

## THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL FERGHANA IRRIGATION (1950-1991)

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## MARKAZIY FARG'ONA IRRIGATSIYASI TARIXI (1950-1991-yillar)

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## ИСТОРИЯ ИРРИГАЦИИ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ ФЕРГАНЫ (1950-1991 гг)

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**Abstract:** The article describes, using primary sources, the processes of development and irrigation of virgin lands in Central Ferghana, as well as the formation of districts and state farms on these lands based on the cotton monopoly policy of the Soviet government, increasing the delivery of cotton to the Center and their negative consequences. In addition, it is chronologically established that from year to year capital funds are allocated from the state budget and indivisible funds of collective farms for the development of new lands in the valley.

**Key words:** Central Ferghana, virgin lands, irrigation, state farm, Soviet government, cotton monoculture, agriculture, canal, melioration, "Ferganavodstroy".

**Annotatsiya:** Maqolada Markaziy Farg'ona qo'riq, bo'z erlarining o'zlashtirilishi, sug'orilishi jarayonlari, shuningdek, sovet hokimiyatining paxta yakkahokimligi siyosati ta'sirida bu yerda paxtachilikka ixtisoslashgan tuman va sovxozlarning tashkil qilinishi hamda markazga paxta yetishtirib berishning ortib borishi va uning salbiy oqibatlarini birlamchi manbalar yordamida tahlil qilingan. Bundan tashqari, vodiydagi yangi yerlarni o'zlashtirish tadbirlariga davlat byudjeti va kolxozlarning bo'linmas jamg'armasidan kapital mablag'lar ajratishning yildan yilga ortib borganligi xronologik tarzda bayon qilingan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Markaziy Farg'ona, qo'riq yerlar, sug'orish, sovxoz, sovet hukumati, paxta yakkahokimligi, qishloq xo'jaligi, kanal, melioratsiya, "Ferganavodstroy".

**Аннотация:** В статье описывается с помощью первичных источников процессы освоения и орошения целинных земель в Центральной Фергане, также на данных землях образование районов и совхозов на основе политики хлопковой монополии советского правительства, увеличения доставки хлопка в Центр и их отрицательные последствия. Кроме того, хронологически установлено, что из года в год выделяются капитальные средства из государственного бюджета и неделимые фонда колхозов на освоение новых земель в долине.

**Ключевые слова:** Центральная Фергана, целинные земли, ирригация, совхоз, советское правительство, монокультура хлопка, сельское хозяйство, канал, мелиорация, "Ферганаводстрой".

**INTRODUCTION.** After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained national independence, special attention was paid to the issue of objective and scientific study of the history of irrigation and land reclamation works. In particular, in the Address of the President of the

Republic of Uzbekistan to the Oliy Majlis on January 24, 2020, a number of urgent tasks were identified, including bringing the development of water management to a new level, the widespread introduction of economical irrigation technologies in agriculture, and the automation

of the system for controlling and accounting water resources. This Address stated the following: "In 2020, we will introduce water-saving technologies on 44 thousand hectares of land, or almost 4 times more than last year. For this, a subsidy of 300 billion soums will be allocated from the state budget. It is also necessary to automate the processes of managing water management facilities, the system for controlling and accounting water. These issues should be reflected in the Concept for the Development of Water Management..."[21.P.34], such important tasks as therefore, the study of the history of irrigation and exploitation was considered important in all periods.

**RESEARCH METHODS.** This issue was studied in accordance with the principle of historicity. The research used methods such as scientific, historic, comparative analysis, problem-periodic, objective, structural-systemic analysis, and oral history.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.** The Soviet government adopted numerous decisions on measures to develop new lands in the republic and the further development of the irrigation system. In accordance with the resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR of November 16, 1952, work was considered on irrigating 65,000 hectares of new and protected lands in Central Ferghana [1.P.31]. Including 30,000 hectares in the Yazyavan and Kyzyl Tigin steppes; 6,000 hectares along the Ulugnor canal system; 14,000 hectares along the Akhunboboev canal system; 15,000 hectares of protected and abandoned lands in Ferghana, Andizhan and Namangan regions. Since the fifth five-year plan (1951-1955), the development of protected lands in Central Ferghana began [7.P.3]. An appeal was received to involve the youth of the republic in the implementation of this measure. Because only in 1954-1958, 600 thousand ha were to be developed in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In response to the appeal, 1,700 young people came to develop the lands of the Central Ferghana reserve in 1954[8. P.35].

The resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers and the CPSU Central Committee "On the further development of cotton growing in the Uzbek SSR in 1954-1958"[3] of February 9, 1954 provided for the development and irrigation of 142 thousand ha of land in the Ferghana Valley, including 116 thousand ha in Central Ferghana. In particular, in the Boz district, 2,803 ha of land were developed from 1950 to 1954, while 2,960 ha of new land were developed in 1953-1958 [22]. The total area of Central Ferghana is 532.4 thousand

hectares, including a net area of 363.7 thousand hectares, of which 190.5 thousand hectares were developed by January 1, 1953 [26.P.28]. The Inter-Kolkhoz Council recognized that from 1953 to 1956 the "Ferghanavodstroy" trust carried out a significant amount of work on the development of reserve and waste lands in Central Ferghana [7.P.5].

According to the resolution of the CPSU of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR "On measures for the expansion of irrigated lands and the further development of water management in the Uzbek SSR" dated October 20, 1953, the increase in irrigated areas in Namangan region in 1958 amounted to 38.0 thousand hectares compared to 1952. The growth of these areas in the Central Ferghana lands amounted to 28.0 thousand hectares, and during this period in 1953-1955, 25.0 thousand hectares should have been ready for sowing. In Central Ferghana, the total area of reserve and fallow lands subject to development from January 1, 1953 amounted to 173.2 thousand hectares, including 89.6 thousand hectares in the Ferghana region, and 83.6 hectares in the Andizhan region [13]. During 1953-1955, reserve lands in the Gulbagh state farm amounted to 1.6 thousand hectares, new lands amounted to 6.3 thousand hectares, and new lands in the Damkul new irrigation array amounted to 3.5 thousand hectares. Up to 8-10 centers of cotton were harvested from one hectare of land in collective farms established on developed lands) [14].

According to the results of the work planned to be carried out by construction organizations according to the 1955 plan, not a single object was completed and put into operation. Irrigation and reclamation preparation of new lands was carried out on an area of 50,669 hectares, including 21,092 hectares in the Ferghana region, 13,862 hectares in the Andizhan region, and 15,672 hectares in the Namangan region. 27,332 hectares of land were considered ready for irrigation and reclamation, of which 17,592 hectares were reserved lands [1.P.2]. In 1961, payments under the plan amounted to 4,346 thousand rubles, and by November 11 of this year, collective farms had contributed 1,825 thousand rubles, or 42% [25]. In 1953-1973, due to the capital invested in the development and irrigation of new lands in the Ferghana Valley, the area sown with cotton increased by 9.2%, this indicator amounted to 24.9% in productivity and 42.8% in gross yield [15.P.36].

In accordance with the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR of February 26, 1957, on March 18 of this

year, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Uzbek SSR issued an order “On strengthening the irrigation and development of the lands of Central Ferghana” [2]. It was noted at the meeting that the scheme for irrigation and economic development of new lands occupied 173,200 hectares, of which 36,400 hectares were in Andizhan region, 49,700 hectares in Namangan region, and 87,100 hectares in Ferghana region [10].

On March 18, 1958, the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution “On the development of new and reserved (waste) lands for the 1958 harvest”. The Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR noted that the development of new and reserved lands for the 1958 harvest was being carried out in the regions of the republic and the Karakalpak ASSR in an unsatisfactory manner, in accordance with the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan of September 23, 1957. As of March 10, 1958, only 25 thousand hectares of irrigation and reclamation areas had been prepared, and 17.2 thousand hectares of the planned 29 thousand hectares had been developed [8].

