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THE UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNTOUCHED TERRITORIES IN UZBEKISTAN

(Using Surkhan-Sherabad and Karshi deserts as an illustration, 1950-1980)

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В статье под влиянием аграрной политики советского правительства в Узбекистане в 1950-1980-е годы усиление и развитие хлопковой монопольной политики в результате освоения, орошение Сурхан-Шерабадского и Каршинского пустынях, создания районов, хлопковых полей на вновь освоенных землях анализируется с помощью материалов архивных источников и сведений периодической печати. В работе также проанализированы процессы сельскохозяйственного использования водных источников гидросооружений в этих регионах.

Ключевые слова: *аграрная политика, целинных земель, освоение, орошение, Советская власть, хлопковое поле, район, Сурхан-Шерабад, Карши.*

The article examines the impact of the Soviet government's agricultural policy in Uzbekistan during the period of 1950-1980. It specifically focuses on the reinforcement and growth of the cotton monopoly policy through the utilization of the Surkhan-Sherabad and Karshi deserts. The article utilizes archival sources and information periodicals to analyze the establishment of districts and cotton fields on newly developed lands. Furthermore, it examines the agricultural utilization of water resources from hydraulic structures in these regions.

Keywords: *agricultural policy, virgin lands, development, irrigation, Soviet power, cotton field, region, Surkhan-Sherabad, Karshi.*

The Soviet government's initiatives for cotton cultivation in Uzbekistan encompassed the development of reserves and untouched lands. Implementation of these plans involved particular attention being given to the reclamation of previously abandoned lands within the republic's territory. The acceleration of development and irrigation projects took place in the Mirzachul, Central Ferghana, Karshi, Surkhan-Sherabad, and Jizzakh deserts, resulting in the establishment of cotton fields, sovkhozs whish especially prepared cotton production, residential areas, and hydro facilities. However, these endeavors also gave rise to several negative consequences. Firstly, cotton was forcibly cultivated in the occupied territories, with the majority of the harvest being transported to the central authorities. The republic became the primary cotton production hub for the Soviets. Secondly, the expansion of development activities led to the growth of cotton monopolies, which in turn compelled Uzbek farmers into permanent forced labor.

The next development activities of the Soviet government focused on the Karshi and Surkhan-Sherabad deserts. In order to carry out these development measures, people who previously lived in villages were forcibly and voluntarily relocated to the desert areas based on the Soviet resettlement policy. Mastering measures of the Soviet government focused on the Surkhan-Sherabad deserts from the 1950s. To implement these mastering measures, people who previously lived in villages were forcibly and voluntarily relocated to the desert areas based on the Soviet resettlement policy. For example, "In 1954, the residents of Boysun, Darband, Khojabolgan, and Machai villages were relocated as part of efforts to develop the Sherabad-Beshkoton desert and promote agricultural development" [1. P. 134]. At the heart of this practice, in turn, were measures to expand cotton cultivation and obtain more crops from it. Influenced by 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, 800 mln. seasonal control of the flow of the Surkhan river was ensured by the South-Surkhan reservoir with a capacity of m³. A large part of the land, especially in 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.

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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.

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 water use in the region. In 1959, the "Uzgiprovodhoz" institute created a project to develop irrigation works. According to him, there are 95,500 hectares area of land under irrigation 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 areas, one of the reason water volume 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 Khojaipaksoy river in Shorchi district.

3. Also 6.1 areas of ground of 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 was irrigated from this canal by driving a car from 47 to 104 meters above. 3.13 million rubles were spent for these activities.

