



The State of Cotton Farming in the Surkhan Oasis During the Recession Years and its Negative Impact on the Socio-Economic Life

1. Yakubova Diloram Tadjievna

Received 14th May 2022,
Accepted 15th Jun 2022,
Online 19th July 2022

¹ Teacher of Denov Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy

Annotation: In the 70s of the XX century, the Soviet state continued to develop cotton cultivation in Surkhandarya. In the ninth five-year period of 1971-1975, the task of increasing cotton cultivation in the region was set. But for this, it was necessary to establish cotton cultivation on newly acquired lands. For this purpose, the main attention was paid to Kyzryiq steppe. Well-known mechanics and experienced leaders were attracted to the state farms established here.

Key words: J. Rustamov, Kolkhoz, Second World War, unemployment, Baltic.

In March 1970, the well-known mechanist Jiyankul Rustamov, who moved from Denov to the newly established Okhunboboev State Farm in the Kyziryiq Dasht, planted cotton on 60 hectares. In 1971, 38.5 centners of cotton was harvested per hectare. Brigadier J. Rustamov himself picks more than 500 tons of cotton with a cotton picker. In 1973, J. Rustamov, the head farmer, mastered 80 hectares of land on the state farm named Kasim Rahimov, and produced 42 centners per hectare. Rustamov himself picked 559 tons of cotton in his car. J. Rustamov continued to master the desert, and in 1974 he and his team mastered 86 hectares of land. They overcame all difficulties and produced 50 quintals per hectare in the year when water was extremely scarce and the weather was unfavorable. Each member of the brigade received an average of 40 tons of cotton. A skilled mechanist picked about 800 tons of cotton this year with the help of a machine and poured it into the threshing floor. J. Rustamov was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor for his service in the development of the desert.

As a result of rapid acquisition of land, sufficient conditions for the establishment of an administrative district were created in the Kyziryiq Desert. In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR dated March 6, 1975, the Lenin Road district (now Kyzryiq) was established in the appropriated desert areas from the newly established state farm called Budyonnyi. Normomin Turopov, Abdusattor Hayitov, A. Antonets, E. Tursunov, Oytoshkhan G'iyosova, Khalil Isaev and others showed examples of dedication in the establishment of the new district. Khurram Tashmirov, Tokhta Haydarov, Muzaffar Umarov, Mamatali Umirov, Normomin Kamalov, Normurod Norqabilov contributed greatly to the development of deserts. During the ninth five-year period, cotton cultivation was rapidly developed. In 1975, the area under cotton cultivation increased to 138,100 hectares. In 1970, this number was 119.3 thousand hectares. In 1971-1975, the region delivered 2112 thousand tons of raw cotton to the state.

Of this, 665.3 thousand tons were thin fiber cotton. Productivity averaged 31.8 centners per hectare. Output of cotton fiber was 670.2 thousand tons. In 1975 alone, 465,000 tons of cotton were harvested in Surkhandarya region, or more than some cotton-growing republics (1,079,000 in Turkmenistan, 836,000 in Tajikistan, 451,000 in Azerbaijan, 202,000 in Kyrgyzstan, 283,000 tons in Kazakhstan), and the yield reached 33.6 centners. In particular, Gagarin district handed over 54.6 thousand tons of cotton fibers, Lenin Road district 43.5 thousand tons, Sherabad district 24.3 thousand tons. In 1975, 30 man-hours were spent on collective farms and 28.4 man-hours on state farms to grow 1 centner of cotton.

Thus, cotton growing became the main industry in the Republic. In 1860-1916, 6 million tons of raw cotton were produced in Uzbekistan, which was an average of 100,000 tons per year. In the years 1924-1973, this figure was 100 million tons, or an average of 2 million tons of cotton per year. In 1972, 138,000 tons of fiber were produced in cotton ginning factories in Surkhandarya region. Thus, the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis has become the main area for growing fine fiber cotton in Uzbekistan. 350-400,000 tons of thin fiber cotton is grown in the oasis every year. The yield in these fields varied between 20-40 quintals per hectare. In 1980, 215,200 tons of fine fiber cotton was grown in the oasis, and 412,200 tons in 1985. In 1990, a total of 381,000 tons of fine fiber cotton was grown in Uzbekistan, 293,300 tons of which fell to the Surkhan oasis. Gross production volume of agriculture in 1985 increased by 140% compared to 1975 and 114% compared to 1980. In terms of money, in 1966-1970, the average was 325.3 million soums to 683.4 million soums in 1985. The total number of tractors involved in agriculture was 5.1 thousand in 1965, 16.3 thousand in 1985, the total number of cotton harvesters was 1121 units in 1965, and 3520 units in 1985. Thanks to the well-established operation of cotton picking machines in the regional fields, the rate of picking in one season reached 56 tons in 1970, 97 tons in 1976, 82 tons in 1970, and 93 tons in 1976 in state farms. Daily harvest in collective farms was 1.4 tons in 1970, 3.7 tons in 1976; in state farms, it was 1.7 and 1.8 tons, respectively.

