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“QASHQADARYO VOHASIDA SUV RESURSLARINING CHEKLANGANLIGI VA SUG‘ORISHNI RIVOJLANTIRISHNING MURAKKAB JIHATLARI TARIXI”

Jabbarova Iqbol Xo‘jamuratovna

Qarshi davlat universiteti, doktoranti (PhD), dotsent

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqola Ikkinchi jahon urushidan keyingi davrda (1946–1950) Qashqadaryo viloyatida irrigatsiya va paxtachilikning rivojlanishini tahlil qiladi. Urush yillarida mintaqada faqat mavjud suv inshootlariga kichik ta‘mirlash va tozalash ishlari olib borilganligi ta‘kidlanadi. Biroq urush tugagandan so‘ng, Sovet hukumati paxtachilikni qayta tiklashga ustuvor ahamiyat berdi. SSSR Xalq Komissarlari Sovetining 1946-yil 2-fevraldagi muhim qarori bilan Qashqadaryo va Zarafshon daryolari havzalarida suv ta‘minotini yaxshilash hamda yangi yerlar o‘zlashtirish maqsadida Amudaryo suvlaridan foydalanish imkoniyatlarini o‘rganuvchi maxsus komissiya tuzildi. Annotatsiya urush davridagi e‘tiborsizlikdan urushdan keyingi markazlashtirilgan rejalashtirishga o‘tishni jamlab, paxta yetishtirishni ko‘paytirish uchun irrigatsiyani kengaytirishning strategik ahamiyatini ta‘kidlaydi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Ikkinchi jahon urushi, Qashqadaryo viloyati, irrigatsiya, paxtachilik, Sovet hukumati, Xalq Komissarlari Soveti, Amudaryo, suv ta‘minoti, yer o‘zlashtirish, 1946–1950, urushdan keyingi tiklash.

“ИСТОРИЯ ОГРАНИЧЕННОСТИ ВОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И СЛОЖНЫХ АСПЕКТОВ РАЗВИТИЯ ИРРИГАЦИИ В КАШКАДАРЬИНСКОМ ОАЗИСЕ”

Жаббарова Икбол Хожамуратовна

Каршинский государственный университет, докторант (PhD), доцент

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается развитие ирригации и хлопководства в Кашкадарьинской области Узбекистана в послевоенный период (1946–1950 гг.). Отмечается, что в годы войны в регионе проводились лишь незначительные ремонтные и очистные работы существующих водных сооружений. Однако сразу после войны Советское правительство уделило приоритетное внимание восстановлению хлопководства. Ключевым решением Совета Народных Комиссаров СССР от 2 февраля 1946 года была создана специальная комиссия для изучения возможности использования вод Амударьи с целью улучшения водоснабжения бассейнов рек Кашкадарья и Зарафшана, а также освоения новых земель. В аннотации обобщается переход от военной запущенности к послевоенному централизованному планированию, подчеркивается стратегическое значение расширения ирригации для увеличения производства хлопка.

Ключевые слова: Вторая мировая война, Кашкадарьинская область, ирригация, хлопководство, Советское правительство, Совет Народных Комиссаров, река Амударья, водоснабжение, освоение земель, 1946–1950 гг., послевоенное восстановление.

“THE HISTORY OF WATER SCARCITY AND COMPLEXITIES OF IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE KASHKADARYA OASIS”

Jabbarova Iqbol Khojamuratovna

Karshi State University, Doctoral Student (PhD), Associate Professor

Abstract

This article examines the development of irrigation and cotton farming in the Kashkadarya region of Uzbekistan during the post-World War II period (1946-1950). It highlights

that during the war years, only minor maintenance and cleaning of existing water structures were carried out in the region. However, immediately after the war, the Soviet government prioritized the restoration of cotton agriculture. A key decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on February 2, 1946, established a special commission to study the feasibility of using Amu Darya waters to improve water supply in the Kashkadarya and Zarafshan river basins and to develop new lands. The annotation summarizes the shift from wartime neglect to post-war centralized planning, emphasizing the strategic importance of irrigation expansion for boosting cotton production.

