

COTTON PRODUCTION IN ARMENIA (During the Soviet period)

MIKAEL MIKAELIAN

Հոդվածը ստացվել է՝ 20.09.24, ուղարկվել է գրախոսման՝ 27.11.24, երաշխավորվել է տպագրության՝ 13.12.24

Introduction. It is no secret that cotton has been cultivated in Armenia since ancient times¹. Its cultivation was put on a commercial basis during the period of annexation to Tsarist Russia. However, after the establishment of Soviet rule in Eastern Armenia, it took on a more organized character, when the cultivated areas were used relatively more intensively, and the cotton yield was higher. This was facilitated by the tangible state support for agriculture (in particular, cotton growing).

Without solid state support, it is impossible to significantly develop agriculture (in particular, cotton growing) in the conditions of external competition. This explains the relevance of the research topic.

The purpose of the article is to show the experience and importance of cotton cultivation and state support for this sector of agriculture in Armenia during the Soviet era. The study emphasizes the need to solve **the following research problems**:

1. to study the state of cotton cultivation in Soviet Armenia,
2. to identify the obstacles to the development of cotton cultivation,
3. to show that cotton cultivation developed further during the Soviet years due to state support.

Numerous studies on agriculture (in particular, cotton cultivation) in the Soviet period emphasize the need for state support. The Armenian SSR's intentions regarding the expansion of cotton fields irrigated with the water of the Araks River have been presented. Armenian authors have mainly conducted historical and economic-geographical studies. There are publications dedicated to cotton cultivation issues in the materials of the consultations covering the work of the Main Cotton Committee approved by the Central Committee of the Armenian SSR.

The problems of agriculture, in particular, cotton cultivation, have been reflected in the reports of the Armenian SSR government for various years and in the five-year plans for economic development.

Literature review. Certain scientific questions were raised and statistical materials were presented regarding cotton growing (in particular, Yerevan province and the Armenian SSR) by V.I. Eferev (pre-war situation, seed production works, and planned economy perspectives), I.I. Moskvitanov (irrigated areas in Transcaucasia and intentions

¹ Mikaelyan, M., Cotton production in Armenia (Before the establishment of the Soviet regime), Current issues of socio-economic development in the Republic of Armenia, collection of scientific articles, 2024, No. 1, pages 240-254

to expand such areas in the Armenian SSR), A.S. Kiperman (in Transcaucasia, especially in Armenia, on cotton-growing areas, and the role of the Main Cotton Committee (GBC) and the Russian-Armenian State Cotton Company created on its initiative)².

Referring to the development of cotton cultivation in Armenia, Kh. Avetisyan presented 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 its development during the mentioned period, commented on the factors hindering and contributing to the decrease and increase in sown areas of cotton, presented the positive international experience of the development of the sector, and made valuable conclusions³.

D.V. Ter-Avanesyan referred to cotton cultivation in the USSR, who, speaking about the historical development of cotton cultivation, emphasized the importance of this crop for the countries of the Transcaucasian region. He showed that it was most widespread in Armenia. According to the author, after the revolution, the Soviet government paid great attention to cotton cultivation. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of the creation of the Main Cotton Committee for the development of cotton cultivation (in particular, noting the creation of new cotton experimental fields and seed stations). In Armenia, in 1923, compared to the previous year, the sown areas of this crop increased (about 9 times). He also presented the indicators of cotton cultivation and harvesting in the pre-war and post-war periods (until 1954).

Cotton cultivation was also studied from an economic geographical perspective by Professor G. Avagyan. The author, depicting the general state of agriculture in Soviet Armenia, singled out its individual branches and subbranches. In his research, he addressed the sown areas of technical crops (including cotton), gross harvest, and yield dynamics. The dynamics of the specific weight of the gross harvest of cotton in the total volume of the USSR were also presented⁴.

Methodology. In the scope of the article, 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 to individual regions, they were spread over the whole, and vice versa),

2 Russian cotton. Russian cotton growing in the past and ways to its revival in the USSR, M., 1923, p. 101

3 Avetisyan, K., The development of cotton production in Armenia in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Materials on the history of agriculture and peasantry of Armenia, vol. 1, Yerevan 1964, pages 194-225

4 Avagyan, G., Agriculture of Soviet Armenia (economic and geographical study), Yerevan, 1970, 393 pages

- 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),
- historical (cotton cultivation and realization of the product presented in historical sequence).

