

Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

SOVIET AGRARIAN POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COTTON GROWING IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE 1930S

Khusnida Ergasheva
Acting Associate Professor,
Department of International Public Law,
Tashkent State Transport University,
E-Mail: ergasheva.xusnida@bk.ru
Tel: 91 201 82 66

Abstract

This article examines the agrarian policy of the Soviet state and the development of cotton cultivation in Uzbekistan during the 1930s. The history of cotton growing and processing in the country, its significance, and its influence on other sectors of the economy are analyzed. The article is based on archival documents from the funds of the National State Archive of Uzbekistan, scientific research of foreign and local scholars, monographs and treatises, and contains conclusions relevant to the topic under study.

Keywords: Fine-fiber cotton, cotton industry, cotton-ginning plants, cotton plant (gossypium), bast fiber plants, cotton fabrics, cotton varieties: Ashmuni, Pima, Marad, T-7, T-8, and S-6080.

АГРАРНАЯ ПОЛИТИКА СОВЕТСКОГО ГОСУДАРСТВА И РАЗВИТИЕ ХЛОПКОВОДСТВА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ В 30-Е ГОДЫ XX ВЕКА

Хуснида ЭРГАШЕВА

Ташкентский государственный транспортный университет, кафедра
международного публичного права, доктор философии и.о. доцента
Электронная почта: ergasheva.xusnida@bk.ru, Тел: 91 201 82 66



Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

Аннотация

В данной статье исследуются аграрная политика советского государства и развитие хлопководства в Узбекистане в 30-е годы XX века. Анализируется история выращивания и переработки хлопка в стране, его значение и влияние на другие отрасли. Статья основана на архивных документах фондов Национального государственного архива Узбекистана, научных исследованиях зарубежных и отечественных учёных, монографиях и брошюрах, и содержит выводы по изучаемой теме.

Ключевые слова: тонковолокнистый хлопок, хлопковая промышленность, хлопкоочистительные заводы, хлопчатник, лубяные волокнистые растения, хлопчатобумажная ткань, сорта хлопка: Ашмуни, Пима, Марад, Т-7, Т-8 и С-6080.

Introduction

Cotton fiber is considered one of the most valuable crops spun worldwide. It is grown primarily for its fiber, which forms in the seed of the cotton plant. This feature sharply distinguishes cotton from bast fiber plants. Cotton fiber is used on a very broad scale and for a wide variety of purposes. For example, it is used mainly in weaving all kinds of cotton fabrics. Today there is virtually no branch of the national economy that does not use cotton-based textiles. In addition to weaving various fabrics, cotton fiber is used to produce sewing thread, rope, tow rope, fishing nets, ribbons, transport belts, special weaves for rubber hoses, filters, textile insulation for electrical wires, and many other products. The fiber of certain cotton varieties is used to make special cord fabric for tyre gaskets in automobiles, as well as parachute material, kirza leather, and other goods. Furthermore, cotton fiber is used to produce celluloid, photo and film strips, lacquers, the highest-quality writing paper, and numerous other diverse materials and items. Cotton fiber can also be blended with silk to weave silk fabrics [1].



Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/7>

It is also noted in the sources that the peoples of India and, most probably, south-eastern Africa, as well as the peoples of Peru, Mexico, and the Antilles Islands were the first in the world to engage in growing cotton and weaving fabrics from its fiber. These five countries are thus considered among the founders of cotton cultivation and cotton-fabric weaving [1, p. 10].

Literature review

Cotton has been cultivated in our country for centuries, and attention to this sector was given from early times. Cotton was sown across many regions of our homeland. Even when Tsarist Russia occupied the Turkestan region, it focused its main attention on developing the cotton industry and expanding the sown areas. After the state coup in Russia in 1917, the newly established Soviet government pursued a cotton policy. First and foremost, the Soviet authorities created the Main Cotton Committee (Glavkhlopkom) under the Supreme Council of the National Economy, and, as a subordinate organisation, established the Turkestan ASSR Cotton Committee in our region. In addition, "Regulations and statutes on the state organisation of cotton cultivation, cotton-ginning industry, and cotton procurement" were adopted, thereby consolidating state monopoly over cotton procurement in our country [2].

