

Technical Service and Repair Processes in the “Uzselxoztexnika” System

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Abstract: This article examines the processes of technical service and repair within the “Uzselxoztexnika” system, as well as its role in ensuring the effective operation of agricultural machinery in Uzbekistan. The study analyzes the organizational structure of technical maintenance services, repair mechanisms, supply of spare parts, and the activities of regional service enterprises. Special attention is paid to the problems encountered in the maintenance and repair system, including outdated equipment, insufficient material and technical resources, and shortages of qualified specialists. Furthermore, the article highlights the importance of improving technical service processes for increasing agricultural productivity and modernizing the agrarian sector.

Keywords: Uzselxoztexnika, agricultural machinery, technical service, repair processes, mechanization, agrarian sector, spare parts supply, maintenance system, agricultural development, technical infrastructure.

Introduction: The development of agriculture has always depended on the effective use of machinery and technical services. In Uzbekistan, the “Uzselxoztexnika” system played an important role in supplying agricultural enterprises with machinery, organizing technical maintenance, and carrying out repair services. During the Soviet period and the early years of independence, this system became one of the key structures supporting the mechanization of agriculture and ensuring the continuous operation of tractors, combines, and other agricultural equipment.

Technical service and repair processes were essential for increasing labor productivity and improving the efficiency of agricultural production. The activities of “Uzselxoztexnika” included the supply of spare parts, seasonal maintenance, equipment diagnostics, and the restoration of damaged machinery. At the same time, the system faced several challenges such as outdated technologies, insufficient financial resources, and shortages of qualified specialists, which negatively affected the quality of services.

Today, studying the historical experience of the “Uzselxoztexnika” system is important for understanding the development of agricultural

mechanization and technical infrastructure in Uzbekistan. This article analyzes the technical service and repair processes within the system, its organizational structure, major achievements, and existing problems based on historical and scientific sources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The activities of the “Uzselxoztexnika” system and the development of agricultural mechanization in Uzbekistan have been studied by a number of local and foreign researchers. Scientific works devoted to the history of the agrarian sector mainly focus on the role of mechanization in increasing agricultural productivity and improving farming efficiency.

Researchers such as V.V. Bartold and other Soviet scholars analyzed the economic development of Central Asia and emphasized the importance of technical infrastructure in agriculture. Uzbek historians and economists also investigated the organizational structure of agricultural service enterprises and their contribution to rural development. In particular, studies related to agricultural reforms in Uzbekistan provide valuable information about the supply, maintenance, and repair of agricultural machinery.

In addition, statistical reports, archival materials, and official documents of agricultural institutions serve as important sources for studying the activities of “Uzselxoztexnika.” Modern research pays special attention to the modernization of technical services, the introduction of innovative technologies, and the improvement of repair systems in the agrarian sector.

However, despite the existing studies, the technical service and repair processes within the “Uzselxoztexnika” system have not been comprehensively analyzed from a historical perspective. Therefore, this article aims to examine these processes in a broader scientific context.

METHODOLOGY

This research is based on the principles of historicity, objectivity, and systematic analysis. The study applies comparative-historical and analytical methods to examine the development of technical service and repair processes within the “Uzselxoztexnika” system. Archival materials, statistical data, scientific literature, and official reports related to agricultural mechanization were comparatively analyzed. Furthermore, the research uses a retrospective approach to evaluate the organizational structure, technical maintenance activities, and challenges faced by the system during different historical periods. The collected data were generalized and scientifically interpreted to reveal the role and significance of “Uzselxoztexnika” in the development of Uzbekistan’s agricultural sector.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the moment the agricultural machinery association was established, it was entrusted with the tasks of supplying farms with machinery and carrying out repair works. In addition, it was also expected to support the production activities of collective farms (kolkhozes) and state farms (sovkhozes).

However, repair works within the “Uzselxoztexnika” system were not fully implemented. Such shortcomings were observed in almost all types of agricultural machinery. Since the machines produced by factories were not assembled according to the required standards from the very beginning, it was impossible to use them for a long period of time. For example, in 1961 alone, 1,275 cotton-picking machines were not put into operation during the cotton harvest. Even if each machine had harvested 60–70 tons of cotton, this would have amounted to 76,500 tons, and approximately 12,750 workers would have been required for manual cotton picking [1:7].

After being sent directly from factories, the machines often required additional inspection and repair

immediately after their first use in the fields. Naturally, it was impossible to complete these tasks on time. First of all, there was a shortage of specialists, equipment was not delivered on time, and artificial queues were often created. For example, by June 20, 1962, only 20 percent of cotton-picking machines and 21 percent of cotton-cleaning machines had been repaired. In particular, the regional branches of “Uzselxoztexnika” in Fergana, Samarkand, Bukhara, Surkhandarya, Khorezm, and the Karakalpak ASSR lagged significantly behind in this regard. At the “Shumanay” sovkhoz in the Karakalpak ASSR, only 49 out of 100 tractors had been repaired and prepared for the cotton harvest. According to the planned schedule, 50 workers were supposed to be employed in the repair workshop of the sovkhoz, but in reality the number of workers did not exceed 12–13 people. As a result, only 41 out of 88 trailers and 9 out of 42 cotton-cleaning machines were repaired [2:5].

