



The Emergence of the Cotton Monopoly and the Emergence of a Food Problem in the National Economy of Uzbekistan (1932-1940y)

Erkayev Ergashali

Associate professor, department of history of Uzbekistan, faculty of history, Andijan State University

Abstract: *In this article highlights of the emergence of the cotton monopoly and the emergence of a food problem in the national economy of Uzbekistan (1932-1940y).*

Keywords: *individual farms, industry and food products, KTF, wheat, barley, sorghum, corn, rice, "Tasks of Uzbekistan's agriculture", dry farming, «Farmers meetings», "state property", "struggle for cotton independence".*

The process of total collectivization on the scale of Uzbekistan was basically completed by 1932. Naturally, the composition of the collective farm system was formed as a long-term structure with negative consequences. As a result of the victory of the collective farm system in agriculture, the administrative-command system took deeper roots. By this time, the economic methods of increasing the sown area of cotton and harvesting in individual farms, providing cotton-growing areas with tax benefits, advance payments, industrial and food products free of charge or at a lower price, which existed before, are gone. this is over. After the victory of the collective farm system, party and Soviet bodies determined the procedure for determining the percentage of sown area of collective farms for sowing cotton and other crops. The implementation of collectivization in the republic opened a wide path to strengthening the colonial orientation of agricultural production, its one-sided development in the field of raw materials for cotton production.

The government of the Union pursued a policy of turning Uzbekistan into the main source of raw materials for cotton, turning collective farms and state farms from irrigated lands into the main cotton-growing farms. As a result, by 1933 collective farms and state farms began to produce 90% of the cotton grown in the republic (1423). Collective and state farms were mainly engaged in the cultivation of cotton, paying insufficient attention to other sectors, including animal husbandry and grain growing. As a result, a number of difficulties began to arise in providing the population of the republic with appropriate food products.

When the process of collectivization began in Uzbekistan, the peasants did not want to join collective farms, collect their land, livestock, working livestock. In the early days, the villagers were forced to join collective farms. In response to this kind of violence, the peasants made money by selling their livestock or, if they had no other choice, butchering and eating them whole. Some livestock farms, especially in the valley, drove their cattle to neighboring countries. The chairman of the government of the republic F. Khodjaev wrote about the state of cattle breeding in the first five-year plan in the article "Tasks of agriculture in Uzbekistan": "Cattle breeding in Uzbekistan did not grow in the first five-year plan. years and even suffered losses. The capitalist elements in the countryside waged a vicious struggle against us and against our activities to improve the livestock

farms. First of all, this struggle against us was expressed in deportation and barbaric extermination” (2.1).

In the first years of collectivization, the number of livestock in the republic was sharply reduced due to the fact that collective farmers slaughtered the entire livestock in order not to transfer the livestock to the collective farm. This is clearly evidenced by data on the state of cattle breeding in the republic in 1931-1934. In January 1935, F. Khodzhaev analyzed the state of animal husbandry in the report of the government of the Uzbek SSR to the 5th Congress of Soviets of the Uzbek SSR:

Livestock in Uzbekistan in 1931-1934. (3, 273)

(на счет тысячи штук)

| Types of livestock. | 1931 год | 1932 год | 1933 год | 1934 год |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Cattle | 1.008,6 | 916,0 | 878,0 | 891,7 |
| Karakol sheep | 1110.1 | 953.7 | 990.3 | 1150.8 |
| sheep | 901.6 | 629.7 | 592.8 | 582.2 |
| goats | 880.0 | 451.7 | 467.4 | 570.1 |
| Horses | 383.2 | 339.8 | 332.0 | 310.0 |
| camels | 73.2 | 53.0 | 39.5 | 34.0 |

According to the table, the situation in 1931 in animal husbandry was not restored in 1934 either. In 1931-1932, the number of domestic animals of all kinds decreased. In 1933-1934, some types of livestock continued to decline. Animal husbandry is a backward branch of agriculture in the republic, and the main reason for the slow progress of the restoration process was that the leadership of the republic paid attention to cotton and did not pay attention to animal husbandry.