4. A sum of 17.55 million soums was allocated for the implementation of the existing irrigation system and general reconstruction works [2. P. 81]. Due to the directive of agrarian practice of soviet power and the level of supplementary provision for the irrigation system during the months of August-September reached 75% of the overall amount, which totaled 103 million. In general, amount of using areas in agriculture 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 for the improvement of watering works in North Surkhandarya is 37.07 mln. 0.388 thousand soums per 1 ha of irrigated land area, 1.24 thousand per ha of cotton growing area, 12.186 mln. investment in agricultural development, the total amount of investment spent on irrigation construction and agricultural development was 49,261 thousand soums [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. During the Technical Council meeting of Head organization of Management Water of the UzSSR on November 26, 1961, the "Irrigation development scheme in the northern part of the Surkhandarya region of the UzSSR" was discussed [2. P. 76]. This development was presented by the "Uzgiprovodhoz" institute, where the current issues related to irrigation were discussed in detail. In particular, it was mentioned that there are 280 thousand ha of irrigable land in the oases of the Surkhan and Sherabad rivers of 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 the aim of advancing cotton cultivation, the Soviet authorities instructed to use 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 especially rise up using life main source in 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 in order 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 on the basis of 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].

In 1967, 2,200 ha of the 3,650 ha of land allocated for cotton planting in the state farm "Hazarbog", Denov district, Surkhondarya region, were planted with 80-90 cm between rows. In 1968, more than three thousand hectares of land were planted with this method. The amount of cotton produced in wide row planting and working increased year by year. In 1956, 36.4 ts. if cotton was harvested, the yield in 1967 reached 37.97 tons, and in 1968 it reached 39.1 tons [9. P. 56].

It seems that the central government has instructed to involve everyone in the development work. From this time, the movement of the Karshi desert began. In this case, many families from different regions of the republic were relocated "forcibly-voluntarily" in order to consistently implement the development. In particular, "only 600 families moved there during the entire period of organized relocation of the population to the Karshi deserts. To date, 40 families have survived..." [4. P. 35].

The Soviet authorities, who knew that there is a favorable opportunity for the cultivation of high-quality cotton in the Karshi desert, attached great importance to the development of protected and fertile lands here. For this reason, the attack on the desert gradually intensified from this period. On February 26, 1963, the State Expert Commission of the State Planning Committee of the USSR decided that it was appropriate to finish the development and irrigation of 200,000 hectares of unused land in the Karshi Desert by 1975 [5. P. 5]. After these tasks, the development of the desert became serious. In particular, "The total area to be developed and irrigated in the Karshi desert is 1 mln. It was 306 thousand ha. 435 thousand of them were located in the upper zone and 871 thousand were located in the lower zone. The official commencement of the development of the Karshi Desert took place on August 26, 1963" [5. P. 4].

Following the decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on December 7, 1963, titled "On the initiation of irrigation and development works in the first phase of the Karshi Desert," the development and irrigation activities in the area intensified. In accordance with the decision, the "Karshistroy" department was established as a part of the "Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy" under the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Management of the USSR. Notably, between 1963 and 1968, a significant amount of equipment, such as bulldozers, excavators, scrapers, road construction machines, motor vehicles, cranes, and other modern construction machinery and mechanisms, were brought in for the development of the Karshi Desert. Utilizing this equipment, construction of the main section of the Karshi highway canal, spanning 77 km and featuring six pumping stations, commenced in 1964. The total area of irrigated land reached 848,000 hectares.

From 1965 to 1975, the primary focus of the developers working in the Karshi Desert was on constructing the main infrastructure projects, namely the Karshi highway and the Ulyanov canals. In 1965, about 6.9 thousand families or 31.2 thousand people were moved from the mountainous regions of the region to the newly formed state farms in order to develop the desert faster. About 15,000 of those who moved were able to work, 4,000 of them were mechanics. Based on the obligations set in the above decisions, in 1967-1970, the Karshi main canal with pumping stations, engineering structures, construction industry enterprises, in the region, construction materials and products were produced, and the construction of settlements for builders and new land developers took place within the republic, spanning from the Amu Darya River to Kashkadarya [5. P. 9].

