

PROCESSES OF COLLECTIVE AGRICULTURE IN UZBEKISTAN (1920-1930s)

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Abstract

This article analyzes the processes of agricultural collectivization in Uzbekistan during the 1920–1930s. The study examines the agrarian policy of the Soviet government, the consolidation of individual peasant farms into collective (kolkhoz) and state (sovkhoz) farms, as well as the centralization of agricultural production and changes in the management system. Particular attention is paid to the socio-economic consequences of collectivization, its impact on the lifestyle of the population, the redistribution of labor resources, and production efficiency. The article provides a scientific assessment of the positive and negative aspects of this process.

Kalit soʻzlar: Collectivization, agriculture, kolkhoz, sovkhoz, Uzbekistan, Soviet period, agrarian policy, economy, labor resources, production.

Introduction

The implementation of the policy of collectivization of agriculture in Uzbekistan from late 1927 and early 1928 fundamentally changed the organizational and economic foundations of the sericulture industry. As a result of land and water reform, the cooperatization of peasant farms, and the introduction of a state planning system, centralization in the management of sericulture increased. The distribution of silkworm seed was carried out on a contractual basis, distributed in a fixed volume to cooperatives and individual farms. This system limited private mediation and strengthened the state's dominant position in the market.

In the late 1920s, selection work was expanded. The Central Asian Institute of Sericulture, the Fergana Sericulture Station, and the silkworm seed factories of the “Turkshelk” system carried out work on improving silkworm breeds, creating new breeds, and adapting them to local conditions. Scientists such as E.F. Poyarkov, M.I. Slonim, B.L. Asturov, V.P. Fedosimov, and N.I. Zhirvils actively participated in this process. Professors E.F. Poyarkov and N.F. Bajoviddinov introduced a microscopic method for determining the immunity of silkworm seeds to pebrine disease and compiled the first manual on seed control.

Main part

Gross yield indicators show that the industry has experienced rapid growth: taking 1922 as a base year, an increase of 29% was recorded in 1924, 32% in 1926, and 74% in 1928. In 1928, the cocoon yield reached 60% of the pre-war level. This indicates that the industry is moving from a recovery phase to a phase of industrial growth.

Industrial infrastructure also developed. The silk factory built in Fergana in 1918 was put into operation in 1920 (40 toz), later its capacity was increased to 96 toz, then another 40 toz; by September 1921, the reconstruction was completed. In 1928, new factories were launched in Bukhara, Samarkand, and Margilan.

The adoption of the first five-year plan at the XVI Conference of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) in April 1929 marked the beginning of the rapid introduction of a planned economy system in the USSR. This decision provided for state planning and centralization of all sectors of the economy. As part of this process, on May 26, 1929, the Appeal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan was published, which set the tasks of reorganizing the agricultural sector on the basis of state plans.

In June 1929, the Central Asian Economic Council developed a special program for the development of the sericulture industry. It set out strategic tasks such as strengthening selection work, establishing a high-quality seed (grain) system, expanding the area of mulberry plantations, increasing the volume of cocoon production, and strengthening industrial capacity.[1] These measures created the need to transform sericulture from a traditional industry based on market relations into an institutional system that meets the requirements of a planned economy.

Program decisions adopted at the central level were implemented in the regions through specific organizational mechanisms. In particular, practical measures were taken to systematize sericulture on a cooperative basis and form a production infrastructure in the Kashkadarya district. Protocol No. 4 of December 8, 1929 discussed the issue of organizing a network of sericulture production societies in the district, and their number was set at 13 units. At the same time, the tasks of organizing an additional society in Chirakchi, reviewing the issue of placement in the Beshkent district, and fully implementing the plan for planting mulberry seedlings were assigned[2]. These decisions indicate that they were aimed at the territorial-organizational systematization of sericulture.

Results and Discussion

In 1929, the organizational structure of the silk cooperative was formed on the basis of a three-tier model: associations at the village level, the Reichshelksoyuz at the district level, and the Centrshelksoyuz at the republican level. However, by a resolution of November 1929, this model was revised, and the mezhkishlok societies organized on the basis of cocoonshulikas were designated as the main production link. This change can be assessed as an institutional transformation aimed at further centralizing the industry, direct control of production, and the integration of financial calculations into a single system.

The agreement signed in Samarkand on December 23, 1929, between the Uzbekshelkovodsoyuz and the Uzqurilish Trust, indicates that the policy of industrial reorganization of the silk industry has entered a practical stage. This document stipulates that 895,600 rubles have been allocated for the construction of cocoon drying facilities, warehouses and receiving points[3]. This confirms that sericulture was an important stage in the process of transforming it from an agricultural sector into a planned industry under state control.

Protocol No. 28, adopted in January 1930, and the protocol of January 11, determined measures to organize sericulture on a planned basis and strengthen state control in the Kashkadarya district. The resolutions of the meeting put forward such requirements as preparing cocoons for the cocoon-receiving season, regulating the cocoon market, mandatory labeling of silk products and the withdrawal of unlabeled products from sale[4]. These measures indicate that the state is actively involved in market relations and is aimed at strengthening administrative control mechanisms.

The introduction of the contracting system in 1929–1930 became the main mechanism for linking sericulture to a planned economy. Contracting is a system of compulsory state purchases of agricultural products on the basis of a pre-established contract, which served to limit market relations and centralize product turnover. The protocol of January 11, 1930 stipulated the introduction of a system of mobile cashiers with the participation of the State Bank, Turkshelk, and Silk Cooperative [5]. Contracting work was carried out in 8 districts of the district, and financial settlements were controlled by the state bank[6]. This situation became an institutional expression of financial centralization.

Conclusion

The contracts clearly defined the criteria for accepting cocoons, the procedure for dividing them into grades, and weight standards. For example, it was noted that grade 5 cocoons, with an average weight of 4.77 kg based on 5 boxes, were accepted in accordance with the terms of the contract. This indicates the introduction of a product standardization and an evaluation system based on unified state requirements [7].

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