

IKKINCHI JAHON URUSHIDAN KEYIN BUXORO OBLASTIDA YANGI YERLARNING O'ZLASHTIRILISHI VA UNING AHOLI TURMUSH TARZIGA TA'SIRI

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Annotation

Mazkur maqolada Buxoro viloyati misolida yangi va qo'riq yerbarni o'zlashtirish jarayonlari har tomonlama o'rganiladi. Xususan, ushbu jarayonning tashkil etilishi, bosqichlari, amalga oshirilgan rejalar, asosiy massivlar va ularni o'zlashtirishning amaliy natijalari tahlil etiladi. Viloyat arxivlarida saqlanayotgan rasmiy hisobotlar, loyihalar, plan-grafiklar, mahalliy hokimiyat va xo'jalik organlarining ma'lumotlari asosida tarixiy jarayonning real manzarasi tiklanadi. Maqolada nafaqat iqtisodiy-ijtimoiy o'zgarishlar, balki atrof-muhitga ta'sir, ekologik oqibatlar, tuproq sho'rlanishi, suv resurslaridan samarasiz foydalanish kabi muammolarga ham alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Bu esa yangi yerbarni o'zlashtirish jarayonini bir yoqlama emas, balki mukammal, keng qamrovli tarixiy tahlil qilish imkonini beradi.

Kalit so'zlar

yangi yerbarni o'zlashtirish, qo'riq yer, bo'z yer, paxta yetishtirish, oblast, sabzavot, poliz. suv resurslari, tuproq sho'rlanishi, ekologik oqibatlar

ОСВОЕНИЕ НОВЫХ ЗЕМЕЛЬ В БУХАРСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ ПОСЛЕ ВТОРОЙ МИРОВОЙ ВОЙНЫ И ЕГО ВЛИЯНИЕ НА ОБРАЗ ЖИЗНИ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ

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Аннотация

В данной статье всесторонне изучаются процессы освоения новых и целинных земель на примере Бухарской области. В частности, анализируются организация этого процесса, его этапы, реализованные планы, основные массивы и практические результаты их освоения. На основе официальных отчетов, проектов, план-графиков, а также данных местных органов власти и хозяйственных структур, хранящихся в областных архивах, воссоздается

реальная картина исторического процесса. В статье особое внимание уделяется не только социально-экономическим изменениям, но и воздействию на окружающую среду, экологическим последствиям, засолению почв, неэффективному использованию водных ресурсов. Это позволяет рассматривать процесс освоения новых земель не односторонне, а комплексно, в широком историческом контексте.

Ключевые слова

освоение новых земель, целинные земли, богарные земли, выращивание хлопка, область, овощные культуры, бахчевые культуры, водные ресурсы, засоление почв, экологические последствия.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LANDS IN THE BUKHARA REGION AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND ITS IMPACT ON THE POPULATION'S LIFESTYLE

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Annotation

This article provides a comprehensive study of the processes of developing new and virgin lands using the example of the Bukhara region. In particular, it analyzes the organization of this process, its stages, implemented plans, main land areas, and the practical results of their development. Based on official reports, projects, plan schedules, and data from local authorities and economic institutions preserved in regional archives, the real picture of the historical process is reconstructed. The article pays special attention not only to socio-economic changes but also to the impact on the environment, ecological consequences, soil salinization, and inefficient use of water resources. This approach allows for a comprehensive and in-depth historical analysis of the land development process, rather than a one-sided assessment.

Keywords

land development, virgin lands, arid lands, cotton cultivation, region, vegetables, melons, water resources, soil salinization, ecological consequences.

Introduction: After the Second World War, the restoration and development of agriculture became one of the main priorities of state policy in the Soviet Union, particularly in the Uzbek SSR. The severe consequences of the war, the shortage of food and raw materials, and the need to restore agriculture as the main source of

raw materials for industry demanded urgent action. In this context, starting from the 1950s, large-scale efforts were undertaken to expand cotton production by developing new lands and adapting virgin and arid territories for agriculture.

In the 1950s-1960s, increasing cotton production in Uzbekistan, including in the Bukhara region, became a matter of state policy. To achieve this goal, large-scale measures were implemented to develop new land areas, expand the volume of irrigated lands, and improve water supply systems.

