



CENTRALIZATION OF UZBEKISTAN AGRICULTURE IN THE SOVIET PERIOD (1920–1930)

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Abstract

This article analyzes the processes of agricultural centralization in Uzbekistan during the Soviet period (1920–1930). The study examines the agrarian policy of the Soviet government aimed at centralizing production, establishing state control, and reorganizing agricultural sectors. Particular attention is paid to the impact of centralization policy on peasant farms, production efficiency, and the distribution of labor resources. The article also evaluates the economic and social consequences of this process, as well as its positive and negative aspects.

Keywords: Centralization, agriculture, Uzbekistan, Soviet period, agrarian policy, state control, production, economy, labor resources, collectivization.

Introduction

The minutes of the meeting held at the Kashkadarya district executive committee on June 25, 1930 reflect the practical situation of cocoon contracting and cocoon preparation in the district. According to the document, the plan for the distribution of cocoons and cocoon contracting in the district was fulfilled by 87.6 percent. In some districts, the indicators differed, for example, in Koson and Tangiharam districts the plan was fulfilled in excess of the plan, while in Shahrisabz, Beshkent and Yakkabog districts the plan indicators were lower. This situation indicates that the production potential and organizational capabilities within the district are not the same.



The overall plan for cocoon production was set at 433,125 kg, and in fact 354,745 kg of product was produced, which is 81.9 percent of the plan. The level of fulfillment of the contracted volume was 92.76 percent. This indicates that the level of fulfillment of contractual obligations was higher than the overall plan.

Main Part

The meeting minutes criticized the activities of some Turkshelk employees in the field as the reasons for the shortcomings in the implementation of the plan. In particular, the weak staffing, lack of initiative and organization, and the ineffective functioning of control mechanisms were noted. This situation was assessed as one of the important factors behind the lag in the implementation of the plan.

Thus, in the case of the Kashkadarya district in 1929–1930, a three-stage process is observed in the sericulture sector:

first, institutional centralization based on central decisions;

second, strengthening of economic dependence through contracting and bank control;

third, expansion of social control mechanisms through mass mobilization campaigns[1].

However, the incomplete formation of infrastructure, the lack of qualified personnel, and the preservation of private economic elements created an imbalance between central planning and local capabilities. As a result, the process of adapting sericulture to planned economic models was manifested as a complex and contradictory transformation process, accompanied by both centralization and organizational difficulties.

In the 1930s, a policy of widespread use of women's labor in the silk industry was implemented in Uzbekistan. In order to provide the industry with qualified personnel, special women's courses were organized to train silk instructors. In 1930, 32 women successfully completed these courses[2].

At the same time, the Tashkent Sericulture Technical School also focused on training representatives of local ethnic groups, and two Karakalpak girls studied at this educational institution. This was a practical expression of the state policy aimed at expanding the professional active participation of women in the silk industry and training national personnel.



The following volumes of prepared cocoons were scheduled to be delivered to the factories of the Turkshelk silk cooperative to provide raw materials: Uzbekistan - 908 tons, Turkmenistan - 137 tons, Kyrgyz ASSR - 173 tons. Of the total volume of 1,218 tons, Uzbekistan accounted for about 75 percent. This indicates that the republic occupies a leading position in the raw material base of silk production.

Result and discussion

"Turkshelk" acted as a central entity regulating the distribution of grenadier and its financial and economic relations. The prices of grenadier were strictly fixed, and the difference between the wholesale warehouse price for a 5-gram box and the price at the distribution point was determined taking into account transportation and organizational costs. Breeding (tribal) grenadier was provided free of charge to certain categories of wormers based on special lists. At the same time, a certain part of the proceeds from each box was directed to cover the organizational costs of the cooperative.

The prices set for industrial granulated sugar were fixed as fixed price tags, and sales above these prices were prohibited. This indicates the complete control of the state over pricing policy and the limitations of market mechanisms. Each box was required to display the official price, and granulated sugar could not be released into circulation without the approval of the control commission.

Responsibility for the storage and safety of the granate was assigned to Turkshelk. The specified period — from April 20 to April 30 (including 5 grace days) — was set as the last date for accepting the granate. After this period, responsibility for storage and value passed to the cooperative. This procedure served to clearly delimit material liability.

The task of establishing special warehouses for storing silk in Samarkand, Khorezm, Fergana, Bukhara and other districts has also been set. This is seen as a measure to expand the sericulture infrastructure regionally and adapt it to the requirements of a planned economy.

The system of distribution of sorghum was implemented on a contractual basis. Industrial sorghum was provided by collective farms, state farms and artels in the form of interest-free advances, which were later repaid through the delivery of



cocoons. This mechanism indicates that the sericulture industry was fully integrated into the planned distribution system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this document clearly demonstrates that state control, centralized distribution, a strict pricing policy, and a contracting mechanism were the dominant factors in the silk industry in 1929–1930. The system of silk production and distribution was based not on market relations, but on administrative-planned management, and was an important component of the process of adapting silk production to the requirements of a socialist economy.

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