

## COTTON PRODUCTION IN ARMENIA (Before the establishment of the Soviet regime)

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**Introduction.** Cotton cultivation has been practiced in Armenia since ancient times. According to academician B. Arakelyan, in the development of the productive forces of the country in the 9th-11th centuries, "...cotton cultivation played a major role". It is difficult to say when that culture entered Armenia, however, it is mentioned in the Armenian geography of the 7th century, where it is said about Paytakaran province: "May the cotton be poor and the barley grow itself"<sup>1</sup>.

Cotton cultivation was put on a more organized commercial basis during the period of Tsarist Russian rule and after the establishment of the Soviet regime in Eastern Armenia.

Studies show that in the Caucasus, particularly in Armenia, cotton production (as well as the entire agricultural economy) in the 19th and 20th centuries, with some interruptions (during the rule of Tsarist Russia), was under state patronage. In part, this stimulated the economic operators engaged in cotton cultivation.

Cotton cultivation was more organized during the years of the USSR, when relatively small areas were used more intensively, and cotton yields were higher. This was facilitated by the tangible agriculture state support (especially cotton).

Without a solid program of state support, it is not possible to significantly develop agriculture (especially cotton) in the conditions of evergrowing external competition. This explains the relevance of the research topic.

**The purpose of the study is** to present the evolution of cotton cultivation in Armenia and the importance of state support for this agriculture sub-sector. The study highlights the need to solve the following research problems:

1. find out the prevalence of cotton cultivation in Armenia since ancient times,
2. study the problems of the development of cotton cultivation,
3. study the peculiarities and features of cotton cultivation in Armenia under the rule of Persia and Tsarist Russia,
4. highlight that cotton cultivation was most developed during the period when the state supported this sector of agriculture.

There are many studies dedicated to cotton cultivation in Armenia. However, they mainly refer to the period of Tsarist Russia. In those studies, the emphasis is placed on solving the problems of supporting the sector for trade purposes, as well as on cotton cultivation, changes in sowing areas and yields, technical requirements for irrigation,

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<sup>1</sup> Arakelyan Babken, Cities and Crafts in Armenia in the IX-XIII Centuries, Armenian SSR GA Publishing House. Yer., 1958, pages 45

and cotton sales prices. In the Soviet period, the importance of state support for agriculture was also emphasized. Studies have been carried out on the elimination of the consequences of the sharp decline in cotton cultivation areas as a result of World War I. Armenian authors mainly performed historical and geographic-economic studies.

**Literature review.** In the study of I. Chopin, there is a historical review of the geography, fauna, and flora of Historic Armenia and the ethnic composition, religion, historical and cultural values, crafts, of the population, as well as about economy, financial and tax system, etc. In particular, information related to cotton sowing, processing, harvesting, sales, and paid taxes in the "mahals" (regions) of Yerevan, Nakhichevan, Etchmiadzin, and Ordubadi was presented<sup>1</sup>.

Petrovich P. studied the cultivation of cotton in the Caucasus based on the data of Yerevan, Yelizavetpol, Baku, Tiflis, and Kutaisi, and briefly presented cotton farming from the Persian rule to 1912. He presented the dynamics of the development of cultivated areas in Nakhichevan, Surmalu, Sharur-Daralagyaz, Yerevan, and Etchmiadzin regions of Yerevan province, the reasons for their decrease, the number of seeds sown per unit and cotton harvest, irrigation (at times), water sufficiency, the wages of workers according to gender and age composition, as well as the sales prices of seeds and cotton, and sales volumes.

The agronomist N.P. Taratinov considered the issues of the development of horticulture in the Caucasus, highlighting the need for a complex approach<sup>2</sup> and state support<sup>3</sup>. S.N. Timofeev observed the planned development of the experimental work in agriculture (including cotton), direct agricultural assistance to the population, etc<sup>4</sup>.

Certain scientific questions about cotton production (in particular, Yerevan province) were discussed and statistical materials were presented by V.I. Eferev (the state of the art during the pre-war period and planned economy), A.S. Kiperman (cotton farming in Caucasus), N.I. Moskvitinov (irrigation issues) and others. Professor H. Tumanyan discussed cotton farming from the point of view of the emergence of large producers as a result of the formation of church-dominorial economies.

