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THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN KARAKUL PRODUCTS IN UZBEKISTAN IN 1925–1945

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Annotation: This article examines the formation, development, and state regulation of the trade in Karakul products in Uzbekistan during 1925–1945 from a historical and economic perspective. The study analyzes the reorganization of Karakul farms during the early years of Soviet rule, the procurement of products, state purchasing, domestic markets, and export processes. It highlights the role of Karakul skins in the national economy, the level of demand for them in foreign markets, and the centralization of trade relations. In 1928, a decision was adopted in the Bukhara District aimed at regulating the Karakul market and fulfilling the export plan, assigning “Uzbekgostorg” and “Uzbekselsoyuz” responsibility for the procurement and sale of Karakul products.

Keywords: Karakul, Karakul sheep breeding, Karakul skin, trade, export, state procurement, cooperation, collective farm, state farm, Bukhara, Kashkadarya, market, procurement, industry, Uzbekistan.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada 1925–1945-yillarda O‘zbekistonda qorako‘lchilik mahsulotlari savdosining shakllanishi, rivojlanishi va davlat tomonidan tartibga solinishi tarixiy-iqtisodiy nuqtayi nazardan tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqotda sovet hokimiyatining dastlabki yillarida qorako‘lchilik xo‘jaliklarining qayta tashkil etilishi, mahsulotlarni tayyorlash, davlat xaridi, ichki bozor va eksport jarayonlari tahlil qilinadi. Qorako‘l terisining mamlakat iqtisodiyotidagi o‘rni, uning tashqi bozordagi talab darajasi hamda savdo munosabatlarining markazlashtirilishi yoritiladi. 1928-yilda Buxoro okrugida qorako‘l bozorini tartibga solish va eksport rejasini bajarishga qaratilgan qaror qabul qilinib, “Uzbekgostorg” va “Uzbekselsoyuz”ga mahsulotlarni tayyorlash va sotish vazifalari yuklatilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: qorako‘l, qorako‘lchilik, qorako‘l terisi, savdo, eksport, davlat xaridi, kooperatsiya, kolxoz, sovxoz, Buxoro, Qashqadaryo, bozor, tayyorlov, sanoat, O‘zbekiston.

Аннотация: В статье исследуется история развития торговли каракулеводческой продукцией в Узбекистане в 1925–1945 гг. Рассматриваются процессы формирования системы заготовки, государственной закупки, реализации и экспорта каракульских шкур в условиях советской экономической политики. Особое внимание уделяется преобразованию традиционной системы производства и торговли, усилению государственного контроля и созданию специализированных организаций, осуществлявших заготовку и сбыт продукции. В 1928 г. исполнительный комитет Бухарского округа принял решение об упорядочении каракульного рынка и обеспечении выполнения экспортного плана. Согласно решению, заготовкой, подготовкой и

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реализацией каракуля должны были заниматься «Узбекгосторг» и «Узбексельсоюз», тогда как деятельность частных торговцев в этой сфере ограничивалась.

Ключевые слова: каракуль, каракулеводство, каракульская шкура, торговля, экспорт, государственные закупки, кооперация, колхоз, совхоз, Бухара, Кашкадарья, рынок, заготовка, промышленность, Узбекистан.

INTRODUCTION

The years 1925–1945 were an important historical period in which the economic and trade system of Karakul sheep breeding in Uzbekistan changed fundamentally. During this period, traditional livestock farms were gradually incorporated into the Soviet system of economic management, and the procurement and sale of Karakul products came under state control. While remaining a product of domestic consumption, Karakul skins became one of the strategic export raw materials in high demand on the foreign market. In the mid-1920s, livestock farming, including Karakul sheep breeding, was in a difficult condition. In 1924–1925, a sharp decline in the number of Karakul sheep and a fall in the production and export of Karakul skins were recorded. In the following years, as a result of state measures aimed at restoring the sector, the volume of production grew. One of the first indicators of this process is that 185 thousand Karakul skins were procured in the Kashkadarya Okrug in 1926, and the figure reached 215.5 thousand in 1926–1927. In 1927–1928 it amounted to 229.9 thousand, and in 1928–1929 to 240 thousand skins. In this respect, the period is characterized by the institutional formation of the Karakul trade, the establishment of the state purchasing system, and the strengthening of export-oriented production [1].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Historical documents, statistical data, Soviet-era publications, and modern studies serve as important sources for the study of this topic. In particular, the materials of the National Archive of Uzbekistan make it possible to trace the processes of procuring Karakul products, state purchasing, and the fulfillment of plan targets by farms. Existing studies cover the production base of Karakul sheep breeding in Uzbekistan, the organization of collective and state farms, breeding work, and export issues [2].

