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From the History of the Development of the Agricultural Sector in the South-Eastern Region of the Republic of Azerbaijan (in 2003-2018)

Abstract

In the article, the development of the agricultural sector in the southeastern region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003-2018 was studied. The policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev has led to the development of the agricultural sector in the region. The State Programs of socio-economic development of the regions (2004-2018 years) determined the development directions of agriculture in the region. Tea cultivation, citrus fruit growing, vegetable growing in Lankaran, Astara regions, grain growing, vegetable growing in Jalilabad, Masalli regions, large livestock farms were established in Lerik, Yardimli regions. In total, 6,524 prime breed breeding animals were imported and leased to farmers for 3 years with a 50 percent discount, and 567 livestock farms were established in the region in 2003-2018. As a result, compared to 2000, the development of animal husbandry in the region in 2018 was reflected in statistical materials, the number of cattle was 328,681, the number of sheep and goats was 450,675, the number of birds was 2,372,190, the number of bee families was 60,981, and the production of meat in the region was 27,537 tons. there are full conditions for the creation of large model breeding complexes. In Jalilabad district alone, in 2008, new grape seedlings were planted on 300 hectares, and the total area of grape farms in the district was increased to 1500 hectares.

If in 2003 there was 49.4 ha of viticulture area in the region, compared to 2018, it reached 1715 ha and 18520 tons of products were produced. Thus, in the years 2013-2018, an increase of 1411 hectares in citrus fruit growing, and 1789 ha in vegetable growing and horticulture was observed in the region. In the article, the agricultural sector of the region has been thoroughly studied during the indicated period.

Keywords: *agricultural sector, south-eastern region, tea growing, viticulture, animal husbandry, vegetable growing*

Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti'nin Güneydoğu Bölgesinde Tarım Sektörünün Gelişim Tarihinden (2003-2018 Yılları)

Öz

Makalede Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti'nin güneydoğu bölgesinde tarım sektörünün 2003-2018 yılları arasındaki gelişimi incelenmiştir. Cumhurbaşkanı İlham Aliyev'in uyguladığı politika bölgede tarım sektörünün gelişmesine yol açtı. Bölgelerin sosyo-ekonomik kalkınmasına ilişkin Devlet Programları (2004-2018 yılları) bölgede tarımın gelişme yönlerini belirlemiştir. Lenkeran, Astara bölgelerinde çay tarımı, narenciye yetiştiriciliği, sebze yetiştiriciliği, Celilabad, Masallı bölgelerinde tahıl yetiştiriciliği, sebze yetiştiriciliği, Lerik, Yardımlı bölgelerinde büyük hayvancılık çiftlikleri kuruldu. Toplamda 6.524 adet birinci sınıf damızlık hayvan ithal edilerek yüzde 50 indirimli olarak 3 yıl süreyle çiftçilere kiralandı, 2003-2018 yılları arasında bölgede 567 adet besi çiftliği kuruldu. Sonuç olarak 2000 yılıyla karşılaştırıldığında 2018 yılında bölgede hayvancılığın gelişimi istatistiksel materyallere yansımış, büyükbaş hayvan sayısı 328.681, koyun ve keçi sayısı 450.675, kuş sayısı 2.372.190, kuş sayısı 2.372.190 olarak gerçekleşmiştir. Arı ailelerinin sayısı 60.981, bölgedeki et üretimi ise 27.537 ton olup, büyük model yetiştirme komplekslerinin oluşturulması için tam koşullar mevcuttur. Yalnızca Celilabad ilçesinde 2008 yılında 300 hektar alana yeni üzüm fideleri dikilmiş ve ilçedeki üzüm çiftliklerinin toplam alanı 1500 hektara çıkarılmıştır. Bölgede 2003 yılında 49,4 hektar bağcılık alanı varken, 2018 yılına göre 1715 hektara ulaşılmış ve 18520 ton ürün üretilmiştir. Böylece bölgede 2013-2018 yıllarında narenciye yetiştiriciliğinde 1411 hektar, sebzeçilik ve bahçecilikte ise 1789 hektarlık artış gözlemlendi. Makalede belirtilen dönemde bölgenin tarım sektörü ayrıntılı olarak incelenmiştir.