According to its natural and climatic conditions, the Bukhara region is mainly a desert and semi-desert area. Therefore, the establishment of irrigation systems was of particular importance for the development of agriculture in this region. Thanks to large-scale projects implemented by the state, virgin and flat lands in the Karakalpak steppe areas of the region, as well as in Mirzachul, Kizilcha, Pakhtaabad, Romitan, Alat, and other districts, began to be developed. In 1940, the area of land used for cotton cultivation in the Bukhara region amounted to 126.3 thousand hectares. As a result of post-war economic reconstruction and the creation of reclamation and irrigation facilities, by 1960 this figure had increased to 162.4 thousand hectares. In other words, over this twenty-year period, more than 36 thousand hectares of new lands were developed and involved in cotton production [1].

In January 1950, the Communist Party of Uzbekistan (VKP(b)) and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted Resolution No. 96. The resolution stipulated the development of 15.6 thousand hectares of new land in the Bukhara region during that year. On January 10, 1950, a special meeting was held jointly by the Bukhara Regional Executive Committee and the Regional Party Committee. The meeting discussed preparations for the land development process and approved a project for developing new lands in the Bukhara, Romitan, and Kogon districts, involving a total of 115 kolkhozes (collective farms). The coordination of this process was entrusted to the regional Department of Agriculture. The Party organizations and the Regional Executive Committee took the land development process under strict supervision and control.

In the 1950s, the central directives regarding land development were often issued without considering local conditions and real possibilities. As a result, regional authorities were faced with the challenge of implementing complex and, in many cases, unrealistic plans. The Executive Committee of the Bukhara Region and Party organs of the Workers' Deputies demanded the unconditional fulfillment of the tasks assigned from above, enforcing compliance through a system of warnings and disciplinary measures. This created constant pressure on lower-level leaders. Consequently, the Regional Department of Agriculture and its specialists, realizing

the impossibility of fully meeting the targets, began to adopt formal methods of self-protection. They regularly sent reports, explanatory notes, and technical justifications to higher authorities. Through these communications, officials sought to shift responsibility onto central bodies, officially document the limited capabilities of the region, and thereby avoid accountability in cases where plans were not fulfilled.

The Five-Year Plan (1951–1955) for increasing cotton production and revitalizing agriculture was approved by the State Planning Committee of Uzbekistan. According to this plan, the area of cultivated land in the Bukhara region, which amounted to 105.6 thousand hectares in 1950, was to be increased to 184.4 thousand hectares by 1955. The total area of sown lands was planned to expand from 189.7 thousand hectares to 207.4 thousand hectares, respectively [2].

In 1953, large-scale land development projects were planned in Uzbekistan. According to the resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan, a total of 16,000 hectares of new land were to be developed across the republic. The distribution of these lands by region was as follows: Malikchul 10,000 hectares, Urtachul and Kukcha 1,500 hectares each, Jilvon-1,500 hectares, Kuljob-500 hectares, and the State Cotton Farm (GZF) in Kogon-100 hectares.

In this regard, in 1953, the Executive Committee of the Bukhara Regional Council of Workers' Deputies discussed the issue of developing new lands for the summer season of 1954. During the meeting, existing problems were reviewed, and it was decided that the main work would be carried out during the summer and autumn months. It was planned to complete the land development activities by December of that year. To ensure the effective use of the newly developed lands, general meetings were held in each kolkhoz, during which plans and tasks related to land development were prepared and approved. In addition, considering the amount of land and labor requirements in each district, agronomists, land construction and hydrotechnical specialists, as well as special brigades and commissions, were established to oversee and implement the process.

In August and September of 1953, a work plan was approved outlining the activities to be carried out, and specific measures for land development were defined for each district. In this context, land reclamation and development were considered important not only from an economic standpoint but also in terms of advancing agriculture and providing employment for the population. Starting from the 1960s, the process of developing new lands slowed down somewhat; however, by 1969, the area of cotton fields had reached 167.6 thousand hectares, which was 5.2 thousand hectares more than in 1960. During this period, the main focus shifted

toward increasing the productivity of existing lands, improving irrigation systems, and stabilizing the reclamation (melioration) conditions of agricultural areas [2].