However, at the same time, at the direction of the federal government, the government of the republic began to pay special attention to the development of animal husbandry on collective farms, the issue of leather, wool and cattle breeding. Livestock farms were also united into collective farms, livestock collective farms began to be created. On April 2, 1931, the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan adopted a special resolution "On the withdrawal of livestock of sheep and goats." By decision of the Animal Breeding Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan dated April 4, 1931, a total of 1,724,400 heads of cattle were confiscated and transferred to collective farms and state farms in 22 livestock areas (4.16). Collective cattle breeding was formed on collective farms from generalized horses and cattle of collective farmers confiscated from "kulak" farms. This is how the collective farm was created. Since 1931, collective-farm livestock farms (KTF) have been created on the collective farms of the republic on the basis of collective farm cattle. In 1933, 51 percent of the republic's cattle (3,230) were reared on collective farms, state farms, and KTF. In subsequent years, this process intensified.

In June 1934, the plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks adopted a decision on a plan for the development of animal husbandry in the republics of Central Asia for 1934-1935. In 1934-1935, the Plenum proposed the creation of 3,739 KTFs in Uzbekistan, and state farms to sell cattle to KTFs. Each KTF had an average of 300 sheep, 10-15 cattle and 30-40 camels. The resolution also adopted measures to expand the fodder base of animal husbandry. At the same time, in 1934-1935, it was pointed out that it was necessary to eliminate outbred farms in the republic (5 3-4).

Naturally, this decision was made primarily from the point of view of the interests of the center, and not the interests of the indigenous population. The goal of the decision-making bodies of the Union for the development of cattle breeding in Central Asia, including in Uzbekistan, which is considered a cotton-growing republic, was to provide the light industry of the center with leather and wool. The agricultural bodies of the republic have taken appropriate measures to develop animal husbandry. As a result, there was a gradual shift in animal husbandry. From July 1933 to July 1936, the number of cattle increased from 3542 thousand to 5380 thousand heads. The number of KTFs increased from

781 to 4737 in 1933-1935, and the number of cattle in them increased from 502 to 1292 thousand heads (6.1).

In the decision of the June 1934 plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks on the plan for the development of animal husbandry in the republics of Central Asia, it was pointed out that it was necessary to eliminate livestock farms in order to increase the number of livestock not only in collective farms and state farms, but also in collective farms and individual farms. In 1934, only 33% of collective farmers had cows and calves. In 1935, although some work was carried out to deliver goods to cowless collective farmers, on the whole this area was in a rather stagnant state. By January 1, 1936, 50.8% of the collective farmers did not have cows and calves, and 35.9% of the collective farmers were completely without livestock (7, 140).

In the second five-year plan, certain work was carried out to provide headless collective farmers with black cattle. Cattle, including breeding, were brought from the Union and transferred to collective farms and state farms. The cattle-breeding state farms sold the cattle to the KTF, which, in turn, sold the cattle to the collective farmers. Thus measures were taken to provide them with livestock. In 1936-1937, collective farmers were given 461.2 thousand head of livestock. Of these, 16,700 heads of cattle, 436,900 heads of sheep and goats, and 7,600 heads of pigs were given (8121-125). But that didn't solve the problem.

By January 1, 1937, according to the national economic accounting of Uzbekistan, the number of collective farmers without cows was 297,998 households. This figure was 42.5 percent of the total number of collective farms. On April 1, 1938, it was indicated that there were 125,075 collective farmers without cows (9.16-20).

By 1938, no livestock had reached the level of 1928. However, in 1928 the number of republican cattle was almost two times less than the number of cattle before the October Revolution of 1917. During this period, the number of sheep and goats was one and a half times less. The number of horses, camels and donkeys in 1938 did not reach the level of 1928. During these years, the total production of cotton in the republic increased almost three times, while the number of livestock decreased. In subsequent years, partial changes in animal husbandry did not eliminate the situation, and by 1940 it remained almost unchanged.

