



## THE SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT IN THE FERGANA REGION DURING THE SOVIET ERA

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| <b>Received:</b> October 4 <sup>th</sup> 2021<br><b>Accepted:</b> November 6 <sup>th</sup> 2021<br><b>Published:</b> December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2021 | This article provides information about the system of agricultural management in the Fergana region during the Soviet era, based on scientific literature. The reforms carried out by the Soviet government in the field of agricultural management and their practical results are also discussed. |
| <b>Keywords:</b> Fergana region, collective farm, management system, Soviet government, Ministry of Agriculture, district                           |   |

### INTRODUCTION

Today, agriculture is one of the most important sectors in our country. As it was stated by our President "Today, our systematic reforms on the way of increasing the income of farmers through the rational use of land and water resources, the rapid introduction of market principles in the relations between agricultural entities, the advanced achievements of science and technology, the cultivation of environmentally friendly and export-oriented products are well known."<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the reform along with recognizing the mistakes of the past, has led to many changes in the industry.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

All regions of the country are leaders in various sectors of agriculture. In particular, in Fergana region, a lot of attention is paid to this area. This is because the Fergana region was the leading producer of cotton in the period of Uzbek SSR. During the Soviet era, 80 percent of the land acquired by the government in the Uzbek SSR was in the Fergana region. Like the Soviet Union, the fate of Fergana's agriculture was determined by the Soviet government. With the end of World War II, the Soviet government sought to strengthen agricultural management policies. Even before the war, cotton was grown in our region. The main purpose was to meet the needs of the center.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this regard, the government has continued its policy of establishing Uzbekistan as a supplier of raw cotton for agriculture. However, the leadership of the Uzbek SSR, which was interested in the integrated development of agriculture, did not neglect other sectors of agriculture (silkworm breeding, animal husbandry), in addition to cotton growing.

Compared to other regions of Uzbekistan, the Fergana Valley, especially the Fergana region, is important for its unique economic potential. Consequently, in the first half of the 50s and 60s of the twentieth century, many organizational reforms were made in the management of agriculture. In particular, since 1957, there was a reorganization of network management on a regional basis. Also, economic councils were established. Initially, the work of the National Economic Councils had a positive effect. That is, the opportunities for specialization and cooperation within economic zones expanded. Logistics also improved. A new system of agricultural management was formed. According to the new system, agricultural management in the Uzbek SSR was carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture. At the same time, most of the production at that time fell on the state farms<sup>2</sup>. For this reason, the Ministry of State Farms was established in the Uzbek SSR. Also the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR (Министерство сельского хозяйства), in cooperation with the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences for the development of agricultural sciences, training of specialists with higher and secondary education, scientific research in institutes paid special attention to raising the work to a higher level. Bodies such as the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources (Союзселхозтехника) also managed agricultural production.

### CONCLUSION

In addition, economic councils were established in the district's agricultural departments. These councils included the secretary of the district party committee (secretary of the committee), the head of the agricultural

<sup>1</sup> Mirziyoyev Sh. M. To agricultural workers of Uzbekistan Mirziyoyev Sh. M. // People's speech, December 7, 2019

<sup>2</sup> Sovхоз - (Russian: abbreviation of the Soviet economic union) The largest state farm in the former USSR. Annotated dictionary of the Uzbek language. Volume III - T.: National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, 2007. - 542 pages

department, the head of the regional association " Узсельхозтехника ", the head of the irrigation system department, the chairmen of the collective farms, as well as leading specialists and production leaders

The agricultural structure of the district was as follows:

1. Head of the Department, Deputy Chairman of the District Executive Committee
2. Deputy Head of the Department for Organizational Affairs
3. Training Engineer
4. Deputy Head of Department, Chief Agronomist
5. Group of Chief Earth Experts
6. Department of organizational work of the collective farm
7. Group of Chief Livestock Specialists
8. A team of leading experts in mechanization and irrigation

The group of chief experts mentioned above included several agricultural professionals. For example, a group of chief specialists in land affairs - a senior agronomist, a senior land surveyor, a senior soil scientist

The group of leading specialists in animal husbandry included the chief technician, the chief veterinarian, and the senior zootechnician. Group of Chief Specialists in Mechanization and Irrigation - Chief Mechanical Engineer, Chief Irrigation Engineer, Senior Irrigation Engineer, etc.

The organizational department of the collective farm<sup>3</sup> consisted of the head of the department, a senior economist on agricultural regulations, a senior economist on planning, and a senior economist on wages. Depending on the specialization of the district, the chief agronomist or chief zootechnician was appointed as the deputy head of the department. Corporate governance was based on the principles of centralized leadership, which fully took into account the economic independence and initiative of the whole team. The work in the state farms was carried out in accordance with the Regulations on Socialist State Enterprises, and in the collective farms in accordance with the Model Charter of the collective farm. The state farm was headed by a director. He was appointed to this position by the decision of higher organizations. The Deputy Director assisted. The chief agronomist (chief zootechnician) was, according to the regulations, his first deputy. He specialized in manufacturing techniques and technology. The deputy chief director was also the chief economist of the state farms. He called for the coordination of the farm's economy, regular analysis of its activities and the search for ways to increase production efficiency. In the Fergana region, agriculture was managed in the same way. As the province specialized mainly in cotton, a chief agronomist was appointed deputy head of the department. One of the largest cotton-growing collective farms in the Fergana region was the Karl Marx collective farm. Established in the Yazyovan massif, the collective farm was a model for the Fergana Valley to pick cotton by truck. "In 1963, the collective farm produced 26.3 quintals of cotton per hectare, a total of 2,600 tons."<sup>4</sup>