Attention to cotton growing and production in Uzbekistan developed broadly mainly after the establishment of Soviet power. For example, whereas 5,500 hectares were sown with cotton seed in 1915, by 1924 the sown area had grown to 20,700 hectares, by 1929 to 41,500 hectares, and by 1933 to 70,500 hectares [3]. This testifies to the steadily increasing attention given to cotton growing in our country. To develop the cotton industry, a land-and-water reform was carried out. This reform proceeded in three stages: the first stage covered 1925–1926 and was carried out in the Fergana, Tashkent, and Samarkand provinces; the second stage was implemented in 1927 in the Zarafshan (Bukhara) oasis; and the third stage took place in 1928–1929 in the Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, and Khorezm

Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

provinces. As a result of the land-and-water reform in Uzbekistan, Soviet power proceeded to establish cotton monoculture in our country. Sources indicate that this process was accompanied by "intimidation of the local population, threats, insults, words directed against the nation and Uzbeks, and beatings" [4].

Special attention was also paid to the fiber of the cotton being grown, and in particular to increasing the production of fine-fiber cotton. This had great significance. Fine-fiber cotton began to be grown in our country from the 1930s onwards, but on limited areas, because its value and importance were not yet well known. Moreover, the relative difficulty of growing fine-fiber cotton, the complexity of harvesting it, and its low yield deterred many farm managers from striving to produce this type of raw material. Nevertheless, from the 1950s onwards, fine-fiber cotton began to be grown on large areas in the Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya provinces, and subsequently in the Namangan and Bukhara provinces [5].

Research Methodology

The tasks for developing cotton growing during the first Five-Year Plan were set out in a special resolution of the USSR Council of People's Commissars dated 18 July 1929. The resolution emphasised that all opportunities should be mobilised to develop cotton cultivation in the USSR as rapidly as possible, to expand the cotton-sown area, and to increase yields; and that by the end of the Five-Year Plan, not only should the textile industry be freed from dependence on imported cotton, but sufficient cotton reserves should be accumulated for the further development of the textile industry. To this end, grain and other crops were banned from irrigated lands in cotton-growing districts; new lands were brought under cultivation; irrigation facilities were built; old irrigation systems were renovated and put to rational use. At the same time, cotton was sown on some rain-fed lands. In Central Asia such lands exceeded 90,000 hectares in 1931, and the boundaries of cotton-growing districts were expanded. For the first time,

Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

cotton cultivation was organised on an industrial basis in the southern European part of the USSR — in the Northern Caucasus, southern Ukraine, Crimea, and the Lower Volga region — and these new districts were called new cotton-growing districts. In addition, in 1934, for the first time in the history of our country's cotton cultivation, valuable fine-fiber Egyptian cotton varieties were sown in the warmer southern districts of Central Asia and Azerbaijan [1, p. 15]. Furthermore, the efficiency of cotton production in our country grew year by year, and new disease-resistant cotton varieties were created and put into cultivation. As a result, cotton yields in the republic steadily increased. For example, whereas average yield in cotton cultivation was 20 centners per hectare in 1926–1930, it rose to 22 centners in 1935; by 1939, however, due to crop failure, yield fell to 16 centners per hectare. Therefore, from the 1930s onwards, practical steps were taken to develop early-ripening, wilt-resistant new cotton varieties, and to create new seeds in place of local cotton varieties — black, blue, and yellow-seed varieties — and old American varieties. In particular, Koldaev, Director of SoyuzNIKHI, created a new industrial variety of cotton called "5-P", resistant to wilt disease. In 1939 this new variety was tested at the Andreev experimental plot in Tashkent Province and the expected results were achieved. In addition, the "6082-seed variety" was also sown there. Sources indicate that not a single cotton plant on the plot sown with this new variety was affected by wilt disease, whereas 60–65 percent of the cotton seedlings on another plot nearby did succumb to it [6]. This demonstrates how effective the newly developed cotton variety was.

Analysis and results

Attention to developing the cotton industry in our country during the Soviet era was special, and the area under cotton expanded year by year. Whereas 5,500 hectares were sown with cotton seed in 1915, this area grew to 20,700 hectares by 1924, to 41,500 hectares by 1929, and to 70,500 hectares by 1933 [3, p. 5].

Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

This shows that the sown areas were growing year by year and that the cotton industry was being developed accordingly.