One of the important branches of agriculture in Uzbekistan is grain growing. Cereals, like cotton, were considered ancient agricultural crops. As a result of the collectivization policy carried out in the late 1920s and early 1930s, and under the guise of a "struggle for cotton independence", many irrigated lands were selected for cotton sowing. Wheat began to be sown in dry lands. The harvest in these lands was low and not guaranteed. As a result, the country's wheat growing network has shrunk, and dependence on imported grain has increased.

The leadership of the republic at that time was well aware of the need for Uzbekistan to have its own food base. For example, the chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of Uzbekistan F. Khodzhaev wrote about this in the article "The Tasks of Agriculture in Uzbekistan", published in the newspaper Pravda Vostoka on February 26, 1933: "We must not forget that the cultivation of grain is also of great importance to us. . The more wheat, barley and oats we plant in the drylands, the more we will strengthen our food base. Of course, our own grain is not enough for us. The Union supplies us with grain, but the more we sow grain crops on arid lands where we do not grow cotton, the better" (3.,144) such an opinion. That is why it is said to plant grain in drylands. This proposal stemmed from the essence of the then policy of the Soviets, that is, the policy of squeezing grain crops from irrigated lands and transferring them to cotton.

In the five years before the war, the monopoly of cotton grew, and the dominance of monoculture limited the production of food, including grain. Based on the tasks and decisions of the Center for the annual increase in cotton growing, the Republican Party and the Soviet government paid special attention to the development of cotton growing and strengthening the material and technical base of cotton growing collective farms.

The government did not attach due importance to the grain collective farms, and they, in turn, did not provide them with new agricultural machinery, did not introduce agrotechnical achievements. As a result, the grain industry has become a backward branch of agriculture. This situation was recognized by the leadership of the republic at that time. For example, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, A. Ikromov, in his speech on February 8, 1934 at the conference of grain agricultural technology of the republic, noted the backwardness of the grain economy and said: "It must be said frankly that we knew little about the grain economy of our republic and know little. We, that is, party and Soviet workers, including the leadership of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture, have not mastered the technique of grain farming, although we have mastered the technique of cotton growing ... In agriculture, our work has so far been one-sided: we are somewhat obsessed with cotton, but work with cotton is part of the grain economy. It was necessary to add with strengthening" (1.267).

At the same conference, the chairman of the CEC of Uzbekistan, Yu. Okunboboev, made a presentation on the topic "Development of the grain industry in Uzbekistan" and assessed the state of the grain industry of the republic as follows: "Our grain collective farms are working slowly. In most cases, their work is downright bad. The local Party and Soviet organizations are paying more attention to the growth of the collective farms, not paying due attention to the strengthening of the grain collective farms. We attached great importance to technology and machine operation in the cotton fields. There are several other reasons why our grain-growing regions are below the cotton ones and are lagging behind. Our collective farms and individual farmers in our grain-producing regions are too slowly switching over to machines and using agronomic knowledge" (10,335).

As can be seen from the excerpt from the report, Yoldosh Okhunboboev stated that the state of the grain economy of the republic is in a negative state, and considered the reasons for the current situation, firstly, that the party and Soviet organizations did not pay attention to the grain industry, focusing on cotton growing, secondly, that they should not pay attention to mechanization and agrotechnical achievements in the grain industry.

The grain industry was considered backward in the republic, and the standard of living of grain growers was difficult. The head of the republic, Akmal Ikromov, touched on this situation in his aforementioned speech and emphasized the low standard of living of grain growers. On this occasion, he, in particular, said: "At the meetings of cotton growers, we saw collective farmers in silk coats, collective farmers in satin and silk dresses. There are no women representatives at this conference, and the men are dressed in a completely different way. From the delegates of this conference, the dark collective farm life is even less noticeable" (1268).

