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Implementation of the policy of cotton monopoly in the Surkhandarya oasis in 1946-1970 and its consequences

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Annotation: In the post-World War II years, Uzbekistan began construction of large irrigation facilities. This process was carried out in accordance with the orders of the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR issued in July 1945 and February 2, 1946. The period of construction of huge irrigation networks has begun in Surkhandarya region.

Keywords: Surkhan-Sherabad, Hazarbog, Tallimaron, USSR Council of Ministers, new lands in Surkhandarya basin «South Surkhan Reservoir.

Farming in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis was associated with the rehabilitation of irrigation systems in the Sherabaddarya and Zang canals. The development of new lands was carried out mainly at the expense of the strength and resources of the kolkhozes. In 1949, the collective farms of Jarqurghon and Termez districts built the Kakaydi canal, which is 23 km long, and in 1956, the Zang (90 km long) canals. The Yangiarik canal in Termez district has been reconstructed, and the Oktepa massif on the left bank of the Surkhandarya River has been developed. At the same time, Shaldirak, Akkurgan, Oktepa swamps of Shurchi district, Kampirkul swamp of Denov district, Akkurgan, Garangtoqay and Zarkamar Turkmenkishlak, Jaloir, Kumkurgan swamps of Jarkurgan district, Jartekisdik of Sariosiya district. Due to the newly developed lands, in 1946 the yield of cotton reached 14.8 quintals, and in 1953 - 25.9 quintals. The area under fine-fiber cotton has increased 10 times.

The Mirshodi steppe in Shurchi district has been developed by the workers of Sherabad and Boysun districts. The next stage of the Hazarbog canal was built to supply water to the newly opened massif. As a result, part of Sherabad and Boysun districts were supplied with water. In September 1949, on the orders of the government, water was pumped from the Zang Canal to the Tallimaron Massif and development of the desert began. The Cholkuvars have accelerated the excavation and drainage of the 18-kilometer Tallimaron canal. In 90 days, the canal was dug by hand.

In 1950, in order to introduce complex mechanization in agricultural production of the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis, significant work was done on the transition to a new irrigation system, expansion of irrigated areas, water conservation and prevention of soil salinization. In 1951-1952, workers of Jarqurghon, Termez, Angor, Sherabad and Shurchi districts carried out large-scale work on cleaning and widening the Zang canal, improving the water supply of arable lands. As a



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result of the measures taken, the area under crops in agriculture expanded to 155.2 thousand hectares in 1950, of which 59.7 thousand hectares were cotton fields.

In the post-war period, irrigation and reclamation measures in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis were characterized by the fact that, first of all, measures were taken to ensure the best conditions for water works in the existing systems. Second, irrigated lands and areas were developed and included in the agricultural sector. However, the scarcity of water resources did not allow the oasis to provide water to agriculture. This problem could be solved only through the efficient use of Surkhandarya water. To do this, it was necessary to build new irrigation canals from Surkhandarya and collect spring and winter water from the Amudarya and use it in the interests of the national economy.

To solve the above problem, on September 2, 1952, the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a special resolution on the construction of the Uchkizil reservoir with a capacity of 165 million m³ and the opening of 10,000 hectares of new land in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis. In order to strengthen the cotton monopoly, the Soviet government paid special attention to the supply of water to the collective farms, allocated 48 million soums to the Uchkizil reservoirs in Surkhandarya region and Tuyaboguz reservoirs in Tashkent region, and took control of the acceleration of these reservoirs. He also gave instructions on the extension and renovation of the Zang Canal. A special 27-member inter-collective council was set up to implement this decision. The total volume of earthworks on the Zang Canal was 400,000 m³, and 300,000 m³ was spent on the reconstruction of the entire collective farm's internal irrigation and collector system. 2.5 million soums have been allocated for this work. Much attention was paid to the use of mechanization for the development of the Surkhan-Sherabad region, the construction of new irrigation systems and the commissioning of collector-ditches. In 1953, 6,000 tractors and 2,200 cars were involved in the oasis's agriculture.

In order to expand the cotton fields in the oasis and provide them with permanent water, on February 3, 1961 the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution "On measures to develop and irrigate new lands in the Surkhandarya basin with the help of the South Surkhan Reservoir." According to him, the development of 86.3 thousand hectares of land in seven years, as well as the introduction of 35,000 hectares of new land under the "Zang" system into agricultural use were considered.

In 1961, the Surkhansovkhozstroy Trust was established to develop new lands at the expense of the South Surkhan Reservoir. Thus, on the basis of the "Southern Surkhan Reservoir" began large-scale development of the Sherabad steppe. The South Surkhan reservoir with a capacity of 800 million m³ was built on the lands of the state farm "30 years of VLKSM" in Shurchi district, on the site of tugai forests between Zarkamar and Khojamulki. Design work on the reservoir began in 1958, and major construction work began in 1961. The maximum height of the dam is 30 meters, the width of the top is 10 meters, and the length along the edge is 5.4 km. The total visible area of the reservoir is 65 km². His task was to regulate the seasonal flow of the Surkhandarya River and use it for the needs of the national economy. The reservoir collected spring floodwaters and irrigated 71,000 hectares of arable land in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis through the Sherabad and Kumkurgan main canals in the dry summer months. Beginning in 1962, the South Surkhandarya Reservoir began to provide the oasis agriculture with the necessary source of water. Six years later, in 1968, the reservoir was fully operational.



