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ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS OF KOVRAK CULTIVATION IN DEHKANABAD DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The article provides information on the medicinal properties of the kovrak plant, measures for its current use. The importance of this plant in providing employment to the population of Dehqanabad district, its annual yield and income are scientifically analyzed. The prospects for kovrak cultivation are highlighted, including the costs and benefits of its cultivation, calculated in local currency and US dollars.

KEYWORDS

Republic of Uzbekistan, Kashkadarya region, Dehqanabad district, kovrak plant, plantations, population employment.

INTRODUCTION

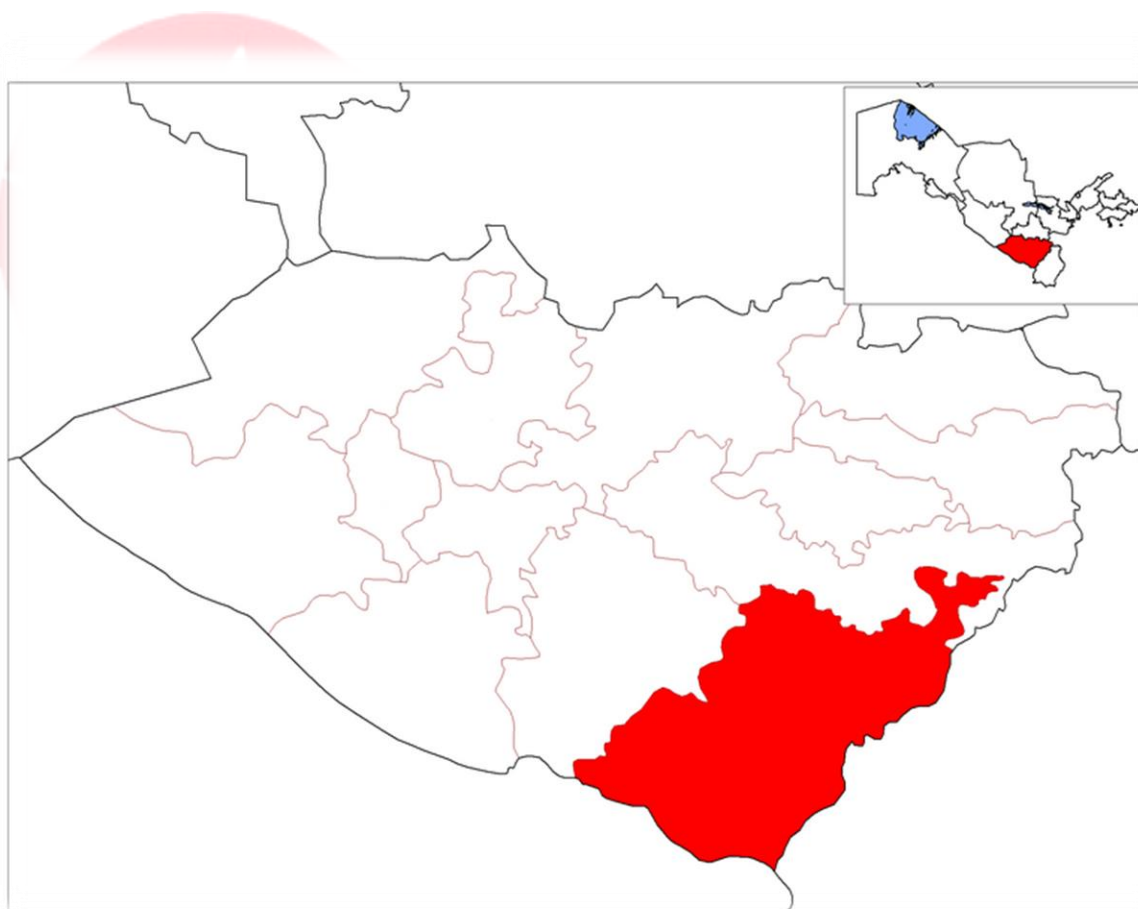
Kovrak belongs to the celery family and is a perennial herb. There are more than 170 species of Kovrak on earth. More than 110 species are found in Central Asia, and about 50 in our country. In nature, stinking Kovrak

is widespread, and gum-resin is mainly obtained from this species. In our country, the medicinal plant Kovrak is naturally widespread and there are additional opportunities for artificial cultivation and propagation.

