IJSSIR, Vol. 11, No. 09. September 2022

ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION IN THE YEARS OF STAGNATION IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: During the years of stagnation in Uzbekistan, all arears were covered by ecological negligence. Water, soil, air, flora and fauna were irreversibly damaged. Various infectious diseases (hepatitis, tuberculosis and goiter, etc.) began to spread widely. This situation began to cause terrible accidents. This brought humanity to the brink of tragedy.

Key words: Water, soil, air, flora, research, the Aral sea, climate.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 150 years, water basins have been getting polluted and shrinking due to global warming. Excessive pollution of soil, water, air, climate change, alarming changes in flora and fauna are making the ecological problem one of the factors that seriously threaten the security of developing countries.¹

RESEARCH WORKS OF THE SCIENTISTS

The established system has defined the development of agriculture as an important direction in Uzbekistan. The basis of Uzbekistan's agriculture is irrigated agriculture. This situation requires studying the history, consequences and lessons of the development of irrigated agriculture in our republic based on objective, scientific and national interests, and summarizing the experiences in this regard. Although many works on the history of Uzbekistan's agriculture have been written, most of them, especially the history of irrigated agriculture and irrigation in the 20th century, have not been thoroughly and objectively researched. Therefore, it is a historical necessity to re-research this issue is based on today's requirements.

Scientist A.A. Razzokov, who comprehensively studied the history of the agricultural sector, made a scientific-historical analysis of water management, engineering and economic aspects of agriculture.²

Researcher E. Kh. Khodjiev also tried to objectively illuminate the actions of desert development in the region (from 1917 to 1967) in his work.³

Since the first years of Uzbekistan's independence, a number of historians, including academician R.Kh. Aminova, have published works that objectively illuminate the consequences and results of the collectivization of agriculture in our republic. "We must admit the strangeness of our food routine today is, in many ways, a consequence of the collectivization of agriculture." writes academician R. Kh. Aminova.⁴

A.A. Golovanov, a specialist in the history of agriculture, while analyzing the very late period, said that the situation of the peasants in Uzbekistan was mainly influenced by the policy of the 1920s, the passive state of collective collectivization, and the negative impact on the activities of the farms.⁵

In the brochure "Conditions and factors of decline of the agricultural development of Uzbekistan" (1946-1965), in the monograph "Stable system agrarian policy", the policy of development of reserve lands, the development of irrigation and reclamation works and its consequences were analyzed in detail on the sample of Mirzachul region.

In the research work of N.Kh. Oblomurodov, the methodological process and controversial situations in Uzbekistan's agriculture in 1970-1990 are given as a deep analysis.⁷

20	ISSN 2277-3630 (online), Published by International journal of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Research., under Volume: 11 Issue: 09 in September-2022 https://www.gejournal.net/index.php/IJSSIR
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In recent years, a number of works have appeared in Uzbekistan that objectively analyzed the development of agriculture and the history of this field, and approached to the problem in a new and honest way.

In his research work, A. Kodirov studies the situation from the middle of the 19th century to the 1920s in two parts. The author carefully studied the works and sources of that time. Part 1 of this research is entitled "Mid-nineteenth-century irritation and its specific details."⁸

The author expressed his opinions and drew conclusions on a number of issues, such as the importance of the irrigation sector, problems of water reserves and their use, and the legal basis of land and water use in the research work. (pages 8-63).

CONSEQUENCES

The 2nd part of this study is called "Colonial Irrigation in Turkistan (1867-1920)". It contains information about the factors that directly and indirectly influenced the development of the country's irrigation under the conditions of the colonial system, the most important changes and innovations in the field of land and water use, the study of unexploited land and water reserves in the country, about the technical basis of water use, management of irrigation works and organization of water use and the melioration of irrigated lands and issues of financing irrigation works related to ecology. The first entry of new scientific and technical achievements into the field of irrigation (pages 64-135), the author tried to take a comprehensive approach from the point of view of an engineer-irrigator-scientist, and expressed his opinions. Necessary conclusions are drawn in this research, which was written without archival documents, relying only on sources.