Kh. Avetisyan made an interesting study on the development of cotton cultivation in Armenia, presenting the state of cotton cultivation in Armenia in the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The author showed the dynamics of the development of the cotton industry during the mentioned period, commented on the factors hindering and contributing to the decrease and growth of cotton crops,

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<sup>1</sup> Historical monument to the state of the Armenian region during the era of its annexation to the Russian Empire, St. Petersburg, 1852, 1232 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Taratynov N.P., Brief instructions on the cultivation of American cotton in Transcaucasia, Tiflis, 1898, 14 p.

<sup>3</sup> Taratynov N., On the issue of the development of cotton growing in Transcaucasia, Tiflis, 1912, 17 p.

<sup>4</sup> Reports of the agricultural inspector in the Caucasus S.N. Timofeev. Meeting on the development and unification of agricultural activities in the Caucasus Tiflis, 1913, 49 p.

presented the international positive experience of the development of the sector, and made valuable conclusions<sup>1</sup>.

Professor M. Adonts had also done some research on the cotton farming of Armenia in the second half of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century. He gave certain information and comments regarding the cotton sowing areas of Yerevan province (by individual regions) the obtained harvest and their sales prices<sup>2</sup>.

Professor G. Avagyan also touched on cotton farming from an economic-geographic point of view<sup>3</sup>.

**Methodology.** In the scope of the research, the following research methods were implemented: scientific abstraction (the development of cotton farming was observed in a separate process from the rest of the economic phenomena), analysis and comparison (the development of cotton farming was studied in separate regions, considering the similar problems referring individual regions, they were spread over the whole, and vice versa), logical (when noticing a discrepancy between the evaluations of the previous researchers' study results or the presented indicators, logical reasoning was used as a basis closest opinion or index) and historical (cotton cultivation and realization of the product presented in historical sequence).

**Analysis.** According to H. Tumanyan, one of the important consequences of the evolution of land ownership in the 10th-12th centuries was that "the ecclesiastical-manorial economy developed quite quickly... Monasteries, churches, the high clergy, and a smaller number of secular feudal lords became organizers of the economy... Horticulture and the cultivation of technical crops were largely developed in monastic and manorial economies... The most common of the technical crops was cotton, which was cultivated mainly in the Ararat Valley<sup>4</sup>.

Other historians mention cotton cultivation in their works (17th century), which once again confirms its presence and role in the economy of historic Armenia<sup>5</sup>.

According to I. Chopin, cotton cultivation was the next important profitable activity in agriculture in the Yerevan province after the cultivation of grain and flax.

During the Persian rule, the cotton mill was mainly intended to meet local needs. At the same time, taxes were paid to Persian authorities on cotton<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Avetisyan K.A., The development of cotton industry in Armenia in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Materials of the history of agriculture and peasantry of Armenia, vol. 1, Yer. 1964, pages 194-225)

<sup>2</sup> Adonts M.H., The national economy of Armenia and the Armenian economic thought at the beginning of the 20th century, Yerevan, 1968, 494 pages.

<sup>3</sup> Avagyan G.E., Agriculture of Soviet Armenia (economic-geographic study), Yer., 1970, page 391.

<sup>4</sup> Tumanyan H.E., History of the economic development of Armenia, Yer. 1960, page 116:

<sup>5</sup> Materials of the history of the Armenian people, book 7, Small chronicles XIII-XVIII centuries, vol. 2, compiled by VA Hakoghbyan, Yerevan, 1956, p. 551.

<sup>6</sup> Chopin I., Historical monument to the state of the Armenian region during the era of its annexation to the Russian Empire, St. Petersburg, 1852, 1232 pp.

According to Chopin on average 1490 tons of cotton crop was produced annually, which is in line with data provided by the H. Tumanyan.

During the Persian rule, about 7.5 thousand acres of land were used for cotton cultivation in the Ararat Valley, and the total harvest did not exceed 1500 tons. Cotton was mostly cultivated by rich farms and the entire crop was sold to the Sardar. However, this does not mean that individual farmers did not cultivate cotton. Every year in the Yerevan province, peasants were obliged to pay a cotton tax to the Sardar along with other types of taxes. During the Tsarist Russian rule, Armenian peasants had no such duty to pay taxes with cotton. Not only the cotton sown areas but also the home weaving industry was reduced during this period.<sup>1</sup>

Cotton cultivation in the Yerevan province was revived to some extent in the 40s of the 19th century when new seed material of cotton was brought from America and Egypt with the efforts of Prince Vorontsov, the viceroy of Tsarist Russia in the Caucasus. With the latter's intervention, customs duties on goods imported from European countries and operating before 1846 (including cotton seeds) were significantly reduced<sup>2</sup>.