Attention was also given to growing fine-fiber cotton varieties to develop the cotton industry in our country. For example, after fine-fiber cotton varieties were tested on 5,000 hectares across the Union in 1930, by 1933, in the Voroshilov district of Fergana Province, the fine-fiber Egyptian cotton variety "Ashmuni" was sown and a yield of 15.9 to 16.4 centners per hectare was obtained [7]. This created the opportunity to increase fine-fiber cotton production in our country. The cultivation of these varieties was established in the southern provinces of our country. From 1933–1934 onwards, the American varieties "Pima" and "Marad" of fine-fiber cotton were sown in the Surkhan-Sherabad steppes. From those years on, elite seed-growing farms were established in the Sherabad district, and they were charged with supplying other oblasts with seed of fine-fiber cotton varieties as well. Before long, however, the above-mentioned fine-fiber cotton varieties were replaced by the higher-yielding varieties 5904-I and the T-7, T-8, and S-6080 varieties developed at the Institute of Cotton Selection and Seed Growing named after Zaitsev. Nevertheless, fine-fiber cotton yields in that zone increased mainly through the expansion of sown areas, the reconstruction of irrigation branches, and the use of additional water sources. Even so, during the second Five-Year Plan, cotton yields in the USSR doubled compared to 1932. In Uzbekistan, yield per hectare rose from 7.96 centners in 1932 to 16.32 centners in 1937. Furthermore, during the second Five-Year Plan, the Soviet Union stopped purchasing fine-fiber cotton from foreign countries [1, p. 16]. This indicates that fine-fiber cotton production in the country was growing year by year. Serious attention was paid to irrigation and the development of new lands. For example, the construction of water reservoirs in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis in the southern provinces of our country made it possible to expand the areas under fine-fiber cotton in the Sherabad, Gagarin, Angor, and Termez districts. This led to increased cotton yields in these territories. In 1961, 14 centners per

Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

hectare were obtained; by 1979, this figure had risen to 37 centners. Cotton yield per hectare amounted to 25.6 centners in the Sherabad district, 29.5 centners in the Gagarin district, 32.2 centners in the Termez district, and 35.5 centners in the Jarqurghon district [3, p. 6].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the cotton industry in our country in the 1930s developed, as a result of the Soviet government's agrarian policy, exclusively as a one-sided supplier of raw materials. Although the volume of cotton production increased sharply, this was achieved only through heavy forced labour, the destruction of the traditional way of life, and the curtailment of national interests. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this laid the foundation for the ecological and economic problems that emerged in our country in subsequent years.

References

1. Шлейхер А. И., Шайхов Э Т., Нормухамедов Н. Н., Эшонов М. Э., Нерозин А. Е. Пахтачилик. – Тошкент. Ўқитувчи. 1978. 5-б.
2. Абдуллаев А.Н. Ўзбекистонда пахта яккаҳоқимлиги ва унинг оқибатлари (1917-1991 йй.). тарих фанлари доктори илмий даражасини олиш учун тайёрланган диссертацияси. – Тошкент. 2010. 5-бет
3. Лев В. Ҳасанов Ж. Ингичка толали пахта ва ҳосилдорлик. – Тошкент. Ўзбекистон. 1983. 5-б.
4. Одилов В. Мен Ўзбекистонлик сайловчилар номидан гапираман.// Совет Ўзбекистони.1990,10 апрель. Б-2. Абдуллаев А.Н. Ўзбекистонда пахта яккаҳоқимлиги ва унинг оқибатлари (1917-1991 йй.). Тарих фанлари доктори илмий даражасини олиш учун тақдим этилган диссертация.Т.: 2020.Б.225.
5. Раззоқов А. Ўзбекистон пахтачилиги тарихи. – Тошкент. Ўзбекистон, 1994. 227-бет.



Eureka Journal of Agricultural Science & Bio-Innovation (EJASB)

ISSN 2760-4969 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/7>

6. Охунбобоев Й. Танланган асарлар. – Тошкент: Ўзбекистон, 1976. – 403-405-б.
7. Haitov J.Sh. O‘zbekistonda paxta yangi navlarining yaratilishi tarixidan: yutuq va muammolar.// Ilmiy xabarnoma. Seriya: Gumanitar tadqiqotlar, 2022, № 7 (67). 23-б.