



Urban and Rural Ecology in The Fergana Valley During the Years of Independence Health Improvement Works (Historical Analysis)

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Abstract: This article focuses on the state of ecology in the cities and villages of the Fergana Valley during the years of independence, as well as aspects of its improvement.

Keywords: Fergana Valley, zero-waste production, artificial fibre plant



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INTRODUCTION

In Uzbekistan, environmental problems are disappearing in a unique way. In particular, the release of harmful substances into the atmosphere and the flow of dirty water residues are increasing in line with the progress of industrial development in recent years. Such an ecological situation is found in Chirchik, Ohangaron, Angren, Almalik, Fergana, Margilan, Navoi, Andijan, Asaka, Kokan, Kuvasoi, Namangan and other cities. Because production industries are rapidly developing in these cities

In 1996, Asaka-1 and Asaka-2 cotton ginning factories located in Andijan region negatively affected the ecological condition of the densely populated city and caused strong protests of the population [1]. For this reason, the regional officials asked for help in the construction of a new modern cotton ginning plant, which can process 30 thousand tons of raw cotton, in the Okhchi cotton processing center located outside the city of Asaka, instead of the two cotton ginning plants. First of all, this can be said to be about the health of the population.

In the years of independence, far-sighted, large-scale projects were started to be implemented in the Fergana region to introduce zero-waste production technologies in large industrial enterprises, to reduce environmental and atmospheric pollution by

enterprises. This has both economic and environmental benefits. For example, due to the installation of gas analyzers at the Kuvasoy cement plant based on projects agreed with the American International Development Agency, the amount of harmful gases released into the atmosphere decreased from 7.4 thousand tons to 4.8 thousand tons. Also, the amount of hydrocarbons released into the atmosphere due to the implementation of gas analyzers at the state production association "Uzneftnitaishlash"

A reduction of 16.5 tons was achieved and 284.5 thousand soums of economic benefit was obtained. Also, effective work was carried out to reduce the phenol substance in the wastewater of the enterprise. In cooperation with foreign companies, the "Azot" association introduced an environmentally efficient technology for the production of weak nitric acid and saltpetre. At the artificial fibre plant, large-scale projects for the production of polyamide have been started [2].

Taking into account that since the 80s of the 20th century, the underground waters of the Tashloq district have been polluted with oil residues, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of September 30, 1993 "Ecology and Health" on the improvement of the ecological situation and protection of public health in the Fergana region 1993 of the decision of the Fergana region governor

In order to implement the decisions of November 1, a program of measures for the years 1996-2000 will be drawn up to improve the complex environmental situation and the health of the population in Toshloq district. As a result, in 1997, at the Fergana oil refinery, rotten underground pipes were dug up, and new pipes were built above ground and put into operation[3].

In 1999, 10 million was prepared for the treatment of drinking water in the city of Fergana and Tashlok district. Although a special project with a value of \$100,000 was discussed at the "Ekosan" international fund with the participation of the Asian Development Bank, the Swiss company "Ozonias" and the leaders of the regional government, later this issue was left open [4].

In connection with the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the safety of hydraulic facilities" adopted on August 20, 1999, a number of works were carried out in Andijan region. In particular, the protected lands of the "Water Protection Zone" of Karadarya have been designated, and 12 of the 16 ecologically dangerous objects that have a negative impact have been moved to a safe area[5]. Also, during 2001, 127 million soums worth of environmental cleanup works were carried out in the city of Andijan at the expense of the state budget. In particular, 47.0 million soums were spent for the protection of the atmosphere, 27.3 million soums for the rational use of water and land resources, and 52.7 million soums for the protection of flora. Thanks to this, the heating boilers of 17 industrial, construction and automobile enterprises were repaired, underground water wells were put in order, and ornamental trees were planted on 27 central streets of Andijan. 1,098 tons of harmful substances were released

into the atmosphere and 1,272,000 cubic meters of water was prevented from flowing in vain[6].

From 2008 to January 2009, 110 million soums were allocated for the construction of 29 household waste disposal points in the city of Andijan alone. 110 containers were installed at household waste disposal points. The fact that more than 350 tons of waste was transported in the city itself can be said to be an organic continuation of the work being done to protect the city's ecology [7].

