



DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY IN UZBEKISTAN IN 1920-1930

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<i>Article History</i>	<i>Abstract</i>
Received: 11 October 2023 Revised: 10 November 2023 Accepted: 01 December 2023 CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0	<p>The article contains information about the introduction of new agricultural tractors into the agriculture of Uzbekistan in the 1920-30s and the socio-economic life of the local population.</p> <p>Keyword: Communism, discontent, plow, religion, personnel, old age, plow, mole, Fordson, MTS, resource, whitewashing, religion, nationality, mentality.</p>

Nowadays, there is increased attention to the study of the socio-economic and political life of different periods of the history of our country, to the illumination and drawing of the necessary conclusions based on the sources that reveal the true history. We know that it is important to study the agricultural life of different periods of our country's history, including the colonial period, to shed light on the lifestyle and daily work of the villagers, and to draw the necessary conclusions.

Studying the history of the cotton monopoly in Uzbekistan in the 1920s-1930s and describing its consequences is one of the urgent issues facing the history of our country, which requires an impartial and thorough investigation.

The essence of the cotton policy carried out by the Soviet state became evident after the October coup of 1917. The Soviet government established the General Cotton Committee (Glavkhlopkom) under the Supreme Council of National Economy and approved the Turkestan ASSR Cotton Committee as a subordinate organization. In addition, the "Rules and regulations on the state organization of cotton farming, cotton ginning industry and cotton production" was adopted, thereby strengthening the state monopoly on cotton production in the territory of Uzbekistan.

We know that farming culture has been highly developed in the territory of Uzbekistan since ancient times and has had its influence on other regions as well. But it is not a secret to anyone that the socio-economic life of peasants in all periods, including the colonial period, was unique.

Decisions, minutes of the meeting, guidelines, instructions, and manuals of the cotton committee in Turkestan and Uzbekistan (established on March 2, 1918) are important primary sources in the scientific research of cotton monopoly and its consequences (in UzRM. f. 2, 17, 61, 62 , 122, 1064) were used. In these materials, there is an imbalance in the relations between the center and Uzbekistan, and Uzbekistan relied on the policy of increasing cotton planting areas in agriculture. If this is not done, they will resort to the method of communist ideological oppression.

Relying on the sources of these funds, it was possible to illuminate the violent aspects of the policy of the Soviet regime in cotton cultivation. In particular, the issue of ending the state monopoly on cotton was discussed during 1921-1923. It can be mentioned that the opinions of the local leaders regarding the termination of the state monopoly on cotton and the cotton committee of Uzbekistan were not taken into account.

The situation of farmers living in Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, has always been difficult. Although they were given land from the 20th - 20th years, it

was not possible to get a high yield due to the lack of modern techniques, the lack of agrotechnical knowledge in their operation, and the backwardness of irrigation facilities.

In particular, this was negatively affected by the backward material and technical base in the country. It was very difficult to provide agriculture with machinery even during the Tsarist period. From 1900 to 1916, only 2,400,000 soums [1] were allocated for the provision of agricultural machinery and equipment in Central Asia. It should be noted that 93 percent of the above equipment was purchased by representatives of other nationalities, and only 7 percent of equipment was purchased by local nationals. Therefore, the economic opportunities of the local population changed little due to the introduction of agricultural machinery. The common people were armed with extremely simple, simple equipment such as a plow, a trowel, a hoe, and a scythe. Many farmers had no idea about the new tractors. They also imagined tractors in the form of various monsters among the people, even when the tractor was moving loudly, the people around could not come near it because of its sound. These cases were great news for farmers.

From the 1920s, agricultural machinery began to enter the republic, and some progress was made in providing farmers with machinery. The increase in the number of techniques led to the increase of the economic potential of the state and the material development of agriculture. During this period, the first tractors gradually began to enter our republic, and their number increased more and more [2].

The introduction of such techniques automatically increased the need for personnel. The improvement of cotton production techniques increased the need to train specialist personnel. But the establishment of government personnel training was carried out with irregular processes. The local population could not use the technology for many years due to lack of experience.

In November 1925, K(b)P II of Uzbekistan decided to carry out reforms in the regions of Fergana, Tashkent and Samarkand, and at the same time prepare for land and water reforms in the regions of Zarafshan, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya and Khorezm [3]. On December 2, 1925, the Extraordinary Commission of the Central Executive Committee of the UZSSR approved the decree "On Land and Water Reform". This decree was signed by Comrade Yoldosh Okhunboboev, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR.

