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AGRICULTURE IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE WORLD WAR II

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ABSTRACT

In the article, the productive work of rural workers in the years of the Second World War in raising the industry and agriculture to a higher level was written on the basis of new sources. Rural workers supplied the front with food and industry with raw materials. It was desirable to replace the men who went to the front with women and the elderly. It was analyzed that various short-term specialist training courses and schools were organized for this purpose.

KEYWORDS

Cotton growing, combine, tractor, evacuation, kolkhoz, sovkhoz, kurultai, front, industry, stakhanovites.

INTRODUCTION

The Second World War was the most difficult period for the people of Uzbekistan. The reason was that it was necessary to redistribute material labor resources for the needs of the front. Rapid deployment and short-term operation of industrial enterprises transferred from the military regions of the Soviet Union to Uzbekistan required a lot of effort from the population. 104 plants and factories were moved to Uzbekistan.[1. –Б.440]. Pupils, students, housewives

and collective farmers were involved in the restoration of factories. One of the great examples of the traditional patriotism of the people of the country was public support for the front. From the first days of the war, Uzbeks took an active part in the creation of the defense fund. With the initiative of the public, more and more new forms of creating such a fund were created. Workers, collective farmers, intellectuals transferred their money earned on "communist

sabbaticals", personal savings of citizens, valuable assets, state bonds, goods, and food products to the fund. In general, from the first days of the war, the national defense fund of the republic was established. Until August 21, 1941, 5 million 293 thousand soums of money, bonds and valuables were transferred to the defense fund, and after a month, the defense fund was increased to 70 million soums. In addition, workers of the republic sent 2389 centners of grain, 1808 centners of meat, 200 centners of wool, 1495 centners of hay, 325 centners of dry fruits, 430 centners of vegetables, melons, watermelons and other products to this fund. [2. –P.371].

In 1941, workers of Fergana region handed over 219104 tons of cotton to the state. 187746 black cattle fulfilled the plan by 130.9%. Sheep were increased to 181 thousand 609 heads, the plan was 117.6%, goats were increased to 44 thousand 508 heads, the plan was fulfilled by 124.5%. In Andijan region they collected 43 million soums in 1942, 83 million soums in 1943, and 13 million soums in 1944 for the tank column and aviation squadron.[3. – P.7].

A huge responsibility was assigned to agriculture too. Villagers were tasked with supplying the front with agricultural products and raw materials for industry. It was necessary to mobilize all material resources of agriculture, to increase planting of technical crops, grain, potatoes and vegetables. This situation was difficult for the people of the republic. The reason is

that all land areas of Uzbekistan were specialized for cotton cultivation. Grain and other products were brought to Uzbekistan from other republics. Due to the war, there was a shortage of labor and specialists in both industry and agriculture. On the other hand, Uzbekistan was tasked with not reducing cotton production. Cotton growing was considered as the leading direction of the country's agriculture, and it was necessary to increase its cultivation. Because during the war, cotton was considered an extremely important raw material for the defense industry. In villages, a large part of the population was recruited as a labor force. Therefore, in 1941-1942, the number of working-age collective farmers in the villages of Uzbekistan decreased by 20%, and by 1945, by almost 40%. For example, if at the beginning of the war the total number of mechanizers and combine harvesters was 27,888 people, then in 1942 their number decreased to 2,775 people, and by 1943 it decreased even more. [4. –P.446].

Women, teenagers and elderly people were involved in agriculture. Attention was paid to land development and productive use of land to expand the areas of grain and technical crops. If before the war, 90% of the cultivated areas in each district were accounted for by cotton, during the war years, these areas decreased significantly. For example, in Fergana region, the area under cotton cultivation decreased to 51%. The remaining irrigated land is cultivated with other

agricultural crops, including 25% of grain, 4% of vegetable and pulse crops, and 16% of alfalfa. [5. – P.447]. Also, in Andijan region in July 1941, "Bolshevik" collective farm growers collected 23 centners of "white gold" from each hectare of land. In the second year of the war, most of the cotton fields were planted with wheat, barley, white sorghum, corn, beets and other crops. The collective farm received 70 evacuees in the first two years of the war and provided them with housing, clothing and food, as well as work.

The war once again proved the humanity of the Uzbek people. It sheltered many residents and children displaced from the Front area. For example, in the autumn of 1941, the "Lenin" collective farm received 16 displaced Jewish families. [6. –P.470]. All comforts were created for the evacuees, material and spiritual care was provided. In such difficult days, we can see in many examples the humanitarian courage of the Uzbek people who gladly helped the representatives of other nations. For example, members of the "Stalin" and "Komun" collective farms allocated 8,900 soums from the cocoon harvest for aid to the front. In addition, collective farmers sent clothing and food to the frontline fighters. During the war years, the workers of the "Andijan" oil field provided paternal support to the collective farms of the Kulla village of the Bulagbashi district. In May 1943, a tractor repair brigade was established at the "Andijan" oil field. This brigade consisted of 20 people.[7. –P.470]. The brigade

team actively helped the members of collective farms named "Lenin", "Stalin", "Bolshevik", "Commune" in cotton processing, plowing and picking cotton.