Anahtar kelimeler: *Tarım Sektörü, Güneydoğu Bölgesi, Çaycılık, Bağcılık, Hayvancılık, Sebzeçilik*

Introduction

The reforms carried out in the agricultural sector in the country have led to the development of economic sectors. "Agroleasing" OJSC, which was established according to the Decree of President Ilham Aliyev dated October 23, 2004 "On additional measures in the field of leasing in the agricultural sector", provides farmers engaged in agriculture with agrochemicals, high-reproduction wheat seeds and modern equipment work has been greatly improved. On September 9, 2005, a conference devoted to the socio-economic development and problems of the southern region was held in Lankaran under the chairmanship of the head of the country. The head of the country said in his speech: "Today and yesterday I got acquainted with the situation here, the progress of work, and I can say that the rate of development in the region is very high. The regional development program is being implemented, the tasks ahead are being solved, and the processes here are going in a positive direction" (Azərbaycan Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin sədrliyi ilə ölkəmizin cənub bölgəsinin sosial-iqtisadi inkişafına və problemlərinə həsr olunmuş müşavirə, 2005).

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On granting temporary tax concessions to producers of agricultural products" completely exempted farmers in the agricultural sector from all other taxes, except land tax. This concession created conditions for the expansion and development of the agricultural sector. According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated January 23, 2007 "On State Support to Agricultural Products Producers", the state began to pay an average of 50 percent of the cost of fuel, motor oils and mineral fertilizers used for the production of agricultural products. The measures implemented in the south-eastern region of the republic have created conditions for the rapid development of the agricultural sector. During the indicated period, new grain farms were established in the region, planting of new types of grain was accelerated, and labor productivity increased. Thus, the share of agriculture in the total product in the region increased to 61.3 percent in 2003, 62 percent in 2004, 55.1 percent in 2005, 48.9 percent in 2006, 61.8 percent in 2007 and in 2008 it was equal to 50.1 percent (Regional iqtisadiyyatın rəqabət qabiliyyətinin yüksəldilməsi istiqamətləri, 2009, p. 30).

In 2004, for the purpose of development of tea farming in Lankaran region, "Lankaran chay-5" enterprise planted tea on 4 hectares and established a nursery. According to the proposal of the working group established under the Regional Agrarian Reform Commission, "Tukavila" tea production cooperative was established for the purpose of establishing new tea plantations,

and 8 hectares of new tea fields were established in Saglakucha and Vilvan villages. Farming farms such as "Havzava", "Istisu" production cooperatives, "Hirkan" farmers' union, "Barakat", "Haqiqat" and "Islam Taghizadeh" were established for tea farming. Peasant farms such as "Emin", "Ilkin", "Khazar", "Almaz" operating in Astara region differ in terms of tea cultivation productivity. In total, 350-400 tons of green tea leaves were collected every year from farms led by N. Rasulov, N. Ahmadov, S. Azimov, T. Asadov, E. Babayev, M. Imamaliyev, A. Farziyev and delivered to processing enterprises.

1-Development of agricultural sector in the region

As a result of the purposeful policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev in the field of agriculture, new grape plantations were established and the infrastructure in this field was reconstructed. The development of viticulture in the south-eastern region of the republic was carried out faster in Jalilabad region. Thus, in accordance with the 1st State Program, new grape plantations were established in Lankaran, Masalli regions. At the same time, the continuous development of viticulture and the cultivation of local grape varieties create conditions for the creation of nursery farms in the region. In 2004, 2 citrus farms were established in Astara region. In order to increase the production of citrus and subtropical fruits, new orchards were planted on 165 hectares. In that year, 20,267 tons of citrus fruits were produced in Astara region, which is 956 tons more than last year. In the field of vegetables, 4 farms were established in the region, vegetable crops were grown on 2057 hectares, and 36443 tons of products were produced. In order to increase the production of subtropical and citrus products in the region, agrotechnical measures were implemented in 950 hectares of citrus orchards. During the year, 50 hectares of citrus orchards were planted. Nurseries were established by individual citizens. In 2006, 22,497 tons of fruits and berries were produced, which is 78 tons more than the previous year [3]. (Astara aqrar sektora diqqət artıb, 2007).