The mentioned measures were not of significant importance for the development of cotton cultivation in Yerevan province. First, the new preferential import tariff did not last long. The special commission created in St. Petersburg to establish a new customs tariff for Imperial Russia and the Kingdom of Poland also revised the preferential customs tariff established for the Caucasus. The new tariff was put into effect from January 1, 1851<sup>3</sup>. Second, it took some time and experience to grow American seeds under the conditions of Armenia. There were no suitable agricultural specialists in the place. The agronomic characteristics of these seeds under local conditions were not taken into account.

However, there was some resurgence in cotton farming. In addition to meeting local needs, in 1851 and 1852, respectively 50704 and 66625 rubles worth of cotton were sent to Turkey from the Yerevan and Nakhichevan regions through the Alexandropol railway. The exported cotton was produced entirely in the Yerevan and Nakhichevan regions<sup>4</sup>.

P. Petrovich, based on I.S. Khatsov's data, noted: "...at the end of the 1850s, 36-40 thousand bushels of cotton were produced in the Caucasus (75-85% of which were produced in Yerevan province)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Petrovich P., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia (According to the questionnaire of 1912), Tiflis, 1912., page 8.

<sup>2</sup> Caucasian calendar for 1855, Tiflis. 1852, p. 412-413.

<sup>3</sup> Even though the preferential tariff was significantly low before its imposition, it remained high for importers, due to which the smuggling rate was high.:

<sup>4</sup> Caucasian calendar for 1854, Tiflis, p.521.

After the Caucasus came under the control of the Russian Empire, cotton cultivation did not record significant development in the region. Only in the 60s of the 20th century, due to the global shortage of cotton (the supply of cotton from the USA to Europe was stopped due to the civil wars of the North and the South in the USA), the export of cotton from the Caucasus increased dramatically. In Yerevan province, it reached 600,000 bushels. Cotton was exported from the Caucasus to Constantinople and Marseilles. The price of cotton in Yerevan province reached 20 or more Russian rubles<sup>1</sup>.

After the end of the four-year civil war in America, European countries resumed importing cotton from the American continent in 1866-1867 (it was cheaper and of better quality, so apparently had had a competitive advantage). As a result, in the Caucasus and in particular, in Yerevan Province, the production of cotton was gradually reduced, and cotton cultivation experienced a decline. According to P. Petrovich, in the course of 10 years after the second half of the 70s of the 19th century, the cotton sown areas in the Yerevan province were reduced so much that they reached volumes under Persian rule in the first decade of the 19th century.

Thus, 5-6 years of developing cotton cultivation in Yerevan province was followed by more than 10 years of decline, as a result of which not only the cotton processing entities suffered significant losses, but also the farms engaged in cotton cultivation. Therefore, new incentives were needed for further development.

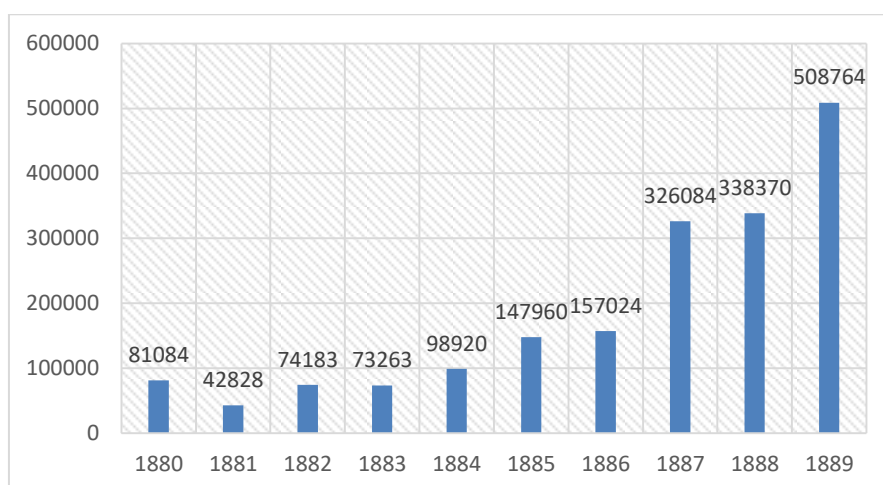
Russian textile industry companies (Nikolsky, Big-Yaroslavl, Moscow trade-industrial, and Lodz manufacturing companies) acted as main cotton buyers in the Caucasus in the 80s. Those companies distributed high-quality American cotton seeds to cotton producers and brought cotton-ginning equipment and hydraulic presses from America.

