

**THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE PERIOD
OF THE UZBEK KHANATES**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the development of agriculture during the period of the Uzbek khanates based on historical sources. The study highlights the role of farming, animal husbandry, horticulture, and cotton growing in the economy of the khanates. It also examines the influence of irrigation systems, forms of land ownership, and taxation relations on agricultural development. The interconnection between agriculture and internal and external trade, handicraft production, and the social structure of society is substantiated. The findings of the article contribute to identifying the historical significance of agrarian relations during the period of the Uzbek khanates.

Keywords: Uzbek khanates, agriculture, farming, animal husbandry, irrigation systems, land ownership, taxation system, cotton growing, agrarian relations, historical development.

**ИСТОРИЯ РАЗВИТИЯ СЕЛЬСКОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА В ПЕРИОД
УЗБЕКСКИХ ХАНСТВ**

Аннотация: В данной статье на основе исторических источников анализируется процесс развития сельского хозяйства в период узбекских ханств. В исследовании освещается роль земледелия, животноводства, садоводства и хлопководства в экономике ханств. Также раскрывается влияние ирригационных систем, форм землевладения и налоговых отношений на развитие сельского хозяйства. Обоснована взаимосвязь сельского хозяйства с внутренней и внешней торговлей, ремесленным производством и социальной структурой общества. Результаты статьи способствуют выявлению исторического значения аграрных отношений в период узбекских ханств.

Ключевые слова: узбекские ханства, сельское хозяйство, земледелие, животноводство, ирригационные системы, землевладение, налоговая система, хлопководство, аграрные отношения, историческое развитие

During the period of the Uzbek khanates, agriculture was the main sector of the economic life of society. The majority of the population was engaged in farming and animal husbandry. Agricultural products served as an important source for the domestic market and foreign trade. Crop cultivation stood at the center of the economic structure. Issues of land ownership and land use occupied an important place in state policy. This period represents a significant stage in the historical development of agriculture.

The era of the khanates mainly covers the 16th–19th centuries. During this time, the Bukhara, Khiva, and Kokand Khanates existed. In each khanate, the development of agriculture depended on natural and climatic conditions. Irrigated farming played the leading role. Rivers and canals were the main foundation of agriculture. Control over water resources was of state importance.

Crop farming served as the principal pillar of the khanates' economies. Grain crops were the most important source of food. Wheat, barley, and millet were widely cultivated. In some regions, rice production was well developed. Agriculture determined the living standards of the population. Yields depended on water supply and soil fertility.

Irrigation systems played a decisive role in agricultural development. The basins of the **Amu Darya** and **Syr Darya** were the main sources of irrigation. Large and small canals were dug, and water was delivered to fields through irrigation ditches. Maintaining irrigation facilities was considered a collective public obligation. This system ensured the stability of farming.

Various forms of land ownership existed. State lands were called "**amlök.**" Private land ownership was also widespread. **Waqf** lands were attached to religious institutions. Land ownership determined agrarian relations. Peasants paid taxes for the benefit of landowners.

The tax system was based on agricultural output. Peasants handed over a portion of the harvest to the state. **Ushr** and **kharaj** were the main taxes. Taxes were collected in both monetary and in-kind forms. The heavy tax burden affected the peasants' living conditions and, in some cases, caused social tensions.

Animal husbandry was one of the important branches of agriculture. Nomadic and semi-nomadic populations were engaged in herding. Sheep, goats, cattle, and horses were raised. Livestock products met internal needs, while wool and leather were also important for trade. Animal husbandry developed as a complementary sector alongside farming.

Horticulture and market gardening were also developed fields. Fruit trees were widely planted, and viticulture (grape growing) was especially advanced. Melons, watermelons, and vegetables were cultivated. Horticultural products were sold in markets, increasing the population's income.

Cotton growing began to gain importance during the khanate period. Cotton was mainly produced for local needs. Textile handicrafts relied on cotton. Cotton products held a significant place in domestic trade, and in some areas, cotton was also exported. This branch laid the foundation for later developments.

Agricultural tools were simple. The plow, hoe, and spade were the main implements. The lack of technology influenced productivity. Farming relied largely on physical labor, and labor efficiency was low. Nevertheless, experience and traditions played an important role.

Agricultural production was highly dependent on natural conditions. Drought led to reduced yields, and water shortages were a serious problem. Natural disasters negatively affected peasants' lives, sometimes resulting in famine. The state occasionally took relief measures in such situations.

Agricultural products were sold through markets. Large bazaars operated in cities, and peasants brought their produce to urban centers. Trade relations connected the countryside and the city. Agriculture contributed to the development of commerce and strengthened economic ties.

During the khanate period, the rural population constituted the main stratum of society. Peasants played a crucial role as the productive force, and their labor affected state stability. The rural population was also a military and economic resource. The condition of peasants was closely linked to political stability; therefore, rulers paid special attention to agriculture.

State policy was aimed at controlling agriculture. Irrigation systems were under state protection, and canal repair works were organized. Land and water issues were discussed within the central administration. Agriculture was the main source of state revenue and therefore had strategic importance.

There was a division of labor in agriculture. Men were mainly engaged in plowing and irrigation, while women participated in crop care and harvesting. Family labor predominated, and children were also involved in the work process. This reflected the traditional way of life.

Handicrafts were closely connected with agriculture. Agricultural products served as raw materials. Flour, oil, and textiles were produced. Agriculture supported the activities of artisans, strengthening economic interdependence and contributing to the development of the internal market.

Agricultural knowledge was largely transmitted through experience. Farming traditions were passed down from generation to generation, and methods of soil cultivation were preserved. Scientific approaches were limited; nevertheless, local experience proved effective and was applied for a long time.

During the khanate period, agriculture gradually changed. New types of crops were introduced, and yields increased in some regions. As trade relations expanded, production grew as well. This process was uneven, and differences existed among regions.

Agricultural development influenced the overall economic condition of the khanates. When harvests were abundant, state revenue increased and economic stability was maintained. Conversely, poor harvests led to crisis, which could also bring political instability. For this reason, agriculture was of great importance.

In conclusion, during the period of the Uzbek khanates, agriculture formed the basis of social life. Farming and animal husbandry were the leading sectors. The irrigation system was a key factor in development. Land ownership and the tax system directly affected agriculture. Traditional methods prevailed, and this period left an important mark on historical agricultural development.

Conclusion

In this article, the history of agricultural development during the period of the Uzbek khanates was analyzed in detail. It was substantiated that farming and animal husbandry were the main branches of the economy of this era. It was shown that irrigation systems served as a decisive factor in agricultural progress. It was determined that forms of land ownership and tax relations directly influenced the development of agrarian production. The economic significance of horticulture, market gardening, and cotton growing was highlighted. The connection between agricultural products and domestic as well as foreign trade was explained. It was emphasized that

the rural population constituted the main productive stratum of society. It was noted that agricultural development affected the political and economic stability of the khanates. The importance of traditional labor methods and local experience was demonstrated. Overall, the agricultural development of the Uzbek khanates represents an important stage in the agrarian history of Uzbekistan.

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