The development direction of a new non-traditional animal husbandry for the region has been determined. Thus, by the Decree of the Lankaran City Executive Power dated June 16, 2005, 25 ha of land was leased from the State Reserve Fund land for 50 years to "Tabiet" LLC located in Narimanabad-2 settlement for the development of beaver farming (Lənkəran Şəhər İcra Hakimiyyəti Başçısının yanında şura iclasının protokolları (2004-2015-ci illər).

In 2006, in Yardimli district, 3 plow tractors, 2 combine harvesters, and 1 baling machine of "Agroservisin" LLC were given to farmers. More than 60 tons of various fertilizers were given to farmers on preferential terms in order to increase productivity in the field of grain growing. In 2007, 71 farms operated in the region. 60 percent of these organizations produced

grain products. In 2007, 26,691 tons of grain were produced in the region. In Yardimli region, 1,156 grain producers received assistance in the amount of 78,883.6 manats. With representatives of the World Bank, a loan project was developed for Telavar and Arvana villages of the region for the development of their farms. Within the framework of that project, 52,000 manats were allocated to the residents of Telavar village (Abdulov, 2003, p. 26).

"Goshgar" farm was established by Ahadov Novruzali in Kijaba settlement of Astara region. The number of shareholders in the 20-hectare tea plantation belonging to the farm was 25 people. As a result of year-round pruning and plowing, the first harvest is already collected starting from May. From each hectare, 20-25 centners of green tea leaves are collected and delivered to the processing factory. In connection with tea production and processing, heavy pruning was carried out on 17 ha, seasonal pruning on 700 ha, repair works were carried out on 20 ha, and a new tea plantation was established on 5 ha. During the season, 329.8 tons of green tea leaves were sold to factories by the population and farms. One of the main tasks facing the farms is the establishment of new tea plantations. As of 2012, 166 hectares of the 278 hectares of tea plantations in the region are fully productive. Last year, farmers in Astara collected 363.2 tons of green tea leaves from plantations and delivered them to factories. During this period, the productivity of each hectare in the field of tea cultivation was 21.9 centners. "Azersun Holding" Union of Companies privatized tea factory No. 2 in the region, carried out reconstruction works in the enterprise and installed modern equipment. Currently, the factory produces high-quality dry tea. At the same time, the same company has ensured the investment of 100 million manat this year in order to restore the tea plantations of the region and increase their productivity (Abada, 2014, p. 12).

Viticulture in the region has recovered from the period of recession and entered the stage of development. In 2015, the "Rizvan" farm was established in the village of Karazanjir, Jalilabad region, engaged in grape growing. The farm has 38 hectares of table and 20 tons of technical grape plantations. As a result of high agrotechnical care, 100-150 quintals are obtained from each hectare. Grape plantations are treated against various diseases and pruned under the supervision of an agronomist. Konul Huseynova, Dilbar Gurbanova, Mazahir Hashimov, Vusala Mammadova in the grape plantations belonging to the "Rizvan" farm are especially distinguished, 250-300 kg per day. gathers grapes (Cəlilabadda üzüm istehsalı, 2016).

New plantations were established in the region in order to develop viticulture, increase production and ensure food security. The report of Jalilabad District Agriculture Department shows that there are 1,500 hectares of productive vineyards in the district, from which high-

quality grapes are harvested every year (Cəlilabad rayon Kənd Təsərrüfatı İdarəsinin 2016-cı il üçün gördüyü işlər barədə arayışı).