It is known that up to now, all sectors of the national economy are making great progress. The use of new technologies in production, in turn, the use of these mechanisms without harming the population and the environment is an urgent task today. The currently developing industrial cities and districts of the Fergana Valley are among the most polluted cities in Uzbekistan. The main reasons for this are, on the one hand, the fact that the valley is surrounded by high mountains, and on the other hand, the dense location of industrial complexes in the cities of the Fergana Valley. In addition, the population density and the lack of forests increase the complexity of these processes.

Analyzes of the attitude to solid household waste in developed countries show that there are decreasing trends of landfills in this area. Also, the main part of the waste is used for the process of processing it as a secondary resource. Starting from the second half of the 20th century, the increase in the volume of household waste took on disastrous consequences. In almost all countries of the world, solid household waste per capita is increasing by 10% every 10 years[8].

In October 2011, during the visit of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov to Fergana region and the meeting with the activists of the region, the program of radical reconstruction and reconstruction of the regional center was discussed in detail. Based on the opinions and practical suggestions presented at this meeting, a special program on the implementation of the master plan of the city of Fergana, the construction and reconstruction of social transport and communal infrastructure facilities in 2012-2015 was adopted. The fact that more than 1 trillion soums are expected to be spent on the implementation of this program from all sources shows the scale of the work being done in this regard. A lot of work has been done to implement the program and turn the city of Fergana into an ecologically clean area. In particular, Fergana oil-oil, Fergana furan compound factories, and heat source enterprises in the city were moved outside the city. In the region, great attention was paid to the construction and repair of waste and sewage treatment facilities of industrial enterprises [9].

The activities of the Andijan Region "On Control" committee served to further activate the work on environmental protection and effective use of nature in industrial enterprises of the region. The main part of industrial enterprises that affect the environment and use natural resources was taken into account. According to the order of

the regional committee, a number of major environmental measures were implemented in industrial enterprises of the region, the activity of some environmentally harmful objects was stopped or limited. Such enterprises include Andijan experimental, experimental-mechanics, hydrolysis, Komsomolabad (now Ulugnor) cotton ginning factories, leather processing workshop in Izboskan district [10].

At the initiative of the Andijan regional committee, a number of environmental programs aimed at improving environmental protection and nature use were prepared, and relevant decisions of the hokimiyat were adopted. The organizational activity of the regional committee to monitor the fulfillment of environmental legislation requirements by industrial enterprises served to reduce the man-made impact on the environment and natural resources of the region.

In 2001, after the installation of modern dust-collecting equipment in Kurgantepa and Asaka grain products cooperative societies of Andijan region, atmospheric pollution decreased dramatically. "Anteks" joint-stock company acquired a modern boiler house and almost did not harm the nature. For the joint enterprise "UzDEU Auto", the solid waste storage landfill in Polvontash allowed to bury the harmful waste of the enterprise without harming the environment and people.

In 2000-2001, the activities of 11 enterprises that used water resources and land reserves in Andijan region were suspended. Also, 19 enterprises and organizations were fined. It can be seen that the activities of several factories that had a negative impact on the atmosphere of the region were also assessed [11].

Based on the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 15, 2011 "On implementation of the master plan of the city of Fergana, construction and reconstruction of social and transport-communal infrastructure objects in 2012-2015" as a result of ongoing construction and beautification works, Fergana has become one of the most prosperous and beautiful destinations. On the basis of state programs, as a result of the relocation of such enterprises as "Furan compounds chemical plant", "Oil-oil" joint-stock company, "Energo center", cotton ginning plant, gas apparatus factory to the outskirts of the city, 786.2 tons of harmful substances were released into the air of the city atmosphere. . 902,536 ornamental, fruit trees and flowers are planted in beautiful parks and avenues, which serve to keep the environment clean. In 2012, 19,500 tons of harmful substances were released into the city air from motor vehicles, and in 2013, this amount decreased by 5,200 tons [12].

Another problem that has a negative impact on eco-sustainability is the activity of illegal landfills. In this regard, a number of measures were implemented in the following years. In particular, sanitation and cleaning and beautification organizations in Andijan region were additionally provided with special equipment and vehicles worth about 3 billion 900 million soums. More than 6 billion 500 million soums were spent and waste landfills in the region were regulated [13].