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted on the basis of the principles of historicism, objectivity, systematicity, and comparative-historical analysis. Its main methodological approach is to study the trade in Karakul products in close connection with the processes of production, state purchasing, procurement, processing, and export. For this purpose, the historical-comparative, statistical, retrospective, problem-chronological, and systems analysis methods were used [2]. In analyzing the statistical data, changes in the volume of Karakul skin procurement were compared by year and by region. In particular, the data for the Kashkadarya Okrug for 1926–1929 make it possible to determine the dynamics of production. The 1931 figure of 492,740 Karakul skins procured served as a basis for assessing the condition of the state procurement system at the level of the republic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of the trade in Karakul products in Uzbekistan in 1925–1945 was closely linked to the expansion of the production base, the formation of the state purchasing system, and the growth in the volume of products prepared for the foreign market. This process can be conditionally divided into three stages: recovery and initial organizational changes in

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1925–1929; the strengthening of the centralized state procurement system in 1930–1939; and the maximum use of the existing production potential under wartime conditions in 1940–1945 [3].

By 1925, Karakul sheep breeding was in a difficult situation. Data for 1924–1925 record that the number of Karakul sheep in Uzbekistan had remained at around 600–700 thousand head, as a result of which the production and export of Karakul skins fell sharply. This situation made the restoration of the sector one of the important directions of the state's agrarian policy [4].

These figures show that in the Kashkadarya region Karakul products took shape not only as the output of a branch of livestock farming but also as a commodity with commercial value. The growth in the number of Karakul skins created the need to develop the infrastructure for their procurement, storage, sorting, and sale [5].

The year 1928 marked an important turning point in the history of state regulation of the Karakul trade. On March 21, the Executive Committee of the Bukhara Okrug adopted a special decision on the collection, procurement, and sale of products in order to regulate the Karakul market and fulfill the export plan. According to the decision, this activity was assigned to organizations such as "Uzbekgostorg" and "Uzbekselsoyuz." The participation of other organizations, firms, and private individuals in the Karakul trade was restricted [6].

This decision shows that the Karakul trade was moving from ordinary market relations to a centralized, state-managed purchasing system. As a result, the system of intermediation between the producing farm and the final buyer changed. State trade organizations became the main actors in collecting products in the prescribed manner, controlling their quality, and directing them to further sale.

By 1931, the scale of the state procurement system had expanded further. In Uzbekistan, Karakul was produced mainly on the farms of 26 districts, and 492,740 Karakul skins were procured in the first five months of the year. Plan fulfillment amounted to 61 percent. On the one hand, this figure shows that the production base had expanded considerably; on the other, it shows that problems persisted in fulfilling the targets set within the state planning system.

There were also considerable differences between regions. For example, in 1931 plan fulfillment amounted to 62 percent in Nurata, 51 percent in Bauman (now Shafirkan) District, 50 percent in Tengi-Kharam (now Dehkanabad) District, 39 percent in Karakul District, 34 percent in Chirakchi, and only 17 percent in Kattakurgan. These figures show that the development of the trade in Karakul products depended not only on the number of livestock but also on infrastructure, food supply, labor resources, specialists, and the system of material incentives for farms [7].

Thus, in 1925–1945 the trade in Karakul products in Uzbekistan was transformed from a simple system of product exchange into a centralized mechanism of state purchasing, procurement, and export. While at the initial stage the main problem was the restoration of livestock farming, in the 1930s state control, planning, the standardization of product quality, and the growth of export potential became priority tasks. In the early 1940s, Uzbekistan became the main production center of the USSR's Karakul sheep-breeding system. Statistical indicators, especially the fact that Uzbekistan's share reached 63 percent in 1942, confirm the strategic importance of this sector in the economic system not only of the republic but of the entire Union.

CONCLUSION

In 1925–1945, the Karakul trade in Uzbekistan took shape on the basis of a centralized state system. As a result of the growth in production volumes, the expansion of state purchases, and an export-oriented policy, Uzbekistan became the main Karakul-breeding region of the USSR. In particular, the fact that Uzbekistan accounted for 63 percent of all-Union production in 1942 confirms the strategic importance of the sector.

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