HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

DYNAMICS OF KARAKUL PRODUCTION VOLUME AND TRADE INDICATORS

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Doi: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23220160

Annotation: This article examines the historical dynamics of Karakul production and trade indicators in Uzbekistan. It focuses on the procurement of Karakul skins, state purchases, domestic and foreign trade, and factors affecting production volumes. Statistical evidence is used to identify the main stages of industry development, regional characteristics, and economic significance. The study aims to assess the role of Karakul sheep breeding in Uzbekistan’s agricultural and export systems.

Keywords: Karakul sheep breeding, Karakul, Karakul skin, production, trade, export, state procurement, procurement, market, cooperation, collective farm, state farm, livestock, economy, Uzbekistan.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada O‘zbekistonda qorako‘lchilik mahsulotlari ishlab chiqarish hajmi va savdo ko‘rsatkichlarining tarixiy dinamikasi tahlil qilinadi. Unda qorako‘l terisi tayyorlash, davlat xaridlari, ichki va tashqi savdo jarayonlari hamda ishlab chiqarish hajmiga ta’sir ko‘rsatgan omillar yoritiladi. Statistik ma’lumotlar asosida tarmoqning rivojlanish bosqichlari, hududiy xususiyatlari va iqtisodiy ahamiyati ochib beriladi. Tadqiqot qorako‘lchilikning O‘zbekiston qishloq xo‘jaligi va eksport tizimidagi o‘rnini baholashga qaratilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: qorako‘lchilik, qorako‘l, qorako‘l terisi, ishlab chiqarish, savdo, eksport, davlat xaridi, tayyorlov, bozor, kooperatsiya, kolxoz, sovxoz, chorvachilik, iqtisodiyot, O‘zbekiston.

Аннотация: В статье анализируется историческая динамика производства каракулеводческой продукции и торговых показателей в Узбекистане. Рассматриваются заготовка каракульских шкур, государственные закупки, внутренние и внешнеторговые процессы, а также факторы, повлиявшие на объем производства. На основе статистических данных раскрываются этапы развития отрасли, ее региональные особенности и экономическое значение. Исследование направлено на оценку роли каракулеводства в сельском хозяйстве и экспортной системе Узбекистана.

Ключевые слова: каракулеводство, каракуль, каракульская шкура, производство, торговля, экспорт, государственные закупки, заготовка, рынок, кооперация, колхоз, совхоз, животноводство, экономика, Узбекистан.

INTRODUCTION

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Karakul sheep breeding is one of the historically established and economically important branches of Uzbekistan's agriculture. Karakul skins, its main product, stood out from other livestock products for their quality, natural properties, and level of demand on the international market. In the first half of the 20th century, the development of Karakul sheep breeding was accompanied not only by growth in production volumes but also by the centralization of the system of procurement, state purchasing, processing, and trade. In the period after 1925, the Soviet government carried out measures aimed at reorganizing livestock farming, developing collective and state farms, improving the breeding quality of Karakul sheep, and increasing the volume of product procurement. As a result, the production of Karakul skins grew steadily in some regions [1].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Scientific studies produced in the Soviet period, statistical collections, reports of state organizations, and archival documents are important sources for studying the history of Karakul sheep breeding. This literature covers, from various angles, the breeding of Karakul sheep, pedigree work, the improvement of product quality, the state procurement system, and export issues. M.D. Zakirov's work "Karakul of Uzbekistan" (Каракуль Узбекистана) provides an extensive analysis of the natural, economic, and production features of Karakul sheep breeding in Uzbekistan [2]. In addition, Soviet-era scientific collections devoted to Karakul sheep breeding address production technology and pedigree work. Archival materials, in turn, make it possible to reconstruct precise information on production plans, state purchases, and the activities of trade organizations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted on the basis of the principles of historicism, objectivity, systematicity, and the comparative-historical approach. Statistical, historical-comparative, chronological, retrospective, and systems analysis methods were used to identify changes in the production and trade indicators of Karakul products. The statistical method was used to compare the number of Karakul skins produced in different years, state purchases, and plan targets. The chronological method was used to define the stages of the sector's development. The comparative method was used to study the production indicators of Bukhara, Kashkadarya, and other regions. An attempt was also made to identify the relationship between production volume and the processes of trade and export [3].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A study of the dynamics of the production and trade indicators of Karakul products in Uzbekistan shows that the position of this sector in the country's economy changed considerably over the course of the 20th century. The years 1925–1945 are of particular importance as the initial stage in which the sector's production and trade system was reorganized. In the mid-1920s, Karakul sheep breeding experienced a difficult economic situation. Data indicating that the number of Karakul sheep in Uzbekistan remained at approximately 600–700 thousand head in 1924–1925 point to the crisis state of the sector [4]. The reduction in livestock numbers, the weakness of the fodder base, and the economic difficulties of farms led to a decrease in the production of Karakul skins. In the following years, as a result of the state policy aimed at restoring livestock farming, production indicators began to rise. The upward trend in the production of Karakul products is especially evident in the Kashkadarya region. While 185 thousand Karakul skins were procured in 1926, the figure was 215.5 thousand in 1926–1927, 229.9 thousand in 1927–1928, and 240 thousand in 1928–1929. Thus, the increase from 185 thousand skins in 1926 to 240 thousand in 1928–1929 amounted to almost 29.7