The primary objective set by the central authorities was to conquer the Karshi and Surkhan-Sherabad deserts and establish district and state farms specialized in cotton cultivation in their place. The Karshi desert, in particular, was identified as having over 1 million hectares of suitable irrigable land and a highly favorable climate for growing high-quality cotton varieties. Aware of this potential, Soviet officials made the decision to enhance irrigation and development efforts in the area. Consequently, the allocation of capital funds for the development of the Karshi desert increased annually. Furthermore, the utilization of main canals played a crucial role in the effective development and irrigation of new lands: "Together with main canals, 11 inter-farm canals, as well as a large number of collector and reservoirs, were created for the development of lands in the first line of the Karshi steppe" [6. P. 30].

Influenced by the Soviet agrarian policy, large-scale reserve land development and irrigation works were carried out in the Karshi Desert. In particular, there is approximately 720,000 hectares of land suitable for development in the Karshi plain, of which 63,000 hectares were the old irrigation network. As a result of the preliminary development of the initial irrigation options, it was determined that the newly developed area in the Karshi desert can be increased to 200 thousand ha. The State Committee for Utilization of Labor Resources of the USSR Council of Ministers, along with the Kashkadarya Regional Party Committee and Executive Committee, were entrusted with the responsibility of relocating 3,000 individuals to the irrigated and developed areas of the Karshi desert, with a total target of 9,000 people. Additionally, it was determined that the "Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy" and "Karshistroy" educational complex should annually train a minimum of 2,000 mechanics, builders, and workers for industrial enterprises [7. P. 5]. The Soviet authorities progressively accelerated the development and irrigation of the steppe region. They issued orders and instructions to establish large cotton fields in the appropriated areas.

In 1969, the Council of Ministers of the USSR approved the initial phase of the irrigation and land development project in the upper zone of the Karshi desert. The plan included irrigating and developing 200,000 hectares of land and establishing 43 farms in the area. Out of these, 36 were designated as cotton farms, 3 as horticulture-vineyard farms, 2 as livestock farms, and 2 as fodder farms. A total of 1,552 million soums were allocated for this purpose. The primary motivation behind the Soviet government's emphasis on developing the Karshi steppe deserts and allocating funds was to cultivate high-quality cotton and transport it to the central authorities.

To achieve this objective, the "Sredazgiprovodkhlopok" institute, under the guidance of the USSR Ministry of Reclamation and Water Management, revised the primary project tasks for the irrigation and development of the Karshi desert. Changes were made to the inter-farm organization of the area based on decisions made by the party and the government in relation to the development of the Karshi desert. The revised project assignment now entails the establishment of 55 state farms, including 46 cotton farms, 5 horticulture-vineyards, 2 livestock farms, and 2 fodder farms, on the newly acquired 200,000 hectares of land.

On June 25, 1970, the Central Committee of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) and the Council of Ministers of the USSR approved the decision titled "On accelerating the irrigation and development of the lands of the Karshi desert in the Uzbek SSR" [8. P. 157-160]. As stated in the decision, the State Planning Committee of the USSR and the Ministry of Water Management of the USSR allocated 630 million soums, with 475 million soums designated for capital funds for construction and assembly works, for the period of 1971-1975. Additionally, the decision outlined the goal of developing and irrigating the reserve lands in the Karshi steppe to achieve a cotton cultivation capacity of 700,000 tons by 1980, including targets of 85,000 tons between 1971 and 1975, and 100,000 tons in 1974-1975. The overall objective was to achieve a gross yield of 400,000 tons of cotton by 1980 [8. P. 26].

The decision made by the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, titled "On the acceleration of work on the irrigation and development of the lands of the Karshi Desert in the UzSSR", along with the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the UzSSR on July 21, 1970, proclaimed the construction of the irrigation and development of the Karshi Desert as a national achievement. These decisions mandated all political, economic, and trade union organizations to mobilize workers from across the republic to participate in the development of the desert [8. P. 45].