Cotton cultivation in Yerevan province began to grow at the fastest pace since 1885, when various commercial firms were established here, which provided cotton growers with American seeds for free, on the condition that the entire crop was purchased from them. Already in 1890, 26,065 acres of land were allocated for cotton cultivation in Yerevan province (except for Alexandropol and Nor Bayazet regions, where the conditions for cotton cultivation were not favorable), and 506,350 bushels of cotton were obtained with a value of 3,215,245 rubles (in 1881, 42,828 bushels were obtained)<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Kiperman A.S., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia, 33-36 pp., in the book: Russian cotton growing in the past and the path to its revival in the USSR, M., 1923, p.101.

<sup>2</sup> Memorial book of the Erivan province for 1892, Erivan, p. 174.



*Figure 1. The cotton production volumes in Yerevan province (bushel), 1880-1889<sup>1</sup>*

According to V. Taratinov, the quality of Yerevan cotton has significantly improved over the last 2-3 years, and local cotton was also sold for 6-7 rubles. According to the author, the main positive influencing factor in increasing the yield was the cotton seeds brought from the northern part of the USA, corresponding to the Caucasian climatic conditions<sup>2</sup>.

V. Taratinov, studying the results of the localization of American cotton seeds in Central Asia, refuted the idea that these seeds were gradually losing their positive qualities. Moreover, according to the owners of cotton processing factories in Moscow and Lodz, Yerevan cotton was superior to American cotton because it was easy to clean from all kinds of excesses, and it was much more elastic, which significantly reduced the costs of the factories. The author concludes that thanks to the increase in the reputation of Yerevan cotton and the increase in demand, cotton cultivation gradually became widespread in Gandzak and Baku provinces (before that, cotton cultivation was carried out only to meet local needs).<sup>3</sup>:

The patronage policy of the Tsarist Russian government significantly contributed to the development of cotton cultivation in the region, thanks to which the price of cotton in the domestic market increased significantly. According to the law, adopted in 1879, a customs tax of 40 coins (in gold) was set for each bushel of imported cotton. Already in 1891 1 ruble and 20 coins were charged for each bushel of imported cotton. In Yerevan province, an attempt was made to put the development of cotton farming on a scientific basis. According to N. Taratinov, the first experimental cotton fields were established in Yerevan province in 1889 and 1890. According to the author, it had a dual purpose in

<sup>1</sup> The Figure was composed by the author according to the data of "Petrovich P., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia (According to the questionnaire of 1912), Tiflis, 1912. 146 p." paper.

<sup>2</sup> Taratynov N., On the issue of the development of cotton growing in Transcaucasia, Tiflis, 1912, 17 p. 903

<sup>3</sup> Same place p. 907.

the Caucasus: 1) to develop and spread cotton cultivation in regions where it was not cultivated or had little demand, and 2) the demonstration fields were to improve the qualities of the cotton crop, as well as to put its cultivation on the right track<sup>1</sup>. For that purpose N. Taratinov developed a guide for cotton farmers in Andrkovkas, promoting the cultivation of this crop with American seed. It covered selection of planting site, soil quality and cultivation, seed quality, sowing, irrigation, plant care, proper selection of pruning time, selection of seeds from harvested crop, protection from wind and weeds, cotton harvesting and sorting, storage, and drying, according to the normative requirements<sup>2</sup>.

Subsequently, as a result of the decline in demand for cotton exported from Russia and the decrease in the price of cotton, cotton acreage was gradually reduced. For example, in the entire Yerevan province in 1908, despite the increase in the harvest time compared to the previous year, the sown area decreased from 24131 acres in 1907 to 18050 acres. In particular, in the Sharur-Daralagyaz region, the cultivation of the local variety of cotton (Karakoza) was completely stopped, the remaining 2300 acres were used only for the cultivation of the American variety (Table 1). As a result of the significant decrease in the cotton demand, the selling prices of cotton also decreased (in 1908, one bushel of American-type cotton was sold for 9-10 rubles, local for 7-7.5 rubles)<sup>3</sup>.