With this, the process of organizing and expanding new livestock farms in the region has been accelerated. By the Decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 424s dated December 30, 2014 and No. 95s dated February 22, 2016, 250.9 thousand manats were allocated for the design and construction of the Lankaran District Zonal Veterinary Laboratory. The Zonal Veterinary Laboratory provides prompt service against various diseases by monitoring livestock farms in the region. At the same time, it organizes various trainings and seminars in farms. Grain cultivation in the region has increased due to the granting of temporary tax concessions and loans. If in 2003, 45,994 ha of grain were planted in Jalilabad region, in 2016 this number reached 68,469 ha. (see table: 1.) In general, grain planting in the region reached 89,721 ha, and the yield was 29.3 centners.

Grain cultivation in the south-eastern region of the republic is shown in ha. Table: 1.

Regions	2003	2006	2010	2012	2016
Astara	2958	1753	1295	1098	1106
Lerik	7724	8132	3678	1690	2340
Masalli	12048	12025	11092	11790	12124
Jalilabad	45994	48284	67260	68828	68469
Lankaran	2979	2244	1833	1449	1504
Yardimli	2233	2749	3163	3667	4178

In 2015, "Cilan-Agro" LLC planted hallabong citrus trees on 15 hectares of land in Sutmurdiv village of Lankaran region. 1.5 tons of citrus trees adapted to local conditions were harvested. Hollobong farms were established on an additional 3 hectares in Sütamurdiv village, 5 hectares in Siyavar village, 20 hectares in Sürük village, and 40 hectares in Tukavila village. The productivity of this type of citrus reaches an average of 35-40 tons per hectare, which is 2-3 times more than the local production. Citrus products produced on farms are used in confectionery, juice production and winemaking. A total of 1,800 tons will be harvested during the season at the Hallobong citrus farm, which is equivalent to the annual consumption rate of

180,000 people. Of the 1,631 hectares of orchards in Lankaran district, 487 hectares are subtropical, 680 hectares are citrus orchards, and 950 hectares are other orchards. In 2015, 7958 tons of citrus and other fruits were produced in the region. The attention and care of the state to agriculture has accelerated the development of this field. Vegetables accounted for 5138 hectares or 63.3 percent of the 8112 hectares planted in Lankaran region, cereals for 1480 hectares, potatoes for 576 hectares, melons for 282 hectares, and fodder plants for 579 hectares. 126 thousand tons of vegetables were produced during the year (Lənkəran rayon icra hakiminin 2015-ci il üçün illik hesabatı).

In 2016, wheat was planted on 1,422 hectares of seed farms in Jalilabad region, 9,600 tons of crops were supplied, and 360 tons of suitable seeds were produced. The seed farm operating in the region has provided seeds to farmers working at full capacity. In 2017, "Green Field-KT" LLC of the region planted 110 tons of corn on an area of 120 hectares. Jalilabad region is the largest grain producer in the region, where high productivity has been achieved in the seed farms created in accordance with the State Program. In 2017, 160,489 tons of wheat, 13,404 tons of barley, 5,885 tons of sorghum, 1,198 tons of lentils, 8,755 tons of peas, 1,800 tons of corn, and 1,420 tons of sunflowers were produced from the cultivated areas of the region [10]. In order to provide irrigation water to agricultural fields in the region, 636 m³ canals were cleaned of silt and repaired. 5,000,435.6 AZN assistance was provided to producers of agricultural products for grain planting, fuel and lubricants. 2.9 thousand tons of nitrogen, 1.5 thousand tons of amaphos, 926 tons of other subsoil fertilizers were sold by the regional representative office of "Agroleasing" OJSC with a 70 percent discount in the production of agricultural products (Cəlilabad rayonunda regionların sosial-iqtisadi inkişafı üzrə Dövlət Proqramını (2014-2018-ci illər) ilə əlaqədar görülən işlər barədə məlumat).

