



## DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL COTTON AND ALLFALFA CULTIVATION IN KARAKALPAKIA IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH - BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURIES

**Kalligul Tangirbergenova**

*Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor*

*Karakalpak State University*

*Nukus, Uzbekistan*

*E-mail: [Kalligul@mail.ru](mailto:Kalligul@mail.ru)*

### ABOUT ARTICLE

**Key words:** cotton growing, alfalfa growing, trade, despotic, raw materials, commodity, social, monetary, stationary, culture, patriarchal, economy, feudal, market, capitalist, firms, fair, capitalism.

**Received:** 28.06.24

**Accepted:** 30.06.24

**Published:** 02.07.24

**Abstract:** The article examines the process of development of commercial cotton growing and alfalfa growing in Karakalpakstan, the specialization of commodity production, the growth of commodity-money circulation and the emergence of fair, bazaar and stationary trade, the emergence of new shopping centers, as well as the strengthening of trade relations between the Karakalpak and neighboring peoples in the late 19th - early 20th centuries

## XIX-ASR II-YARMI — XX-ASR BOSHLARIDA QORAQALPOQDA TOVAR PAXTA VA BEDA YETISHTIRISHNING RIVOJLANISHI.

**Kalligul Tangirbergenova**

*Tarix fanlari nomzodi, dotsent*

*Qoraqalpoq davlat universiteti*

*Nukus, O'zbekiston*

*E-mail: [Kalligul@mail.ru](mailto:Kalligul@mail.ru)*

### MAQOLA HAQIDA

**Kalit so'zlar:** paxtachilik, bedachilik, savdo, despotik, xomashyo, tovar, ijtimoiy, pul, statsionar, madaniyat, patriarxal, iqtisod, feodal, bozor, kapitalistik, firmalar, yarmarka, kapitalizm.

**Annotatsiya:** Maqolada Qoraqalpog'istonda tovar paxtachilik va bedachilikning rivojlanish jarayonlari, tovar ishlab chiqarishning ixtisoslashuvi, tovar-pul muomalasining o'sishi va yarmarka, bozor va statsionar savdoning vujudga kelishi, yangi savdo markazlarining paydo bo'lishi, shuningdek. XIX-asr oxiri — XX-asr boshlarida qoraqalpoqlar bilan qo'shni xalqlar

**РАЗВИТИЕ ТОВАРНОГО ХЛОПКОВОДСТВА И ЛЮЦЕРНЫ В КАРАКАЛПАКИИ  
ВО ВТОРОЙ ПОЛОВИНЕ XIX - НАЧАЛЕ XX ВВ****Каллигуль Тангирбергенова***кандидат исторических наук, доцент**Каракалпакский государственный университет**Нукус, Узбекистан**E-mail: [Kalligul@mail.ru](mailto:Kalligul@mail.ru)***О СТАТЬЕ**

**Ключевые слова:** хлопководство, люцерноводство, торговля, деспотическая, сырьевая, товарная, социальная, денежная, стационарная, культурная, патриархальная, экономика, феодальная, рыночная, капиталистическая, фирменная, ярмарка, капитализм.

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматривается процесс развития товарного хлопководства и люцерны в Каракалпакстане, специализация товарного производства, рост товарно-денежного обращения и возникновение ярмарочной, базарной и стационарной торговли, появление новых торговых центров, а также как укрепление торговых связей каракалпаков с соседними народами в конце XIX - начале XX вв.

**INTRODUCTION**

The development of commercial cotton growing and alfalfa growing in Karakalpakstan stimulated the decomposition of patriarchal-feudal relations and the penetration of capitalist relations. This is evidenced by the involvement of Karakalpak farms in trade relations, such as commercial cotton growing and alfalfa growing and the emergence of fair, bazaar and stationary trade, the emergence of new shopping centers, as well as the strengthening of trade relations of the Karakalpak with neighboring countries of Central Asia, Kazakhstan and especially with Russia. Noticeable shifts in socio-economic development are caused not only by internal market connections, but also by the emergence of demand for labor, its inclusion in the all-Russian and, partly, world market, influenced the development of industry in Karakalpakstan.