Keywords: Second World War, Kashkadarya region, irrigation, cotton farming, Soviet government, Council of People's Commissars, Amu Darya River, water supply, land development, 1946-1950, post-war restoration.

The post-war period (1945–1950) was a decisive stage in the restoration and further development of the Soviet economy, particularly in the agricultural sector of the Uzbek SSR. During the Second World War, large-scale irrigation projects in regions such as Kashkadarya were effectively suspended; only the repair, cleaning, and maintenance of existing hydraulic structures continued. After the war, however, the Soviet state, having suffered severe human and material losses, urgently prioritized the revival of cotton production, which remained a strategic branch of the national economy.

A major step in this direction was the decision adopted by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on 2 February 1946, entitled “**On the Plan and Measures for the Restoration and Further Elevation of Cotton Farming in Uzbekistan for the Period 1946–1950**” [1]. This resolution provided for the establishment of a special commission to examine proposals from the Uzbek SSR concerning the improvement of irrigation in the Kashkadarya and Zarafshan river basins through the possible use of Amu Darya waters. Thus, the reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure in Kashkadarya became an integral part of the broader state strategy to restore and expand cotton cultivation.

On 14–15 February 1946, the 13th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan [2] specified the practical tasks arising from the government's decision. The Plenum declared 1946 to be a turning point in the restoration of cotton production and emphasized the necessity of fulfilling and surpassing planned targets. Shortly thereafter, on 18 March 1946, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the Law on the Fourth Five-Year Plan for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy for 1946–1950 [3]. In its agricultural section, the law stressed the need to exceed pre-war production levels in all branches of agriculture and to ensure the revival of the war-damaged economy [4].

Between 1946 and 1950, the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Soviet government adopted a series of important resolutions aimed at raising cotton production, improving irrigation and land reclamation, and strengthening the system of water use and hydraulic management in Uzbekistan [5]. Particular attention was paid to improving the reclamation condition of irrigated lands, preventing salinization and waterlogging, and ensuring the rational use of arable land through effective irrigation systems. In this regard, republican and regional authorities were instructed to ensure the timely cleaning of irrigation canals, organize crop irrigation in accordance with agrotechnical requirements, establish differentiated irrigation norms based on soil and climatic conditions, and exercise stricter control over water distribution. These measures were reflected in the decree of 9 March 1946, “**On the State Plan for the Development of Agriculture for 1946**” [6].

At the same time, other important normative acts shaped the development of post-war agriculture. Among them were the decree of 19 September 1946, “**On Measures to Eliminate Violations of the Agricultural Artel Charter**” [7], the decree of 30 May 1950, “**On the Consolidation of Small Collective Farms and the Tasks of Party Organizations in This Regard**” [8], and the decree of 17 August 1950, “**On the Transition to a New Irrigation System**

for More Complete Use of Irrigated Lands and Improvement of Agricultural Mechanization” [9]. Together, these documents marked a new phase in both the social organization of collective farms and the modernization of irrigated agriculture.

At the 10th regional Plenum of 26 February 1946, the implementation of the decisions of the 13th Plenum of the Central Committee and the resolutions of the USSR Council of People's Commissars on restoring cotton farming in Uzbekistan were discussed [10]. Later that year, in September 1946, the Executive Committee of the Kashkadarya Regional Soviet summarized the inventory results for irrigated lands in the region. The total irrigated area amounted to 243,070 hectares, including 180,461 hectares of conditionally irrigated land. Crops were sown on 219,564 hectares, or 91.4% of the total, yet only 100,871 hectares actually received irrigation water. This meant that merely 45% of all sown areas on irrigated and conditionally irrigated land were fully supplied with water, revealing the seriousness of the water deficit.

Faced with these difficulties, the regional party committee and executive authorities concentrated their efforts on increasing water resources. A report of the regional party committee dated 22 January 1946 [11], concerning the implementation of the CPSU decree of 19 September 1945, **“On Measures to Raise Agriculture in the Kashkadarya Region,”** noted that preliminary design and survey work had already begun for the future construction of the Kelif and Zarafshan canals. This project was portrayed as the realization of the long-standing dream of Kashkadarya peasants to irrigate vast tracts of fertile land with the waters of the Amu Darya.