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In the 1960s, 70 excavators, 20 scrapers, 120 bulldozers, 210 trucks, 80 tractors and other equipment were involved in the development of new lands, construction and reconstruction of irrigation systems in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis. As a result of the measures taken, in 1964, 3,660 hectares of new lands were developed under the Zang system in the Sherabad steppe, and 1,020 hectares were planted with cotton. Necessary equipment was provided for construction companies developing the reserve lands. For example, in 1963, Construction Trust No. 11 had 13 excavators in reserve, and in 1964, their number increased to 50. The number of truck and lift cranes increased from 5 to 23 per year.

In order to develop new lands in Surkhandarya, the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR on July 7, 1965 instructed Uzglavvodstroy to pay attention to improving the irrigation and reclamation of state farms in the Surkhandarya-Sherabad oasis. As a result, in 1966, the Zang Canal was completely reconstructed or carried 5 times more water than the capacity at the time of construction. In the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis, Uzglavvodstroy improved the irrigation and reclamation conditions of 4.1 thousand hectares in 1966, 9,000 hectares in 1967, 11,000 hectares in 1968, 12.6 thousand hectares in 1969 and 14.0 thousand hectares in 1970. In 1965, cotton was planted on 3,635 hectares in Yangiabad, 4,000 hectares in Komsomolsk-on-Amur and 2,100 hectares in Sovetabad, the state farms of the Sherabad steppe. In 1965, the area of agricultural crops in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis increased from 166.6 thousand hectares to 214.8 thousand hectares.

In 1966, on the basis of the program of irrigation and development of the Sherabad steppe, the development of the New Istara, Qizirik massifs, the oldest fertile lands of the Sherabad oasis, began. This work was related to the construction of the Southern Surkhan Reservoir and the Sherabad machine main canal. The 27-kilometer-long Sherabad main canal receives water from a main water intake facility built on the right bank of the South Surkhan Reservoir. The gushing water will flow along the right bank of the Surkhandarya River for the first 8 km of the canal route and through a 150-meter-long 3-hole (3x3.5 m) reinforced concrete pipe ditch at the bottom of the Toshkopriksoy River. 10 m³ / sec from the lower channel to the Kumkurgan canal. A water outlet was installed to drain the amount of water. Sherabad pumping station has been built on the 13 km section of the canal. With the help of powerful pumping units, the water is raised to the height of a 10-storey house. In 1966, the Sherabad main canal supplied water to the Qizirikdara steppe for the first time. Five years later, in 1971, the Sherabad main canal was put into full operation.

The Sherabad main canal is divided into right and left branches on a 27-kilometer section. The left branch of the canal is 29.6 km long and the core is covered with a concrete pavement. This is important in reducing water consumption. Water transfer capacity is 25 m³ / sec. The length of the right network is 76.6 km, which serves to irrigate the lands of the Sherabaddarya system. It was also covered with a concrete floor.

Along with the construction of a reservoir and a main canal, a large-scale irrigation and collector-drainage system was built. As a result of 10 years of work, 1,047 km of concrete and reinforced concrete irrigation canals, 936 km of open collectors and 1,690 km of horizontal drainage were built for desert development. The solution of the water problem allowed the development of 2,000 hectares in 1962 and 8,000 hectares in 1963. By the end of 1972, 60,000 hectares of land had been commissioned.



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With the construction of the left branch of the canal in 1968, two reserve state farms were established on the new lands of the Bandikhan-Qizirik massifs. In 1968, 3,238 hectares of protected lands were developed, of which 1,000 hectares were planted with cotton. In 1968, the 7th state farm named after Y.Okhunboboev was established on the Sherabad highway system, 2,100 hectares of new lands were developed and cotton was planted on 400 hectares. In the same year, 538 tons of cotton were delivered to the state, and 13 quintals of cotton were harvested from each hectare of land. By 1972, 8 cotton state farms had been established on the territory of the Sherabad main canal. In 1968, the state farms in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis delivered 28,346 tons of cotton to the state. In the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis in 1958-1968, the area under cotton increased from 82,451 hectares to 111,500 hectares. If in 1958 in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis 236 thousand tons of cotton were delivered to the state, by 1968 this figure reached 346.3 thousand tons.

As a result of the work carried out at the Southern Surkhan Reservoir, enough water has been collected in the south of the region for irrigation at any time of the year. Agrotechnical methods developed over the centuries have been critically reconsidered in response to water scarcity. Because it was time to make fuller use of the material, technical and natural-climatic conditions of the developed valley.

Upon completion of irrigation and land reclamation works, the amount of irrigated land in the south of the region has reached 180,000 hectares, or much more than in all districts of the region. By 1969, more than 90 percent of the total irrigated land in the province had been irrigated with water collected in reservoirs. When lands are irrigated from natural water sources, a lot of mud flows into them along with the water. These muds are one of the factors that maintain and restore the natural fertility of the soil.

The establishment of new state farms in Surkhandarya region is directly related to the implementation of large-scale irrigation construction and the development of protected lands in the Sherabad steppe. Nuriddin Murodov (1915-1974), who was the first secretary of the Surkhandarya regional party committee in 1965-1974, played an important role in this work. N.Murodov has been active in the development of productive forces in Surkhandarya region, especially in cotton and horticulture. He made a worthy contribution to the creation of new districts and cities in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis. N.Murodov was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor for the development of cotton growing, the widespread use of scientific achievements and best practices in production, great achievements in obtaining high yields.

In addition, the Heroes of Labor in the development of new lands and the development of cotton in the Surkhandarya oasis - Shaymardon Kudratov, Otamurod Khudoynazarov, Jiyankul Rustamov, Muhammadi Keldiev, Boboyor Hasanov and others, Honored Cotton Growers of the Republic - Nazirtosh Turaev, Saidjon Otaniyozov, Alikum Fayrazev, Rahima Fayziev, Rahima The work of Norkobil Ahmedov, Kochar Odinaev and others is of special importance.

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