

PAPER

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN KHOREZM DURING THE LEADERSHIP OF FAKHRIDDIN SHAMSIDDINOV

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Abstract

This article provides important information about the changes that occurred in the socio-economic life of the region during the leadership of the Khorezm region in 1960–1963 by the honored irrigator of Uzbekistan, Hero of Labor (1972), Fakhridin Shamsiddinov, the measures taken to solve the problems of developing additional lands, further expanding irrigation and land reclamation networks, and the rise of the Khorezm region to high positions in the republic in the fields of cotton and rice cultivation during these years.

Key words: Regional Committee, Fakhridin Shamsiddinov, secretary, Tuyamoyin reservoir, engineer, hydraulic engineer, Druzhba, Davdon, lake Sarykkamish, Ozerniy collector, Fergana, Kokand.

INTRODUCTION

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan properly analyzed the reasons why cotton and other agricultural production in Khorezm lagged far behind modern requirements. As a result, in early spring of 1960, one of the leading specialists in the field of water management, Fakhridin Shamsiddinov, was appointed to lead the regional party organization. His first steps focused on taking decisive measures to improve the ameliorative condition of the lands.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

In writing this article, several literary and scientific sources were utilized. Among them are: R. Yoqubov Seventy Years of the Khorezm Regional Archive (1926–1996), M. Khudoyberganov A Life Passed Through Trials, G. Matnazarova Urgench – 350, M. Jumaniyozov Moments That Remained in Memory, Y. Qo'chqorov Welcome to Khorezm, Q. Kholimbetov and Sh. Eshjonova The Genealogy of Khorezm Irrigators, Sh. Eshjonova and S. Hakimova Children of Khorezm and U. Sheripov Irrigation Works in the Khorezm Oasis and the Role of Irrigation Facilities (Late 19th – Early 21st

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Centuries). These sources contain comprehensive analyses and detailed information relevant to the topic.

In preparing this article, the analysis of scientific literature related to the subject was carried out using the principles of historical systematization, chronological approach, and the methods of analysis and synthesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Honored Irrigator of Uzbekistan and Hero of Labor (1972), Faxriddin Shamsiddinov, was born on November 22, 1907, in Fergana. He began his teaching career in 1924 and graduated from the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIMSX) in 1935. From 1942, he served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Okhunboboyev District, in 1945 he became Deputy People's Commissar of Water Management of Uzbekistan, and later that same year, First Secretary of the Marhamat District Party Committee. From 1947, he served as Minister of Water Management of Uzbekistan, in 1954 as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Fergana Region, and from 1960 to 1978 as First Secretary of the Party Committees of Khorezm, Surkhandarya, and Fergana regions [1].

Faxriddin Shamsiddinov defined the following vital directions that determined the life and prosperity of Khorezm. 1. Ensuring that the population was provided not only with bread, meat, and milk, but also with vitamin-rich fruits and vegetables. Through his initiative, Khorezm became covered with orchards and gardens. 2. Irrigation. 3. Melioration. 4. Road construction. 5. Hospitals. 6. Sanitation and hygiene. 7. Modern public baths (hammams).

The people of Khorezm still speak warmly about Faxriddin Shamsiddinov to this day. Owing to his service as a minister, he was well acquainted with many high-ranking officials in the capital, and his friendship with some of them proved beneficial in his new position. He succeeded in uniting people and ensuring cooperation and collective effort within the region. Perhaps because he had no close relatives or personal acquaintances in the province, or perhaps due to his personal principles, he did not allow favoritism or nepotism

in his leadership. Rather than labeling officials as belonging to one group or another, Shamsiddinov focused on competence and professionalism, preserving the key and capable cadres within the regional administration. Otherwise, considering the extensive changes that had taken place within the leadership structures of the region, similar shifts might have occurred at the district and farm levels as well. However, Faxriddin aka did not allow such instability; he never made decisions without thorough verification and examination. Because of his deep understanding of water management, Faxriddin Shamsiddinov was also able to resolve, with great efficiency, a number of issues that neighboring republics had long failed to settle [2].

