
CONFERENCE ARTICLE

**ON THE LIFESTYLE OF THE RELOCATED POPULATION IN NEWLY ORGANIZED COLLECTIVE
AND SOVKHOS**

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ABSTRACT

This article presents the author's views on the large-scale and industrial development of virgin lands in Uzbekistan. Information is also presented on the introduction of modern technologies in the field of land reclamation and irrigation in the development of virgin lands, raising agriculture to a new qualitative level, the creation of new collective and state farms, measures taken to create all conveniences for people in the desert, as well as the selfless work of the population resettled from the Nurata oasis.

KEYWORDS

Uzbek SSR, Mirzachul, Jizzakh steppe, virgin lands, irrigated agriculture, irrigation, land reclamation, Nurata oasis, CPSU, region, Syrdarya, collective farm, state farm, housing.

INTRODUCTION

Due to its geographical location, climate, and natural conditions, our country has long been one of the regions with a highly developed agricultural culture. Its history of artificial irrigation goes back to the distant past. It should be noted that by the 1970s, unprecedented work was carried out in Uzbekistan on the development of virgin lands, the construction of large hydraulic structures, and the development of irrigated agriculture. In particular, high results have been achieved in the republic in the development of the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes. In this process, irrigated agricultural areas in our region became significantly important in the development of agriculture.

During this period, the government paid serious attention to the resettlement policy implemented for the development of virgin lands. A large part of the population of the Nurata oasis, one of the largest regions of Uzbekistan, was also involved in the resettlement at that time. Taking into account the severity of natural and climatic conditions, the Union government introduced many benefits for those who moved to desert massifs being developed. In particular, those who came to Mirzachul for permanent work were paid a one-time salary of 2 months or wages, and their family members were also paid assistance at the same time. After settling on new lands, a 15% bonus was added to the wages of those relocated [1:42, 55].

As is known, on August 6, 1956, the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a resolution "On the development and irrigation of 300 thousand hectares of virgin and fallow lands of the Mirzachul in the Uzbek SSR and the Kazakh SSR." It should be noted that from this period, a new era began in the development of the Mirzachul. Thanks to the migration of powerful machinery, families of engineers, agronomists, land reclamation workers, doctors, nurses, thousands of workers, builders, and machine operators, many representatives of the service sector were brought up in the desert. Until this period, representatives of this profession were few and far between [2:49]. As a result, the desert turned into a huge construction site. Previously, one new state farm was launched every two or three years, but thanks to the nationwide

movement that began in 1956, 3-4 new state farms were established annually. In the same year, the area of developed lands in Mirzachul reached 206 thousand hectares[3]. The residents of the Nurata oasis also made a worthy contribution to the positive changes taking place in the desert.

In connection with the comprehensive development of construction lands, many successes have been achieved in the creation of large residential areas, the construction of a large number of rural settlements, the reconstruction of rural settlements, and the improvement of the cultural and living conditions of workers. In particular, in the 1970s, in the "Communism" collective farm of the Bayavut district of the Syrdarya region, in order to improve the provision of cultural and domestic services to the population, a barbershop, a sewing workshop, a radio and television workshop, a bathhouse, a teahouse, clubs and shops, and three new-type school buildings were put into operation. The roads between each section of the collective farm were connected to the center by an asphalt road, and a water pipeline was laid. Through the efforts of the collective farm board and party organization, 470,000 rubles were spent on meeting the needs of the people in 1974 alone. In the same year, 4 schools, 3 medical stations, 1 large hospital, 2 teahouses, 7 shops, 7 libraries, and 2 bathhouses were built on the collective farm territory [4:84, 414]. If we consider the example of the "V. I. Lenin" state farm of the Dustlik district of the Jizzakh region, then the creation of this state farm will take a short time. However, during this short period, significant changes have occurred in the region. In particular, if in 1970 the population of the settlement lived in only 7 different types of residential buildings, then in 1981 the state farm built 300 cottages, covered with green trees, and many two-story buildings. Electricity and water supply have been established in these residential areas [5:568].

The team of the 11th mobile mechanized column, located at the "S. Rakhimov" state farm in the Jizzakh region, undertook in 1971 to build 8170 square meters of housing for the workers of the state farm, as well as public buildings, a cinema, and a park for tractors [6:448]. In 1973, the Oktyabrsky district undertook

to produce and sell to the state 50 thousand tons of cotton, 510 tons of grain, 1400 tons of vegetables, 10,400 tons of melons, 60 tons of potatoes, 231 tons of meat, 20 tons of milk, and 738 thousand eggs. The sowing plan for cotton, grain, vegetables, melons, and other crops was exceeded. In the same year, the silkworm breeders of the district timely fulfilled the established plan and delivered 2,400 kg of cocoons to the state. The "S. Rakhimov" state farm delivered 1,652 kg of cocoons to the state, and the "Y. Okhunbayev" state farm - 650 kg [7:42].