In 2016, 45 special machines were purchased in Fergana region. 647 waste collection points were built and 238 were equipped with containers for the orderly disposal of waste in residential areas. In addition, 6 central landfills were fenced [14]. In addition, according to 2021, 13 waste processing enterprises have processed 15,031 tons of household waste in the region. These enterprises mainly produce products for use in industry and economy from waste such as rubber, plastic, paper and glass [15].

From September 5, 2018, the limited liability company "Eco clean trans" in the form of a cluster specializing in waste processing started operating in Andijan. It should be said that the only enterprise in the valley started to solve a very important problem for Andijan region with a dense population. Considering that more than 700 tons of household waste is generated in Andijan city alone, the urgency of the issue is clearly visible. In addition, the waste landfill in Pakhtaabad district, which was operating until recently, was closed because it was full. At one time, the use of another landfill in the Kulla deserts was also stopped [16].

In 2019, household waste collection and disposal rate in Namangan region was 48%, and in this regard, compared to 2018, an increase of 11% was achieved. Toza Hudud state unitary enterprise, which is the main responsible for waste transportation, provides services to about 900,000 people living in more than 300 neighborhoods of the region with the help of about 500 workers and 137 special equipment. More than 210,000 tons of waste were taken to special landfills and neutralized by the enterprise in 2019 [17].

There are 12 waste landfills in Namangan region, and only 20% of waste in them is being processed. Today, the total capacity of 23 small enterprises operating in the region for waste processing does not have more than this capacity. In order to increase this indicator, that is, to establish large enterprises in the field of waste processing in the region, work is being carried out on projects in cooperation with a number of foreign countries, in particular, China and Belgium[18]. As a result, in the coming years, the waste processing system will become the main industry.

In addition, in accordance with the State Investment Program in 2016 to improve the state of the ecosystem and improve the quality of the environment for human health, to ensure the implementation of activities "Enhancement of the environmental condition in the area of uranium mine No. 23 in the Pop district of Namangan region" 2.2 billion from the state budget. Soums were spent[19].

Today, the introduction of the use of bicycles as a means of daily transportation at the national level has a special place in ensuring the cleanliness of the natural environment and promoting a healthy lifestyle. On September 23, 2017, the ecological movement of Uzbekistan, the coordinator of the projects of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Uzbekistan, and the Namangan regional government,

dedicated to the opening of the bicycle lane in Namangan under the slogan "Let's improve our city together" "Velomarathon" action[20] was organized.

Also, a total of 28.6 km for cyclists in 7 central streets of Andijan. long corridors were organized [21]. This bicycle lane was built within the framework of the project "Assistance to the Republic of Uzbekistan in the implementation of environmental initiatives - phase II" of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Uzbekistan, implemented by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan[22]. The main purpose of creating a bicycle lane is to contribute to environmental cleanliness, to widely promote the use of bicycle transportation as an environmentally friendly means of transportation, to popularize bicycle transportation, to develop its infrastructure, to encourage young people to sports and a healthy lifestyle. involves organizing their free time in a meaningful way.

It is planned to build the Namangan drinking water supply improvement facility in 2016-2021. The total cost of the object is 73 mln. dollars from foreign investment and 65 mln. investment funds were allocated in the amount of dollars. At the expense of this object, reconstruction of 55.2 km of out-of-service drinking water pipelines in the city of Namangan and modernization of 94 physically and mentally outdated pumping units in 10 water facilities were carried out[23].

In accordance with the Decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 13, 2017 "On measures to provide residents of Namangan city and Pop district with quality drinking water and sewage services", "Reconstruction of Namangan city sewage systems" and expansion" project in 2018-2021 will receive 240 billion. allocation of soums from the state budget was determined[24].

In addition, starting from 2021, September 22 was announced as "Car Free Day"[25]. The purpose of this event was to reduce obesity and weight gain among the population, to strengthen healthy lifestyles, as well as to protect the ecology of cities and villages.

In conclusion, it should be noted that environmental problems are disappearing in a unique way in Uzbekistan, and measures are being taken to improve the current situation. In particular, at the request of the Nature Protection Committee, the activity of the chemical enterprises operating in the center of the cities of the Fergana Valley was stopped or they were redirected to an area that does not harm the environment. In addition, funds for environmental protection were allocated from the state budget, waste disposal points were built in the regions, special equipment and containers were provided, and waste processing clusters were established.

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