий проблемалари. – Тошкент: Ўзбекистон, 1974. 37-б.

⁹ Раззаков А.А. История развития мелиоратсии орошаемых земель Голодной степи (1917-1967 гг.): Дис. ... канд.истор.наук.– Тошкент, 1971. – 277 с.

¹⁰ FVDA, 1124-jamg'arma, 7-ro'yxat, 713-yig'ma jild. 11-varoq.

and the decision of the Central Committee of the Central Committee of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the UzSSR dated August 15, 1956, 200,000 ha of land was assigned to the General Directorate for Irrigation and Development of Mirzachol Land under the Council of Ministers of the U.S.SR in 1956-1962. implementation of the construction of water management for irrigation and development of the Mirzachol reserve lands in the area, during 1956-1960, a total of 135,000 t. cultivation of cotton raw materials not less than;¹¹ The Ministry of State Farms of the UZSSR was entrusted with the task of establishing 23 state farms on the re-irrigated lands of Mirzachol and carrying out the necessary constructions in them. In the decision, by 1962, 300,000 reserve lands were to be appropriated in Mirzachol and 34 state cotton farms were to be established¹². By 1956, the area of irrigated land was 206,000 hectares, and as a result of large-scale development in the following period, more than 300,000 hectares of additional land was developed between 1956 and 1975. The main part of this development process was carried out in the Mirzachol region, and a total of more than 500,000 hectares of land was included in the rotational crop area for agricultural crops.

This large-scale land development was aimed at satisfying the USSR's demand for increased production of raw cotton, as well as improving irrigation systems and increasing agricultural production. The introduction of new lands into cultivated areas was an important step in the development of the country's agrarian sector. At the same time, this process required large investments, such as the construction of engineering irrigation facilities, construction of large reservoirs and canals¹³. The development of Mirzachol lands is divided into two main stages. The first stage was carried out in 1956-1961, during which mainly main canals, collector-drainage systems and large water management facilities were built. In addition, great attention was paid to the creation of a base for the construction materials industry. At the first stage, irrigation and land reclamation works were aimed at increasing the irrigation possibilities, and were aimed at creating the necessary infrastructure for agriculture in the future.

In short, the cotton monopoly was an important factor in the post-war recovery of Uzbekistan's agriculture. In addition to the positive aspects of the central government's policy aimed at increasing the volume of cotton production, its negative consequences were also observed. Cotton production has become the main branch of the country's economy, and this situation has had a negative impact on other areas of agriculture, including the food supply. The lack of food products seriously damaged the daily living standards of the people.

New land development policies have mobilized additional resources for agriculture, but the effectiveness of this process has often been unsatisfactory. Poor land reclamation conditions and untimely actions caused environmental problems. The environmental effects of the cotton monopoly, including soil salinization and scarcity of water resources, had long-term consequences for the republic's agriculture.

The social consequences of this process were also serious: the impact of the policy of violence on the work of the population, the involvement of all strata in cotton farming, and the fact that able-bodied men did not return from the front, mainly women and young people fell under a heavy burden. The

¹¹ FVDA, 1124-jamg'arma, 7-ro'uxat, 713-yig'ma jild. 46-varoq.

¹² Ўзбекистоннинг янги тарихи. Иккинчи китоб. Ўзбекистон совет мустамлакачилиги даврида // Тузувчилар: М.Жўраев, Р.Нуруллин ва бошқ. – Т.: Шарқ, 2000. – 688 б.

¹³ Эгамбердиев Р., Раззоков А. Ўзбекистонда қўриқ ерларни суғориш, ўзлаштириш ва мелиорациялаш тарихи (Мирзачўл мисолида).– Тошкент: Фан, 1984. – 285 б.

government's policy of compulsory increase in cotton production worsened the economic and social condition of the population.

Thus, despite the economic and political effectiveness of the cotton monopoly policy, its social and environmental consequences caused long-term problems for the republic.

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