The purpose of the study is a comprehensive scientific analysis of the development of commercial cotton growing and alfalfa growing in Karakalpakstan in the second half of the 19th - early 20th centuries. To achieve this goal, the author set himself the following task, involving Karakalpak farms in such trade relations as the production of commercial cotton and the cultivation of alfalfa, as well as providing for the creation of fair, market and stationary trade, the emergence of new shopping centers: on this basis, the relevance of issues of strengthening trade relations of Karakalpakstan with neighboring countries.

### THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In a number of works, scientific articles, essays on the history of cotton growing and alfalfa growing, the works of A. Razzakov and K. Juraev and the book of F. Dzhumabaev are of particular importance for our research. A number of Ph.D. dissertations have been defended on the history of cotton growing. However, most of them cover either the history of cotton growing in certain regions of Uzbekistan or are devoted to separate, albeit important, issues of the development of agriculture and cotton growing in Turkestan. Unfortunately, they do not contain materials on the history of cotton growing in Karakalpakstan. At the modern historiographical stage, there is no generalizing scientific research reflecting the history of cotton growing and alfalfa growing in Karakalpakstan during the period under study. The author of this article has made an attempt to fill this gap.

The methodological and theoretical basis of the article is a combination of various scientific principles and research methods. Using the principle of historicity, taking into account the unique historical conditions, socio-economic structure, mentality, spiritual-ideological relations of the time, by researching the development of the cotton and alfalfa commodity economy of the Karakalpak people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to trade relations The involvement of Karakalpak farms is based on scientific analysis. The use of the principle of scientific objectivity in working with archive and published documents ensured the truthfulness of the retrospective reflection of the presented facts and events, excluding the influence of the current situation.

The growth of cotton growing in Karakalpakstan, as in other regions of Turkestan, occurred not due to the expansion of irrigated areas, but as a result of a reduction in the area of food crops, in particular grain and fodder. For 1889-1910 the sown area under cotton increased from 3,000 dessiatines to 6,438 dessiatines, and the gross harvest from 1895 to 1913 increased from 196,000 poods to 943, 600 poods. [3, 42] The Chimbay site also became one of the major suppliers of cotton. In 1915-1916 in the Chimbay section, two cotton gins cleaned 154 wagons of fiber. [4, 98] The development of cotton growing contributed to the growth of turnover of industrial and commercial enterprises. Agricultural products, cotton, alfalfa, wool, leather, leaving the hands of producers and concentrating in the hands of buyers, became the subject of wholesale trade before being exported from the oasis. Products were collected in large warehouses, owned mainly by Russian merchants.

In order to obtain cheap raw materials for the industry of the metropolis and create an additional market for its products, the tsarist government took a number of measures in the field of land and water use, which objectively contributed to the development of commercial agriculture in Karakalpakstan and the emergence of capitalist relations. Climatic and soil conditions in Karakalpakstan were favorable for a variety of valuable crops, such as cotton, wheat, barley, rice,

jugar (sorghum), sesame, and alfalfa. [1,174] The main cash crop in plant growing was cotton. The development of cotton growing especially intensified, so, if in 1882 in Karakalpakstan 8,540 pounds of cotton were sown and 98,472 pounds of cotton were harvested, then in 1885, respectively, 9,145 and 112,239 pounds. [2,123]