In the 1950s-1960s, not only cotton but also various types of vegetable and agricultural crops were cultivated on the newly developed lands. For instance, in 1960, the area allocated for potato cultivation in the region amounted to 1.4 thousand hectares, whereas by 1969 this figure had decreased to 1.0 thousand hectares. This indicates that over the decade, the area of land used for potato cultivation had decreased by 0.4 thousand hectares. Between 1965 and 1967, the potato cultivation areas remained relatively stable, averaging 1.3 thousand hectares per year. However, in 1968, this figure dropped to 1.1 thousand hectares, and by 1969 it had further decreased to 1.0 thousand hectares. This decline may indicate a reduced focus on potato cultivation or the influence of agrotechnical and climatic factors. The Bukhara region did not rank among the leading regions of the republic in potato production. For example, in 1960, 10.6 thousand hectares of potatoes were planted in the Tashkent region, while in Bukhara the area amounted to only 1.4 thousand hectares. This suggests that potato cultivation held relatively little importance in the region, likely because the main attention was directed toward other agricultural products-particularly cotton and grain production [2]

The new principles of land development led to the emergence of new forms of labor organization. Until 1963, the organization was known as the Mirzachul Construction Main Directorate, and later it was renamed the Main Directorate for Irrigation Construction in the Collective Farms of Central Asia. Within this organization, several departments were established to handle irrigation facility construction, canal repair and building, land leveling, drainage system installation, and the construction of industrial and civil facilities in state farms.

Between 1945 and 1985, hundreds of thousands of hectares of new land were developed in the Bukhara region alone. On these lands, new agricultural enterprises-kolkhozes (collective farms) and sovkhozes (state farms)-were established, primarily specializing in cotton production. Large-scale land reclamation (melioration) projects were carried out to provide irrigation for these lands. In addition, major artificial reservoirs, such as Kattakurgan, Talimarjan, and others, were constructed to regulate the flow of water from the Amu Darya River and to ensure a stable supply of irrigation water for farming. As a result of these development efforts, new areas such as Katta To'rtkul, Amirobod, and Navbahor emerged in the Bukhara region. The construction of new irrigation canals, pumping stations, and drainage systems helped bring these lands into productive agricultural condition [3].

The majority of the lands developed in the Bukhara region consisted of unused steppe areas along and around the Amu Darya River, where new irrigation networks and pumping stations were built. Within the framework of these measures, large-scale reclamation areas were established in districts such as Navbahor, Amirobod, Olot, and Romitan. However, along with the positive aspects of this process, negative consequences were also observed. Excessive use of the Amu Darya's water and the unplanned implementation of some reclamation projects caused damage to the natural environment. As a result, this later led to the drying up of the Aral Sea, soil salinization, and the emergence of ecological problems.

The process of developing new lands was carried out alongside the construction of new state farms, their production facilities, and residential settlements for the population. Between 1956 and 1965, 84,000 hectares of new land were developed in the Mirzachul area, where 16 cotton-specialized and one horticulture-viticulture state farms were established.

The policy of developing new and virgin lands implemented in the Uzbek SSR between the 1950s and 1980s was primarily aimed at expanding cotton production and increasing raw material output on an all-Union scale. To accelerate this process, the state leadership mobilized large amounts of financial and labor resources. From an economic standpoint, this policy yielded certain results-new state farms were established, settlements were built, and jobs were created. However, the process was accompanied by a number of serious problems and critical shortcomings. First and foremost, most of the projects intended for land development were carried out hastily and without sufficient scientific justification. For example, because the agronomic condition of the lands designated for irrigation was not adequately studied, soil salinization, waterlogging, and a decline in productivity were observed within a short period of time [4].

In particular, in the newly developed areas irrigated by water drawn from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, water scarcity and insufficient irrigation systems limited the effective use of the land. The principles of environmental sustainability were completely disregarded in the policy of land development. The irrigation and reclamation projects implemented disrupted the natural water balance.

