

# THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE WORKERS OF THE SURKHAN OASIS TO THE VICTORY

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## Abstract

On the basis of archival materials, the article describes the adaptation of agriculture in Surkhandarya region to the interests of World War II, the activities of all agricultural workers in the region to win the war and strengthen behind the frontline.

## Introduction

Surkhandarya region, like many other areas, faced a number of difficulties in carrying out military reconstruction of agriculture during the Second World War. Of course, these difficulties were overcome by the will of the people of the region, their endless patience and courageous work. In addition to cotton, which is mainly grown in the region, special attention was paid to the cultivation of grain, potatoes, sugar beets, packthread, cocoons, vegetables and melons.

There were a number of problems and challenges in the region's agriculture. First of all, the difficulties were the lack of machinery and mineral fertilizers, the lack of qualified specialists and the mobilization of many young men to the front due to labor shortages. But the hardworking people of the province overcame these difficulties as much as possible and managed to supply a lot of food for the front and a lot of raw materials for industry. Due to the departure of the young men to the front, all the work had to be done by women, teenagers and the elderly. During those terrible war years, many women had to work in the place of men who had gone to the front as well as themselves, and they also decided to learn the secrets of technology and supply many additional products to the front. Many courageous women drove tractors, and many more women organizers held leadership positions, for example, 527 women across the province served as chairmen of village councils and deputy chairmen of community farms.

Another point to note is that at that time, all field work used to be done by hand. At the beginning of the war, machine tractor stations had about 850 tractors, which could cultivate 197,300 hectares of agricultural land in the region. Due to the outbreak of the war, many tractors were stopped due to lack of fuel and spare parts. As a result of hard work of farmers of the region, 57,370 tons of grain crops used to be harvested on 1,400 hectares of land. The yield was 0.5 ton per hectare, and in the same year the farmers of the region harvested 6200 tons of vegetables from 847 hectares, about 847 tons of potatoes from 264 hectares and about 7700 tons of various fruits from 5.5 hectares.

## Materials and Methods

Grain-growers of Surkhandarya region, correctly understanding the needs of the country in grain, further expanded the area of grain crops, and in 1942 planted 146,560 hectares of grain crops, bringing the yield to 7.1 quintals per hectare and delivered 137,892 quintals of grain to government grain warehouses. If in 1941 grain was grown on 104,000 hectares in the province, in 1942 on 146,560 hectares, by 1943, 165,000 hectares were planted with cereals and 223,000 tons of grain were grown for the government. Or in 1943, more than 4,300 quintals of grain were delivered to the country than in 1941.

Regional workers have intensified competition to increase productivity in the fields, e.g. I.Kurbanova, a member of the collective farm "Galaba" of the village council of Sariosiyo district, worked 400 working days in 1942 and 600 working days in 1943 or members of the tractor brigade headed by Oilkhomov of MTS (machine tractor station) of Sherabad district fulfilled the plan of plowing 600 hectares to 800 hectares and planted grain on 300 hectares. During the work, MTS tractor drivers saved 750 kg of fuel. S.Ruziev and R.Kholliiev, tractor drivers of the brigade, worked with a special example and fulfilled the plan of plowing by 350-400%.

During a month of frontline work, the youth of the oasis repaired 192 tractors, 660 seeders and other agricultural equipment, and collected various spare parts for 129,000 soums. Members

of the tractor brigade of MTS of Jarkurgan district fulfilled the plan of plowing by 143% and the plan of sowing cotton by 195%. In general, 18633 young people of the oasis took an active part in the month of frontline work in memory of Akhunboboev.

As a result of the courageous work of the workers of the oasis, in 1943, many food products were grown in the agricultural sector. In 1943, the region's grain growers delivered 223,000 tons of grain to the government, which was 43,000 quintals more than in 1941. In addition, in 1943, the creators of the oasis delivered 93,820 quintals of vegetables and melons and 148,695 quintals of various sweets to the warehouses. In addition to fulfilling government orders and supplying the warriors with a large quantity of foodstuffs, the owners of the oasis also supplied large quantities of foodstuffs to the table of the workers living in the cities and working in industrial enterprises. For example, farmers of Shurchi district alone send 38 tons of vegetables as gifts to employees.