On April 21, 1958, the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution “On strengthening work on irrigation and development of new and reserved lands in Central Ferghana” [15.P.95]. As of January 1, 1959, 377,826,000 rubles of capital funds were prepared for the operation of all Central Ferghana facilities, of which only 172,644,640 rubles were allocated for operation [4]. On January 23 of this year, the Central Committee of the CPSU of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution “On approval of the program of construction work on irrigation and development of the lands of Central Ferghana in 1959”. In accordance with this established plan, the increase in the area of irrigated land in the Central Ferghana massif was planned at 13,000 hectares, and in practice it was 10,230 hectares, including 7,228 hectares for sowing in 1959 [24.P.232]. On August 3, 1959, the Central Committee of the CPSU of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution “On irrigation and development of reserve and fallow lands in Central Ferghana in 1959-1965” [9.P.48]. On the basis of this resolution, large-scale work was carried out to further increase the water supply of the Central Ferghana regions and improve the land reclamation condition. “More than 36 thousand hectares of fallow and neglected wasteland were brought into agricultural circulation, more than 250 km of roads were

built, and 22 collective farm settlements were established”[16].

On November 9 of this year, in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution, the Andizhan regional agricultural department issued an order “On irrigation and development of reserve and fallow lands in Central Ferghana in 1959-1965”[5], and the task to prepare 24.8 hectares of newly developed lands in Central Ferghana in 1959-1965 was approved by districts [17]. The Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Uzbek SSR were tasked with reviewing the general scheme for irrigation and development of the Central Ferghana lands and its projects for individual areas during 1959, and expanding the area of project farms by 2.0 - 2.5 thousand hectares [9.P.52]. On March 18, 1960, the Ministry of Water Resources of the Uzbek SSR issued an order “On the program of construction work for irrigation and development of the Central Ferghana lands in 1960” [19.P.31]. This order established the plan for providing the Central Ferghana facilities of the Ministry of Water Resources of the Uzbek SSR with capital funds and approved the provision of funds to the “Ferghanavodstroy” trust in the amount of 111,151 thousand rubles in 1960. On March 21, 1960, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Uzbek SSR issued an order “On approval of the construction work programs for the irrigation and development of the Central Ferghana lands in 1960” [21]. The “Ferghanavodstroy” trust invested 10,629 thousand rubles out of 22,400 thousand rubles in the construction of water management [15.P.28].

On May 12, 1961, the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution “On the progress of the development of protected lands in Central Ferghana” [23]. This resolution approved the proposal of the Ministries of Water and Agriculture of the Uzbek SSR, the Andizhan Regional Party Committee and the Regional Executive Committee to complete all irrigation work in the Central Ferghana lands in 1965. From 1953 to 1961, 60.6 thousand hectares of land were prepared for irrigation and land reclamation, of which 41.0 thousand hectares were planted with crops on collective farms and state farms in 1960 [6].

In 1961-1965, the irrigation of all remaining reserve lands of the Central Ferghana region, covering an area of 122.2 thousand hectares, was carried out in accordance with the decision on the completion of general works on the lands of the Central Ferghana region - 67.8 thousand hectares in the Ferghana region and 54.4 thousand hectares in the Andizhan region [24.P.237]. The

entire Central Ferghana region was prepared for irrigation and land reclamation in a total area of 122.2 thousand hectares. This is a significantly higher indicator in the field of land preparation for irrigation and land reclamation compared to previous years. Agricultural development work in 1961-1965 amounted to a total of 101 thousand ha, of which 60.2 thousand ha fell on collective farms, as well as 40.8 ha on economically developed state farms [12].

In a short time, taking into account the development of reserve and waste lands in Central Ferghana and the capabilities of collective farms in the Ferghana Valley, the following proposals were adopted by regional organizations in 1961-1966. According to them, cotton-growing state farms will be established on 20.3 thousand ha of reserve lands in Ferghana region and two state farms will be established on another 17.3 thousand ha, and in Andizhan region, existing state farms and state farms will be established on 8.6 thousand ha [18].