Analysis. In Soviet Armenia, cotton cultivation was more organized. In the USSR, cotton was considered a strategic raw material. Due to this, the state paid great attention to the cultivation of this crop. It is no coincidence that after the Sovietization of the Russian Federation, the task was set to comprehensively support cotton cultivation and cotton production in general. For this purpose, on November 1, 1921, the Main Cotton Committee was created, the charter of which was approved in 1922, September 22⁵. The local GMCs of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia were created. Its goal was to restore and develop the cotton-growing areas that existed in the USSR before the revolution. Initially, the committee was created as a state organization working on economic calculations, with the monopoly right to purchase cotton and supply it to textile factories. In 1921, 12 thousand dessiatines (a unit of measurement used during the Soviet era) of cotton were planned to be sown in the Union Federation, but 5-6 thousand dessiatines were sown, half of which was not cultivated due to locusts, drought, and floods. Later (in 1922) only a thousand dessiatines were sown, of which 650 were in Armenia and 350 in Azerbaijan. Then the exclusive right of the GMB was abolished⁶. Thanks to the efforts of the Central Committee of the Armenian SSR, cotton plantings in 1925 increased sharply, reaching 14,666 dessiatines (Table 1)⁷.

The following year, there were unfavorable conditions for agriculture. Because of them, the sowing of a significant part of the crops was reduced. The areas sown with cotton were also not spared by unfavorable weather conditions. They were reduced by 3480 dessiatines (by 26.5%). However, the share of cotton in the total value of crop production was more than ¼ (it was 25.86%).

The following year, there were unfavorable conditions for agriculture. Because of them, the sowing of a significant part of the crops was reduced. The areas sown with cotton were also not spared by unfavorable weather conditions. They were reduced by 3480 dessiatines (by 26.5%). However, the share of cotton in the total value of crop production was more than ¼ (it was 25.86%).

5 Russian cotton. Russian cotton growing in the past and ways to its revival in the USSR, M., 1923, p. 9

6 Kiperman, A., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia, 33-36 p., in the book: Russian cotton. Russian cotton growing in the past and ways to its revival in the USSR, M., 1923, 33-36 p.

7 Cotton contracting in 1931 (Decision 334 of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR), Yerevan 1931, page 5

Table 1

The sown areas of horticulture crops in Armenian SSR (production volumes (in bushels) and their values, by years) ⁸

		1924/25	1925/26	Total output		Value of Total output	
		Sown areas		Bushels	%	RUB	%
1	Winter wheat	75616	76873	10558100	42.11	8.417.400	51.2
2	Spring wheat	141475	169098	—	—	—	—
3	Cotton	14666	11186	447000	1.79	4.089.959	24.9
4	Tobacco	271	487	19800	0.08	162.600	1.0
5	Oilseed crops	5282	4416	113900	0.45	170.900	1.1
6	Potato	10308	7228	161800	16.6	1.373.400	8.4
7	Vegetables and melons	3880	3977	2220000	8.8	585.000	3.6
8	Fodder crops	3035	2871	835.500	3.33	—	—
9	Pastures	57825	69012	732.300	26.84	1.613.700	9.8
Total		312.358	345.154	25088400	100.0	16.412.959	100.0

The following year, there were unfavorable conditions for agriculture. Because of them, the sowing of a significant part of the crops was reduced. The areas sown with cotton were also not spared by unfavorable weather conditions. They were reduced by 3480 dessiatines (by 26.5%). However, the share of cotton in the total value of crop production was more than ¼ (it was 25.86%).

By resolution No. 334 of the Council of People's Commissars of the ASSR of May 12, the task was set to collectivize at least 50% of farms in the regions engaged in cotton cultivation by concluding a cotton contract. It was also a political task, the purpose of which was to accelerate the collectivization of peasant farms. Such tasks were also set before the republics of the USSR and all cotton organizations to facilitate the conclusion of such contracts. The contract also set certain economic tasks (see Table 2).

Contracts were concluded not only with collective farms but also with individual farms, as well as with wealthy kulak farms (3 to 7%). Moreover, the cotton yield for these farms was set at 10% higher than the average yield in the village. The contract provided for support for each ton of Indian cotton in the form of an advance payment: 62 r. 70 kopecks for collective farms, 48 r. 11 kopecks for individual farms⁹.

⁸ The table is based on "Materials of the Report of the Government of the Armenian SSR (March 1925-January 1927)", Table 1.