In particular, it grows in sandy deserts, hills, mountains and foothills of the Tashkent, Samarkand, Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Jizzakh, Navoi, Bukhara regions of our Republic and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, on gray soil soils. The Red Book of Uzbekistan includes 5 types of kovrak, which are: juniper kovrak, nor kovrak, sumbul kovrak, tuganakli kovrak, kizylkum kovrak. In our republic, two types of kovrak are mainly grown: Sassyk kovrak and Ko'histon kovrak.

METHODS

The article is written in a general geographical direction, in which the main emphasis is placed on the natural characteristics and economic aspects of the kovrak plant. The article uses observation, geographical comparison, landscape-indication, statistical-mathematical, extrapolation, system-composition methods.



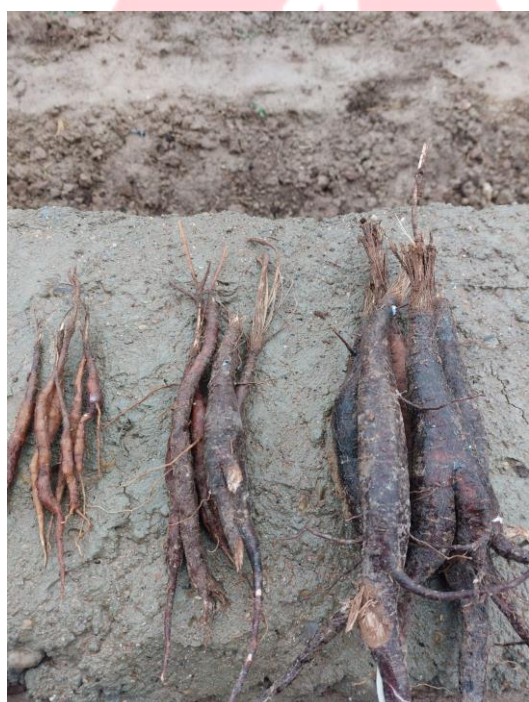
Picture 1. The map of Dehqanabad district in Kashkadarya region

RESULTS

The highest quality of the kovrak plant grown in Uzbekistan is grown in the Dehqanabad district of the Kashkadarya region. The reason for this is, firstly, the high quality of the kovrak, and secondly, the large market for the product. Since the district is located in the border area, the influx of products from neighboring republics and regions, along with the high market for kovrak in the district, also ensures the self-employment of the district's population.

The extraction of gum-resin from the kovrak root begins in early spring and continues until autumn.

Therefore, the periods of resin extraction are divided into spring and summer. For this, the area around the kovrak root is dug 5-10 centimeters deep and 20-25 centimeters wide, and the top of the root is exposed. After the top of the root is exposed, it is cut to extract the gum and resin. After 5-6 days, the high-quality gum and resin juice is collected and the collected gum and resin is collected. It is then cut again from another place, and the cutting is done 15-20 times during the season, depending on the size of the plant's root.



Picture 2. The fruit of the Kovrak plant

In folk medicine, kovrak has long been used to treat dangerous tumors and ulcers, and an alcoholic tincture

of its gum-resin (nastoyka) has been used for asthma, vasoconstriction, and nervous diseases. The kovrak



plant is a medicinal plant that treats vasoconstriction, pulmonary tuberculosis, plague, cholera, whooping cough, toothache, nervous and other diseases, gives strength to a person, expels phlegm and drives out worms. The stinking kovrak is a famous plant of the East. It is used as a spice. This plant has been used as a medicinal remedy since ancient times. In ancient medicine, stinking kovrak glue was used to treat muscle injuries and severe pain, along with “khilkhit”, pomegranate juice. If “khilkhit” is dissolved in water and drunk, it cures a sore throat, dry cough, and swelling of the tongue. If taken orally, it increases sexual potency, stimulates urine and menstruation, and treats chronic cold diarrhea. In folk medicine, the roots and stems of the stinking kovrak are used as an alcoholic and aqueous tincture. It is used in dyspepsia, diabetes, neurosis, rheumatism, bronchial asthma, as an anti-inflammatory agent in catarrh, as an anticonvulsant, as a choleric agent, and in pulmonary tuberculosis, liver, and kidney diseases. In addition, the stinking kovrak is used to treat tumor diseases. In scientific medicine, the anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antihistamine, and anti-allergic properties of the stinking kovrak have been identified. The importance of extracts of the seeds and roots of the stinking kovrak in sexual weakness and erectile dysfunction in men has been identified. In addition, the antioxidant, anticholinesterase, and antitumor properties of the stinking kovrak have been identified.