This policy also led to social problems. Large numbers of people were relocated-often forcibly or semi-forcibly-from various regions to serve as labor for the new state farms. Living and working conditions were often unsatisfactory, which led to growing discontent and social inequality among the migrants. In the newly built settlements, the underdevelopment of social infrastructure, along with

the poor quality of healthcare, education, and communal services, negatively affected the standard of living of the population.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, one of the main goals of the new land development policy in Uzbekistan was to promote agricultural growth, improve the population's food supply, and expand the production of export-oriented goods. During this process, the newly reclaimed lands were used not only for cotton cultivation but also for growing vegetable and melon crops. The production of watermelons, melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, carrots, and similar crops was established on these lands. This played an important role not only in meeting the population's needs but also in supplying the domestic market with locally produced goods. In particular, in regions with favorable soil and climatic conditions, melon and vegetable farming developed extensively [5]

In addition, the cultivation of melon and vegetable crops on the newly developed lands increased the economic income of collective and state farms. Part of the produce was directed to local markets, while another portion was distributed through trade to other regions and even to other republics of the USSR.

Although a certain level of growth was observed in the field of vegetable cultivation in the Bukhara region during the period from 1960 to 1969, this development cannot be considered stable, systematic, or comprehensive. In 1960, the region harvested 22.3 thousand tons of vegetables, and by 1969 this figure had reached 49.7 thousand tons. While the total yield almost doubled, this growth remained below the region's potential.

One of the main problems was the slow rate of growth in productivity. For example, in 1960, the yield per hectare was 87 centners, while by 1969 this figure had increased to 138 centners. Although there was some improvement, compared to other regions of the republic, the Bukhara region still showed relatively low results. For instance, in the same year, yields in the Fergana and Namangan regions reached 150-160 centners per hectare.

Although some progress was observed in vegetable cultivation in the Bukhara region, this growth cannot be considered sufficiently effective. The existing agricultural potential was not fully utilized, and productivity indicators remained below the republican average. The main reasons for this included inefficient use of water resources, low levels of agricultural technology, and a shortage of qualified personnel [5].

By 1963, there were 10,544 hectares of virgin land in the Bukhara region, and the issue of their development had remained one of the most pressing problems on the agenda for several years. However, despite many years of effort, the work to bring these lands into agricultural circulation had not yielded significant results.

There were several objective and subjective reasons for this situation, the most important of which was the shortage of water supply.

The head of the Bukhara Regional Irrigation and Reclamation Department, A. Khojamqulov, clearly expressed this problem in his statement. He emphasized that the water reserves necessary for the development of agriculture in the region were decreasing year by year, which significantly limited the possibilities for developing new lands. Even though the construction of the Amu-Bukhara Machine Canal helped improve water supply in certain areas of the region-particularly in the Bukhara and Romitan districts-it still did not provide opportunities for large-scale development of virgin lands [6].

In addition, the territories included in the Karakul Production Administration-particularly the Eshakchi and Gurdush areas, which began receiving water through the Amu-Karakul Canal-also faced numerous problems. Despite the construction of a large canal, the reclamation condition of the lands-such as the degree of salinity, soil salt content, lack of drainage systems, and limited possibilities for mechanical cultivation-did not allow for their full development. As a result, although it was planned to develop 15,000 hectares of land, in reality, only about 5,000-6,000 hectares could be brought under cultivation.

Conclusion. After the Second World War, the policy of developing virgin lands in the Bukhara region had a certain impact not only on the development of agriculture but also on the living standards of the population. On the one hand, the increase in demand for labor during the land reclamation process provided employment for the local population in collective and state farms, which temporarily helped reduce unemployment. For some families, the rise in labor productivity expanded sources of income.

However, alongside these positive aspects, serious problems also emerged. First and foremost, water shortages adversely affected not only agriculture but also the daily life of the population. Due to the insufficient amount of irrigated land, soil salinization, and weak infrastructure, farming and horticulture-the main sources of income for the local people-became less effective [7].

This, in turn, had a negative impact on the standard of living. Moreover, during the process of implementing the planned land development projects, the interests and living conditions of the local population were not sufficiently taken into account. In some cases, people were forcibly relocated from their own lands and resettled in new areas. This led to social discontent and difficulties in living conditions. Thus, although the policy of developing virgin lands created some employment opportunities for the local population, overall it failed to sustainably improve their living standards. At the core of these problems were the shortage of

water resources, poor reclamation conditions of the lands, and flawed planning approaches.

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