⁹ The advance payment was planned to be given in 3 installments: 20% before sowing, 30% before the first tillage and cultivation, and 50% before the third tillage and cultivation, *ibid.*, pages 8-9.

The advance payment for cotton cultivation in arid lands was set at more than 50%. To stimulate labor productivity in cotton cultivation, the yield target for 1931 was also lowered for the union republics engaged in the cultivation of this crop¹⁰.

Table 2

Cotton contracting in the republics of the USSR in 1931¹¹

	Collective economies		Individual economics		Not irrigable sowing
	ha	Planned yield, kg/ha	ha	Planned yield, kg/ha	ha
1. In Soviet Azerbaijan	9 5.200	816	97.300	786	1000
2. In Soviet Armenia	15.050	1.120	8.850	1.100	-
3. In Soviet Georgia	4.750	6 50	9.450	630	300
Total	115.000	-	115.600	-	-

As the yield data show, the yield in Armenia (both in collective farms and in individual farms) was incomparably higher than in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

In the 1930s, cotton was cultivated not only in the Ararat Valley but also in Vayk and Meghri regions¹².

In the Soviet years, to increase cotton cultivation and develop cotton farming, farmers engaged in cotton cultivation were given loans, stable cotton purchase prices were set, and an appropriate amount of grain was provided (3 bushels of wheat were given for 1 bushel of cotton)¹³.

After World War I and until World War II, cotton plantings in the Armenian SSR reached their maximum (15.3 ha in 1913, 18 thousand ha in 1937). This was greatly facilitated by the construction of the Hoktembryan and Artashat canals in 1930-1932¹⁴.

10 In Azerbaijan, 4.4 centners per hectare should have become 8.5, in Armenia, 8.0 and 11.0 centners, respectively, in Georgia, 3.3 and 7.7 centners.

11 The table is based on the materials from "Cotton Contracts in 1931 (Decision No. 334 of the Council of People's Commissars of the ASSR), page 5."

12 Some authors, driven by the "fever of fulfilling the party task" of increasing cotton planting areas, also proposed sowing this crop in the Shirak region and the areas near Lake Sevan (in the present-day Vardenis region), without taking into account the climatic conditions (see G.E. Avagyan, Soviet Agriculture of Armenia, Yerevan, 1970, p. 155)

13 Avagyan, G., Agriculture of Soviet Armenia (economic and geographical study), Yerevan, 1970, 393 pages

14 Karchikyan, O., Rates of development and structural changes in agriculture of the Armenian SSR, Er., 1968, p. 49

During the war years, cotton crops sharply decreased. There were at least two main reasons. First, cotton was mainly sold in Russia. And the railways by which it was transported were under the control of Nazi Germany. Secondly, in those years, the solution to the bread problem was more important for the population of the republic. This was because a significant part of the cotton fields were allocated to the cultivation of wheat.

After the end of the war, increasing the sown area of cotton again became important in the USSR. By the joint resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) "On the Harvest and Procurement of Agricultural Products in 1950", the USSR Ministry of Cotton and the party and Soviet bodies involved in cotton sowing set the task of ensuring a high cotton harvest and procurement in 1950. For this purpose, the task was given to supervise the preparatory work for cotton sowing, as well as irrigation, weeding, fertilization, harvesting, and crop transportation¹⁵.