Until July 1, 1961, the Inter-Kolkhoz Council on Irrigation and Land Development of Central Ferghana was working in the Ferghana and Andizhan regions. In 1960, the Inter-Kolkhoz Council discussed the issue of irrigation and land reclamation preparation of 7,710 hectares of land. Of these, 2,240 hectares fell on the Andizhan region, and 5,470 hectares on the Ferghana region. The 1961 report indicated that 6,333 hectares of land had been prepared for irrigation and land reclamation in the Ferghana region alone [19.P.21]. Of these, 5,030 hectares were allocated for the initial preparation of reserve lands, and 1,303 hectares for repeated work on previously prepared lands. The resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers of September 2, 1962 provided for the development and irrigation work being carried out in the Ferghana and Andizhan regions of the Uzbek SSR, namely on the lands of Central Ferghana [20]. In 1955-1959, 9 pumping stations were put into operation in the Ferghana Valley, providing water to 10 thousand hectares of land. In 1957, in order to further increase the yield of agricultural crops, a two-channel "Pakhtalykul" pumping station with a water consumption of 300 liters per second was built on the North Ferghana Canal in the Yangikurgan district of the Namangan region to irrigate 325 hectares of land in the former "Pakhtalykul" state farm. In 1958, as a result of the liquidation of the "Pakhtalykul" state farm, its lands were distributed as follows: 136 hectares were given to the "Leningrad" collective farm for cotton cultivation, and 189 hectares to the auxiliary farms of the "Pakhtalykul" sanatorium. The

pumping station was transferred to the said sanatorium with a balance value of about 150 thousand.

By 1964, more than 2,000 km of various canals, more than 2,000 km of underground canals and collectors, and more than 7,000 hydraulic structures had been built in the newly irrigated areas of Central Ferghana [11. P.48]. Based on the resolution of the CPSU of Uzbekistan "On the preparation of new and gray lands for sowing in 1965" dated September 21, 1964, the Ferghana Regional Rural Executive Committee determined that in 1965 the increase in new lands in the region during the sowing period was 6,093 ha, of which 984 ha came from agricultural turnover in 1964, 3,958 ha were prepared for sowing in Central Ferghana, and new preparation work was carried out on 1,151 ha [24.P.67].

The construction of the Karkidon reservoir in the Ferghana region began in 1962 and was completed in October 1967. The area of this natural reservoir is 9.65 km<sup>2</sup>, and it has the ability to store 200 million m<sup>3</sup> of water. It was built on the Kuvasay River (a tributary of the Isfairamsay River), and its useful capacity is 218.4 m<sup>3</sup>. 3.4 million m<sup>3</sup> of gravel-sandy soil, 2.4 million m<sup>3</sup> of loamy soil were poured into the dam, and 60 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and reinforced concrete were laid. The commissioning of the reservoir improved the water supply of 69 thousand ha of irrigated lands in the Andijan and Ferghana regions, which received water from the South Ferghana Canal. The Andizhan reservoir was built in accordance with the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the former USSR of March 15, 1963. It was implemented at the expense of the central state budget of the former USSR. In 1969 (at the prices of that year), the total cost of this facility was 332.5 million rubles, and in practice 297.0 million rubles were spent [26]. In the Ferghana region, a lot of irrigation work was carried out over 15 years (1966-1980). In particular, "more than 42.2 thousand hectares of Central Ferghana were developed. The arable land reached almost 300 thousand hectares. During this period, the Karkidon and Kurgan-tepa reservoirs were built" [27]. In 1977, the Council of the Namanganvodstroy Trust set a task to introduce 460 hectares of new land in the first quarter of this year in order to fulfill the task set for the development of new lands. In particular, as of February 8 of this year, 40 hectares of new irrigated land were developed under the second stage of the M-1 canal, 4.9 km of pipes were laid. Construction and installation work was completed in the first ten days of February by 16 thousand rubles instead of 57 thousand rubles, or 28%. In particular, work on irrigated land in the 184-hectare Komsomol collective

farm in the Zadarya (Mingbulak) district, which was scheduled to be handed over in February, was not fully completed. In the Boz district, which was established on the site of the reserve, in the eleven months of 1978, 40 hectares of land were developed, the reclamation condition of 1,442 hectares of land was improved, 662 hectares of land were capitally planned, irrigation networks on 1,100 hectares of land were reconstructed, 14 km of roads were built and graveled, and 16.5 km of closed canals were built and put into operation.

**CONCLUSION.** In short, the high level of development of irrigation and land reclamation works in the Central Ferghana region in 1950-1991, as well as the development of agriculture, in particular cotton growing, had both positive and negative consequences. Development and irrigation works were carried out on a large scale here. However, during this past period, decisions made by government bodies on the development of protected and waste lands and the allocation of capital funds for them were not implemented in many places. In particular, the capital funds allocated for the development of protected lands were not fully used.

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