In the first year of the war, cotton growers of the oasis grew 17.1 quintals of cotton per hectare and handed over 698,658 quintals of cotton to the government. By 1943, the yield of cotton fell to 7.2 quintals per hectare in collective farms and 5.4 quintals per hectare in state farms. As a result, the region's cotton growers lost 39,223 tons of cotton to the government over three years, there were reasons for the non-fulfillment of cotton delivery plans in the province and the decline in productivity. Of course, first of all, due to the departure of most of the oasis cotton growers to the war, the number of workers working in the fields reduced significantly. For example, in 1943 alone, the area under cotton was reduced by 6,095 hectares compared to 1942, and with the outbreak of the war, cotton growers were no longer provided with the machinery and fertilizers that were regularly supplied.

During 1944, 134 clubs were established at the initiative of young people in the regional collective farms, and 670 propagandists carried out explanatory work in the clubs. In order to eliminate the backwardness in the cultivation of cotton in the region from June 10 to July 10, 1944 at the initiative of the youth of the region was held a month of intensive working in the cotton fields. During this month, 3450 young people and 4472 teenagers took an active part in

the region, 464 units and 157 brigades were formed by courageous young people to work in the cotton fields. During the month, 4789 hectares of cotton in the region were harvested, 6842 hectares of cotton were cultivated and 279 spare parts for tractors were collected. 3282 hard-working young people fulfilled the daily plan 1.5-2 times during the intensive working month.

Maryam Khudoynazarova, the head of the cotton section of the Turakhodjaev collective farm in the Pattakesar village council in Termez district, has intensified the struggle to get 50 centners per hectare. I. Kilicheva, a picker of many thousands of kilograms of this collective farm, harvested 4,000 kg of cotton in one season. K. Turdimuradova, an advanced picker of the collective farm "Socialism" of Sherabad district, managed to pick 3,500 kg of cotton during the season. Students have a special contribution to the cotton harvest. Thanks to the efforts of the region's youth, 741 carts were repaired and 25685 sacks were sewn, and 4633 young people fulfilled the daily cotton picking plan 2-3 times. In 1944, 7373 tons of cotton were harvested by the students of the region. The cotton-growers of the region in the 1944 cotton season were 6099 tons more than the cotton harvest delivered to the state. As a result, the region's cotton growers delivered 4,500 tons more cotton to the state reception points in 1945 than in 1944, and welcomed the victory over the enemy with their labor victories.

## Results

During the war years, a group of cotton growers of the region managed to receive state orders and medals for their worthy services in the development of agriculture, especially cotton growing. Samat Kurbanov, chairman of the Voroshilov collective farm in Uzun district, and Rizvon Umirov, head of the cotton-growing unit of the "Red Hero" collective farm in Sherabad district, were awarded the Order of Lenin. Twelve cotton growers and entrepreneurs of the region were awarded the Order of the "Red Flag". Abdulla Omonov, chairman of the "May 1" collective farm in Termez district, and Ulash Shamiev, director of MTS in Uzun district, were among the winners. In addition, 35 farmers were awarded the Order of the Badge of Honor, including Mamatkul Azizov, chairman of the "Red Caravan" collective farm in Jarkurgan district, and Achil Artikov, chairman of the "Red Flag" collective farm in Termez district.

In those turbulent years, Surkhandarya region lacked specialists in all fields, so training courses for tractor drivers were organized at all district centers and MTS, and 660 courageous women in the region became drivers and also tractor drivers. At that time, there was a significant shortage of accountants in collective farms, taking into account that 200 young men and women from the region returned to Bukhara to study accounting courses. In addition, training courses for accountants on collective farms were opened at the district land departments. Similar courses were organized in Jarkurgan district, and in September 1943, 30 women completed the course. On January 27, 1942, a mobile meeting of the regional executive committee and the regional party committee was held, at which it was decided to train 7,700 agricultural workers in the region, and on the basis of this decision 545 mechanizers were trained. 213 boys and girls from the region have been trained in sericulture courses in Tashkent and Bukhara. In addition, in Boysun district, training of livestock personnel was organized, and on October 5, 1943, the course was completed by 24 people, including 20 women.

During the war years, the regional sericulturists also worked with special dedication, growing large quantities of silk. During the war years, the regional sericulturists delivered 350 tons of cocoons to the state, during which time the region produced excellent masters on worm-feeding. For example, Aminov Urinboy, a sericulture farmer from the “Yangi Ruzgor” collective farm in the Telpakchinor village council in Sariosiya district, managed to deliver 115 kilograms of silk from each box of silkworms. Such productivity in the field of silkworm breeding was the highest in the republic at that time. In 1943, T. Allaeva, the head of the silk section of the collective farm "Socialism" in Termez district, handed over 315 kilograms of cocoons to the state, and 148 kilograms of cocoons were accepted as 1st grade. Sericulturists of the Molotov agricultural cooperative of Termez district fulfilled the annual plan for cocoon delivery by 255.6%, sericulturists of the "Bolshevik" collective farm by 142.5%, and sericulturists of the "Namuna" collective farm by 119.1%.

