



The Traditional Agricultural Activity of the Population of Surkhan Oasis

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Abstract

In the following article the peculiarities of agriculture of the ethnological location of the population living in Surkhan oasis occupied with the agriculture, its historical development is analysed. The current situation and development of the traditional farming in the adaptation process to the market relations. Also the massive sources and literature related with the literature ethnological types of the agriculture, its place in the ethnoeconomical system, particularly in the household economy and the social significance in the form of the lifestyle of the population are studied. The types of traditional farming, their ethnological properties in relation to the oasis, the modernization of this domain within the conditions of the changing of the types of properties, the types of crops are analysed. Based on the studied problems the scientific conclusions are drawn, the practical proposals and recommendations are presented.

Keywords: *Traditional Agriculture, Jarquton, Artificial Watering, River, Rained Agriculture, Land Plot, Farming Household, Assisting Farmer, Phonological Knowledge, Transformation*

Introduction

It is well established fact that the every nation feels the need to study its way of life, material and spiritual heritage. From the first years of independence, Uzbekistan has aroused great interest in the study of the ethnogenesis, traditional material and spiritual culture of the Uzbek people from a historical and ethnological point of view. The extent to which regional, natural and climatic conditions play an important role in the development and transformation of a nation's way of life, as well as its level of socio-economic development. The influence of these two conditions can be clearly seen in all the processes of activity of ethnoses, in particular, in their means of production, lifestyle, economic activities, and so on. Certain natural and geographical conditions and economic activity of the population were considered one of the factors influencing the formation and development of their lifestyle and culture.

Agriculture is one of the main branches of agriculture, providing the population with food, industry with raw materials, and livestock with fodder. On the basis of the experience and phenological knowledge accumulated by the ancestors of the Uzbek people over thousands of years, a unique agricultural culture has been formed in the country since ancient times. Traditional farming culture combines the centuries-old ethnocultural traditions of peasants. For this reason, today it is important to ethnologically study the centuries-old cultural heritage and experience of the Uzbek people in agriculture,

as well as the ethno-territorial features of local farming culture to prove that these traditions were created by the ancient ancestors of the region.

Literature Review

There are a number of studies on the history, culture, traditional economy, agricultural development of the population of the Surkhandarya oasis, which provide some information about the traditional agriculture of the oasis. Especially, the books such as “Formation of the Uzbek nation” by Karim Shoniyozov”, “Economy of Surkhan oasis” by Eshbolta Qobilov, by “History of Surkhandarya” by Sayfulla Tursunov, Bobonazar Murtazoyev va Toshkenboy Pardayev have been used. The article also examines the regional and problematic aspects of traditional farming in the ethno-economic system, its role, historical and economic foundations, a number of ethnographic and ethnological research works of several other agricultural scientists, as well as archival and statistical data.

Methodology

Scientific research methods such as ethnological analysis, systematic and functional analysis, statistical-comparative analysis were widely used in the study of this topic.

Main Part

The favorable nature of Uzbekistan, especially the Surkhandarya oasis, the availability of fertile soil, water and climatic conditions have long created favorable conditions for people to engage in agriculture in this region. In Southern Uzbekistan, one of the centers of ancient Eastern civilization, agriculture was carried out in small riverbeds. One of such rivers Sherabad river while passing from the mountainous terrain to oasis, especially getting closer to Amudarta is separated into several streams is attested by its dry river-beds. There are many monuments of the Bronze Age along these rivers. Another characteristic feature of the natural conditions of the Sherabad oasis is that the sun first spreads its rays to Kohitangtak. In the first days of spring, summer and autumn, in addition to the heat of the sun, a stream of warm air from Kohitangtog blows into the oasis. The heat of the air does not return until midnight. This allows for good development and productivity of agricultural crops.