*Table 1*

**Cotton sown areas and cotton harvest in Yerevan province according to cotton varieties, 1908<sup>4</sup>**

	The regions of Yerevan province	Sown areas, acres	Total harvest, bushels	According to their variety	
				American	Local (Karakoza)
1	Yerevan	4877	128360	105120	23240
2	Ejmiatsin	4990	55300	54980	320
3	Surmalu	3950	107325	81975	25350
4	Sharur-Daralagyaz	2300	55200	55200	—
5	Nakhidjevan	1933	34800	34800	—
Total		18050	380985	332075	48910

The reduction of cotton acreage could not go unnoticed by the Tsarist government. The main suppliers of raw materials for the Russian textile industry were the cotton growers of Turkmenistan and Caucasus. This explains the fact that cotton experimental fields had significantly increased in the Caucasus since then, and the training and instruction of cotton farmers had become important. In the next 3 years, the cotton

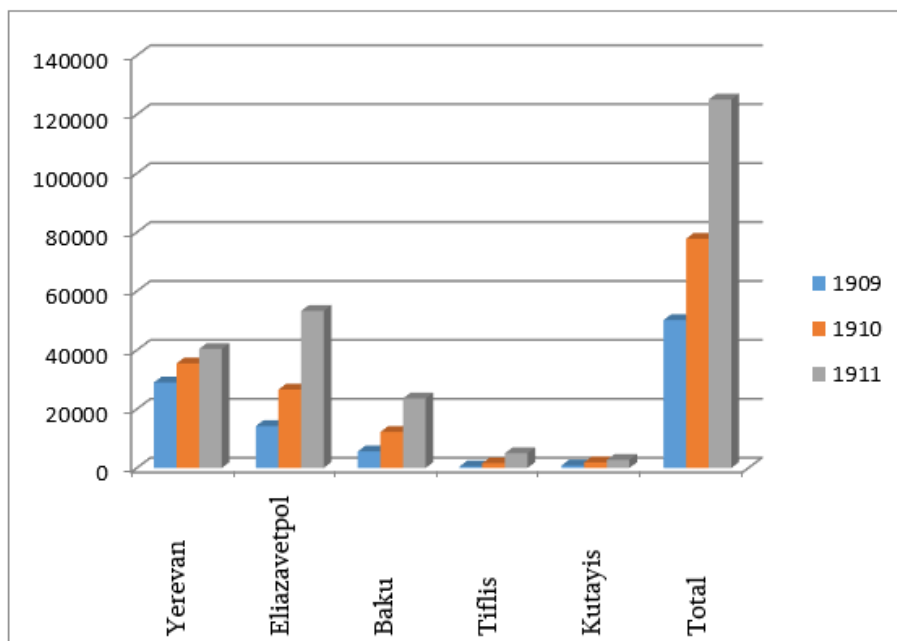
<sup>1</sup> Adonts M.H., The national economy of Armenia and the Armenian economic thought at the beginning of the 20th century, Yerevan, 1968, 494 pages.

<sup>2</sup> Taratynov N.P., Brief instructions on the cultivation of American cotton in Transcaucasia, Tiflis, 1898, 14 p.

<sup>3</sup> Memorial book of the Erivan province for 1910, Erivan provincial stat. committee, 1910, 4-5.

<sup>4</sup> The Table was composed by the author according to the data of "Memorial book of the Erivan province for 1910" pages 4 and 5.

sown areas also increased, especially in the years 1909-1911 - 2.5 times. (Table 2, Figure 2).



*Figure 2. The dynamics of cotton sown areas in Caucasus provinces, 1909-1911<sup>1</sup>*

In all provinces of the Caucasus, cotton sown areas increased significantly from 1909-1911. The growth rates were particularly high in Tiflis (9.6 times), Baku (4.2 times), and Elizavetpol (3.75 times) provinces (see Table 2).

