

DESCRIPTION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SURKHAN OASIS IN THE RESEARCHES OF B.KH. KARMISHEVA

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The residents of the southern region of Central Asia have ancient historical experiences in economic activities and traditional activities, and are distinguished by their own characteristics. The inhabitants of the oasis are considered to be one of the peoples with an ancient settled culture, which have preserved and improved the traditions handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years. The experience of the people of the oasis in the field of agriculture, the system of economic management has its own traditional way of life, the irrigation system, crop varieties, agricultural tools have been improved regularly. Ethnographer B.Kh. Karmisheva gave detailed information about the characteristics, types and importance of farming in the Surkhan oasis in her research.

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, there were several local types of farming in the Surkhan-Sherabad valley. The first type is sedentary farming, whose economy is based on artificial irrigation; the second type, nomadic animal husbandry based on pasture animal husbandry; the third type is a semi-nomadic and semi-sedentary household that combines traditional animal husbandry with farming. They usually settled on the borders of agricultural regions, cultivated non-irrigated (lalmi) lands, and grazed livestock on additional mountain and foothill pastures.

Agricultural microtypes are distinguished based on a number of special historical-geographical and ethnographic studies.

I) Large oasis irrigated agriculture in the valley of large rivers. In this case, dry farming (in the lower part of the mountains) was combined with livestock farming.

II) Oasis irrigated agriculture on mountains and mountain slopes. In this, horticulture, dry grain farming, and cattle-pasture forms were combined with handicrafts.

III) In the mountains and on the slopes of the mountain and mountain slopes, arable-pasture animal husbandry is combined with conditional irrigated agriculture and handicrafts.

IV) In the steppes and hilly areas, arable-pasture animal husbandry is sometimes combined with irrigated or dry farming.

The analysis of the available ethnographic materials shows that the first and second types of the economy belong to the settled and later settled population, while the next two types have a semi-sedentary and semi-nomadic way of life. It belongs to the population in which cattle breeding is the leading place in the farm. The various directions of the economy of these types depended on different farming culture, specific animal husbandry traditions, and different branches of handicrafts, and had certain differences. First of all, this situation can be explained by its dependence on colorful landscapes, socio-economic factors (the level of production equipment and tools, the level of marketability of products, proximity to the market, etc.) and ethnic traditions. It is observed that the specialization of these economic sectors was formed on the basis of a unique "division of labor" that arose between ethnic groups with different lifestyles

in a diverse economic and cultural environment. The above-mentioned first and second economic-cultural types (microtypes) mainly belong to the population engaged in irrigated agriculture. These farm types include the upper and middle basins of Surkhandarya and Sherobodarya, and the areas irrigated by its tributaries.

In the highlands and mountain regions, that is, in the large river valleys (mixed Uzbeks and Tajiks), settled peasants live, and semi-settled people live in semi-steppe hills and steppes. The first micro-economic-cultural type typical of the Surkhan-Sherabad valley is based on intensive irrigated agriculture, intensive oase irrigation in the mountain plains and ancient valleys of large rivers, which are suitable for the cultivation of various cultural plants. was formed in the style of arable farming. This is also proven in archaeological materials. Cereal crops such as wheat, barley, rice, and millet were cultivated by the creators of this economic-cultural type; leguminous crops such as mung beans, peas, beans, soybeans, lentils, and oil crops such as sesame and flax; fruit crops such as melons, watermelons, pumpkins, pumpkins; vegetable crops such as cucumber, onion, carrot, red pepper; aromatic plants such as basil, mountain mint, cumin are cultivated. There are also orchards and vineyards, mulberry trees for fruit and silkworm feeding, and local varieties of cotton such as cotton, saffar, marlen are grown here.

In large oases, a narrow specialization of the economy was also formed. For example, those of this type cultivated rice. Rice farmers, in turn, had a great need for bread, livestock, fruits, vegetable oil, handicrafts and woolen products. Also, residents of the villages near the city were engaged in policing. The transition of semi-settled population to permanent settlement started to form elements characteristic of the lifestyle of the settled population in their lifestyle and economy. However, it can be observed that the original features have been preserved. It should be emphasized that in the farms of the creators of the first and second types, artificial irrigation agriculture occupies a leading place and had a commodity production. In the researched region, the micro-oasis formed on the mountain and mountain slopes over the centuries is the second micro-economy of the developed economy in connection with irrigated agriculture, horticulture, dry grain farming and cattle breeding, paddy-pasture forms and handicrafts. we divide it into economic-cultural type. We can observe that agriculture was formed in the mountain and sub-mountain microoases in the upper reaches of the Surkhan and Sherabad rivers, that is, along the tributaries of these rivers. Agriculture has developed in a unique way along the tributaries of Surkhandarya, such as Topalang, Obizarang, Khojaipok, Sangardak, Karatog, Dashnabad, Shargun, in mountain and sub-mountain regions. Mulberry plantations are widespread in irrigated lands. Pillani was bought by urban weavers, as well as by merchants from Afghanistan, and at the beginning of the 20th century, mainly by merchants from Turkestan. Part of the cocoons, i.e. silk raw materials, were bought by the semi-settled population for decorating clothes or for making household items, such as embroidery.

Villages of Passurkhi in Boysun province, Sina, Khovuz, Vakhshivor in Denov province, Gazarag and Khufor in Hisar province were the centers of viticulture. More than 20 varieties of grapes are planted here. Farmers exchanged grapes for wheat, wool, and butter at the nearby market or with semi-settled residents, while residents of the villages of Khovuz, Vakhshivor and Sina took raisins to Qarluq, Denov, Yurchi, Boysun, as well as Kolob

(Republic of Tajikistan). Also, raisins were enough to irrigate the land that is always cultivated. For this reason, agricultural products were grown using the waters of springs, ponds, basins and small mountain rivers and streams.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the semi-settled population cultivated wheat, barley, flax, sesame, linseed, mainly melons and cotton in dry lands with conditional irrigation. Not only low-income farmers, but also middle-class farmers engaged in farming here. Poor and rich peasants conducted complex farms, i.e. combined wheat farming with field-pasture sheep or yearling farming, or specialized grain farms with commodity characteristics.

Uzbek clans living in the foothills of the Bobotog mountain range, such as Kungirot and Dorman, were mainly engaged in animal husbandry related to dry farming. Part of the population moved to summer pastures (ovul), and part remained in permanent winter residences and engaged in extensive grain farming. Conditional one-time irrigation, i.e. flood water, was effectively used in mountain valleys and steppes. In the spring, they collected the water in the streams in the form of a row of ditches and drained them towards the plain. This type of farming is popularly called "selovakork".

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the irrigation system in the Surkhan-Sherabad valley was unique, and the main water sources consisted of Surkhandarya, Topalangdarya, Ipoqdarya, Sangardakdarya, Dashnoboddarya and Sherabaddraya. In order to meet the need for water, cisterns were built at the foot of the Kohitang mountain. As in other regions of Central Asia, the Surkhan-Sherabad valley also had a unique management method in the system of irrigation networks. In this case, "mirobs" performed the main activity in the system of irrigation networks, and each mirob managed the irrigation system under his control.

It should be noted that farming in the southern oasis of Central Asia was not intensive in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Because at first, the water of the rivers could not fully supply the land that could be irrigated. Also, the amount of available water resources was related to climatic conditions. Even in years with normal rainfall, it was enough to irrigate the cultivated land. For this reason, agricultural products were grown using the waters of springs, ponds, basins and small mountain rivers and streams. Along with crops such as alfalfa, corn, and rice, cotton was grown on the irrigated lands in the oasis, and the cotton fields expanded over time.



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