As a result of research conducted by A.A. Askarov and T.Sh. Shirinov at the Jarkutan monument, it was proved that sedentary farming culture developed here, artificial irrigation system was discovered in agriculture, water was pumped from Bostonsay to new lands through main canals, plow and animal power were used. As a result of research conducted by A.A. Askarov and T.Sh. Shirinov at the Jarkutan monument, it was proved that sedentary farming culture developed here, artificial irrigation system was discovered in agriculture, water was pumped from Bostonsay to new lands through main canals, plow and animal power were used[1]. It can be concluded that agriculture based on artificial irrigation was formed in the Bronze Age in the Surkhandarya oasis. It can be concluded that agriculture based on artificial irrigation was formed in the Bronze Age in the Surkhandarya oasis. As V.M.Masson points out, not any farming, but a system of multiple irrigation of crops has increased productivity and led to higher labor productivity [2,52]. In other oases, including Khorezm, Tashkent, and the Fergana Valley, this process takes place much later, during the Early Iron Age [3,11].

Even in the Middle Ages, the peoples of southern Uzbekistan, like the peoples of a number of regions of Central Asia, have long lived and engaged in agriculture, handicrafts and trade[4, 189].

From ancient times, the Surkhandarya oasis had a potential position in the region due to the favorable climate, abundance of water resources, the availability of favorable natural conditions for agriculture. The people of the oasis also have their own historical traditions in the development of

agricultural culture. The people of the oasis also have their own historical traditions in the development of agricultural culture.

The relief of the Surkhandarya oasis consists of river valleys, steppes, hills and mountains, which include the Surkhandarya-Sherabad valley and the surrounding mountains. [5, 5]. The oasis is bounded on the east and northeast by the Republic of Tajikistan through the Bobotog and Hisar mountains, on the northeast by Kashkadarya, on the west by Turkmenistan through Mount Kohitang, and on the south by Afghanistan through the Amu Darya. The northern part of the oasis area is almost surrounded by mountains, and these mountain ranges are called by different names. The highest peak of the Hisar ridge is 4486 m. and from there the rivers Topalang and Obizarang begin. It is the longest part of the Boysuntag-Hisar mountain range, with its south-western network extending from north-east to south-west for 150 km. Some parts of Boysun mountain have been given different names [6, 117]. In the eastern part of the oasis, between the Surkhandarya and Kofarnihon rivers, the length of the Babatag ridge is 125 km. extending from northeast to southwest to the banks of the Amudarya. Its highest peak, Zarkosa, is 2,290 meters [6, 118].

The highest peak of Oktog, located on the left bank of the Surkhandarya River, is 750 meters. In the middle part of the oasis, on the right side of the Surkhandarya, there are small Khavod hills, the highest part of which does not exceed 557 meters. The oasis stretches for more than 200 km from northeast to southwest and is more than 145 km wide [7, 6].

There is a part of the plain in the middle of the oasis, which is called the Surkhan-Sherabad valley. The height of this plain varies, reaching 300 meters in the southern part, 400-450 meters in the middle part, and up to 700 meters in the northern and northwestern part. That is, it rises from south to north [7, 7]. There are many rivers and streams in the oasis for irrigated agriculture. In particular, the length of the Surkhandarya is 169 km, which is formed by the confluence of the Topalang and Karatag rivers and flows into the Amudarya. It was originally called Topalang, and the Topalangdarya was later renamed the right tributary of the Surkhandarya River. [8, 4]. The length of the Tupalang River is 124 kilometers.

The Topalangdarya came near the city of Sarijoy (now the village of Sarijoy) and was named Sarijoydarya. And by the time it came to Sariosia, it received the name Sariosia [9, 169]. In the early 19th and early 20th centuries, the people of Yurchi and Sarijuy used this river extensively to irrigate their crops [10, 148].

The last tributary of the Amudarya in the oasis is the Sherabad River. Starting from the top of the Boysun Mountains, this river is 186 km long. which is formed by the confluence of the Irgayli and Kizilsay rivers. Starting from the top of the Boysun Mountains, this river is 186 km long. which is formed by the confluence of the Irgayli and Kizilsay rivers. In the upper stream the name of the river is referred to as Machaydarya, starting from the Machay village Sherabad and after that is called as Qorasuv [11, 18]. The water of the Sherabad River was not constantly poured into the Amudarya, its water was divided into several canals and supplied water to the villages of the Sherabad principality. It poured its water into the Amudarya only when there was a lot of rain. There were also small rivers in the oasis, which were a constant tributary of the Surkhandarya, often divided into local irrigation networks. In particular, the length of the Karatag River, the left tributary of the Surkhandarya River, is 95 kilometers. The length of the Sangardakdarya, the largest right tributary of the Surkhandarya, is 114 kilometers. The Sangardakdarya also starts from two mountain streams. The water of this river did not always reach Surkhandarya, its water was divided into ditches and irrigated the lands of bek of Yurchi [9, 170].

