

FORCED COLLECTIVE AGRICULTURE IN THE FERGANA VALLEY DURING THE PERIOD BEFORE WORLD WAR II: ECONOMIC CRISIS AND WATER SHORTAGE

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Abstract. As a result of the policy of publicization, the land area of poor and middle-class peasant farms expanded significantly. In particular, in addition to the areas allocated within the framework of land reform, another 871 thousand hectares of arable land were put at the disposal of peasants. Also, along with a large amount of fallow and pasture lands, 80 thousand hectares of newly developed areas were put into circulation. Consequently, by 1940, the total land fund of collective farms amounted to 16 million hectares; of which 2 million hectares were irrigated. For comparison, before the revolution, representatives of this class had only 716 thousand hectares of irrigated land.

Keywords: Communalization, land reform, collective farms, Collectivization, Fergana Valley, Agriculture, Uchkurgan, Savai and Kokumbay massifs, hydraulic structures such as Shohimardonsay and Govasay, Sarysu, Asaka, Yozyavon and Sokh-Isfara, Usman Yusupov's Great Fergana Canal, First Five-Year Plan, irrigation sector, Andijansay and Savai canals, Sarysu collectors and Asaka spillway, Irrigation sector, Lagon Canal, August 1, 1939, Naryn River, December 1939, Honored irrigator of Uzbekistan I. F. Fedodeev, Kirov.

Introduction. During the collectivization process, not only were farms unified, but the problem of land fragmentation inherited from the feudal system was also eliminated. The scale of work on enlarging the land fund can be seen on the example of the Fergana Valley: here, 88 thousand tiny land plots in 20 districts were optimized and formed into 2,658 large areas. As a result, the scattered lands owned by 6,450 collective farms were doubled in size. Later, inter-farm and intra-farm land consolidation measures were put on a scientific and rational basis. The process of socialist reorganization of agriculture was carried out in close connection with the technical modernization of irrigation networks and the implementation of large-scale irrigation projects.

Research methods and materials. During the years of the restoration of the national economy and the first five-year period, huge strides were made in the field of irrigation, and 215 thousand hectares of virgin lands were developed. In particular, water was supplied to new lands in the Uchkurgan, Savai and Kokumbay massifs of the Fergana Valley, the Dalvarzin and Mirzachul steppes of the Syrdarya basin, as well as the Zarafshan and Surkhandarya oases. The construction of the large "First May" dam, which allowed for effective control of the water flow on the Zarafshan River, was one of the important events of the period.

At the same time, such hydraulic structures as Narpay, Isfara, Shohimardonsay and Govasay were reconstructed, and their carrying capacity was increased. Large-scale projects were also implemented in the field of land reclamation: the collector system of Asaka, Yozyavon and Sokh-Isfara, which improved the condition of 200 thousand hectares of land in the Sarysu and Fergana Valley, was put into operation. By the third five-year plan, these processes had risen to the level of a nationwide movement.



The contribution of the Mirishkors of the Fergana Valley to the irrigation annals of Uzbekistan is incomparable. In particular, the Great Fergana Canal named after Usman Yusupov, built with state support in just 45 days and with a length of 270 kilometers, went down in history as one of the largest hydraulic structures of that time. This canal had a carrying capacity of 200 cubic meters of water per second. At the same time, the Northern (160 km) and Southern Fergana (103 km) canals were completed using hashar, as well as large water structures in Tashkent and Karakalpakstan, and the Tashsoqa canal in Khorezm. Many economically stable collective farms, including "Lenin" in Pop, "Moscow" in Jizzakh, were awarded state orders and medals for their high results.¹

In the first five-year period, the priority task in the field of irrigation was to increase the level of water supply of existing irrigation systems. To achieve this goal, measures were taken to interconnect rivers, build control regulators, and technically modernize main canals by sluicing. One of the largest projects of the early 1930s was the Kuva branch, which allowed the water of the Karadarya to be directed to the Isfayramsay and Shohimardonsay basins. Also, in the Tashkent oasis, the waters of the Chirchik River were discharged to the Ahangaron region through the Khan Canal. In order to increase the water capacity of the Shahrikhansay Canal, the Kampirovot hydroelectric complex was built, through which the Andijansay and Savaiy canals were also provided with stable water. In the second five-year period, work continued on improving 204 irrigation systems, as a result of which many swampy areas in the Fergana and Bukhara regions were meliorated. In particular, the commissioning of the Sarysuv collectors and the Asaka landfill put an end to salinization and waterlogging of the lands in Fergana.

As a result of the implemented irrigation measures, strategic opportunities were created for the development of large-scale areas of Central Fergana. In the Bukhara region, special attention was paid to improving the land reclamation situation: in order to eliminate waterlogging and eliminate malaria foci in the region, drainage systems in low-lying areas were radically reconstructed within the framework of the second five-year plan. At the same time, in order to reduce water waste, the level of its absorption into the ground was reduced and large-scale work was carried out to optimize irrigation standards.