Mustafakulova Tunuk, the head of the silk brigade of the “Union” collective farm in the district, handed over 70 kilograms of cocoons from each box of silkworms. The silkworm breeders of Jarkurgan and Sherabad districts have made a special contribution to the development of sericulture in the region. The sericulturists of the collective farm "Red Uzbekistan" of Jarkurgan district handed over 40 kilograms of cocoons from each box of cocoons and 60 kilograms of



cocoons to the defense fund. The of Kunduz Shakhonova of the V.I.Lenin collective farm of the Akkurgan village council of Sherabad district collected 330 kilograms of cocoons from 7 boxes of silkworms instead of 238 kilograms. By the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of October 1, 1945, 427 skilled sericulturists in the Republic, including 210 women, were awarded orders and medals. Among the winners was our compatriot, the head of the silk brigade of the collective farm "Namuna" in Termez district Khurinis Imomaliyeva. During the war years, the livestock sector was also one of the most important sectors, as meeting the food and clothing needs of the warriors and the civilian population of the country was directly related to the livestock sector. Taking into account this situation in the country, the region's herders have worked hard to supply the country with large quantities of meat, milk and dairy products, leather, wool and other similar livestock products. As a result, the volume of livestock products and the number of livestock in the region has increased from year to year. In particular, in 1941, the herders of the collective farm "Bajaruvchi" of the village council "Halajar" in Boysun district of the region managed to get up to 130 lambs from each head of sheep on the farm.

In 1942, the region's cattle breeders handed over 34,000 kg of wool to the state, took the first place in the country in the field of wool delivery and were awarded a certificate of honor of the Republican Wool Procurement Office. In 1942, the region's cattle breeders made a special effort to increase the number of cattle, bringing the number of cattle to 34,928 and the number of sheep and goats to 358,304. In 1943, the number of cattle in the region increased by 12,488 compared to 1940, and the number of sheep and goats reached 414,646.

During this period, significant work was done in the development of horse breeding, which is very important for the country, and the number of horses in the region reached 34,867. In 1944, the workers and employees of the Termez meat-packing plant fulfilled the annual plan by 101% and delivered extra 101 tons of unplanned meat to the state by the New Year.

In 1944, the total number of livestock in the province reached 642,081, of which 557,364 were sheep and goats, and 42,282 were cattle. The province's cattle breeders significantly increased their livestock compared to the pre-war period, raising cattle by 49 percent, karakul sheep by 72 percent, other types of sheep by 38 percent, and goats by 52 percent. In those turbulent years, the region's cattlemen delivered 15,000 tons of meat, 170,000 pieces of black leather and

thousands of liters of dairy products to the country, and sent 300 tons of meat and 30 tons of oil to the warriors at the front. During the war years, the agricultural workers of the region went through a unique period of testing. During these years, agricultural laborers supplied the country with large quantities of food and raw materials.

The area under food grains in the province increased by 150 per cent since 1940. During the Second World War, agricultural workers imported about 800,000 tons of grain, 210,000 tons of cotton, 15,000 tons of meat, 5,000 tons of rice, 170,000 pieces of Karakul Leather, 360 tons of cocoons. They grew 100 tons of vegetables and grapes. Of course, the products grown were built thanks to the tireless work, diligence and perseverance of the workers of the region. During those turbulent years, many skilled cotton growers, famous farmers, enterprising gardeners, and skilled sericulturists emerged from the labor force of the oasis, and they set an example to many agricultural workers in the oasis with their courageous work.

Two of these leading peasants of the region were awarded the “Order of Lenin”, 12 out of them were awarded with the order of the “Red Flag of Labor”, 34 out of them with the order of the “Badge of Honor”, and one in three agricultural workers of the region received the order of “Honorary labor for the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, it should be noted that all the agricultural workers of the region worked on the front lines during those war years, and their courage could not be restored by the shortcomings, losses and shortages of the war period. They looked confidently at the coming of bright days, and no matter how hard and difficult the period was, they fought valiantly against all difficulties with patience, endurance and perseverance, in addition to supplying the country with large quantities of agricultural produce, they also provided material and moral support to the warriors who were dying in the battle against the enemy at the front.

The agricultural workers of the region have a worthy share in the work of ending the war with victory and strengthening the life behind the front. Inspired by the selfless and hard work of the

war years, the will of the people served as the basis for great creative activity, hatred for the common enemy, confidence and faith in the future.

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