Appropriation of land, ruthless use of it, is a product of colonialism. Most of the artificially developed land in Uzbekistan has become unusable. That's why this field was finally in a miserable condition. Such a situation in agriculture, appropriation of land, neglect of crop rotation, monopoly of cotton and all these have accelerated the ecological disaster.⁹

The analysis of literature on the topic led us to the following conclusions:

- 1. During the 20th century, efforts were made to transform Uzbekistan from a purely agrarian republic into an industrialized republic. We must also acknowledge that all the achievements achieved during the past period in the field of irrigation and land reclamation, development of reserve and gray lands, and agriculture were the foundation for the independent development of this important branch of the national economy of Uzbekistan.
- 2. Even if Uzbekistan is a part of the single economic complex of the former Soviet Union, it is not a simple part of it, but it is a part of the complex of colonialism, dependent on the center in all aspects and subordinate. It shows that the economic crisis and stagnation in Uzbekistan, especially in the 80s, for example, in 1990, Uzbekistan ranked 12th in the former Soviet Union in terms of gross social product production per capita, and in terms of national income production per capita, Uzbekistan was 10 points lower than the average level in the Soviet Union.¹⁰ During 1976-86, Uzbekistan's contribution to the country's national income did not increase. "What is the main cause of economic crisis and stagnation and its basis?" a legitimate question arises. The first and main reason was the socio-political and economic system based on injustice, inequality, national colonialism. The second economic reason was the communist party's policy of relying on bureaucratic monopolies, tyranny under the guise of a "Leninist national policy of justice." The third main reason was the excessive centralization and subordination of production and planning under the guise of the union "single economic complex".
- 3. From 950 to 1990, the population of Uzbekistan increased by 14 million 58 thousand people and reached 20 million 322 thousand 12 people in total. Along with the population increase

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in Uzbekistan, environmental stress began to occur. The brutal colonial policy of the Kingdom of the Soviets in Uzbekistan, the pursuit of wealth, the passive development of production, the monopolization of cotton, the production of various toxic chemicals and their excessive use in agriculture took a very destructive political shape in the country (in the former union). not only in Uzbekistan, but in all of Turkestan. We are referring here to the decree of the Soviet of People's Commissars of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of Uzbekistan on "Allocation of 50 million UZS for irrigation works in Turkestan" signed by V. I. Lenin on May 18, 1918. "Prophet of the Revolution" meant the appropriation of Mirzachul lands. In the 70s of the last century, the Russian scientist N.F. Ulyanov, P.P. He relied on the conclusions of Semyonov-Tyanshansky. This initiative started by V. I. Lenin was developed by the Soviet Government under the leadership of the Communist Party.

4. The struggle for the independence of cotton in the former USSR became the main factor in the passive one-sided development of the national economy of Uzbekistan. This exacerbated the environmental crisis during the recession years. Poisoning is not only characteristic of cities, but also in rural areas of Uzbekistan.

In particular, toxic chemicals used in agriculture have destroyed nature. In 1987-1990, the use of pesticides in agricultural fields amounted to 79-84 thousand tons, i.e from 19.5 to 24 kg per hectare of land. In total, only one percent of the 70 types of toxic chemicals used in agriculture affect pests and insects, and more than 99 percent poison the soil, water, air, plants, and other food products.¹³

The situation has become so tragic that thousands and thousands of tons of toxic chemicals were sprayed on people's heads in airplanes under the pretext of defoliation of cotton buds.

This was a tragedy more terrible than any other fascism. The second main reason for the deterioration of Uzbekistan's ecology is related to the attitude to water. Our forefathers in ancient times taught to revere a single drop of water, its value, and the need to protect it carefully. The government's greedy use of the waters of the Amudarya, Syrdarya, Chirchik, and Zarafshan rivers led to the tragedy of the Aral Sea. In particular, the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers were aggravated by the discharge of waste and poisoned water from collectors, ditches, industrial and communal facilities during the next 20-30 years. During this period, the water volume of the Aral Sea has decreased by more than 60 percent, and its dry area was more than 2 million hectares.

Previously, the amount of salt in each liter of water was up to 9 grams, but in the early 90s, it increased 2.5-3 times. The sand and salt scattered in the air and animate and inanimate nature burned around the Aral Sea, bringing it to the brink of destruction. Residents were forced to leave their homes around the sea. Due to the tragedy of the Aral Sea, the world of flora and fauna was also condemned to destruction. After the 1970s, the area of sugarcane fields of the Amudarya River decreased 7 times, and more than 50 lakes dried up.¹⁴ The third reason for the ecological crisis was the change in the composition of the soil. By 1990, moderately and strongly saline lands in Uzbekistan amounted to 853 thousand hectares. The destructive effect of mineral fertilizers used without calculation on the change of soil composition was also great. Because, according to the conclusions of experts, fluorine, uranium, thorium, and heavy metal salts also enter the soil together with phosphorus fertilizer.

