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THE HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AMONG THE KARAKALPAKS OF FERGANA (XIX - early XX centuries)

Abdullaev U.S.

Professor at Andijan State Technical Institute,
Doctor of Historical Sciences

Abstract: This article provides information on the migration and settlement of Karakalpaks living in the middle reaches of the Syr Darya in the 17th century in the Fergana Valley, their population size, and economy.

In the article, the author provides factual information about the emergence of farming among the Karakalpaks of the valley and the types of crops they cultivated. The article also highlights the distinctive features of the Karakalpak economy compared to those of other ethnic groups.

Key words: Karakalpak people, agriculture, animal husbandry, crop types, irrigated agriculture, horticulture.

Over several centuries, representatives of many peoples from other regions migrated and settled in the Fergana Valley for various reasons. One such people is the Karakalpaks.

We have already mentioned that a large group of Karakalpaks living in the middle reaches of the Syr Darya migrated to the Fergana Valley in the 18th century.

Most of the migrated Karakalpaks settled in the regions of the valley on the banks of the Syr Darya and Karadarya rivers and, having settled in the territories from Andijan to Kokand, established a number of their own villages.

Sh.I. Inogamov noted that the Karakalpaks primarily lived in the territories of Kasansay (3,580 people), Kokand (2,180 people), Andijan (2053 people), Namangan (2,180 people), Baliqchi (1948 people), Shakhrikhan (1780 people), Buvayda (850 people), Chust (815 people), as well as Jalalkuduk, Kurgantepa, Altyaryk, Besharyk, Kuva, Rishtan, Fergana, and other districts of the valley.

S.S. Gubaeva also indicates a number of Karakalpak villages located in the Fergana Valley. In particular, in the Andijan region - Darlomon, Nayman, Kipchak, Sohovat, Sherkurgan, Dungsaroy, Khojaabad, Khavas, Bugazi, in the Namangan region - Gurtova, Bobogozi, Beshkapa, Chordara, in the Fergana region - Takaly, Kipchak, Saybuyi, Karakalpak and others.

Although by the time we are studying, the Karakalpaks of Fergana did not have a complex tribal structure like the Karakalpaks living in the Khorezm oasis, researchers have noted that the Karakalpaks in the valley also consisted of several clans. In particular, L.S. Tolstova, who specifically studied the Karakalpaks of Fergana, notes that Karakalpak clans such as Mangyt, Keneges, Kipchak, and Kungrat lived in the valley and were divided into several small tribes. For example, the Mangit clan of the Karakalpaks is divided into small branches such as Ak-Mangit, Kara-Mangit, Tok-Mangit, Shok-Mangit, Bek-Mangit, Buri-Mangit, Tulki-Mangit, Dau-Mangit, Shuyit, Temirkhoja, and Jamansha; the Karakalpak-

Kipchaks are divided into Kitay-Kipchak, Jau-Kipchak, Bessari, Aralbay, and Aitekiga; and the Kungrat clan is divided into Maitan, Uyruchi, Teliming, and Naimans. The Karakalpak Keneges included a tribe with the ethnonym oimaut .

The "List of Settlements of the Fergana Region," published in 1909, lists settlements beginning with the names of Karakalpak clans such as Teliming, Chuit, Uyurchi, Uygin-Uymat, Kenegez, Nayman, Uyurchi, and Urmitan.

In general, according to 1917 statistical data, the number of Karakalpaks in the Fergana Valley was estimated at 10,735 people. According to 1926 census materials, their number here was 18,520 people.

In the 18th century, the Karakalpaks who settled on the banks of the Syr Darya first cleared the marshy lands of reeds and shrubs and tried to grow millet, sorghum (white sorghum), rice, watermelons, and melons [1;31]. However, the intended harvest was not always obtained.

Gradually, over the years, the need for artificial irrigation arose in sown areas that had been cleared of reeds and shrubs and dehydrated. In this case, the Karakalpaks tried to use the water of lakes located near the fields for irrigation. There is a lot of information in sources about the Karakalpaks making irrigation ditches from lakes such as Damkul, Ashikul, Mingbulak and irrigating their crop fields [2.77,78].

Furthermore, Karakalpak groups living in the vicinity of Kokand irrigated their fields with the water of the Sokh River. Until the beginning of the 19th century, the Karakalpak, Aktepasay, and Kiyalisoy irrigation ditches dug from the Sokh River were of great importance for the irrigation of the lands of these Karakalpak groups.

In general, the Karakalpaks tried to irrigate their fields using any artificial irrigation networks passing through the territories where the Karakalpaks lived, such as the Yangiaryk, Khanaryk, Musulmankul, Andizhansay, Shakhrikhansay, Ulugnor, and Uchkurgan canals.

The expansion of such irrigation networks allowed Karakalpak farmers to grow more types of agricultural products.

By the late period of the Kokand Khanate, agriculture acquired even greater importance in the economy of the Karakalpaks of Fergana. During this period, Karakalpak farmers cultivated millet, white corn, rice, wheat, corn, mung beans, sesame, carrots, melons, watermelons, and local cotton varieties (jaydari) in their fields.

It can be said that in the years following the annexation of the territory of the Kokand Khanate to Tsarist Russia, agriculture became the leading economic sector among the Karakalpaks of Fergana. This is also confirmed by the following data; In 1897, out of 11,056 Karakalpaks registered in the Fergana Valley, 10,199 people, or about 92%, lived by farming.

As a result of the rapid growth of cotton cultivation in the valley, cotton became the primary agricultural crop in the Karakalpak dehqan economy, as it did in all ethnic communities. Naryn, Altynkul, and Balykchi in the Andijan district,

where the main groups of Karakalpaks are located; Karakalpak and Kipchak of the Kokand district; Shahrixon and Yazyavan of Margilan district; Cotton growing developed rapidly in the Kirghizkurgan volosts of the Namangan district [1.59].

However, it should be noted that the Karakalpaks living in all the aforementioned volosts did not engage in the cultivation of cotton (or other agricultural crops in general) to the same extent. Karakalpaks living in a favorable natural-geographical area were more engaged in cotton cultivation compared to the Karakalpaks of the Karakalpak volost of the Kokand district, located on damp lands.

Thus, by the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, the Karakalpaks of the Fergana Valley primarily cultivated cotton, sorghum, wheat, rice, millet, and alfalfa.

Karakalpak farmers also planted corn and barley in smaller quantities, peas and mung beans in smaller quantities, sesame seeds and flax to obtain oil, and onions, carrots, and turnips in smaller quantities.

Melons, watermelons, and pumpkins were cultivated with special care in the fields of Karakalpak farmers [1.60].

In short, the Karakalpaks of Fergana sowed almost all types of crops grown on the fields of neighboring settled Uzbek peasants. They even mastered horticulture and viticulture, in which, of course, the settled Uzbek population played a major role. We will discuss this in more detail later.

Thus, by the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, a distinctive feature of the economy of the Karakalpaks living in the Fergana Valley was that while agriculture played a major role among the Karakalpaks living in the Andijan and Namangan uyezds, the economy of the Karakalpak groups living on the banks of the Syr Darya (Kokand volost, Kokand uyezd) remained complex in nature, consisting of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing.

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