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## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF UZBEKISTAN IS A SOURCE ON THE HISTORY OF THE TURKESTAN ASSR WATER DEPARTMENT

**Abstract:** This article examines the activities of the Turkestan Water Resources Department and the history of the irrigation system on the basis of the archive funds of the Turkestan ASSR which kept in the National Archives of Uzbekistan. The article also analyzes data on measures for the use of the main water resources of Turkestan and their use to improve the irrigation system.

**Key words:** National Archive of Uzbekistan, Turkestan ASSR, The Soviet government, Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan ASSR, Agricultural Commissariat of Turkestan, Zarafshan, Ferghana, Samarkand, Syrdarya, Department of Water management.

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### Introduction

The economy of Uzbekistan has long been specialized in the agricultural sector, with a particular emphasis on the water and land reclamation. Therefore, the study of historical experience in this area is of great practical and scientific importance.

The Soviet government recognizes the importance of water management in the cultivation of raw cotton in Turkestan and pays close attention to this issue. In 1918 the Main Department of Water Resources was established in the country. The Department has been tasked with developing, establishing, and implementing water reform in the country.

### MAINBODY

Specifically, the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan ASSR (R-17 Fund), the People's Commissars' Council (R-25 Fund), the People's Commissariat for Agricultural Affairs (R-29), and the Main Department of Water Resources at the Turkestan ASSR. The fund R-215) contains important facts, diagrams, maps, geographical information on these problems, as well as important documents related to

the history of TASSR irrigation system reforms. This information is widely reflected in the annual reports of the relevant organizations, orders, orders, instructions, decisions of councils and meetings, etc [1, p.50-54].

Information from these sources, during this period by the government order in Zarafshan, Fergana, Mirzachul oases, GK Rizenkampf, BK Lodygin, VA Engineering scientists such as Vasilev, N.A. Dimo, F.P. Morgunenko, S.M. Kubatov, V.F. Bulaevsky prove that they have implemented many irrigation programs[2, p.79].

The Turkestan MRC R-17 fund of the Central State Archive has a document titled "Historical Essays on the Condition and Development of Water Works in the Country," which contains statistical data on soil composition, characteristics, local irrigation facilities and their condition. It analyzes water regulations and laws in Central Asia from the earliest to the 1920s [3, p.29].

This historical document can be considered as a source of valuable information on the history, politics, soil science, historical geography and historical toponymy of Turkestan.

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It analyzes the work done in the field of water management in the regions from 1921 to 1922, highlighting the violations and the work done by the labor force.

The documents show that, during the period of Russian occupation of Central Asia, the imperial country administration paid great attention to the agrarian sector in order to turn Turkestan into a source of raw cotton, but there were no significant changes in 50 years. In 1877, the rules for temporary use of water were developed. In 1886, the regulations on the administration of the Turkestan country included certain articles.

According to the source, in 1888 the guidelines "on the rights and obligations of county superintendents, aryk-aksakal, mirabs and water workers" were in force during the colonial period. In addition, between 1888 and 1907, an average of 30,000 rubles was allocated to water management activities a year. From 1907 to 1916, sometimes 150,000 rubles were allocated. According to reports, after the October 1917 coup, the water management system in Turkestan was in a critical state, and the restoration of waterworks required a large workforce. As a contributing factor to the plight of the water economy in the country, the absence of a single irrigation management system, cases of misuse of water, command, and formalization. The area of irrigated land during the First World War was 2,400,000 deciles (2,619,360 hectares), but by 1920 it had dropped to 1,400,000 deciles (1 527,960 hectares) [4, p.29].

It should be noted that in 1920 there was a major natural disaster in Turkestan, in the spring floods hit Zarafshan, Syrdarya and other rivers, flooding 547,700 hectares (500,000 hectares). The economy of the republic suffered from the floods. Some archive documents show that the Tajan and Murghab rivers suffered severe damage to the distribution points of the Zarafshan water system in the spring of 1923. In the main and other parts of the Dargham river, 100,000 deciatine-producing lands have been depleted, and the Shahrihon area of Ferghana region has been left untouched by up to 150,000 hectares in Andijan [5, 17 fund].