Massive sowing of cotton with loans from individual Russian firms has been observed since the end of the 19th century, when farmers became convinced of the profitability of this industry. The development of cotton growing was stimulated by the introduction of a duty on cotton imported from abroad, a sufficient supply of grain via the Trans-Caspian railway and preferential taxation of lands occupied by American cotton crops. All these measures contributed to a sharp increase in commercial cotton growing. Alfalfa was also an important cash crop among the Karakalpaks, which, along with jugara and straw, served as feed for livestock. In addition, in the absence of artificial fertilizers and the presence of intensive agriculture, alfalfa was used as a soil-enriching crop. In Turkestan, the importance of alfalfa as a cash crop increased even more. The Chimbay area was especially in first place for its cultivation, the area under alfalfa here in 1913 amounted to 94% of alfalfa crops in Karakalpakstan. [5, 57] If in the Khiva Khanate alfalfa was cultivated exclusively for hay, then in the Chimbay area it was mainly cultivated for seeds. To do this, it was collected from the third cutting and threshed in a primitive way. Karakalpak alfalfa seeds were considered one of the best not only in Russia, but also on the international market; they were exported to Germany, America, Canada and Argentina. The main exporters of this crop were the Russian-Asian Bank.

High commercial value has also made alfalfa more expensive than food crops. Before World War I, the price of 1 pound of alfalfa seed was on average three times the cost of 1 pound of wheat. Farmers, having appreciated the benefits of growing cotton and wheat, expanded their crops everywhere to include food crops. An equally valuable crop was the mulberry, which was used by the Karakalpaks at first as a building material for the manufacture of individual parts of the yurt, and after the conquest of Tsarist Russia for the development of sericulture. By 1911, 335 farms in Karakalpakstan were engaged in silkworms, which received only 360 pounds of cocoons. The feed fund amounted to 53.5 thousand mulberry roots.

The unique natural conditions of the Amudarya delta did not allow Karakalpaks to engage in full-scale farming and contributed to the development of another branch of animal husbandry. Karakalpakstan was the most profitable area for breeding improved dairy breed of cattle. Along with meat and dairy cattle breeding, sheep breeding played an important role. The Karakalpaks raised three breeds of sheep: Kazakh (meat), Russian (wool) and their own Karakul. [6,142] The increase in demand for astrakhan fur due to the development of trade turnover led to an increase in the number of sheep of this breed in 1906 - 1908 from 60 thousand to 74,090. Development of

trade in agricultural products, with the penetration of commodity-money relations into the agriculture of Karakalpakstan, trade in agricultural and livestock products expanded. Trade was carried out, as noted earlier, in bazaars that functioned twice a week. There were bazaars in all major cities of the Amudarya department, Petro-Aleksandrovsk, Sheikhabazvali (current Beruni district), Shurahan, Biybazar, Sarybiy (Shurakhansky section), Chimbay, Nukus, Nazarkhan (Chimbazsky section), Khojeyli, Kungrad and Mangyt (Shabbaz section). At the same time, trade exchange was carried out not only among the local population of Uzbeks, Karakalpaks, Turkmen, and Kazaks and with Russian merchants.

Agricultural products, cotton, alfalfa, wool, leather, leaving the hands of producers and concentrating in the hands of buyers, became the subject of wholesale trade before being exported from the oasis. Products were collected in large warehouses, owned mainly by Russian merchants. The Russian transport and insurance company opened a special office and warehouse in Petro-Aleksandrovsk for receiving and sending cargo to Central Russia and cargo arriving at the Amudarya department. In 1909, the main office of the Moscow Trade and Industrial Partnership was created in Urgench.

Industrial goods from Central Russia were delivered to Karakalpakstan by a large trading company of merchants S. Ravirov, I. Brodsky and K. Shirman and the Armenian company Andre-Caspian, as well as Orenburg and other merchants who came for raw materials. Cotton and leather were transported to Moscow and wool to the Nizhny Novgorod fair, and to the cities of the middle Volga region, alfalfa seeds to Hamburg and North America, carpets to Turkey, butter to Baku, and fish to Orenburg. [7,234] The Karakalpakstan, like all of Central Asia, was not only an agricultural raw material base, but also a very profitable market for the industrial products of Tsarist Russia.