The main reason for the backwardness of the grain collective farms and the plight of the grain growers was the transfer, on instructions from the center of grain crops, from irrigated lands to rainfed lands. Y. Okhunboboev also noted in his report of February 5, 1934 at the Council of Grain Growers that more attention is paid to cotton-growing collective farms than to strengthening grain collective farms. He said, among other things: "Party and Soviet institutions in our neighborhoods and other workers' organizations in the grain regions, although the main crop of the region is grain, they attach more importance to the small amount of cotton that is in this region than grain. I am not saying that cotton should not be given importance, but in each of them great guidance and great support must be given" (10.336).

Food shortages eventually drew attention to the area. By the third five-year plan, a certain importance was attached to the production of grain in the republic. . According to the data, in 1932-1937. the sown areas of wheat and barley increased by 26%, and in only two years of the third five-year plan, that is, in 1938-1939, the area of these crops increased by 28%.

Since 1937, the sowing of cereals has been carried out mainly with seeds obtained by selection and improved local varieties. They mature quickly and withstand drought and lack of water, yielding 20-30 percent more than previous non-variant seeds. In 1939, 990.4 thousand hectares of land were sown with pure varietal seeds (11,152).

Despite the fact that certain work was carried out in 1933-1940, the grain economy of Uzbekistan did not become an advanced branch of agriculture. Information about the state of grain farming in 1940 testified that it lagged somewhat behind 1913, and that cotton growing was much more developed. The yield of grain crops in the republic in 1913 was 6.6 centners per hectare, and in 1940 - 4.1 centners, that is, only 62% of the level before the First World War. In 1913, the grain harvest amounted to 1032 thousand tons, and in 1940 only 601 thousand tons of grain were grown. Accordingly, 210 and 126 thousand tons of rice and 547 and 273 thousand tons of wheat were grown. The main grain crop, wheat, in 1940 was only 50 percent of the 1913 years level.

During this period, the total cotton harvest increased by more than two and a half times. The above data show that under the Soviet regime, the main attention was paid to the development of the cotton economy and less importance was given to the production of grain. Therefore, during the years of Soviet power, grain farming was considered a secondary branch of agriculture. The main attention of the leading organizations of the republic was directed to the development of cotton growing, equipment, mineral fertilizers, and funds. The means of production grown from cotton were used to produce grain and other branches of agriculture. As a result, the grain industry lagged behind.

The policy of the Soviet government to turn Uzbekistan into a cotton raw material base of the center, such measures as forced collectivization and the kulaks, led to the impoverishment of the peasants, created a shortage of food products. An analysis of the situation of animal husbandry in Uzbekistan in the 30s of the 20th century shows that the number of livestock in 1938 did not reach the level before collectivization, that is, in 1928. The main reason for this was that the federal government considered cotton growing to be a "first-class industry" and livestock and grain farming to be "secondary industries."

This situation has developed in such branches of agriculture as grain growing, vegetable growing and horticulture. The government of the Union was aware of the goal of turning Uzbekistan into the main cotton raw material base of the center and considered it necessary to allocate irrigated lands to cotton for grain crops. In pursuance of the instructions of the center, the leadership of the republic began to squeeze such crops as wheat, barley, oats, corn, rice from irrigated lands suitable for cotton planting. Cereal crops were forced out to arid lands. Naturally, the grain yield on these lands was low. At the same time, the grain collective and state farms are insufficiently equipped with machinery and equipment. Research work in this area was not carried out, agrotechnical achievements were not introduced, grain farming during the period of research remained a backward branch of agriculture in the republic. In Uzbekistan in 1940, compared with 1913, the cultivation of cotton increased almost 3 times, while grain production almost halved. As a result, Uzbekistan remained dependent on grain throughout the Soviet era. As a result of the growth of cotton monopolies in Uzbekistan, the decline in food production has had a negative impact on the lives of farmers. Due to the lack of grain, the peasants did not have enough food such as bread, rice, oats. The main reason that the cotton growers did not live at the proper level, commensurate with their industriousness, was the cotton-monopoly and collectivization policy pursued by the Union government in the republic's agriculture.

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