The length of the second largest right tributary of the river Khujaipok (also called the Karluk River) is 97 km. The river is located at an altitude of 3,500 meters above sea level and starts from

Khojabozbarak mountain [11, 9]. The rivers listed above are the main rivers of the oasis and have met the water needs of the people of the oasis in the past and today, which mainly engaged in agriculture.

Among the principalities of the Bukhara khanate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the principalities of Sherabad, Boysun and Denau, located in the Surkhandarya oasis, had a special place in the field of agriculture, cattle breeding and handicrafts. Population in the areas of the agriculture was engaged in growing fruits such as grapes, apple, jiyda, apricot, pomegranate, nuts, cherry, almond, pistachio, mulberry, quince, plum, peach and vegetables such as watermelon, melon, carrot, beet were grown in irrigated and rainfed methods.

Apricots and melons of the Surkhan oasis are distinguished by their sweetness in the Bukhara Emirate [9, 309]. During the khanate, Dashnabad pomegranates spread throughout the region [9, 216].

In Khojasoat, Obshir, Chukur Obshir, Tokhtamish, Zardakul, Vakhshivor, Chinor villages of Oltinsoy district of Oasis, in Sina, Oshor, Kuyovsu, Pojur villages of Denav district, in Khubon, Changlak, Chekana, Dunangi, Maland, Xonj villages of Uzun and Sariosiya districts grown and prepared in large quantities from grape molasses (tahini) and raisins (dried grapes). Also, in the mountainous areas of the oasis in rainfed, in the lower areas in irrigated styles vegetables were grown, and the tahini was made from melon, watermelon and carrot, while dried apples, melons, peach, apricots were prepared in the household conditions [12, 279], шафтоли қоқи, ўрикдан ғўлун қаби турли хилдаги курук мевалар уй шароитида тайёрланган.

The agriculture of the Surkhandarya oasis can be divided into three zones: the first is the mountainous zone, in which dry crops are grown; the second, the zone of irrigated lands; the third consists of steppes and is widely used mainly in cattle breeding [6, 208].

Rice, cotton, sesame, oats, flax, wheat, barley, etc. are grown in the irrigated areas of the oasis [13, 374]. Areas such as grain crops, melons and horticulture were more developed on irrigated lands as well as on arable lands.

In 1924, there were 25,000 farms in the Surkhandarya oasis [14, 386]. By the 1950s, as a result of the development of new lands in the oasis and the rapid development of intensive agriculture specializing in cotton, the population engaged in traditional cattle breeding was forcibly relocated to the newly developed lands. Since the 60s of the 20th century, great attention has been paid to irrigation farming and its cotton-growing network. From the 50s and 60s of the XX century, the new population, formed as a result of the development of the Sherabad desert, underwent a process of transformation in the economic activities of the resettled population [15, 398-406].

After gaining independence, a new era in the development of agriculture began, and the transition to the adaptation of agricultural traditions to the requirements of a market economy.

The newly independent states that broke away from the Soviet Union chose their own models of transforming a centralized economy into a market economy based on socialist planning. The first President of the Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov mentioned that “The settlement of the issue of properties serves as the foundation stone of the system of measures aimed at the formation of market” [16, 43].

The solution of specific forms of ownership was one of the key issues in the post-Soviet transition to market relations, and it was one of the important steps in the development of a new society and economic relations. From the first years of independence, Uzbekistan began to pave the way for the formation of a class of property owners. At that time, it was necessary for the peasants to be given land as property. At that time, it was necessary for the peasants to be given land as property. For example, in

1989, more than 1.8 million landless households in 240,000 rural areas of the republic needed to be expanded for housing and agricultural production [17, 57]. “Only 5 percent of arable land in the country has been given to private farms, which produce a quarter of the gross agricultural output. Grown vegetables, melons, more than half of the meat and two-thirds of the milk they contribute ... Grown vegetables, melons, more than half of the meat and two-thirds of the milk they contribute ...” [17, 58]. Therefore, on the eve of independence and from the first years of independence, work began on the allocation of land as private property for the land. Therefore, on the eve of independence and from the first years of independence, work began on the allocation of land as private property for the land.