Due to the extremely high growth rate in three years, for the first time in history, cotton sown areas in the Elizavetpol region were more than the cotton areas of Yerevan province. This allowed the share of Elizavetpol province in the total cultivated areas to become 42.6% in 1911 instead of 28.3% in 1909. Although during the same period, the cotton sown area of Yerevan province increased by 11,400 acres, its share in the total decreased (instead of 57.8%, it became 32.3%). In the same period, the sown areas of Baku province also had a high rate of growth (4.21 times). This allowed the share of that province to increase from 11.2% to 18.8%.

<sup>1</sup> The Figure was composed by the author according to the data of "Petrovich P., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia (According to the questionnaire of 1912), Tiflis, 1912. 146 p." paper.



Table 2

Changes in the cotton sown areas in the Caucasus by provinces, in acres, 1909-1911 <sup>1</sup>

N	Years Provinces	1909	1910	1911	The growth rate of 1911 compared to 1909, %
1	Yerevan	29000	35500	40400	39.3
2	Elizavetpol	14200	26600	53300	275.3
3	Baku	5600	12200	23600	321.4
4	Tiflis	520	1600	5000	861.5
5	Kutayis	850	1900	2750	223.5
Total		50170	77800	125050	149.3

During the consultation on the development and unification of agricultural measures in the Caucasus, Timofeev considered cotton farming to be one of the most important branches of agriculture in the Caucasus (along with animal husbandry and viticulture). Due to this, to directly help the population, it is planned to appoint instructors in Erivan and Tiflis provinces - one each, Elizavetpol and Baku provinces - three each. The task was set to increase the experimental fields of cotton in Yerevan province and the eastern part of Elizavetpol province. Cotton seed improvement, disease treatment, and pest control were highlighted<sup>2</sup>

Providing good seeds to cotton growers was emphasized at the Yerevan province agricultural conference held on March 24, 1914. In particular, the American "King" seed is most suitable for the province's climatic conditions. However, seeds of this type are brought from Fergana (Turkmenistan), the price of which (including logistic expenses) in the province is several times higher than the prices of local seeds. In addition, cotton growers in the province sell cotton in clean condition (without seeds). Cotton growers keep some of the separated seeds as planting material, sell some, and use the rest as fodder or fertilizer. This is the main reason why cotton farmers prefer to use local seeds (10-15 bushels per land unit) rather than buying American seeds at several times higher prices<sup>3</sup>.

Thus, to improve the results of cotton cultivation in Yerevan province (as well as in the entire Caucasus region), the state has simultaneously emphasized the need to use appropriate, high-quality seeds and the expansion of test fields and their equipment.

**Scientific novelty:** Considering the cultivation of cotton in Armenia on a historical basis, its characteristics before Persian rule, during the reign of Persia and Tsarist Russia,

<sup>1</sup> The Table was composed by the author according to the data of "Petrovich P., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia (According to the questionnaire of 1912), Tiflis, 1912. 146 p." paper.

<sup>2</sup> Reports of the agricultural inspector in the Caucasus S.N. Timofeev. Meeting on the development and unification of agricultural activities in the Caucasus Tiflis, 1913, 49 p.1-42:

<sup>3</sup> Journal of the Erivan provincial agricultural meeting dated March 24, 1914 (report of the provincial agronomist), Yerevan, 1914, p. 32-33.

and the role of driving forces in the development of the sub-sector in each period were assessed.

**Conclusion.** This paper distinguishes three periods of cotton cultivation in Armenia: a/ before Persian rule, b/ the period of Persian rule, and c/ the period of Tsarist Russian rule. No written records of cotton cultivation have been preserved in the territory of Historic Armenia, and those who reached our days are poor and informative enough. The first written mention refers to AD. At the end of the 4th century.

In the Middle Ages, cotton was well known and spread in many places of Caucasus and Armenia, especially in the Ararat Valley. It was widely used in thread, textile production, and oil extraction, and the "waste" was used as fodder.

In the 10th and 12th centuries, church-dominorial economies developed rapidly, where alongside horticulture, the cultivation of technical crops developed. During the Persian rule, about 750 hectares of land were used for cotton cultivation in the Ararat valley and 15 thousand cents of the crop was collected, and its lion's share was sold or given to the Sardar (spatial authorities during Persian rule) in as taxes, and the rest was used to meet the needs of the population.