In terms of percentages, machine harvesting gave the following indicator: machine harvesting in the region was 38% in 1970, 47% in 1975, and 62% in 1980. In this regard, collective farms accounted for 34% in 1970, 41% in 1975, 64% in 1980, and 51, 57, 60% in state farms in the same years.

In order to increase the productivity of collective farms and state farms, from the end of the 1970s, cotton production began to be fully farmed. In 1979, the members of the cotton-growing brigade of A. Nabiev state farm in Gagarin district, headed by Olim Kholmurodov, were the first to work on the basis of a collective agreement. According to the collective agreement, the collective growers sign a contract with the farm at the beginning of the year. First of all, the production and financial plan of the collective was defined.

In addition, the amount of wages (20 percent of which will be kept as a reserve fund until the end of the year), fertilizer, fuel, and seed will be agreed upon for this purpose.

A collective council will be formed in the brigade. The Soviets take over the whole thing. They create a special journal, in which they constantly record the arrival and departure of people to work, the work output. This is definitely taken into account in the distribution of monthly wages according to the limit allocated to the members of the collective. It is important that this method, which is called a non-ranking system, makes the material interest of the members of the collective dependent on the final result of their work.

If the plan is implemented, 20 percent of the withheld salary fund will be given to collective members first. In addition, 70 percent of the surplus income from the plan, as well as an equal amount of the profit obtained through savings, is distributed as a bonus.

As the advantages of the collective contract gradually became known, in 1982 all 42 brigades and units of the state farm switched to this method. A family contract was also introduced. As an experiment, in 1987, 15 hectares of land was allocated to the family unit headed by Begimkul Dostmurodov in the A. Nabiev state farm, and it was assigned to plant beetroot there. The family unit was provided with mineral fertilizers and equipment on time. The family produced 686 tons instead of the planned 470 tons. The plan was fulfilled by 145%. In 1986, only 45 tons of beets were harvested from the same hectare of land. Family members are paid another 20 percent overtime. This is 1545 soums. Also, 70 percent of unplanned income, i.e. 3066 soums, was given as a reward. In general, the family contract has clearly shown its advantage.

In the years after the Second World War, the population of Surkhandarya region grew steadily. In 1959, it was 422,000, in 1970, 662,000, in 1979, 895,000, and in 1981, it was 952,000. There were 210,000 urban residents, 296,100 schoolchildren, 66,900 children of pre-school educational institutions, 4,000 students of higher education, and 10,400 students of secondary special education institutions. In 1985, there were 48 collective farms and 82 state farms in the region, with a total of 167,800 workers. Of the remaining 377,800 people, infants, pensioners, military personnel, teachers of schools, higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, educators in kindergartens, medical workers, builders, irrigators, employees of the party and Soviet offices, employees of the judiciary, internal affairs system, drivers, even if workers of state organizations, employees of communal services, employees of cultural organizations and employees of similar institutions are removed There were 210,000 urban residents, 296,100 schoolchildren, 66,900 children of pre-school educational institutions, 4,000 students of higher education, and 10,400 students of secondary special education institutions. In 1985, there were 48 collective farms and 82 state farms in the region, with a total of 167,800 workers. Of the remaining 377,800 people, infants, pensioners, military personnel, teachers of schools, higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, educators in kindergartens, medical workers, builders, irrigators, employees of the party and Soviet offices, employees of the judiciary, internal affairs system, drivers, even if workers of state organizations, employees of communal services, employees of cultural organizations and employees of similar institutions are removed The difficult demographic situation after the Second World War, the need for labor force, the expansion of cotton plantations forced the Soviet state to encourage birth among the population. Women with many children were given the title of "Heroic Mother" and a number of privileges were assigned to them. In the 1950s and 1970s, with the improvement of medical services in the country, a decrease in the death rate among the population, an increase in life expectancy, an increase in the level of mechanization in agriculture, and an increase in the share of urban residents in the population, births in the western and northern parts of the USSR were not encouraged as before. But the situation in Central Asia was completely different.