The previous government, driven by its own interests, increased the allocation of capital funds for the development of the steppe and construction works in subsequent years. Specifically, the first order of the USSR Council of Ministers for the Karshi desert involved the irrigation and development of a 200,000-hectare area, with a total cost of 1 billion and 285 million soums. In 1970 alone, 51 million soums were spent on the development of the Karshi desert, which was 31% more than in 1969. During this period, approximately 11,000 people were employed in the vast Karshi desert, with 800 of them being engineers and technicians [8. P. 54].

In the Karshi steppe: "In the ninth five-year period, the first 85,000 hectares of land were appropriated, and 100,000 t. cotton cultivation was envisaged. In the next five years, 215,000 hectares of land were irrigated and developed, and cotton grown on the developed lands was 400,000 tons per year. delivered to In order to solve this task, the Karshi highway channel, which is almost 200 km long, was built. Along with the trunk canals, a project of construction of 11 inter-farm canals, as well as a large number of collectors was created for the development of lands in the first line of the Karshi steppe" [8. P. 59]. The Soviet authorities fought hard to master the steppes and bring them into agricultural consumption. The previous government dedicated a significant amount of funds to the development of the Karshi steppe and the promotion of cotton cultivation in the region. Over 1 billion rubles of state funds were allocated for this purpose since 1965. The efforts in the Karshi desert yielded remarkable results, with the establishment of 41 cotton farms. In 1978, a total of 185.9 thousand tons of cotton was grown in the reserve, including 49.5 thousand tons of high-quality fine fiber cotton.

In 1973, cotton was first grown on an area of 530 ha in the state farm named Ch. Begimkulov in the Karshi desert area. The productivity of each ha is 12.3 ts., 1 ts. the cost of cotton was 44.2 soums. In the following years, productivity increased as a result of excessive use of mineral fertilizers. In 1975, that is, 2 years after the beginning of land development, 19.5 ts per hectare of 3000 ha area, 26.2 ts per hectare of 2400 ha area in 1980, and 35 ts per ha of 1900 ha area in 1983. yield was obtained. However, along with the increase in productivity, the amount of damage suffered by many farms also increased. For example, during the years 1973-1983, the loss of state farms amounted to 71903 thousand [8. P. 58].

Following the directives of the Union, the first farm, Choli Begimkulov State Farm No. 9, was dispatched to the Karshi desert in 1973. By the end of 1975, a total of 18 farms were cultivating crops in the desert. In the spring of 1974, water from the Amudarya River was directed into the desert through a 164-kilometer network of the Karshi main canal. Six pumping stations were used to raise the water to a height of 132 meters. The waters of the Amudarya, Kashkadarya, and Zarafshan rivers were interconnected for this purpos [8. P. 60].

From the second half of the 70s of the 20th century, 170,000 of the 200,000 hectares of land to be developed in the Karshi Desert were put into agricultural use. In Kashkadarya region, in 1971-1985, the task of improving the water supply of 80,000 ha of land was set for the development of 95,400 ha of newly irrigated land, reconstruction of irrigation networks. At the same time, in 1975, 136,000 hectares of land were prepared for planting crops, improved in terms of irrigation and melioration. 35,000 acres of land from the Karshi desert, 9,000 acres from the Jizzakh desert, 10,000 acres from the Surkhan-Sherabad desert, and 15,600 acres of land in KKASSR were used for agricultural purposes. 9,000 hectares of new lands acquired in the autonomous republic were cultivated this year [8. P. 64].

As mentioned above, the development of protected lands in the Karshi steppe is closely related to the irrigation works there. For this reason, activities in this regard were accelerated in order to satisfy the center's need for cotton: "The lands of the Karshi desert were irrigated from the Amudarya. A 200-km-long canal with a water consumption of 200 m³/s was built in Kiziloyoq district. Pumping stations built on the canal raised water from the river 60-80 m above. In order to operate the pumping stations, cheap electricity with a capacity of 200, 250 thousand kW from the natural gas field in Mubarak was used" [8. P. 72].

