

**HISTORY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE
FERGANA VALLEY: ANALYSIS OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND LABOR
RESOURCES**

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Annotation: This article analyzes the processes of socio-economic development of agriculture in the Fergana Valley in the second half of the 20th century (1960-1990s). The study covers technological innovations in the agricultural sector, in particular, the introduction of drip irrigation systems and their effectiveness in saving water resources. The article also reveals the role of the sericulture industry in the standard of living of the population, the specific features of the use of labor resources, and the negative consequences of centralized management in the Soviet economic system based on archival data and statistical indicators. The correlation between labor productivity and wage dynamics is analyzed comparatively on the example of the Namangan region.

Keywords: Fergana Valley, agriculture, drip irrigation, sericulture, cocoon, labor resources, national income, centralized management, labor productivity, socio-economic development.

Introduction. The first scientific research on the implementation of drip irrigation systems in Uzbekistan to improve the rational use of water resources dates back to the early 1980s. Experimental work in this area was coordinated by the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management and such prestigious scientific research institutes as SANIIRI. As a result of the conducted research, it was scientifically proven that this method allows saving water consumption by 48-50 percent compared to traditional irrigation. Since 1985, this technology has been put into practice in various regions of our republic, in particular, in the horticultural and viticultural farms of the Qoshrobot districts of Samarkand, Qorguntepa of Andijan, Kosonsoy of Namangan, Kyzryq districts of Surkhandarya, and Zamin districts of Jizzakh.

Research methods and materials. By the 1990s, a new stage of expanding this system began within the framework of cooperation between agricultural specialists from Uzbekistan and Israel. If we rely on the data of such researchers as S.A. Nerozin and G.V. Stulina, significant economic efficiency was achieved in areas where drip irrigation technology was used. For example, on the collective farm "Yosh Leninchi" in the Fergana district (as a result of irrigation 10-24 times during the season at a rate of 100-250 m³ / ha), an additional cotton yield of 11.0 centners per hectare was harvested, on the farm "Zarafshon" in Ishtikhan - 7.9 centners, and on the state farm named after Khushvaktov in Kashkadarya - 11.1 centners. This not only increased productivity, but also reduced the cost of living by 35 to 50 percent.

The archive also provides interesting facts about the agrarian structure in the 1960s. In particular, in 1967, a total of 1,899 field brigades operated in the Fergana region, the majority of which (1,532) were engaged in cotton cultivation. The network also included 64 vegetable and 88 horticultural brigades. The composition of the cultivated areas at that time was distributed as follows:

- Cotton fields: 134,675 hectares;
- Forage crops: 8,699 hectares;

- Orchards and vineyards: a total of 6,013 hectares;
- Vegetable and melon crops: 4,719 hectares (of which 320 hectares were potatoes).

In the 60s-80s of the last century, one of the main industries ensuring the well-being of the rural population of the Fergana Valley was the cocoon industry. During this period, almost every rural household in the region (except for education and health workers) was obliged to maintain from 0.5 to 1.0 boxes of silkworm eggs. In particular, the families of all collective farm members were widely involved in this process. During the “big daha” period, which was considered the most responsible and difficult period of silkworm development, women and minor children were forced to work tirelessly. Also, at the end of the season, schoolchildren were mobilized for 1-2 hours every day after school to participate in mass cocoon harvesting campaigns.

Turning to the issue of economic incentives, between 1968 and 1970, the amount of remuneration paid to cocoon growers varied depending on the quality of the product: 40 kopecks per kilogram of unfit (scrap) cocoons, and from 5.50 to 6 soums for medium and high-quality products.

By the 1980s, the volume of silk production in the republic had increased significantly, and the contribution of the regions in the valley was decisive. For example, in 1980 alone, cocoon growers in Andijan region managed to deliver 4,000 tons of products to state warehouses.

Despite this, the material standard of living of workers employed in the silk industry remained low. In order to breathe new life into the industry and support the population, a system of preferential loans (loans) was introduced in advance at the expense of the expected cocoon harvest. These measures served to prevent cocoon breeders from poor social conditions from selling it at a low price before the harvest or from steaming the cocoons at home (violating the rules for cocoon washing).

Results and discussion. In the 70s and 80s of the last century, special incentive measures were applied to collective farm members who exceeded the established plan for cocoon production. In particular, in addition to monetary rewards, advanced workers were awarded scarce products necessary for everyday life, such as satin fabrics, coal, and wood. Also, devotees of the industry had the opportunity to restore their health in sanatoriums and resorts on the basis of preferential passes provided by the state. The fact that part of the wages were given in the form of household items (dishes and cloth) in proportion to the weight of the cocoons delivered also served to increase labor productivity to a certain extent.

As a result of the "chasing quantity" principle inherent in the Soviet economic system, the volume of silkworm seed distributed to the population in the 1970s and 1980s steadily increased. During this period, some households even raised up to 5 boxes (about 120–130 grams) of seed, significantly exceeding the target, delivering 640–650 kilograms of cocoons to the state.

Although the gross income of the sericulture centers, in particular the Fergana Valley, increased significantly every year, these funds were not directly directed to covering the vital needs of the working population. The main reason for this is that all financial flows were directly under the control of the Center (Moscow). The sad thing is that, although Uzbekistan accounted for more than 50 percent of the Union's raw silk, the republic's leadership was completely deprived of the authority to independently set prices for its own products.

I have reworked this text in a scientific analytical style, using economic terminology effectively. This option corresponds to the socio-economic analysis part of your dissertation:

By the 1980s, a significant increase was observed in the system of payment for the labor of collective farm members. In particular, during the period from 1976 to 1980, the average salary of workers and employees increased by 17 percent, while this indicator was even higher for

collective farmers' incomes - 26 percent. In general, during the period from 1975 to 1990, the real incomes of the population increased from 1.6 to 1.8 times.

Despite this, the level of economic development of the republic significantly lagged behind the average indicators at the Union level. In the late 1980s, the per capita national income indicator in Uzbekistan was only 46.2 percent of the Union level. According to this economic parameter, Uzbekistan occupied the lowest - 14th place among the republics of the USSR. Later, the downward trend continued: for example, in 1985, Uzbekistan's share of gross domestic product was 52.6 percent of the Union level:

Years	average annual gross domestic product per capita		average annual wage paid to a person	
	Som	1985 compared to the year %	Som	1985 compared to the year %
1985	3515	100	1816	100
1986	3457	98.3	1790	98.6
1987	3864	109.9	1607	88.5
1988	4581	130.3	1818	100.1
1989	4487	127.9	2185	120.3
1990	4819	137.1	2752	151.3

The analysis of the presented table shows that by the end of the 80s of the 20th century, a significant growth dynamics was observed in labor productivity and wage indicators in collective farms in the Namangan region. In particular, when comparing the figures for 1985 with the results of 1990, it becomes clear that the average annual labor productivity per worker increased by 37.1 percent. At the same time, the amount of labor remuneration grew even more rapidly and amounted to 51.3 percent.

Conclusion. The second half of the 20th century, in particular, the 60s-80s, is characterized by a particularly complex period in the history of the development of the agricultural sector of the Fergana Valley and the socio-economic life of the rural population. In conclusion, although the agriculture of the Fergana Valley achieved technological innovations and quantitative growth in the 1960s-1980s, the centralized management system and pricing policy did not allow the living standards of the working population to reach the all-Union level.

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