According to the established plans, in 1963 the republic’s farms were tasked with preparing cotton fields for double-sided cultivation and making cotton-picking machines ready for operation. In that year, the regional branches of the association provided services to 246 collective farms. Naturally, this required mechanics, collective farmers, sovkhoz workers, agricultural specialists, farm managers, and employees of district branches of “Uzselxoztexnika” to prepare every tractor and agricultural machine for the planting campaign within a very short period of time. According to data from the Statistical Administration of the Uzbek SSR, by February 28, 1963, only 3,377 out of 5,676 cultivation tractors in Samarkand region and 3,376 out of 5,486 tractors in Syrdarya region had been prepared for spring sowing. Repair work on tractors and agricultural machinery also lagged behind in Bukhara, Khorezm, and the Karakalpak ASSR. Similar situations were observed in the district branches of Andijan and Fergana regions, where spare parts were also lacking [3:4].

In 1963, the regional branches of “Uzselxoztexnika” provided comprehensive technical services to 156 economically weak collective farms. However, there were also serious shortcomings in this area. The Namangan, Karshi, and Denov repair plants failed to repair 837 D-54 and D-24 engines. Repair work on outdated equipment was not carried out at all. The Lenin, Karshi, Dalvarzin, and Denov plants significantly increased repair expenses for engines and other equipment [4:7].

Work in tractor repair workshops was completed only by 23 percent in Syrdarya and 43 percent in Fergana. For example, in the “Lenin” collective farm of Payariq district, a repaired tractor broke down on its very first

day in the field due to engine failure. A similar case occurred with the “Universal” tractor at the “Kirov” collective farm in Chinobod district. Bearings malfunctioned, workers lacked proper skills, and the introduction of new machinery into practice was neglected [5:62]. In Baliqchi district of Andijan region, only 66 out of 249 cultivation tractors brought to repair workshops had actually been repaired. Similar situations occurred in other regions of the republic as well.

On July 7, 1964, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR issued a decree “On the Unsatisfactory Organization of Restoration and Delivery of Outdated Equipment in the ‘Uzselxoztexnika’ Association.” Despite two years of experience, the decree emphasized that the restoration and delivery of outdated equipment remained highly unsatisfactory. In particular, by August 1, 1964, restoration work worth 1,093.9 thousand rubles was planned for the first seven months of the year, but only 724.7 thousand rubles, or 66.2 percent, had been completed. Centralized restoration work was completed by 58.8 percent, while restoration for private needs reached 71.0 percent. The situation was especially poor in Khorezm, where only 37.8 percent of the planned work had been completed by August 1. The figures were 39.9 percent in Fergana region, 50.2 percent in Syrdarya region, 52.7 percent in Tashkent region, and 55.2 percent in the Karakalpak ASSR. At the Dalvarzin repair plant, repair work was completed by only 0.49 percent, and four types of repair-demanding equipment had not been repaired at all. At the Nukus repair plant, the plan was fulfilled by only 1.5 percent, and five categories of necessary equipment were left unrepaired. At the Yukorichirchiq repair workshop, only 15 percent of the plan had been completed, while six types of equipment had deteriorated beyond repair [6:30].

As a result, several heads of regional branches of the “Uzselxoztexnika” association received official warnings. A number of additional tasks concerning repair works and the delivery of old equipment were also assigned [7:30].

Negligence was also observed in the transportation and unloading of equipment. Managers of regional trade bases paid little attention to these issues. Many managers ignored the requirement of “Uzselxoztexnika” to exchange old equipment for new machinery. Consequently, the inventories of equipment at the bases did not correspond to the planned figures. Old equipment brought to the bases was not properly registered. Machinery rusted in open areas and eventually became impossible to restore.

Among such equipment, ball-bearing and roller-bearing devices were particularly common. In some cases, heavy iron equipment fell to the ground and broke during transportation, making restoration impossible. It was specifically emphasized that chief engineers, directors, and specialized mechanics showed negligence toward these problems [8:29].

The Party-State Control Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR inspected the preparation of harvesting machinery in the Akhunboboev and Kirov production departments of Fergana region. According to inspection results, by August 20, 1964, 173 out of 117 machines in the farms of the Akhunboboev department and 162 out of 203 machines in the Kirov department had been repaired. Significant shortcomings were identified in the preparation of cotton-cleaning machines and trailers used for transporting cotton without sacks. During inspections of 109 repaired machines in the Akhunboboev department, 59 were found to have numerous defects. In the Kirov production department, all 48 inspected machines were deemed unfit for operation. The cost of tractor repairs, which had been 165 rubles 36 kopecks in 1960, decreased to 133 rubles 97 kopecks by 1965 [9:24].

In the Akhunboboev district association of “Uzselxoztexnika” and in many collective farms, machinery acceptance commissions remained inactive. State technical control inspectors failed to supervise the quality of machinery preparation in all farms and did not participate in the acceptance of cotton-harvesting equipment. Repair works did not meet required standards. Machine-washing equipment did not function properly, machinery had numerous defects, and tractors were not tested after repairs. Similar shortcomings were observed in the district associations of Pop, Jomboy, Guliston, Fergana, Shurchi, Gurlan, Chimboy, and Kegeyli, as well as in repair plants in Samarkand, Nukus, and Urgench [10:285].

CONCLUSION

In general, problems related to supplying agriculture with machinery and carrying out repair works remained constant. According to archival documents, reports and official records mentioned more problems than achievements. The adjustment of supplied machinery and mechanisms, as well as technical maintenance services, failed to meet required standards. The situation became so disorganized that instead of constructing proper repair workshops in districts, temporary repair capacities were created. Wherever there was a large amount of repair-demanding

equipment, repair workshops were insufficient.

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