The fourth reason for ecological damage was the change in the fauna and changes in the animal world of the republic. There were 99 species of wild animals, 410 species of birds, and 79 species of fish in Uzbekistan. By 1990, 32 species of animals, 31 species of birds, and 5 species of fish were included in the "Red Book" of the republic. In addition, the number of plants included in the "Red Book" reached up to 163 species. The ecological crisis in our country led to the increase of various diseases among the population, and the total number of

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diseases among them increased from 2,466.5 people in 1976 to 3,598.6 people by 1990. According to the data, in 1989, diseases of the nervous system, subcutaneous cells increased up to 1.4 times, diseases of the circulatory system increased up to 1.3 times. The incidence of tuberculosis increased by 3 percent. Gastrointestinal, viral hepatitis, diseases are increasing and various swelling diseases are occurring. Anemia is on the rise in women, child mortality is increasing.

Researchers show that the incidence of diseases is high in regions with a difficult socio-economic situation, the entire Aral Sea, Tashkent region, especially Angren, Almalik, Chirchik and Tashkent cities, and many cities of the Fergana valley. According to the information provided by the members of the "Arol-88" expedition, 260 of every thousand babies died in Bozatov district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. 80% of Uzbek women suffer from anemia. One out of every 3 young Uzbek men was found unfit for military service due to his health.

More than 6,000 children with mental disabilities were born in Uzbekistan every year. So, in the 1990s, the environmental crisis that fell on the region in the country was continuous. The whole social system was responsible for the difficult situation.

- 5. After the Soviet government invaded Turkestan, it carried out a policy of statehood and colonialism in this region for more than 70 years. Various high-flying, aerial programs and calls were implemented as "control methods".
- 6. The real goal of the chauvinistic state and colonial policy of the Soviet Government:
 - a) The unified national wealth of the peoples of Turkestan was destroyed, artificial nationstate boundaries were imposed on these peoples, the single and whole Turkic nationalities were disintegrated, the national army was abolished, and the administrative rules of the national state were abolished. The single idea "USSR-a unified nation-state" came into force;
 - b) The Soviet Government burdened the Turkic peoples as a nation sent, used all possible means to carry out the main purpose, and did the most abominable indecencies. During the infamous repressions of 1930-1950, 1970-1985, thousands of children of our people, party and state leaders, leaders of science and culture were deported or exiled to Siberia under various pretexts. And finally, thousands of our compatriots did not lose their national identity even as a result of the national resettlement policy implemented during the years of Soviet power. The unjust, colonial policy implemented by the former Soviet state brought the socio-political, economic, cultural and spiritual life of Uzbekistan to the brink of destruction. But on August 31, 1991, Uzbekistan declared its political independence, and this day is celebrated as a holiday every year. A deeper research of this area gives a deeper understanding of the pre-independence years.

CONCLUSION

From the first years of independence, a radical change and renewal began in agriculture. We can see these in the following publications of S.A. Azimboev¹⁸, Z.A. Artikmetov, Kh.Sh. Sheraliev¹⁹, N. Rakhimov²⁰, N. Gaipnazarov²¹, R. Murodov²² and we can see in the researches of others. They gave a detailed description of irrigation works, irrigation and drainage melioration, irrigated agriculture in Uzbekistan. In all of these cases, various methods and directions of agricultural development have been justified and analyzed.

In general, it not only expands the range of researches from which the ecological problem has arisen, but also provides an acceptable theoretical and methodological approach for impartial, consistent analysis and interpretation of the problem from the point of view of the fundamental

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national interests of the local population, in a scientifically sound manner, frees from ideological pressures at the level of international standards of modern science.

In most regions of Uzbekistan, soil is eroding, fertile land is shrinking, water shortage, drought and other serious problems are increasing in deserts. We must take all measures to prevent such disasters in the future. We need to take systematic and comprehensive measures to implement the resolution of the UN General Assembly on declaring the Aral Bay as a region of ecological innovations and technologies.

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