More people were needed to pick the cotton on the huge plantations. Therefore, birth was constantly encouraged. As a result of not planning the birth, the problem of unemployment arose in the republic.

First, there were attempts to leave the USSR in the Caucasus, and then in the Baltic region. The collapse of the USSR became clear.

In the conditions of transparency, the management of Surkhandarya region started to work based on the situation. 10 state farms with little land and unprofitable were liquidated. But the mass repressions carried out due to the "cotton case" had done their work. Crisis and depression were felt in all branches of production. In 1987, the plan to distribute meat and milk across the region failed. The utilization of capital funds in capital construction was 100 million soums less than the plan. The capital fund of about 30 million soums was not used. Despite the fact that the cotton yield was 31 centners, half of the districts produced a lower yield per hectare. Especially in Boysun, Sherabad, Zharkurgan, Termiz districts, as well as in 54 cotton farms, the yield was somewhat low. In addition, 11 farms did not

fulfill their cotton production plans. In 1986-1987, the growers of the region earned about 50 million soums from cotton fiber alone. But considering the expenses, this money was not enough. Fiber output was 32% on average in the region and 29% in Lenin Road and Gagarin districts. In 1988, the Gulbahor state farm in Termiz district was the first in the region to implement the cotton production plan. In addition to the plan, 500 tons of cotton were prepared. 90% of the total harvest was harvested by machines. The productivity of 24 cotton picking machines exceeded 120 tons. 100% of the planned cotton was assigned to the first grade. The machine harvest plan is 118% complete. The average yield reached 32 centners.

During this period, the oasis cotton industry became specialized in the cultivation of fine fiber cotton. After all, the hot climate of the Surkhan oasis made it possible to grow a lot of fine fiber cotton. Therefore, conducting scientific research in this field was supported by the Center. New high-yielding varieties created at experimental stations have further advanced this field. As a result, Surkhandarya region took the first place in the republic in terms of supplying fine fiber cotton.

But the cotton monopoly created other serious problems. These include unemployment, food shortages, slow industrial development, and others.

Excessive use of toxic chemicals in agriculture has worsened the ecological situation. Infectious diseases, maternal and child mortality increased. In addition, to fulfill the plan set by the Center, people were sent out to pick cotton in the bitter cold, which damaged their health. Despite this, the Center paid less for the labor of growers. As if that wasn't enough, it imposed an obligation to supply even more cotton. Because they could not implement the plan, our local leaders were forced to write. Without taking local conditions into account by the Union, the fact that the instructions were given in the same format led to the departure of all the jobs in the village. The process of "cotton work" and "Uzbek work" that took place in 1983-1988 caused the worsening of the socio-economic situation in the region. Only I.Karimov's coming to power eases the situation a little. Measures were taken to put an end to the cotton monopoly and eliminate its consequences.

LIST OF REFERENCES USED

1. Narodnoe hozyaystvo Uzbekskoy SSR za 50 let. -S.22. National economy of the Uzbek SSR for 50 years. -S.301.
2. Dzhorakulov B., and others. Agrotechnics for obtaining high yields from thin fiber cotton.-B. 3.
3. Narodnoe hozyaystvo Uzbekskoy SSR za 60 let.–S. 86-87; National economy of the Uzbek SSR in 1985. -S. 92, 94.
4. Narodnoe hozyaystvo Uzbekskoy SSR za 60 let. -S. 91, 145; National economy of the Uzbek SSR in 1985. -S. 85-86.
5. Narodnoe hozyaystvo Uzbekskoy SSR za 60 let. -S. 93.
6. State archive of Surkhandarya region. Fund 507, List 1, Case 76, Sheet 65.
7. "Lenin Banner" newspaper. December 10, 1988.
8. Yaqubova Diloram Tadjievna. (2022). Implementation of the policy of cotton monopoly in the Surkhandarya oasis in 1946-1970 and its consequences. *The Peerian Journal*, 6, 56–60. Retrieved from <https://peerianjournal.com/index.php/tpj/article/view/145>