

**FROM THE HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION NETWORKS
IN UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract: *The content of the article describes the issues of irrigation and training of specialists during the colonial period.*

Key words: *New land, development, collective farm, savkhoz, irrigator, reclamation, reserve, zakh, sizot, swamp.*

In order to develop the agricultural sector in Uzbekistan, the policy of acquiring new lands has been strengthened since the Second World War. After the decision "On measures for the further development of Mirzachol" adopted in April 1949, the attention to the issues of water management in Mirzachol was intensified. In this decision, it was shown the need to attract additional workers from the regions in order to further expand the scope of development of Mirzachol, which was interrupted due to the war. As a result of the implementation of the specified tasks, irrigation construction was revived in the 4th five-year period, and the size of irrigated land in Mirzachol was expanded. Due to expansion of irrigated areas in the republic, such areas increased by almost 260,000 hectares[1].

In 1951, the Council of Ministers of the USSR made a decision to build the Qairaqum reservoir (in the territories of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) to regulate the water flow of the Syrdarya. It was envisaged that the reservoir with a water capacity of 4.2 billion cubic meters would regulate the flow of the Syrdarya seasonally and year-round and provide water to 500,000 hectares of Mirzachol land [2]. In the decision, it was pointed out that the work on the development of Mirzachol lands was interrupted due to the war, and now a favorable opportunity is being created to continue this national work.

During this period, the need to improve Mirzachol's land development, irrigation and land reclamation works became evident. Because the people who moved to Mirzachol during this period did not know well the scientifically based methods of farming and did not have the experience of increasing the fertility of the land. Due to the abundance of water, the cultivated fields were not properly cultivated, the land was excessively irrigated and wastage was allowed.

As a result of improper implementation of land reclamation works, improper use of water, excessive contamination of the land, and lack of drainage networks, the salinity level of the Mirzachol lands has increased, and the number of swamps has increased. Immigrants either abandoned the land after it became unusable or planted new crops on new land and soon made those lands useless [3].

It should also be noted that from the late 1940s to the early 1950s, there were supporters of the anti-drainage theory (academic T.R. Lysenko, prof. V.A. Shaumyan), and the doubts about the construction of collector-drainage branches were not resolved. Under the influence of supporters of the theory that collector-drainage construction is morally and physically outdated, reclamation construction was put in second place, reclamation constructions were excluded from the projects [4].

As a result, due to neglect, the reclamation condition of the newly acquired lands also worsened, and they quickly began to fall into disrepair. After the decision of the Uzbek government in April 1949 "On measures for the further development of Mirzachol", the problems of water management began to be put on the agenda. In this decision, in addition to the development of Mirzachol, it was pointed out that it is necessary to pay more attention to irrigation and melioration works.

From this period, Mirzachol was developed in an industrialized way. In a short period of time, more than 100 hydroautomats were produced. However, these works were not completed. "A lot of time has passed, but until now not a single machine gun has been activated. Well, what is the reason for this: first of all, almost no one dealt with the issue of automating the irrigation system. As a result, maintenance works in all structures are not completed. Builders are planning to install vending machines. On top of that, the repair-mechanics plant in Mirzachol is producing low-quality shutter-automatic machines that do not meet the demand"[5].

On August 6, 1956, the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the decision "On irrigation and development of Mirzachol reserve lands in the Uzbekistan SSR and Kazakhstan SSR to increase cotton cultivation" in order to further accelerate the development of Mirzachol. Based on this decision, on August 15 of this year, a special decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the SSR of Uzbekistan was adopted. In this decision, it was planned to create a large district containing 300,000 hectares of irrigated land in Central Asia and to establish 34 state farms specializing in cotton cultivation.

The ever-expanding land under cultivation has increased the need to improve irrigation and land reclamation. For this purpose, the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a decision on June 14, 1958 "On the expansion and acceleration of works on the development and irrigation of protected lands of Mirzachol in the SSR of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan." Based on this decision, the "Bashmirzachol Construction" department was established. At first, this department was engaged in the work of regulating previously irrigated lands in the Mirzachol zone, first

of all, the construction of the South Mirzachol canal, which was 127.7 km long, started in 1957.

An increase in the amount of funds allocated by the government for the purpose of carrying out these works also played a big role. If in 1960, 40 mln. if funds were allocated, this figure was 148 million in 1965. to soums, 188 million in 1967. increased to soum. From 1960 to 1967, compared with other regions, including Namangan region, the funds allocated for capital construction works amounted to 25 million in this region. it can be seen that it increased from 48 million soums or 23 soums [6]. Through these figures, it is possible to see how large amounts of funds have been allocated for the development of Mirzachol, the improvement of irrigation and reclamation works here.

Taking into account the soil structure of Mirzachol, in 1967, 62 vertical wells were built in the Mirzachol zone and put into use, improving the land reclamation condition of 17,000 hectares. Millions of cubic meters of water were used for irrigation with the help of 150 wells built in the old zone of Mirzachol. In 1968, another 250 such wells were planned to be commissioned [7].

In conclusion, it should be said that in order to fully satisfy the socio-economic needs of the country, the development of reserves and gray lands in desert zones, the construction of large reservoirs and canals, the sharp increase in the size of irrigated land areas, the excessive use of chemical fertilizers to increase agricultural productivity has led to changes in the evolutionary ecological system of the region. As a result of the regular increase in the process of salinization of the land, a great danger to the health of the population began to appear. Especially in Mirzachol, due to the lack of proportional development of irrigation and land reclamation works, there are interruptions between them, and due to the fact that collector-drainage devices are not used effectively, the rise of ground water in many newly opened lands, the increase in the level of salinity of the land has increased.

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