MTSs also played an important role in the development of agriculture and the improvement of the material and technical base of cotton growing. In 1930, there were 6 MTSs in the republic, but by 1931, this number increased to 48, in 1932 to 67, and in 1933 to 72. In 1931, 343,000 fields were plowed with the help of existing MTSs in the republic [4].

But at the same time, the role of mechanization in planting, cultivating, and harvesting remained low. As a proof of our opinion, it should be said that in 1933, only 1730 hectares of land on all collective farms, or 0.2% of all cotton fields, were planted with the help of tractors.

There were reasons for the low level of use of tractors and other machinery. They consist of the following: a) shortage of qualified tractor drivers and their frequent dismissal; b). Extremely low level of education in educational institutions training tractor workers; c). Low quality of tractor repair; g). Deficiency in the training of tractor personnel, lack of experience.

By 1932, it was planned to increase the mechanization of cotton fields to 90%, and the planting of crops by machines to 70%. Unfortunately, these tasks were not fulfilled: only 42% of the land was cultivated with the help of mechanization, only 8% of the crop was planted with the help of tractors, and only 3% was cultivated. The biggest and main reason for these shortcomings was the extremely late and slow assimilation of new technology by collective farms, state

farms, and MTSs. In Central Asia, in 1932, 60 percent of all existing tractors, and only 2 percent of tractor trailers worked.

In addition, there were shortcomings in organizing mechanization in cotton growing and introducing it to production, little attention was paid to research and development. In particular, in some scientific works, there were cases of mechanization experience in grain crops being introduced in cotton cultivation.

In the early years of Soviet rule, the method of growing cotton was no different from the old method. But due to the lack of equipment, for many years, local horse-drawn agricultural equipment was used. In the following years, with the introduction of new equipment, plowing of the land, planting of seeds in rows, and horse cultivators were continued. Around 1923, the first "Fordzon" brand tractors were brought to the fields of Uzbekistan. At first, this car was viewed with distrust. But the ride quality is better than riding a horse plough, and on top of that, the fuel consumption is slightly lower, which has changed the misconception about the tractor.

There were only 39 tractors in the republic. In 1924, the executive committee of Fergana region sent the following telegram: "The tractors sent to Fergana region were given one to each uezd. Due to the great demand for tractors by the population, the executive committee of Fergana region finds it necessary to send five more tractors" [5].

In the republic, 316 tractors in 1925 increased to 494 in 1926. The number of tractors in Uzbekistan reached 1067 in 1927, and the weight of this machine was 7.4%. By 1928, there were 49,000 hectares of land plowed by tractors. The delivery of tractors increased year by year, car rental points increased, and by the time MTS was established, such points had reached 300 [6].

In the early years of using tractors in cotton farming, three to five of these machines were organized into one brigade. In those years, the "Fardzon" brand tractor was used, later this machine was replaced by the "International" brand

tractor. Tractors were used only for plowing and in one shift. The brigade was headed by a mechanic. He was responsible for the organization of tractor work, control over the technical condition of tractors, taking into account plowed land and proper formalization of the work done.

In the following years, several brigades in one district were united into one squad, and now there are 15-20 tractors in one squad. The squad was led by an instructor. The detachment was subordinated to a cotton factory or a seed farm in the district where tractor work was carried out. The factory or seed holdings had to provide the squad with all the necessary things, find work for the tractors and carry out accounting work. Since the middle of the twenties, the tractor section under the agricultural department of the "Uzbekkhopka" administration in Tashkent led the work of all detachments.

At the beginning of the period of the organization of tractor works, the lack of mechanized personnel was noticeable. It became necessary to open training courses for mechanics on a large scale. In the following years, the plans for the training of mechanized personnel were not fulfilled.

Collectivization works were carried out in the regions where the first MTS was established in the republic and it was evaluated as successful. For example, in 1930, 32% of peasant farms were collectivized in areas without MTS, and 56% in regions with MTS. It is decided that MTS will perform the main agricultural work on collective farms with the help of its own machines by concluding a contract, give advice on strengthening the collective farm from the organizational point of view and conducting agricultural work, and actively implement science and advanced achievements.

In conclusion, it should be said that, in order to develop cotton production in Uzbekistan, the introduction of agricultural machinery facilitated the work in agriculture, but in fact, it did not bring about major changes in the life and lifestyle of local farmers. Due to the lack of experience in the management of the

machinery, the population was forced to carry out cotton cultivation by hand for many years. Described as "steel horses", tractors were difficult for farmers to get used to and learn for a long time. The way of life of the local population remained harsh. Heavy labor in folk agriculture continued to be done by hand. As a result of the policy of the Soviet government in the field of agriculture, it implemented its national policy aimed at the formation of a special Soviet people through its national policy.

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