Due to the implementation of decrees and orders aimed at bolstering cotton production in the region, there was a significant increase in cotton output. In 1982, the state farms in the protected area of the Karshi desert contributed 245,700 tons of cotton to the state, with 1,500 tons being of high-quality fine fiber cotton that was sold. Since the establishment of state farms, these farms on reserve lands have provided 1 million and 561 thousand tons of cotton raw materials to the state. Over the course of 20 years since the initiation of the development of the Karshi desert, 188,000 hectares of protected lands were irrigated and developed. Sixty state-owned farms, well-equipped with production tools, were established on the newly acquired lands.

Thus, 6 new districts - Nishon, Usman Yusupov, Ulyanov, Mubarak, Baharistan, Tallimarjon - were established on the newly appropriated lands of the Karshi steppe. "They built 2,750 km of canals and irrigation stations, 3,700 km of collector and drainage networks in the region. More than 150,000 ha of new land was developed in the Karshi steppe, 46 new state farms were established. In a short period of time, 6 cotton ginning plants and 18 cotton receiving preparation points were built and commissioned in the developed zone. "Karshistroy" state farms during 7 years 1030 thousand t. they grew cotton, of which 510 thousand tons. is the harvest of new lands" [8. P. 79].

Significant attention was given to reinforcing efforts in the desert as a key focus of the Union's economic and social development plans during the periods from 1986 to 1990 and until 2000. The development of the steppe was recognized as a crucial objective within the twelfth five-year plan. Based on this, "Currently, the area of the appropriated land has increased to about 211,000 ha. The state will spend 1 bln. 146 mln. spent money" [8. P. 80].

The opening and irrigation of new lands in the Surkhan-Sherabad steppes received significant attention from the party and government authorities. A decision by the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic (UzSSR) on July 18, 1977, titled "On the progress of works on integrated irrigation and development of the land of the Surkhan-Sherabad deserts", led to the Ministry of Agriculture of the UzSSR issuing an order on July 27 of the same year [9. 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 mln. Capital funds of 333.3 million rubles were used. was included in the main fund, 81,200 new land was prepared and used for agricultural use, 511,500 m² of residential area, at the same time, schools, preschool institutions, stores, clubs, baths and other cultural and household facilities were built [9. P. 34].

To expedite the development of new land, the UzSSR Council of Ministers and the State Farm and Water Management Departments intensified their efforts and ensured the optimal utilization of capital funds. The following activities were primarily undertaken in this regard:

- preparation of new state farm lands in terms of irrigation and melioration and construction of set-

tlements has been strengthened;

- 16.9 mln. soums to 8.8 mln. for construction and assembly works and to “Uzglavvodstroy” and 8.1 mln. The Ministry of Rural Construction of the UzSSR was allocated a specific allocation of resources;

- “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 development works were undertaken in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis. By 1980, approximately 40,000 hectares of new land were developed in the oasis, and an additional 28,700 hectares of land reclamation were improved. These efforts aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and expand cultivation in the region [10].

In 1983, the total irrigable land in Surkhandarya region was 376 thousand ha. The 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 mln. was 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 mln. made m³. Because of this, about 260,000 of the irrigable lands were irrigated [9. P. 62]. In order to increase water supply in the region, the length of concreted networks increased, their length reached 3199.36 km in 1983, 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.

In conclusion, the Soviet government allocated significant resources and efforts towards the development of the reserve and gray lands in Surkhan-Sherabad. However, these measures were closely tied to colonial practices of the former government, characterized by forced evictions and the cotton monopoly. Many families were forcibly relocated from various parts of the republic, and even school children were mobilized for labor exploitation. In exchange for these substantial losses, cotton plantations were established on the appropriated lands, primarily producing fine fiber cotton for the needs of the central government. A considerable number of state-owned farms specializing in cotton cultivation were established in these areas, making a significant contribution to the development of cotton production in the republic. However, a large portion of the cotton raw material grown in these regions was transported to the central government, resulting in limited local benefit.

