

HISTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL FORMATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE HORSE-BREEDING SECTOR IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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Abstract: This paper examines the institutional formation and modernization of the horse-breeding sector in Uzbekistan during the final quarter of the 20th century from a historical-chronological perspective. Within the framework of agricultural history, the study elucidates the transition of the sector into an industrial phase driven by the implementation of the unified TLM 9-83 standards during the 1980–1990s. It demonstrates that the economic and selective breeding baseline established during this period served as a foundational cornerstone for preserving the genetic pool of indigenous breeds and fostering the contemporary development of equestrian sports and tourism.

Keywords: Horse-breeding, livestock, modernization, standardization, genepool, institutionalization, history.

XX ASRNING SO‘NGGI CHORAGIDA O‘ZBEKISTONDA YILQICHILIK SOHASINING INSTITUTIONAL SHAKLLANISHI VA MODERNIZATSIYASI TARIXI

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada XX asrning so‘nggi choragida O‘zbekistonda yilqichilik sohasining institutsional shakllanishi va modernizatsiya jarayonlari tarixiy-xronologik jihatdan tahlil etilgan. Tadqiqotda 1980–1990-yillarda TLM 9-83 yagona me‘yorlarining joriy etilishi hamda tarmoqning sanoat bosqichiga o‘tishi agrar tarix nuqtai nazaridan yoritilgan. Mazkur davrda yaratilgan iqtisodiy va seleksion baza milliy zotlar genofondini saqlashga hamda zamonaviy ot sporti va turizmning rivojlanishiga poydevor bo‘lgani ko‘rsatilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: Yilqichilik, chorvachilik, modernizatsiya, standartlashtirish, genofond, institutsionallashtirish, tarix.

ИСТОРИЯ ИНСТИТУЦИОНАЛЬНОГО СТАНОВЛЕНИЯ И МОДЕРНИЗАЦИИ ОТРАСЛИ КОНЕВОДСТВА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ В ПОСЛЕДНЕЙ ЧЕТВЕРТИ XX ВЕКА

Аннотация: В данной статье в историко-хронологическом аспекте анализируются процессы институционального становления и модернизации отрасли коневодства в Узбекистане в последней четверти XX века. В контексте

аграрной истории освещается переход отрасли на промышленный этап, обусловленный внедрением единых технических норм ТЛМ 9-83 в 1980–1990-х годах. Показано, что созданная в этот период экономическая и селекционная база послужила фундаментом для сохранения генофонда национальных пород, а также современного развития конного спорта и туризма.

Ключевые слова: Коневодство, животноводство, модернизация, стандартизация, генофонд, институционализация, история.

Introduction. Since the dawn of human civilization, numerous thinkers and scholars have highly acclaimed the role of the horse in society. Because horses served as the primary driving force and a strategic weapon in historical military conflicts for centuries, this subject has been extensively reflected in various literary works and cinematography. The animal's industriousness, devotion to humans, and distinctive loyalty have been immortalized in folklore through diverse proverbs, and have also been widely depicted in the art of sculpture. Today, horse breeding constitutes an integral part of the livestock sector, utilizing horses as a live labor force and a source of production in the agricultural sector, athletic competitions, border patrol, internal affairs structures, and even the underground mining industry. Statistical analysis of the sector demonstrates that over 2.2 million horses are engaged in meeting national economic demands; technically, this indicator corresponds to the total power of 150,000 tractors with a capacity of 15 horsepower each.

