

**THE FOOD SUPPLY ISSUE IN BUKHARA REGION IN 1993**

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the food supply situation and income levels of the population in the Bukhara region in 1993. In addition, it discusses price dynamics and the government measures implemented to improve the social conditions of the population.

**Keywords:** “200 Days” program, “Let Each of Us Become Two” program, food supply, republic, consumer market

In 1993, a number of socio-economic problems emerged in the Bukhara region. The main cause of these issues was related to monetary emission, which hindered the import of food products from outside the region. In 1993, the grain yield in the region amounted to 22.3 centners per hectare. In the districts of Romitan, Kogon, and Jondor, the yield was even lower. As a result, in order to supply the population with bread products, the region was forced to import 250–260 thousand tons of grain annually. This alone required expenditures of 22–25 billion soums. If grain fields had been expanded at the expense of newly cultivated lands and reduced cotton areas, and the necessary grain had been produced locally, these funds could have been saved. Every year, despite great difficulties, 30 thousand tons of potatoes were imported from both near and distant foreign countries and stored for winter use.

However, this problem could also have been solved domestically. The region possesses fertile land capable of producing such quantities of potatoes. The main issue was the failure to utilize these opportunities effectively. In that year, only 420 hectares were allocated for potato cultivation. Despite the fact that favorable agrotechnical deadlines were passing, only about 60 percent of the plan had been fulfilled. In particular, work in the districts of Qorovulbozor, Olot, and Kogon was carried out very slowly. This was largely due to the lack of technical equipment necessary for implementing agricultural measures.

Between 1991 and 1993, 27 thousand hectares of land were allocated to rural residents for household plots and housing construction. The size of household plots per family increased from 12 sotix to nearly 25 sotix. In 1992, farmers produced 130 thousand tons of vegetables, 23 thousand tons of grapes, and 29 thousand tons of melons and other agricultural products on their private plots, generating an income of 3 billion 273 million soums.

This can also be observed in the example of the Romitan district. The district's 125 farms specialized mainly in meat and dairy production, and currently they maintained 1,300 head of cattle. These enterprising farmers have delivered 950 tons of milk and over 200 tons of meat to the state, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of the farm system. In 1993, the Qorovulbozor district delivered 15 thousand tons of cotton to the state, fulfilling the plan by 106 percent. Compared to the previous year, 2,800 tons more cotton were delivered. The plan for grain delivery was fulfilled by 174 percent, fruits by 104 percent, grapes by 150 percent, karakul skins by 162 percent, and meat and milk by 101–110 percent. In order to increase grain production, 3,200 hectares of winter grain were sown, which was five times more than in the previous year. In 1994, the region required 240 thousand tons of wheat to supply the population with bread products. It was planned to produce 115 thousand tons of grain in the region, which constituted

48 percent of the required amount. It was planned to sell 45 thousand tons of the harvested grain to the state, while the government undertook to supply 145 thousand tons. The remaining 50 thousand tons were to be imported from outside the republic.

In 1993, the grain yield in the districts of Romitan, Qorako‘l, Jondor, and Kogon was lower than the regional average. Plans for the production of grapes and potatoes were not fulfilled.

In 1992, meat production in the region’s farms decreased by 5 percent compared to 1991, milk production by 3 percent, and egg production by 50 percent. The average milk yield per cow was 2,357 kg. In the first quarter of the following year, the situation did not improve. Despite an increase in the number of cattle, meat production decreased by 750 tons compared to the same period in 1992 (a decline of 16 percent), while egg production fell by 44 percent.

Between 1991 and 1993, socio-economic problems in the Bukhara region were mainly related to monetary emission and difficulties in importing food products. Due to low grain yields, the region had to import hundreds of thousands of tons of grain annually to meet the population’s needs for bread products, which required significant financial expenditures. If timely measures had been taken to reduce cotton areas and expand grain cultivation, it would have been possible to save resources and ensure food security.

Similarly, opportunities for potato production were not fully utilized: despite the availability of land resources, cultivation areas were limited and plans were poorly implemented. The shortage of technical equipment further aggravated the problem. At the same time, the expansion of household plots increased the income of the population: the production of vegetables, grapes, and melons rose significantly. Farms demonstrated positive results in meat and milk production and delivered substantial quantities to the state.

As seen in the example of Qorovulbozor district, in some areas production plans for cotton and grain were exceeded. However, overall targets for grain, potatoes, and grapes were not met. The production of meat, milk, and eggs also declined.

In general, although there were significant problems in agriculture and food supply in the Bukhara region in the early 1990s, the expansion of household plots and the development of farm enterprises yielded positive results. The main lesson is that effective use of available land and resources, reduction of cotton areas in favor of grain cultivation, and adequate provision of technical equipment could have ensured the region’s food independence.

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