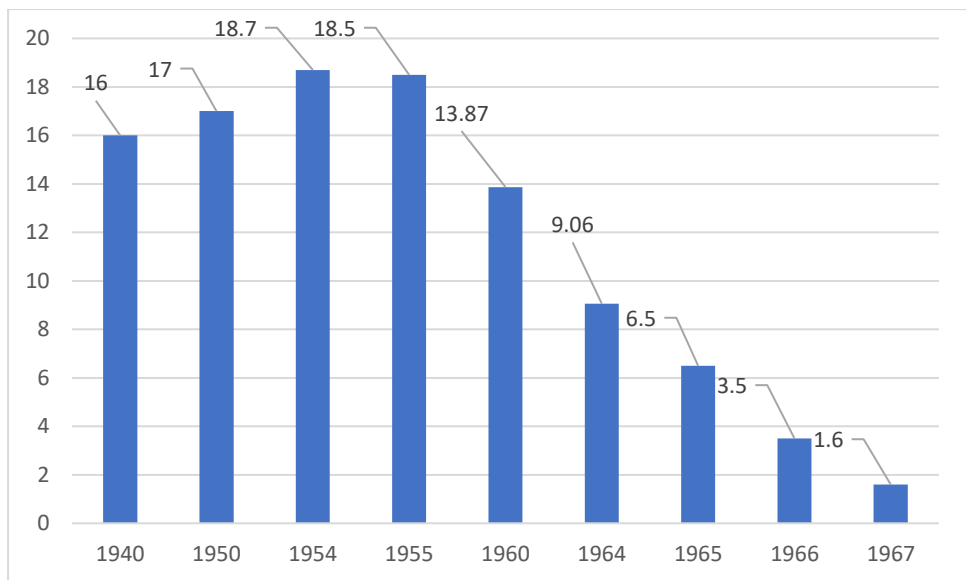


Figure 1. Cotton sown areas in the Armenian SSR, 1940-1967, thousand hectares¹⁶

¹⁵ Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) "On the Harvesting and Procurement of Agricultural Products in 1950", Orlov, 1950, p.24-25.

¹⁶ The chart was constructed based on the materials of the statistical collections "National Economy of the Armenian SSR. Statistical Collection, Er. 1957, p. 61" and "Agricultural Economy of the Armenian SSR. Statistical Collection, Er. 1969, p. 40".

A special task was given to improve the quality of the harvest. In particular, the cotton raw material delivered to the state had to be of selected varieties¹⁷.

Already in 1950, cotton sown areas in the Armenian SSR amounted to 17 thousand hectares, and in 1954 - 18.7 thousand hectares (see Figure 1). However, in subsequent years, cotton-sown areas gradually decreased. There were objective and subjective reasons for this.

In a market economy, the owner of the commodity is free to carry out economic activities and decide what to produce, for whom to produce, what resources to use, in what relationship, and where to obtain these resources.

In the case of a command system, the state decided where to organize production, with what resources, to whom to sell, and at what price. The Soviet Union was a classic example of a command system. That is why, before participating in World War II, it was advisable to organize cotton cultivation not only in the republics of Central Asia, but also in the Transcaucasus, as well as in some regions of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova. The goal was to satisfy the country's entire demand for cotton with domestic resources.

After the war, the Central Asian republics gradually increased the cotton sown areas and yield, due to which the cost of producing 1 ton of cotton was lower than in the other republics of the Transcaucasus. Under the conditions of unified procurement prices, the subsequent cultivation of cotton in Armenia became economically inexpedient.

It is no coincidence that the resolution of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of Armenia adopted on March 4, 1966, did not present a task for cotton cultivation for the five-year plan for 1966-1970¹⁸.

No indicators on this were reflected in the report of the Statistical Department of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR "On the implementation of the State Plan of the National Economy of the Armenian SSR for 1965". However, cotton cultivation in the coastal region of the Araks River would become expedient if there was certain state support.

Scientific novelty. The cornerstones of the cotton cultivation improvement have been identified during different periods of Armenian SSR history. It has been substantiated that cotton cultivation in Armenia during the Soviet years played a certain positive role in the economy of both the USSR and the Armenian SSR.

Conclusion. After World War I, the areas under cotton cultivation in Armenia (within the borders of the Armenian SSR) sharply decreased. After the establishment of the Soviet regime, the volumes of cultivation of this crop reached 18 thousand hectares before World War II. State bodies played a positive role in this.

17 In the Union Republics of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, at least 80 percent of the cotton procured under the state plan had to be of the 1st and 2nd types, in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan - 75 percent, and in the Union Republics of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova - 50 percent (ibid., p. 25).

18 Resolutions of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of Armenia, Yerevan 1966.

For objective reasons, the sown areas of cotton were sharply reduced during World War II. After the end of the war, the increase in cotton acreage was again important in the USSR. The study showed that the development of cotton cultivation proceeded rapidly only under conditions of comprehensive state support. Already in 1950, cotton acreage in the Armenian SSR amounted to 17 thousand hectares, and in 1954 - 18.7 thousand hectares. After that, until 1967, the indicator steadily decreased. Since 1968, cotton cultivation in the Armenian SSR has been suspended. However, under conditions of active state support, cotton cultivation in the coastal region of the Araks River will become feasible.