After the approval of the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan on the “Supply of the livestock and poultry of the households of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the intensification of the production of products from livestock” (May, 1990) many people from the rural areas bought the livestock and were allotted land plots.

Between 1989 and 1990, more than 1.5 million families had their plots expanded, and 580,000 families who had not previously had such access were provided with plots of land. More than 183,000 hectares of irrigated land have been allocated to the population. In Surkhandarya oasis, on the basis of this decree in 1990, 4,900 families were allocated 7,100 hectares of land for gardening [18, 103]. But despite this, almost 14,260 families in the oasis were in need of land [19].

The most important result of the agricultural reforms in Uzbekistan has been the provision of land to the population through the expansion of private farms, ie the allocation of irrigated land to private farms and orchards.

On January 21, 1991, the President of the Uzbek SSR I.Karimov, contrary to the cotton temptation of the Center, signed a resolution to allocate 108.5 thousand hectares of irrigated land from cotton fields for private use. This decision was the most important step in improving the welfare of the people and the living conditions of the rural population. As part of the implementation of this decision until May 12, 1991 in Surkhandarya region 112,849 families were allocated 13,233 hectares of land as land plots. As part of the implementation of this decision until May 12, 1991 in Surkhandarya region 112,849 families were allocated 13,233 hectares of land as land plots [18, 68]. Such measures have improved the living conditions of the rural population and increased the income of the population from private farms. By the end of 1991, the area used by private farms had increased to about 500,000 hectares in the country. By the end of 1991, the area used by private farms had increased to about 500,000 hectares in the country. The Republican Association of Private Farms was established, the activities of which were aimed at assisting private landowners and protecting their interests.

During 1992-1995, 22,000 hectares of land in the Surkhandarya oasis were allocated for private plots and given to landless and low-income farmers. Most of the land allotted for this private garden was allocated to young families to form a private farm. The former Soviet regime in the oasis allocated 8,000 hectares of state farm land to farmers as private plots. Most of the land allotted for this private garden was allocated to young families to form a private farm. The former Soviet regime in the oasis allocated 8,000 hectares of state farm land to farmers as private plots [20, 11]. The allocation of these lands for private plots changed the attitude of the farmers towards the land in a positive way. Allocation of land to the people was necessary in the first difficult years of independence and played a very important role in solving extremely urgent problems. Significant measures to strengthen private farms have helped to reduce tensions in the provision of vital food products to the population. Significant measures to strengthen private farms have helped to reduce tensions in the provision of vital food products to the population. Families who received plots of land not only met their needs for potatoes, vegetables, fruits, and livestock products, but also contributed to solving the food problem by significantly increasing their sales at urban farmers' markets.

Conclusion

With the transition of Uzbekistan to the path of independent development and the beginning of radical reforms in the agricultural sector on the basis of a market economy, traditional economic relations have entered a new stage of development. With the transition from social ownership to private ownership in agriculture, folk traditions, phenological knowledge, traditional agricultural techniques, land reclamation and effective and advanced methods of folk selection were revived. In the first years of independence, wheat, barley, oats, corn, millet, rice, mosh, beans, sesame, cotton, alfalfa were grown in the fields of Surkhandarya oasis; Melons, watermelons, carrots, onions, beets, cucumbers, squash are planted in melons. The farmers of the oasis started intensively using their land plots, being engaged in growing vegetables and fruits using greenhouses. They set up greenhouses on their backyards and started growing greens, spices, and citrus fruits.

The people of the Surkhandarya oasis have ancient historical experience in the field of agriculture and have developed a unique traditional farming culture based on the traditions of past generations. In addition, it is one of the nations with an ancient settled culture, which has preserved, improved and passed down from generation to generation the traditions inherited from ancestors for thousands of years. Also, over time, these traditions have improved and new modern farming practices have been explored.

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