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O‘ZBEKISTONDA QO‘RIQ YERLARNING O‘ZLASHTIRILISHI (Surxon-sherobod va Qarshi cho‘llari misolida, 1950–1980-yillar)

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Sovet hokimiyati yillarida O‘zbekiston SSRning Surxon-Sherobod, Qarshi kabi hududlarida amalga oshirgan o‘zlashtirish va sug‘orish tadbirlari paxta yakkahokimligi siyosati ta’sirida aynan paxtachilikni taraqqiy ettirishga va paxta yalpi hosilini oshirishga xizmat qildi. Shu bilan bir qatorda, yangi o`zlashtirilgan yerlarda rayonlar tashkil etilib, urbanizatsiya jarayonlari kuchayib bordi. Ko‘chirish siyosati natijasida kelib qolgan ba’zi aholi qatlamlari yangi turar-joylarga ega bo‘ldi. 1950–1980-yillar mobaynida agrar siyosat ta’sirida mavjud qo‘riq va bo‘z yerlarni o‘zlashtirish ishlari jadallashib, o‘zlashtirish ishlariga dehqonchilik madaniyatini yaxshi bilgan qatlamlar va oilalar jalb qilindi. Surxon-Sherobod va Qarshi cho‘llarida o‘zlashtirish ishlari samarasi o‘laroq Farg‘ona vodiysiga teng keladigan paxta bazasi yaratildi. Natijada paxta yakkahokimligi siyosati ilgarigi davrga qaraganda ancha kuchayib ketdi.

Biroq, qishloq xo‘jaligida paxtachilikning hukmronlik qilishi ijtimoiy hayotda bir qator muammolarni keltirib chiqardi. Aholining oziq-ovqat mahsulotlari bo‘yicha markazga qaramligi yildan yilga ortib bordi.

Dasht zonalaridagi yangi ochilgan yerlarni sug‘orish uchun yirik nasos stansiyalari bunyod etildi. Ulardan tepaliklarda va adirlarda barpo etilgan yirik paxta maydonlarini muntazam sug‘orish ishlarida atroflicha foydalanildi. Biroq ko‘plab yangi o‘zlashtirilgan yerlardagi paxta maydonlarida yalpi hosil olish davomiyligi atigi 2–3 yilga yetib bordi, xolos. Ushbu yerlarda tegishli melioratsiya hamda yerga ishlov berish tadbirlarining o‘z vaqtida o‘tkazilmaganligi ortidan sug‘orma yerlarning takror va ikkilamchi sho‘rlanishi kelib chiqdi. Mazkur holatlar oqibatida paxtadan hosil olish hajmi yil sayin asta-sekin pasayib bordi. Qo‘riq yerlarni o‘zlashtirish ishlari katta hajmda suv manbalarini talab qildi, shu bilan birga, nasos stansiyalariga haddan ziyod suv zaxiralarining olinishi esa suv tanqisligi muammosini jadallashtirdi.

Sovet davlatini esa bu kabi muammolar hamda aholi ijtimoiy hayotidagi jiddiy kamchiliklar hamda yetishmovchiliklar deyarli qiziqtirmas edi. Markaz hukumatiga qanday bo‘lsa ham sobiq Ittifoqdagi mavjud yirik to‘qimachilik korxonalarini, harbiy sohani mahsulot va xomashyo bilan doimiy ta’minlash muhim hisoblanardi. Shu boisdan Qarshi va Surxon-Sherobod dashtlarining qator yangi ochilgan hududlarida paxtachilikka ixtisoslashgan rayonlar, shaharlar qad rostladi. Qarshi cho‘llari iqlim sharoiti ingichka tolali paxta yetishtirishga mos bo‘lganligi uchun ushbu hududdagi paxta maydonlariga shu turdagi paxta navlari ekildi. Taassufki, sug‘orma yerlarning sho‘rlanish darajasi kuchli bo‘lganligi sababli hosil ko‘tarish hajmi yil sayin tushib bordi.

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