The Nizhny Novgorod fair was of great importance for the development of trade relations in Karakalpakstan. There manufacturers sold their products. Large traders bought large quantities of goods in bulk and sold them in the markets of the region. Supply and demand for goods, their prices was also largely determined by the Nizhny Novgorod Fair. In 1886, an exhibition of goods of material culture of the Amudarya department and the Khiva Khanate was held at the Nizhny Novgorod exhibition. A large yurt, various silver jewelry, silk and cotton materials, and agricultural crops were on display. In 1889, at the first fishing exhibition organized in St. Petersburg, fishing nets made from local material were presented.

The small number and imperfection of communication routes hampered the economic, cultural and political development of Karakalpakstan. Farming and livestock products were exported from the oasis in insufficient quantities due to the extreme high cost of horse-drawn transport. Cargo transportation was also carried out by the Aral Sea and Amu Darya flotillas and the Khiva joint-stock company. The Amudarya flotilla, due to its military purpose, transported

relatively few agricultural products - 30 thousand pounds per year, including 15 thousand pounds of cotton. Along the caravan routes, goods were delivered on camels (85 thousand camels annually) and on carts (20 thousand carts). [8,15]

The development of commercial cotton growing and alfalfa growing in Karakalpakstan led to the emergence of industrial enterprises, engaged, however, only in the primary processing of agricultural raw materials. This was explained by the fact that tsarist deliberately kept Karakalpakstan in the role of a market for the sale of products of Russian industry and a supplier of raw materials for factories and factories in the metropolis.

The enterprises created were dwarf and technically backward. But the main thing is that they were created and existed in the most backward and remote areas from the center, and new people with new outlooks on life grew up in them. Most of the plants and factories belonged to agents of the trade and industrial firms of Central Russia “Partnership of the Great Yaroslavl Manufactory”, “Moscow Trade and Industrial Partnership”. They, together with the branch of the Russian-Asian Bank in Urgench, conducted trade and usury operations in the cities and rural areas of Karakalpakstan, pumping out huge profits. Local factories, in addition to the primary processing of raw cotton, served as storage points for all types of raw materials received from intermediary merchants, for which the latter sold factory products for resale to the population at higher prices. [9,133]

### CONCLUSION

Thus, during the colonial period, significant changes occurred in the socio-economic life of the population of Karakalpakstan. At the beginning of the 20th century, trade in raw agricultural products began to develop widely, and a division of labor began to take shape in the production of commercial cotton, alfalfa, and livestock products. Factories and buyers appeared, new markets were formed, domestic and foreign trade grew, and industrial enterprises were created. Karakalpakstan was included in the all-Russian and world market, and the process of decomposition of the natural economy was going on there. The enterprises created were dwarf and technically backward. But the important thing is that they were created and existed in the most backward and remote areas from the center, and new people with new outlooks on life grew up in them. The development of commercial cotton growing and alfalfa growing in Karakalpakstan led to the emergence of industrial enterprises, engaged, however, only in the primary processing of agricultural raw materials. This was explained by the fact that tsarist deliberately kept Karakalpakstan in the role of a market for the sale of products of Russian industry and a supplier of raw materials for factories and factories in the metropolis.

## REFERENCES

1. Andrianov B.V. Socio-economic structure of the Karakalpaks according to the statistical and economic survey of the Amu Darya department. Stalinabad, 1959, C.197.
2. History of the Karakalpak ASSR (from ancient times to the present day). Tashkent, Publishing house "FAN", 1986.C.245
3. Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan fund.3. description. 1. file. 7. sheet. 42.
4. Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan fund. I-2. description. 1. file. 290. sheet. 98.
5. Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan fund.3. description. 1. File. 16. sheet. 57.
6. Lunin B.V. To the description of the folk craft of the Karakalpaks // Vestnik KK of the Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Nukus, 1967, No. 4 P.142.
7. Demidov A.P. Economic essays on cotton growing and cotton trade in the industry. Ed. Tashkent, 1926. P. 234.
8. Shkapsky O.A. Amudarya essays: on the agrarian question in the lower Amudarya. Tashkent, 1900, p. 15.
9. Sadykov A. S. Economic relations of Khiva with Russia in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Tashkent. 1965. P. 133.