During the years under the rule of tsarist Russia, cotton cultivation in the Ararat Valley was put on a commercial basis. The obtained crop was mainly used in the Russian textile industry, and in some years a part of it was exported to Persia, Turkey, and Western Europe. This was also contributed to by the patronage policy concerning cotton cultivation implemented by Tsarist Russia (based on its state interests).

This paper concludes that the development of cotton farming was fast-paced only under the conditions of comprehensive state support.

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## **ԲԱՄԲԱԿԻ ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆՈՒՄ (մինչև խորհրդային իշխանության հաստատումը)**

### **Միքայել Միքայելյան Վարազդատի**

**Համառոտագիր. Հետազոտության արդիականությունը:** Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակման (ինչպես նաև գյուղատնտեսության զարգացման) դարավոր փորձը ցույց է տվել, որ երկիրն այս բնագավառում հաջողություններ է ունեցել, երբ պետությունը աջակցել և խթանել է դրա զարգացումը:

Արտաքին մրցակցության պայմաններում գյուղատնտեսությունը (հատկապես բամբակագործությունը), առանց պետական աջակցության հիմնավոր ծրագրի, էապես զարգացնել հնարավոր չէ:

Հետազոտության **նպատակն** է ցույց տալ Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակության էվոլյուցիան և գյուղատնտեսության այս ոլորտին պետական աջակցության կարևորությունը:

Դրանից ելնելով՝ ուսումնասիրության մեջ կարևորվել է հետևյալ խնդիրների լուծման անհրաժեշտությունը.

1. պարզել բամբակագործության տարածվածությունը Հայոց աշխարհում, հին ժամանակներից սկսած,

2. ուսումնասիրել բամբակամշակության զարգացման կովանները,

3. հետազոտել Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակության առանձնահատկությունները Պարսկաստանի և ցարական Ռուսաստանի տիրապետությունների ներքո,

4. Յույց տալ, որ բամբակենու մշակությունն առավել զարգացում է ապրել այն ժամանակաշրջանում, երբ պետությունը դրա կարիքն ունեցել և աջակցել է այդ ոլորտին:

**Մեթոդաբանությունը:** Սույն աշխատանքի ընթացքում օգտագործվել են հետազոտության առարկա հանդիսացող տնտեսական երևույթների ուսումնասիրության մի շարք մեթոդներ: Մասնավորապես՝ գիտական վերացարկման, վերլուծության ու համադրման, մակածության ու արտածման, տրամաբանական և պատմական մեթոդները:

**Գիտական նորությունը:** Պատմական հենակետով դիտարկելով Հայաստանում բամբակամշակությունը՝ ներկայացվել են դրա առանձնահատկությունները մինչև Պարսկաստանի տիրապետության տակ գտնվելը, Պարսկաստանի և ցարական Ռուսաստանի տիրապետությունների ներքո եղած ժամանակաշրջանում, և արժևորվել է յուրաքանչյուր ժամանակահատվածում ոլորտի զարգացման կովանների դերը:

**Ստացված հիմնական արդյունքները:** Հոդվածում առանձնացվել է բամբակենու մշակության երեք շրջան՝ ա/ մինչև պարսկական տիրապետության ժամանակաշրջանը, երբ այդ մշակաբույսի ցանքսը նպատակ է հետապնդել բամբակի նկատմամբ տեղական կարիքների բավարարումը, բ/ պարսկական տիրապետության ժամանակաշրջանը, երբ այդ բույսի մշակումը նաև հարկադրանքի բնույթ է կրել (եկեղեցական և կալվածատիրական հողերում ստացված բերքը ամբողջությամբ վաճառվել է սարդարին, իսկ բամբակենու մշակությամբ զբաղվող գյուղացիներն էլ հարկը բամբակով են վճարել): գ/ ցարական Ռուսաստանի տիրապետության տարիները, երբ բամբակենու մշակությունը հիմնականում առևտրային բնույթ է կրել և մերթ ընդ մերթ ընթացել է պետական աջակցության և խթանման գործիքակազմի կիրառմամբ: Բացահայտվել են տարբեր ժամանակահատվածներում բամբակենու մշակության արդյունքների բարելավման հիմնական կովանները:

**Բանալի բառեր՝** բամբակենու մշակություն, դարավոր փորձ, պետական աջակցություն, բերքատվություն, ամերիկյան սերմ, տեղական սերմեր, տեղական կարիքներ:

## **ХЛОПКОВОДСТВО В АРМЕНИИ (до установления Советской власти)**

**Микаел Вараздатович Микаелян**

**Аннотация. Актуальность исследования.** Многовековой опыт выращивания хлопка (а также развития сельского хозяйства) в Армении показал, что страна добилась успеха в этой области, когда государство поддерживало и способствовало ее развитию.