The decline of 54.4% of irrigated land between 1914 and 1920, that is, within 5-6 years, was a huge loss. One of the main reasons for this situation was the fact that during the military operations in Turkestan many facilities were damaged. In Fergana, for example, irrigation systems on the Zarafshan, Chirchik and other rivers have collapsed as a result of the breakdown of all canals and canals. In the three main provinces of Turkestan (Ferghana, Samarkand and Syrdarya) the total area under cultivation decreased by two times. In 1915 this figure was 2,636,920 deciatine (2 877 934.4 hectares), in 1920 - 1 252 709 decyatines (1,367,206.6 hectares), and irrigated arable land - 1,960,262 deciles (2,139,429.9

hectares). from 955 888 desyatina (1 043 256,1 hectares) [6, p.65].

In 1921, a number of changes were made to the activities of the Water Department in an effort to improve this situation and to provide short-term access to raw cotton. For these activities, research departments, libraries and technical archives were established in each region. Activity of the Department is regulated, registration is organized. In 1921–1923, the RSFSR Council of People's Commissars awarded Turkestan 9,000,000 rubles for water management. The water management sector has two main areas. On the one hand, there was a research on the restoration of waterworks that had been destroyed during the military operations, and on the other, the research needed to build new irrigation systems. The fact that experts from other republics have been invited is also reflected in the Turkestan NSC documents. In particular, hydrotechnical specialists were invited from Tbilisi in 1920. Depending on the condition of the facilities in some areas of the republic, the entire water economy branch in Turkestan is divided into 30 constituencies [7, 68].

The annual report of the Chairman of the Department of Water Management dated January 28, 1921 states that the water sector in Turkestan is in a critical condition. Then, on February 12, 1921, the Turkestan NSC adopted resolutions "On the Use of Water in the Turkestan ASSR" and on March 23, "Natural Obligations in the Cleaning and Repair of Water Supply Networks". It outlines the rights and responsibilities of water management, the use of water management, the use of hydraulic facilities in water management, the control over water use, and the protection activities [8, p-19].

Analyzing data on the state of water management in the provinces and regions, a new draft law on the use of water has been developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Agriculture. The law stipulates natural obligations: "Each water user group, including the city as a public institution, must participate in the repair of the waterworks system with the necessary construction materials and equipment. Two comments have been made to this paragraph, saying that the state will provide the public with money and repair the state-of-the-art facilities, which require large funds. Clause 40 of the Law states that the work on the involvement of the population to natural obligations within the prescribed period shall be controlled by the relevant administrations and institutions (Executive Committees, Commissions, Police), and immediately involved in natural disasters. The statutes, published at that time, were also mentioned in scientific monographs [9, p.13].

The country's largest water resources say that the Amudarya, Syrdarya, and Ili rivers are the largest rivers in the region, followed by Zarafshan, Kororat, Chu (the river that flows through the Issyk-Kul Lake).

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For example, as a result of 10 years of observations by the Hydrometrical Department of Water Management, on average, the Amu Darya is 205 cub. About the movement of water to the saj and the river flow (as a general description of the Syrdarya), the minimum amount of water is winter, which increases with March and increases the water volume from April, the second part of May and the maximum amount of water by June. then decreases to the beginning of August and will continue until December). The local irrigation facilities are mainly transmitted from the rivers of the second level. The Amudarya and Syrdarya canals are small, mainly crossing the upper and lower reaches. In the middle there are very few canals. For example, the main highways (rivers and canals) cross the Naryn River and the Kara-Darya in the upper Syrdarya river. In the Syrdarya slopes (Perovsk and Kazalinsk districts), there are large turns, with water pumps rising each year, resulting in

water levels above their valley during the summer and spring floods. At this time, spontaneous water leakage (samotyok) occurred and was used for field irrigation. For example, over 30 small ditches were used from Syrdarya to Kazalinsk district during floods[10, p.18-20].

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that, the National Archive of Uzbekistan contains valuable historical archival documents on the history of the Turkestan irrigation system in the funds R-17, R-25, R-29, R-215 of the Turkestan ASSR.

Free services of the population played a key role in the restoration of the irrigation system.

The main goal of the Soviet government in reforming the irrigation system in Turkestan was to develop cotton growing and turn Turkestan into a raw material base for cotton.

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