REFERENCES

1. Agriculture of the Armenian SSR. Statistical Digest, Yerevan, 1969
2. Avagyan, G., Agriculture of Soviet Armenia (economic and geographical study), Yerevan, 1970, 393 pages
3. Avetisyan, K., The development of cotton production in Armenia in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Materials on the history of agriculture and peasantry of Armenia, vol. 1, Yerevan 1964, pages 194-225
4. Cotton contracting in 1931 (Decision 334 of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR), Yerevan 1931, 14 pages
5. Karchikyan, O., Rates of development and structural changes in agriculture of the Armenian SSR, Er., 1968
6. Kiperman, A., Cotton growing in Transcaucasia, 33-36 p., in the book: Russian cotton. Russian cotton growing in the past and ways to its revival in the USSR, M., 1923, 33-36 p.
7. Materials of the report of the government of the Armenian SSR (March 1925-January 1927)
8. Mikaelyan, M., Cotton production in Armenia (Before the establishment of the Soviet regime), Current issues of socio-economic development in the Republic of Armenia, collection of scientific articles, 2024, No. 1, pages 240-254
9. Moskvitinov I., Irrigation in Transcaucasia, Russian cotton. Russian cotton growing in the past and ways to its revival in the USSR, M., 1923, 61-66 p.
10. National Economy of the Armenian SSR. Statistical Digest, Yerevan, 1957
11. On the organization and conduct of the cotton cultivation campaign (Decision of the All-Union Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Armenia (b) of May 12, 1931, Yerevan, 1931, 23 pages
12. On the Implementation of the State Plan of the National Economy of the Armenian SSR for 1965" Report of the Statistical Department of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR, Soviet Armenia, daily newspaper, February 6, 1966
13. Five-year plan for cotton cultivation, Yerevan, 1930, page 20

14. Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) "On the Harvesting and Procurement of Agricultural Products in 1950", Orlov, 1950,
15. Resolutions of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of Armenia, Yerevan 1966
16. Ter-Azhetisyan, D., On the history of cotton growing in the USSR, 561-622 p., in the book Materials on the history of agriculture in the USSR, Collection 2, Moscow-Linguistic University, 1956
17. Yuferov, V., Seed business in the book Russian cotton. Russian cotton growing in the past and the path to its revival in the USSR, Moscow, 1923, 50-54

ԲԱՍԲԱԿԵՆՈՒ ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆՈՒՄ (խորհրդային իշխանության տարիներին)

ՄԻՔԱՅԵԼ ՄԻՔԱՅԵԼՅԱՆ

Համառոտագիր

Հետազոտության արդիականությունը: Արևելյան Հայաստանում խորհրդային կարգեր հաստատվելուց հետո բամբակենու մշակությունը առավել կազմակերպված բնույթ կրեց: Ցանքատարածքները համեմատաբար ավելի ինտենսիվորեն էին օգտագործվում, իսկ դրա բերքատվությունը ավելի բարձր էր: Դրան նպաստում էր պետության կողմից իջեցված դիրեկտիվ առաջադրանքները և գյուղատնտեսության (մասնավորապես բամբակագործության) նկատմամբ պետական շոշափելի աջակցությունը:

Առանց պետական աջակցության հիմնավոր ծրագրի, արտաքին մրցակցության պայմաններում գյուղատնտեսությունը (հատկապես բամբակագործությունը) էապես զարգացնել հնարավոր չէ: Եթե երբևիցե Հայաստանը ձեռնամուխ լինի բամբակենու մշակությամբ զբաղվել, ապա պետք է հաշվի առնի այս հանգամանքը: Սրանով է բացատրվում հետազոտվող թեմայի արդիականությունը:

Հետազոտության **նպատակն** է ցույց տալ խորհրդային ժամանակահավածում Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակության պետական աջակցության փորձն ու կարևորությունը:

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

1. ուսումնասիրել խորհրդային Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակության վիճակը,
2. պարզել բամբակենու մշակության զարգացման կովանները,
3. ցույց տալ, որ խորհրդային տարիներին բամբակենու մշակությունը առավել զարգացել է պետական աջակցության շնորհիվ:

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

Գիտական նորությունը: Բացահայտվել են ՀԽՍՀ-ում տարբեր ժամանակահատվածներում բամբակենու մշակության արդյունքների բարելավման հիմնական կովանները:

Ցույց է տրվել, որ Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակությունը Խորհրդային տարիներին որոշակի դրական դեր է կատարել և՛ ԽՍՀՄ-ի, և՛ ՀԽՍՀ-ի տնտեսության համար: Այն առանձնապես բարձր տեմպերով է աճել երկրի համար կարևոր ժամանակահատվածներում և պետական աջակցության պայմաններում:

Ստացված հիմնական արդյունքները: Հոդվածում առանձնացվել է բամբակենու մշակության երեք շրջան՝ ա/ մինչև Երկրորդ աշխարհամարտին ԽՍՀՄ-ի մասնակցությունը, բ/ հետ պատերազմյան շրջանը, երբ կուսակցական ու պետական մարմինները խնդիր են դրել ավելացնել բամբակենու մշակման ցանքատարածությունները և բարձրացնել դրա բերքատվությունը, գ/ նախորդ դարի 50-ական թվականների երկրորդ կեսը, երբ կուսակցական ու պետական մարմինները Հայաստանում բամբակենու մշակությունը համարել են ոչ նպատակահարմար՝ կարևորելով դրա փոխարեն զարգացնել խաղողագործությունը և պտուղ-բանբանջարեղենի արտադրությունը:

Բանալի բառեր: Բամբակենու մշակություն, պետական առաջադրանք, պետական աջակցություն, բերքատվություն, խորհրդային շրջանի բամբակագործության դասեր:

ХЛОПКОВОДСТВО В АРМЕНИИ (во времена советской власти)

МИКАЕЛ МИКАЕЛЯН

Аннотация.

Актуальность исследования. После установления советской власти в Восточной Армении выращивание хлопка стало более организованным. Посевные площади использовались относительно интенсивнее, а его урожайность была выше. Этому способствовали директивные задания со стороны государства и ощутимая государственная поддержка сельского хозяйства (особенно хлопка). Без солидной программы государственной поддержки сельское хозяйство (особенно хлопковое) не сможет существенно развиваться в условиях внешней конкуренции. Этим объясняется актуальность исследуемой темы.

Цель исследования показать опыт и значение государственной поддержки выращивания хлопка в Армении в советское время.

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

1. изучить состояние хлопководства в Советской Армении,
2. выяснить проблемы развития хлопководства,
3. показать, что в советские годы выращивание хлопчатника благополучно развивалось благодаря государственной поддержке.

Методология. 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. Выявлены основные причины улучшения результатов выращивания хлопка в Армянской ССР в разные периоды времени. Показано, что выращивание хлопка в Армении в советские годы сыграло определенную положительную роль для экономики как СССР, так и АССР. Особенно высокими темпами он рос в важные для страны периоды и в условиях государственной поддержки.

Получены основные результаты. В статье выделяются три периода выращивания хлопка:

- а/ до участия СССР во Второй мировой войне,
- б/ послевоенный период, когда партийные и государственные органы поставили задачу увеличения площадей выращивания хлопка и повышения его урожайности,
- с/ вторая половина 50-х годов прошлого столетия, когда партийные и государственные органы считали выращивание хлопка в Армении нецелесообразным, делая упор вместо этого на развитие виноградарства и производства фруктов и овощей.

Ключевые слова. Выращивание хлопка, государственное задание, государственная поддержка, урожайность, классы хлопкосеющих предприятий в советский период.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN ARMENIA (During the Soviet period)

MIKAYEL MIKAYELYAN

Abstract

Relevance of the study. After the establishment of Soviet rule in Eastern Armenia, cotton production became more organized, when the cultivated areas were used relatively more intensively, and its yield was higher. This was facilitated by directives from the state and tangible state support for agriculture (especially cotton).

The purpose of the article is to show the experience and importance of state support for cotton growing in Armenia during the Soviet era. Based on this, the study highlights the need to solve the following **research problems**:

1. to study the state of cotton growing in Soviet Armenia,
2. to identify the problems of cotton growing development,
3. to show that in the Soviet years, cotton growing developed successfully thanks to state support.

Methodology. In the scope of the article a number of methods were used to study the research subject. In particular, the methods of scientific abstraction, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, logical and historical.

Scientific novelty. The main reasons for improving the results of cotton cultivation in Armenian SSR in different periods have been revealed. It has been shown that the cultivation of cotton in Armenia during the Soviet years played a certain positive role in the economy of both the USSR and the Armenian SSR. It grew at a particularly high rate during important periods for the country and under conditions of state support.

Main findings. The article distinguishes three periods of cotton cultivation:
a/ before the participation of the USSR in the Second World War,
b/ the post-war period, when the party and state bodies set the problem of increasing the cotton cultivation area and increasing its yield,
c/ the second half of the 50s of the last century. Half, when the party and state bodies considered the cultivation of cotton in Armenia inadvisable, emphasizing instead the development of viticulture and the production of fruits and vegetables.

Keywords. cotton cultivation, state task, state support, yield, classes of cotton production in the Soviet period.