In scientific medicine, the gum resin of the kovrak is used as a powder, emulsion and alcoholic tincture (tincture) under the name “assa foetida”, as well as an analgesic and sedative, and is exported to many countries.

Cultivation of kovrak is also of particular importance in the economy of the district, the volume of exports by entrepreneurs is 10 million US dollars, which is more than the annual plan (8 million US dollars). Currently, when looking at the reports for the first 6 months of 2023, it can be seen that the annual plan of 5 million US dollars has been almost fully implemented. These results show that the volume of production in the district is high, and at the same time the market is sufficiently developed. Currently, the district has 49 rural self-government units, 154.2 thousand inhabitants, 26.6 thousand households, 34.6 thousand families, 5,691 unemployed people, 44 thousand hectares of arable land and 177 thousand hectares of pasture land.

DISCUSSIONS

It is no secret that the population engaged in kovrak in the district earns at least 30-50 million soums per year. When we also get acquainted with the kovrak plantations in Dehqanabad district, the result is 4684 jobs, that is, 2434 households will be created through the organization of dehkan farms, 709 forest lands will be leased, 1161 pasture lands will be allocated, and 380 farms will be specialized. The total area of kovrak to be planted in the organization of seed plantations will be



350 hectares, of which 150 hectares will be forestry, 200 hectares will be covered by the territories of the Committee for the Development of the Sericulture and Wool Industry. Currently, the area under cultivation of kovrak is 10.6 thousand hectares, of which 7161 ha (41 units) are owned by legal entities, 2459 ha (251 units) by forestry, 731 ha (1603 units) by residents, and 260 ha (1 unit) by a pasture association. When calculating the costs and income for the population to grow their own kovrak, the cost of purchasing land for 1 ha is 1.6 million soums, the cost of planting it is 2 million soums, preparing the land for planting is 1 million soums, seeds for sowing (8-10 kg) are 12 million soums, covering the land with a net is 16.4 million soums, other expenses are 2 million soums, a total cost of 35 million soums, and the average yield is 450 kg, the price of 1 kg of product is 2.2 thousand soums, and the total income is 990 million soums. If we look at the dynamics of kovrak exports, we can observe an increase in income from the product of 1850 US dollars in 2020, 3200 US dollars in 2021, and 8000 US dollars in 2022, which is an increase of 73 percent in 2021 and 250 percent in 2022 compared to 2020. According to the above results, the export figures of the product in the district are expected to be 10 million in 2023, 11.5 million in 2024, 14 million in 2025, 18 million in 2026, and 30 million US dollars in 2027. At the same time, necessary measures are being taken and the necessary amount of loans are being allocated to the population.

We all know that Kovrak is a medicinal plant, and Kovrak resin is mainly exported to India. Compared to previous years:

- Harvesting of cultivated kovrak plantations in Afghanistan has begun;
- Increased supply in the market due to the large amount of kovrak sap being produced in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Iran in 2023;
- Indian wholesalers have stocked up on kovrak sap in sufficient quantities;
- The price of kovrak sap is expected to decrease in 2023 due to reduced consumer demand in India.

CONCLUSION

Currently, private kovrak entrepreneurship is widely developing in Dehqanabad district, and in this regard, foreign investors are conducting research and verification work to implement new projects in the district, attracting the attention of foreigners. It is also worth noting that pistachio plantations have also been established along with kovrak. If kovrak plantations in the district are further developed and given broad opportunities, the total value of the product grown per 1 hectare of land in a year will be approximately 300 million soums, and the profitability rate will be 150%. That is, if a total of 49 million soums is spent on 1 hectare of cultivated land, seed costs will be 10 million soums, local fertilizers 5 million soums, mineral fertilizer costs 2 million soums, labor costs 20 million soums, fuel, lubricants and equipment costs 2 million



soums, and other expenses 10 million soums. The net profit from this will be 251 million soums.

In order to further increase the volume of kovrak cultivation and export in the district, it is possible to introduce proposals and recommendations such as: selling 5807 hectares of pasture land permanently owned by the Committee for the Development of the Silk and Wool Industry through E-AUCTION, as well as agricultural land, planting kovrak on 1-hectare plots of land of the residents of the neighborhood, providing a loan of 33 million soums for a period of 7 years with a 4-year grace period to protect the land from livestock with a net, establishing a conclusion by relevant organizations to combat rats and field mice that damage kovrak roots in areas planted with kovrak, and

canceling the issuance of special permits (for harvesting and export) in order to increase the volume of kovrak exports grown in households and in cultural conditions for the district.

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