Thus, the agrarian policy implemented by the State created conditions for the development and expansion of grain farming in the region. The main factor contributing to the increase of grain production in the region is the production and use of high-reproduction grain seeds. According to the State Programs, 12 state and private seed farms have been established here. The support provided by the state to the development of seed production created conditions for the development of this field, and as a result of the measures, the demand for grain seeds was met at the expense of local products.

Compared to 2000, the development of animal husbandry in the region in 2018 was reflected in statistical materials, the number of horned cattle was 328,681, the number of sheep and goats was 450,675, the number of birds was 2,372,190, the number of bee families was 60,981, and the production of meat was 27,537 tons (see table: 2.)

Development of animal husbandry in the south-eastern region of the Republic:

Table: 2.

	2005	2008	2010	2012	2015	2018
Cattle, number	299407	321070	326183	335557	338362	328681
Number of sheep and goats	424348	450281	456160	464470	232647	450675
Birds, number	-	-	2152044	2226577	2275118	2372196
Bee families, number	-	-	24770	28059	32483	60981
Meat production, ton	14155	15468	19209	21732	29088	27537

In 2016, 650 hectares of rice were planted in Lankaran, Astara and Masalli regions and 1568.5 tons of rice was harvested. Compared to 2017, rice planting in the region increased by 30 percent, and the average yield was 40.1 centners. In 2018, grain cultivation in the region was 89,992 thousand hectares, and the yield reached 25.5 centners. Only in Jalilabad district, grain farms were established on 68,469 ha, and the productivity was 29 centners per hectare.

Conclusion

The State Programs of socio-economic development of the regions (2004-2018 years) determined the development directions of agriculture in the region. Tea cultivation, citrus fruit growing, vegetable growing in Lankaran, Astara regions, grain growing, vegetable growing in

Jalilabad, Masalli regions, large livestock farms were established in Lerik, Yardimli regions. In 2016, the increase in the production of agricultural products in the region is more noticeable. Thus, tea production was 962 tons, grape production was 1043 tons, grain and wheat production was 264135 tons, and the number of cattle was 338362.

"State Program for the Development of Tea Cultivation in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2018-2027" is one of the important measures implemented in the field of agriculture in the region. In accordance with the State Program, it is planned to establish tea plantations on an area of 2,000 hectares and increase tea production to 3,000 tons. In 2013, there were 5 hectares of river area in Masalli alone, and in 2018, it was increased to 103 ha, and the yield was 0.6 centner. In 2018, the total area of tea in the region was 1077 ha, production reached 812 tons. 54 farms engaged in tea cultivation have been established in the region.

In total, 6,524 prime breed breeding animals were imported and leased to farmers for 3 years with a 50 percent discount, and 567 livestock farms were established in the region in 2003-2018. As a result, compared to the year 2000, the development of animal husbandry in the region in 2018 was reflected in statistical materials, the number of horned cattle was 328,681, the number of sheep and goats was 450,675, the number of birds was 2,372,190, the number of bee families was 60,981, and the production of meat in the region was 27,537 tons. there are full conditions for the creation of large model breeding complexes. The fodder market and climatic conditions of the region allow the creation of large breeding farms. In the region, large-scale animal husbandry, grain growing, especially citrus fruit growing have been expanded. In Jalilabad district alone, in 2008, new grape seedlings were planted on 300 hectares, and the total area of grape farms in the district was increased to 1500 hectares. If in 2003 there was 49.4 ha of viticulture area in the region, compared to 2018, it reached 1715 ha and 18520 tons of products were produced. Thus, in the years 2013-2018, an increase of 1411 hectares in citrus fruit growing, and 1789 ha in vegetable growing and horticulture was observed in the region. In 2018 alone, a total of 74,341 tons of citrus products and 177,006 tons of vegetable and horticultural products were produced in the region. In the region, there were citrus groves on the total area of 8124 ha and vegetable growing and horticultural farms on the area of 11426 ha. Large economic entities were created with the support of the state. In Lankaran, Astara and Masalli regions, the areas of citrus fruit growing and vegetable growing are more developed.

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