В условиях внешней конкуренции сельское хозяйство (особенно хлопководство) не может существенно развиваться без солидной программы государственной поддержки.

**Цель исследования** – показать эволюцию выращивания хлопка в Армении и важность государственной поддержки этой отрасли сельского хозяйства.

Исходя из этого, в исследовании выделена необходимость решения следующих задач.

1. выяснить распространенность выращивания хлопка в армянском мире с древнейших времен,
2. изучить проблемы развития хлопководства,
3. изучить особенности выращивания хлопка в Армении под властью Персии и Царской России,
4. Показать, что хлопководство было наиболее развито в тот период, когда государство нуждалось в нем и поддерживало эту отрасль.

**Методика.** В ходе работы использовался ряд методов изучения экономических явлений, являющихся предметом исследования. В частности, методы научного абстрагирования, анализа и синтеза, индукции и дедукции, логические и исторические методы.

**Научная новизна.** Рассматривая выращивание хлопка в Армении с исторической точки зрения, были представлены его особенности до нахождения под властью Персии, в период правления Персии и царской России, а также оценена роль движущих сил развития хлопководства в каждый из этих периодов.

**Полученные основные результаты.** В статье выделяются три периода выращивания хлопка:

а/ до периода персидской власти, когда целью посадки хлопковой культуры было удовлетворение местных потребностей в хлопке.

б/ период персидской власти, когда выращивание этого растения также носило принудительный характер (урожай, полученный на церковных и поместных землях, полностью продавался сардару, а крестьяне, занимавшиеся выращиванием хлопка им-же платили налоги).

в/ годы правления царской России, когда выращивание хлопка носило преимущественно промысловый характер и время от времени продолжалось с использованием инструментов государственной поддержки и стимулирования.

Выявлены основные факторы улучшения результатов выращивания хлопка в разные периоды.

**Ключевые слова:** выращивание хлопка, многовековой опыт, государственная поддержка, урожайность, американские семена, местные семена, местные потребности.

## **COTTON PRODUCTION IN ARMENIA (Before the establishment of the Soviet regime)**

**Mikael Varazdat Mikaelyan**

**Abstract. The relevance:** The centuries-old experience of cotton cultivation (as well as agriculture development) in Armenia has shown that the country has achieved success in this area when there was state support and promotion.

In conditions of external competition, agriculture (especially cotton cultivation) cannot record significant development without a solid government support strategy. Even today, in conditions of insufficient support from the state, the farmer feels insecure while employing this very important activity for the country.

**The purpose of the study is** to present the evolution of cotton cultivation in Armenia and the importance of state support for this agriculture sub-sector. The study highlights the need to solve the following research problems:

1. find out the prevalence of cotton cultivation in Armenia since ancient times,
2. study the problems of the development of cotton cultivation,
3. study the peculiarities and features of cotton cultivation in Armenia under the rule of Persia and Tsarist Russia,
4. highlight that cotton cultivation was most developed during the period when the state supported this sector of agriculture.

**Methodology:** In the scope of the research several scientific methods were implemented. In particular, methods of scientific abstraction, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, and logical and historical methods were used.

**Scientific novelty:** Considering the cultivation of cotton in Armenia on a historical basis, its characteristics before Persian rule, during the reign of Persia and Tsarist Russia, and the role of driving forces in the development of the sub-sector in each period were assessed.

**Research findings:** The article identifies three periods of cotton cultivation: a/ before the Persian rule, when the purpose of planting this crop was to satisfy local needs for cotton, b/ the period of Persian rule, when the cultivation of cotton was also forced (the harvest obtained on church and local lands was completely sold to the Sardar, and

the peasants who grew cotton paid a tax with cotton). c/ the period of Tsarist Russia's rule, when cotton cultivation was predominantly commercial and continued from time to time with the use of state support and incentives. The determinants for improving the results of cotton cultivation in different periods have been identified.

**Keywords:** cotton cultivation, centuries-old experience, state support, productivity, American seeds, local seeds, local needs.