In 1943, collective farm "Timoshenko" in the village of Koshtegirman, Fergana region planted winter wheat on 33 hectares of land and got a total harvest of 148 centners. At the same time, they planted sugar beet on 40 hectares of land, rice on 6 hectares of land, millet on 7 hectares of land, maize on 6 hectares of land, and alfalfa on 17 hectares of land. [8. –P.131].

The fact that collective farm workers achieve high productivity even in difficult conditions is evidence of their high patriotism. During the war, members of the collective farm tried to provide all kinds of support for the front. The main force in the collective farm was women. There was a shortage of tractors for tilling the land and harvesting cotton due to labor shortages. The reason is that advanced tractor drivers were sent to the front. Therefore, in a short time, women were taught to drive tractors and combine harvesters. In the first years of the war, 48 female collective farmers were trained to drive tractors at the MTS of Pap district of Namangan region. They are Ravshanova Fatima, Sarabibi Sattarova, K. Polatova, B. Talipova, Khadzhibaeva, Nuralieva, Abdurakhmanova and others. In March 1942, 1,500 women were trained in courses to drive tractors in Namangan region. 1189 female tractor drivers were trained in Fergana region. 15,000 women across the country were trained in

tractor courses. [9. -P. 351]. During the difficult years of the war, women played an important role in expanding the cultivated areas of agriculture, obtaining high yields, and increasing the volume of agricultural products.

During the war, the acreage for sowing grain was doubled. The allocation of land for vegetables and other crops has also been increased. The number of livestock increased, large black cattle – by 102 thousand, sheep and goats – by 1.5 million. Allocation of land to grain and other food crops was achieved at the expense of increasing cultivated areas.

In 1941-1943, the arable land was increased by 799 thousand hectares due to replanting. Of these, 546,000 hectares are irrigated lands. Cotton planting was reduced from technical crops. Total cotton acreage fell from 62.5% in 1940 to 40.5% by 1943. Productivity also fell, from 9.4 quintals in 1942 to 7.1 quintals in 1943. The decrease in cotton productivity was caused by the reduced supply of mineral fertilizers, lack of labor force and inappropriate agrotechnics. From the summer of 1942, the amount of bread given for cotton was halved and the premiums were abolished. As a result, the decrease in the interest of growers caused a sharp drop in productivity.

In January 1944, a kurultai on the development of cotton farming was held in Tashkent. Advanced growers participated in the kurultai. The issue of

cotton farming and its decline was discussed at the conference. A.A. Abdurakhmanov, Chairman of the Committee of the International Trade and Industry Committee, gave a report on "Measures for the development of cotton production in Uzbekistan". It revealed the reasons for the fall in productivity in 1942-1943. The most advanced growers R.Umarov, R.Gulomov, Kh. Tursunkulov and others took part in the conference. Their performance was aimed at one thing - to sacrifice all their strength and knowledge for the country, to raise cotton productivity to a higher level. Delegates returning from the congress told the collective farm farmers about the results and goals of the congress. For example, T. Khalikov, a delegate from Lenin district of Andijan region, reported: "Last year, we harvested more than 450 hectares of cotton. We handed over 900 tons of high-quality products to our country. This year, our task is to achieve higher yields. I made a promise on behalf of our collective farm at the congress, to increase the yield from 19 quintals last year to 40 c/h" Khalikov's initiative was supported by foremen, unit heads, and Stakhanov workers. [10. -P.324].

Advanced foremen of the collective farm A. Ibadullaev and A. Ashurov promised to achieve high results on behalf of their brigade with selfless efforts. In 1944, at the IX plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party(b), conclusions were made about the decrease in cotton productivity and its increase to a

higher level. [11. -P.100]. According to the decision, it was agreed to increase the yield of cotton this year without affecting other agricultural crops (cereals, beets, livestock). Bringing the cotton yield to a high result was entrusted to the collective farm growers. Achieving high productivity is achieved through the hard work of collective farm workers. The lack of agricultural equipment and lack of food during the war had left the population dry. In MTS, there was a shortage of tractors and machines for planting and transporting cotton, and repairs were required. There was little labor in collective farms. The advanced tractor drivers and growers went to war and most of them did not return. Most of those who returned were unfit for work and disabled. There was a shortage of fuel for tractors, cars, combines. Therefore, a heavy responsibility was placed on the shoulders of collective farm workers. In difficult conditions, collective farm workers contributed to the victory over fascism with their perseverance and bravery.

The once again tested the endurance of the Uzbek people as well as the people of the world. Although Uzbekistan is not on the front line, our brave people made a great contribution to the victory with their hard work and courage in the front battles and behind the front. It is necessary to inculcate their courage and tenacity as an example in the upbringing of the young generation in the spirit of patriotism.

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