In the newly established state farms in the old irrigated territories of Mirzachul, the construction of housing by the state was carried out in a pilot direction. The types of housing of this type are limited by the volume of state loans and the possibility of using the labor of settlers in construction. The housing to be built was to be built taking into account the demographic composition of the state farm's population, that is, to ensure that families lived in each household. Based on this, the project set specifies the construction of the following types of houses: dormitories for single residents; houses with one-room galleries for families of two; houses with two-room galleries for families of three; blocked three-room houses for families of four; blocked four-room houses for families of five; five-room blocked houses for families of six or more members [8:388]. Thus, it can be understood from this that thanks to the irrigation and complex development of virgin lands, the deserts became more beautiful, and at the same time, the fate of every Nurata-desert farmer, along with others, changed radically, because he was not only the master of his land, but also the creator of its wonderful future.

The resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU of August 6, 1956, along with the comprehensive development of construction lands, also provided for the development of industry in the agricultural sector. For the development of cotton growing in the republic, the creation of a cotton industry base was determined as a priority. Secondly, the goal was set to simultaneously create a solid material and technical base for the full industrialization of agriculture. This method was first applied in Mirzachul [2:57].

Obtaining funds from the Center for the construction of industrial bases, of course, was not easy. The Center often considered this a secondary matter. Nevertheless, with the development of the cotton industry, cotton ginning plants were built in almost all districts and state farms of the republic. The most advanced forms of construction and installation work have been applied and implemented in the developed territories of Mirzachul. Labor was organized on a scientific basis. Thus, industry was established in the steppe, and of course, the workers of the Nurata oasis also played a significant role in such constructive work.

It should be noted that, although the necessity of transitioning to an intensive form of development was repeatedly emphasized at all Congresses of the CPSU, in practice, these tasks remained empty words. For example, in the mid-1980s, a collective farmer from Uzbekistan earned 5 rubles 88 kopecks per working day, a collective farmer from Tajikistan - 6 rubles 04 kopecks, a collective farmer from Kyrgyzstan - 6 rubles 90 kopecks, a collective farmer from Turkmenistan - 7 rubles 03 kopecks, a collective farmer from the RSFSR - 8 rubles 03 kopecks, a Lithuanian collective farmer - 9 rubles 90 kopecks, and an Estonian collective farmer - 14 rubles 04 kopecks. This was primarily due to the extremely low wages paid to cotton growers. It should be noted that if the hourly labor of a grain grower was valued at 62.5 kopecks, then for a cotton grower it was only 16 kopecks [9:302, 432]. This also shows that many decisions made by the Center were far from the interests of Uzbekistan. The republic became a supplier of cheap raw materials and strategic mineral resources, a convenient market for the sale of finished products, that is, it remained the raw material base of the Union.

Nevertheless, the comprehensive approach to the development of virgin lands has accelerated the solution of housing

construction and cultural and domestic problems in state farms. On the other hand, conditions were created for the preservation of the workforce, thereby creating a complete socio-economic system. The results of the eighth five-year plan of "Golodnostepstroy" demonstrate the enormous volume of work performed here. During the years 1965-1970, the fixed assets of the state farms of the new zone increased from 143.4 million soums to 477.3 million soums [10:55].

The State Committee for the Use of Labor Resources of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR carried out measures for the resettlement of the population to newly developed territories in 1970-1982. Constant contact with the previous place of residence of the resettled population, telling their neighbors, relatives, and fellow villagers about the existing benefits and conditions at the place of resettlement, aroused in them a desire to work on newly developed lands. As a result, the population moved to temporary work or permanent residence in collective and state farms established on voluntarily developed lands. By this time, conditions on newly developed lands had significantly improved. Most importantly, the newly settled population was provided with significantly larger plots of land compared to their previous place of residence, which was also one of the important factors of interest to the settlers [11:45,46].

It should be noted that the ninth five-year plan was especially fruitful for Golodnostepstroy. The five-year assignment was overfulfilled by the management team. During this period, construction and installation work worth 724 million soums was carried out, 100 thousand hectares of new irrigated land were prepared and put into operation, 20 new state farms were created, 900 thousand square meters of housing, a large number of schools, preschool educational institutions, and other production and cultural-household facilities were commissioned. During the ninth five-year plan, Mirzacho'l state farms allocated 1 million dollars to the state. 441 thousand tons of "white gold" were delivered. The five-year cotton production target was fulfilled at 130% [12:7]. The team of the "Golodnostepstroy" administration exceeded the plan for the main indicators in the first quarter of 1965. Instead of the planned 2500 hectares, 2569 hectares of new irrigated land were put into agricultural circulation. Also, 15,011 square meters of housing were commissioned [13:7]. During this period, the irrigation and development of Mirzachul intensified.

In conclusion, mainly cotton fields and orchards were primarily established on the developed lands. Settlements, villages, farms, and districts were created on virgin lands. On the developed lands of Mirzachul, settlements such as Mirzachul, Zarbdor, Zafarabad, Dustlik, Arnasay, Akaltyn, Mekhnatabad, and other districts, as well as Yangiyer, Gulistan, Pakhtakor, Dustlik, Buston, Gagarin, and Pakhtaabad, appeared. In the steppe, which was once beyond human capability, housing and cultural and domestic facilities were built based on new modern projects. Water, electricity, gas, and heat transmission lines, communication systems, and railways were built. Of course, such large-scale constructive work carried out in the steppe did not bypass the people of Nurata. Many of the Nurata residents, who endured the conditions of the desert, over time became leading agricultural specialists and selfless workers of the republic.

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