The management system in the regional collective farms was different. The general meeting of the members of the collective farm was the supreme body. According to the model charter, this meeting was convened at least four times a year. All decisions were made by a majority vote. The general meeting adopted the charter of the collective farm, made changes and additions to it. The issues of admission to the collective farm and expulsion from the collective farm were decided by the general meeting, which considered production, financial and annual reports, as well as other important issues related to economic activity. Every three years the general meeting elected the board of the collective farm, the chairman of the collective farm, and the collective farm commission. The chairman of the collective farm was also the chairman of the general meeting. "In 1951, a total of 274 agronomists (there were 1,250 agronomists in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture), 165 zootechnicians and 613 veterinarians worked on 2,641 collective farms in Uzbekistan."<sup>5</sup>

In Fergana, as in other regions of Uzbekistan, the second stage of production was the collective farm board - the brigade. The main form of labor organization in the collective farms of the republic was the tractor-field brigade. According to the model charter, the collective farm could combine part of its funds with the funds of the local council of workers' deputies, state farms and other enterprises, and spent it on production and cultural facilities. "The adoption of the new collective farm charter in November 1969 at the Third All-Union Congress of Collective Farmers was a new important stage in the development of collective farm democracy. The process of adopting the charter itself was very democratic. For more than half a year, the draft charter was discussed in the collective farms, district meetings of collective farmers, regional and district conferences, republican congresses. In addition, many of the critical comments and suggestions made in the thousands of letters sent to the Party Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and to the editors of newspapers and magazines were taken into account during the final revision of the text<sup>6</sup>. In general, the discussion of the draft charter was attended by tens of millions of people, mostly from all collective farms of the country. The charter was a major step in the development of democracy and the expansion of the rights of the collective farms and the farm workers.

<sup>3</sup> Kolhoz - (Russian abbreviation Коллективное хозяйство) collective farm. Annotated dictionary of the Uzbek language. Volume II - T.: National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, 2006. - 390 pages

<sup>4</sup> Yusupov O. In the lands of Central Fergana.// Agriculture of Uzbekistan. - T.: Publishing House of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, 1966. №5. - 30 pages.

<sup>5</sup> History of the Uzbek SSR. Fourth Edition. - T, 1971. - 250 pages.

<sup>6</sup> Aminova R. Agrarian policy of the Soviet government in Uzbekistan and its falsifiers. - T.: Uzbekistan, 1972. - 135 pages.

In addition, in order to facilitate the work of the collective farm, the norm of wages of collective farm workers was established not only in Fergana, but throughout the country. Cotton picking by hand will be paid in the third category. Harvesters were paid 2 soums 46 tiyin for collective farms that could afford to pay wages using the new tariff rates, and 2 soums 15 tiyin for collective farms that did not have such an opportunity. For every kilogram of cotton harvested when the daily norm was 60 kilograms, the picker was paid 4.1 tiyins in the first case and 3.6 tiyins in the second case. Outdoor drying of cotton was paid for in the second category. Harvesting of spun and spilled cotton is paid at the same rate as picking of cotton, category III. In order to speed up the harvest and prevent losses, it was recommended to set a 15 percent surcharge during the 45-day intensive harvest season.

As a result of this system of government, the number of collective farms in the region increased. As a result, small collective farms had to be replaced by larger ones. The increase in the number of small collective farms had a negative impact on the development of agricultural production. The small collective farms did not make effective use of land, machinery, financial resources, and the advantages of science and technology. All this required the enlargement of the collective farms. "The collective farms were enlarged on the basis of the decisions of the VI Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan in August 1950. In August 1950, instead of 1,777 small collective farms in the Uzbek SSR, 752 large collective farms were established. " As the collective farms grew, so did the administrative apparatus and the cost of maintaining it. "In 1950-1951, 16,423 people were fired from the administrative apparatus of the collective farms of the Uzbek SSR, saving 3,755,000 working days." In order to revive agriculture on the collective farms, some attention was paid to other sectors. During this period, a difficult situation arose in the livestock of the republic. During the war years, the number of livestock decreased by more than 1 million. Non-herding collective farms were helped to create community livestock. Although the number of cows, sheep and goats has increased, it did not reach pre-war levels. There were no significant changes in the livestock sector in Fergana. Livestock production remained unsatisfactory. The main reasons for this were the lack of material and technical resources in animal husbandry, the lack of work to improve the breed of livestock, the lack of interest of farmers in their own labor, and others.

By the 1960s, the Soviet government had expanded its leadership in agriculture. The issue was considered at the March 1965 Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU. The historical significance of the plenum is that it took a fundamentally new approach to the management of agriculture and its role in the communist form. Problems related to the improvement of agricultural production were analyzed in detail in a timely manner in the Plenum, and the existing shortcomings were identified and measures were taken to eliminate them. The rapid development of agriculture, the strengthening of the economy and the material and technical base of the collective and state farms began. As a result, the situation of collective and state farms in Fergana significantly improved. In recent years, advances in science and technology have also made it easier to manage agriculture.

In conclusion, the cultivation of only raw cotton in Soviet-era agriculture led to a shortage of other products in the industry. Later, during the period of independence, the management of agriculture changed radically. An important aspect of the development of agriculture in Uzbekistan in 1989-1990 was the relative diversification of economic forms, the desire to change the outdated production relations in the public and Soviet sectors of the economy. Consequently, the first pioneers of the farming movement appeared.

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