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percent. These dynamics show that Karakul sheep breeding in the Kashkadarya region was gradually turning into a specialized sector oriented toward commodity production. The growth in production volume also required the improvement of the trade system. For this reason, the activities of state and cooperative organizations engaged in collecting, sorting, storing, and selling Karakul skins expanded [5].

The year 1928 was an important turning point in the institutional development of the Karakul trade. The Executive Committee of the Bukhara Okrug adopted a decision aimed at regulating the Karakul market and fulfilling the export plan. In accordance with the decision, the role of organizations such as “Uzbekgostorg” and “Uzbekselsoyuz” in the procurement and sale of Karakul products was strengthened. The restriction of the activities of private traders, in turn, meant that the Karakul trade was transferred to a centralized state system. This process fundamentally changed the economic relations between producing farms and the market. Whereas in the earlier period it had been possible to sell products directly on the market, at the subsequent stage of the Soviet period a large share of products began to move through the state purchasing system. As a result, production volume, plan targets, and state purchases became closely interlinked [6].

The statistical data for 1931 show the scale of this process even more clearly. On 26 farms of Uzbekistan, 492,740 Karakul skins were procured in the first five months of the year, and 61 percent of the plan was fulfilled. These figures show that Karakul sheep breeding had been fully incorporated into the state planning system. Plan fulfillment in 1931 was also uneven across regions. In particular, the plan was fulfilled by 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 17 percent in Kattakurgan. These indicators show that there were regional disparities in the development of Karakul sheep breeding. The differences in the fulfillment of plan targets are explained by a number of economic and natural factors. The fodder base for livestock, the condition of pastures, the number of livestock, labor resources, the material provision of farms, and the location of procurement points all affected production volume. In addition, the low quality of products limited the efficiency of trade.

In the 1930s, the production base of Karakul sheep breeding expanded further. As a result of the organization of collective and state farms, Karakul farms were enlarged and specialized. In the Kashkadarya region, the separation of farms such as “Nishan,” “Karakum,” “Tallimarjan,” “Kokdala,” “Kyzyl Chorvador,” “Kirov,” “Karnab,” “Ulus,” and “Guzar” from the “Mubarek” state farm testifies to the intensification of specialization in the region. The growth in production volume also affected the development of the processing industry. The fact that the construction of a tannery in Bukhara was considered in 1932 shows that there was an aspiration not merely to sell Karakul skins as raw material but also to process them. In this way, a production–procurement–processing–trade chain began to take shape [7].

Thus, the analysis of the statistical data shows that there is a direct relationship between the volume of Karakul production and trade indicators. The growth of production led to the expansion of the state procurement system, the development of procurement and processing infrastructure, the centralization of trade flows, and an increase in export potential. However, this process did not consist of positive results alone.

CONCLUSION

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In conclusion, the production and trade indicators of Karakul products in Uzbekistan showed a steady upward trend in the first half of the 20th century. As a result of the state purchasing system, the specialization of farms, and an export-oriented policy, Uzbekistan became a major center of Karakul sheep breeding.

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