Results and discussion. The initiative and expansion of material capabilities of members of advanced collective farms in the Fergana Valley began a new era in the field of irrigation in Uzbekistan, which was called the "people's movement". As a result of this social phenomenon, the concepts of "people's constructions" and "hashar" were formed, which occupied an important place in the history of agriculture. People's constructions are large hydraulic structures built at the expense of the internal resources, labor and financial resources of collective farms. Tens of thousands of voluntary collective farmers directly participated in such mass events, building complex canals, reservoirs and other irrigation facilities in a short period of time. The "people's movement" in the field of irrigation reached a new level during the XVIII Party Congress. In particular, 293.6 thousand cubic meters of earthworks were completed in just 17 days, thanks to the selfless labor of 14 thousand collective farmers, and the Lagon Canal was built. This success was echoed in other regions of the republic, and gave impetus to the construction of new water networks totaling 454 kilometers. The construction of the Great Fergana Canal, which united 160 thousand workers in order to eliminate the water shortage in the rivers of the Fergana Valley, began on August 1, 1939 and was completed in an unprecedentedly short time. The completion of this strategic project, which directed the water of the Naryn River to the arid regions of the

¹ Ўзбекистон КП Марказий Комитети Партия Тарихи Институту ҳузуридаги Ўзбекистон ССР Колхоз Ва Совхозлари Тарихи Жамоатчилик Институту. Ўзбекистон колхоз ва совхозлари тарихи (II китоб) . – Тошкент: “Ўзбекистон” нашриёти, 1969. – 23-б.



valley, in December 1939 became a national holiday and gained great fame throughout the Union.

Many engineers and technicians who worked selflessly on the construction of the canal were awarded high state awards. The work of the initiator and one of the main organizers of this grandiose project, the honored irrigator of Uzbekistan I. F. Fedodeev, deserves special recognition. He went down in history as an outstanding specialist who formed an engineering irrigation system in the Fergana Valley. The experience gained in the construction of the Great Fergana Canal proved the effectiveness of the "people's construction" model. As a result, in 1940-1941, such main canals as South Fergana (2.6 million m³ of earthworks), North Fergana (5 million m³ of earthworks) and Tashsoqa (13 million m³ of earthworks) were built using the hashar method. Also, the main canal in Mirzachul (later named after Kirov) was radically reconstructed.

By the fall of 1940, new canals built using the hashar method began to give noticeable results in the agriculture of the republic. In particular, these large irrigation facilities have made it possible to convert 19 thousand hectares of unused (waste) lands into arable land. At the same time, prospects for the development of large-scale new lands have been identified: a technical basis has been created for the new irrigation of 10 thousand hectares in the Tashkent region, 60 thousand hectares in the Fergana Valley, and 15 thousand hectares in the Khorezm oasis.²

Conclusion. The radical reforms implemented in Uzbekistan's agriculture in the second half of the 1920s and 1930s were a strategic period that completely changed the economy and social image of the republic. This process can be summarized in the following main directions: Kollektivlashtirish siyosati natijasida feodalizmdan meros bo'lib qolgan tarqoq va mayda yer egaligiga barham berildi. As can be seen in the example of the Fergana Valley, the transformation of tens of thousands of small plots into large economic associations (collective farms) laid the foundation for the industrial use of land and the widespread introduction of technology.

The modernization of irrigation systems during the first and second five-year plans served not only to develop new lands, but also to increase the productivity of existing areas. The construction of the Kampirovot hydroelectric complex, the Kuva branch, and various collector systems (Sarysuv, Asaka, etc.) improved the land reclamation and played an important role in eliminating environmental problems such as waterlogging and salinization.

By the end of the 1930s, irrigation construction had taken on the character of a nationwide movement. The construction of the Great Fergana Canal and other large main waterways (North and South Fergana, Tashsoqa) in record short periods was the result of the combination of state funds with the will and labor of the people. This process formed a unique engineering and irrigation school in Uzbekistan (under the leadership of specialists such as I.F. Fedodeev).

By 1940, the area of irrigated land had reached 2 million hectares and hundreds of thousands of hectares of new land had been developed, making Uzbekistan a major cotton-growing and agricultural base in the region. At the same time, the drainage of swamps contributed significantly to the eradication of serious diseases such as malaria in the region and the improvement of living conditions for the population. In short, the irrigation constructions of this period laid the foundation for Uzbekistan's modern water management system. Although

² Ўзбекистон КП Марказий Комитети Партия Тарихи Институту ҳузуридаги Ўзбекистон ССР Колхоз Ва Совхозлари Тарихи Жамоатчилик Институту. Ўзбекистон колхоз ва совхозлари тарихи (II китоб) . – Тошкент: “Ўзбекистон” нашриёти, 1969. – 68-71-б.



these processes took place in difficult political and social conditions, the technical infrastructure created served as the main factor in the development of the republic's agriculture for decades.

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