Faxriddin Shamsiddinov was the one who raised the issue of constructing the Tuyamo'yin Reservoir before higher authorities. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he announced a mobilization to eliminate salinity and groundwater problems, and indeed, he succeeded in this task. Such initiatives began to yield positive results, uplifting the public spirit and strengthening social cohesion. As the meliorative condition of lands in Khorezm improved, and-most importantly-as qualified specialists were valued and supported, productivity increased, and income levels rose.

After working in Khorezm for a little more than two and a half years, Faxriddin Shamsiddinov was appointed First Secretary of the Surkhandarya Regional Party Committee. It must be acknowledged that F. Shamsiddinov performed his duties effectively, a fact still attested by those who worked with him and others familiar with his leadership. Of the leaders who came to work in Khorezm from outside, only F. Nosirov and F. Shamsiddinov left a truly positive legacy [3].

F. Shamsiddinov approached his work with strict discipline and high demands. He himself never rested, nor did he allow others to do so. Visiting the fields once or twice, sometimes even three times a week, he personally inspected agricultural lands on foot, always identifying some shortcoming or deficiency, which he addressed vigorously. During these inspections, if he noticed that any leader or farm chairman accompanying him was wearing shoes, he would deliberately lead them through muddy fields or along overgrown canal banks,

ensuring that they would never come to work in shoes again. He himself was accustomed to wearing boots at all times.

F. Shamsiddinov knew neither rest nor leisure; he never spent time listening to music or engaging in entertainment. He was, in every sense, a man devoted entirely to work.

Under the direct leadership of Faxriddin Shamsiddinov, as head of the Khorezm Regional Party Organization, significant improvements were made in the region: drainage waters were diverted from centuries-old saline lands, and the 200-kilometer-long “Drujba” and “Davdon” canals and drains were repaired. Furthermore, gravel roads were constructed and asphalt paving was laid on inter-district routes [4].

Fruit trees were planted in place of poplars and willows, and hundreds of hectares of orchards and gardens were established. As a result, by 1960, due to his dedicated efforts, the cotton yield in the region increased from 25 to 31 centners per hectare. The income generated from this success was directed toward the construction of the Khorezm television studio, and in 1961, the Urgench television studio was officially launched [5].

By 1960–1961, the Khorezm region had achieved the highest yield rates, not only in Uzbekistan but throughout the entire Soviet Union. Such revolutionary improvements in cotton production were largely the result of the devoted work of Faxriddin Shamsiddinov, a water management specialist from Fergana, who led the Khorezm Regional Party Organization during this transformative period [6]. After the Toshsoqa Canal was put into operation on the eve of the war, the availability of water increased, but the lands became salinized, and agriculture fell into severe decline – a situation that lasted for almost twenty years. This very problem found its solution during the tenure of F. Shamsiddinov. Following his directives, a large collector was excavated along the Tuyani riverbed to divert groundwater from the oasis into Sariqqamish. This collector, known as “Ozerniy,” together with the Daryolik collector, reached a total length of 468 kilometers. As a result of these comprehensive reclamation measures, by 1963, the total length of collectors

and drainage canals in the region reached 3460 kilometers. Consequently, cotton productivity increased by 1.5 to 2 times, and the Khorezm region rose to first place in the republic. The average cotton yield reached 31 centners per hectare. During this period, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, N. S. Khrushchev, praised the people of Khorezm by saying, “You have become the aristocrats of cotton growing” [7].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Faxriddin Shamsiddinov was a devoted leader and an outstanding individual who made an immense contribution not only to the development of agriculture in the oasis but also to the prosperity of Khorezm, as well as to the advancement of its culture, arts, and other vital sectors. The life path of Faxriddin Shamsiddinov does not differ from that of a typical Uzbek intellectual—a life dedicated to hard work, service to the people, and sincere commitment to the progress of his homeland.

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