In 1945, survey work had begun along the future right-bank Karshi Canal route, and by early 1946, 75 of the projected 140 kilometers had been studied. At the same time, reconstruction work continued on the Rudaksoy Reservoir, aimed at increasing its storage capacity. Despite the near-total absence of machinery, major progress was made in the cleaning and maintenance of irrigation systems. Through socialist competition and “shock work,” the plan for autumn and spring canal cleaning was fulfilled by 112%, drainage cleaning by 143.3%, and flood-control works by 165% [12].

By 1946, workers in Kashkadarya had also constructed 86.3 km of inter-collective-farm connecting canals, installed 188 hydroposts, and eliminated 155 outdated alignments. These measures improved local irrigation conditions, but they did not eliminate the region's chronic water shortage. As a further step, in September 1949 the Bureau of the Kashkadarya Regional Party Committee resolved to enlarge the capacities of several reservoirs: Rudaksoy by 18 million cubic meters, Kamashi by 9 million cubic meters, and Kalkama by 50 million cubic meters [13].

To increase the Rudaksoy Reservoir alone, it was necessary to complete 56,113 cubic meters of earthworks, 85 cubic meters of concrete and reinforced concrete works, and 8,868 square meters of stone reinforcement. This required the daily work of 840 people, 16 machines, 6 tractors, 18 tractor trailers, and 6 land levellers [14]. At the Kamashi Reservoir, earthworks reached 219,571 cubic meters, while stone and reinforced concrete works amounted to 10,605 and 532 cubic meters respectively. The total estimated cost of the two reservoirs was 14.565 million rubles. Within a short period, the Rudaksoy Reservoir was successfully expanded, and the Small Kamashi Reservoir was completed. These projects somewhat alleviated the water shortage in the Kamashi zone, particularly in Kasan and Beshkent districts.

At the republican level, the pressure to expand cotton production remained intense. By 1950, Uzbekistan was expected to produce 2.139 million tons of cotton, which was 54% above the 1940 pre-war level and 2.5 times higher than in 1945 [15]. Under such pressure, irrigation reform acquired even greater urgency. This culminated in the important decree of the Council of Ministers of the USSR of 17 August 1950, **“On the Transition to a New Irrigation System for More Complete Use of Irrigated Lands and Improvement and Mechanization of Agricultural Work”** [16].

The decree sharply criticized the existing dense network of permanent irrigation canals on small irrigated tracts. According to the Soviet government, this system produced several serious

shortcomings:

- a) between 4% and 12% of irrigated land remained unused because of the canal layout;
- b) 3% to 5% of annual harvests were lost due to crop damage caused by agricultural machinery turning on narrow plots;
- c) the use of modern agricultural machinery for labor-intensive operations, especially in cotton cultivation, was severely hindered;
- d) extensive canal networks increased the burden of maintenance, raised water losses through filtration, and contributed to rising groundwater levels and waterlogging;
- e) the system also encouraged the spread of weeds and crop pests.

Thus, the irrigation policy pursued in Kashkadarya during the first post-war five-year plan had a dual character. On the one hand, there were clear achievements: irrigation and drainage systems were cleaned and repaired, reservoirs such as Rudaksoy and Kamashi were enlarged, and preparatory work began on ambitious new canals. These measures did help mitigate the region's acute water shortage. On the other hand, the inherited system of small, permanent irrigation canals proved fundamentally inefficient. It wasted land, complicated mechanization, and contributed to waterlogging and declining reclamation conditions.

In summary, the years 1946–1950 in Kashkadarya were marked by determined but uneven efforts to restore and expand irrigated agriculture under strict centralized control. The decisions of the February 1946 Plenum, the Fourth Five-Year Plan, and later decrees created a coherent state strategy aimed at surpassing pre-war cotton production through irrigation development. While notable operational successes were achieved in canal cleaning, reservoir expansion, and preliminary survey work, the period also revealed the structural weaknesses of the existing irrigation model. The decree of 17 August 1950 therefore marked not simply another administrative measure, but a turning point in Soviet irrigation policy. It signaled the need for a radical technological transformation of irrigated agriculture, paving the way for large-scale mechanization and re-engineering in the decades that followed.

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