According to statistical data, there were approximately 90 million horses globally prior to the Second World War. By 1980, this figure dropped to 66 million worldwide, with 89,000 heads recorded in Uzbekistan. Currently, the equine population in Uzbekistan exceeds 250,000 heads.¹

Horses are managed either in stables or under the herd (taboon) system on pastures, being housed in individual loose boxes (denniks), tie-stalls, or groups within the stables. Working horses are tethered in separate stalls, whereas breeding stallions, nursing broodmares, and racing sports horses are maintained in specialized loose boxes. In accordance with the TLM 9-83 technological design standards for horse-breeding farms, enterprises were categorized based on their production orientation into breeding, working, and commercial farms. In breeding enterprises, stables were designed to accommodate 20, 40, 60, 80, and 120 heads of mares. On pastures, however, mares were grazed together in herds of up to 100, 200, or 300 heads. Commercial farms specialized in meat production were constructed for capacities ranging from 150 to 900 heads, while kumis (mare's milk) production facilities were designed for 50 to 150 heads. If a stable on a breeding farm was built for a capacity of

¹ Xolmirzaev E. «Yilqichilik», Toshkent, «Mexnat», 1990.

40 heads, it housed mares, stallions, and geldings.²

In addition to the aforementioned facilities, stables constructed for working horses must include tie-stalls, a harness repair shop, and a farriery (horseshoeing workshop). Commercial farms dedicated to kumis production feature a specialized milking parlor. Facilities designed for housing young breeding stock are equipped with individual loose boxes (denniks), a training arena (manège), lunging and conditioning paddocks, equine shower units, and distinct sections for both individual and group housing. On pastures, an area of 0.3 to 0.5 hectares is allocated per horse, preferably enclosed with fencing. To afford protection against wind and adverse weather conditions, shelters fitted with internal feeding troughs are constructed. All categories of horse-breeding farms incorporate a veterinary department, a weighing station, watering infrastructure, a blacksmith workshop, a harness repair facility, a feed storehouse, a manure storage area, an administrative office, and utility rooms. Facilities built for young foals were constructed in a modern architectural style, featuring greater height compared to other stables and situated on the windward side.

Stables and their internal equipment must strictly conform to the technological design standards (TLM 9-83). TLM 9-83 (officially designated as VNTP 9-83) is a historical document developed in the 1980s with the objective of modernizing and standardizing the horse-breeding sector. Its historical context and significance can be understood through the following developmental stages: Historical Origins: By the early 1980s, horse breeding across the former Soviet Union began to assume paramount importance, not only within agriculture but also in sports and export sectors (specifically for purebred horses). Adoption of Standards: These regulations were approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR on April 12, 1983, and officially enacted on January 1, 1984. The document was drafted by the "State Design Institute" (TsNIIEPovtseprom) with the active participation of specialists from the "All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Horse Breeding" (VNIHK). Continuity with Previous Regulations: Prior to the adoption of TLM 9-83, the obsolete standards designated as NTP-SX.9-66 (dating from 1966) were in force. The 1983 version imposed significantly more stringent and scientifically grounded requirements regarding horse management technology. Specifically, loose box dimensions were precisely differentiated based on the equine breed (racing, draft, or indigenous breeds). Impact: This document facilitated a transition from an "amateur" approach to an "industrial" paradigm in horse breeding. For the first time, stable heights, window surface areas, and ventilation systems were brought into compliance with a single, rigorous standard.

A substantial number of state stud farms and legacy agricultural enterprises in

² Turdiyev A.K., Islomov G.P., Kulmanov B.P. Zoogigiyena va chorvachilik binolarini loyihalash: o'quv-uslubiy majmua. – Samarqand: Samarqand davlat veterinariya meditsinasi, chorvachilik va biotexnologiyalar universiteti, 2025. – B. 104.

Uzbekistan were constructed based on this exact standard. Even in contemporary designs, these baseline dimensions are frequently utilized as a structural template. Stables were predominantly constructed in "L" (G-shaped) and "U" (P-shaped) configurations, with tie-stalls and loose boxes arranged in two parallel rows. A feed and manure alleyway, measuring 2.6 to 3 meters in width, was laid out between them, along which the horses were systematically managed.

Working horses engaged in heavy labor are provided with rest periods of 1–1.5 hours in the morning, 2–3 hours during midday, and 1–1.5 hours in the evening. Maize (corn), sunflower, and silage constitute the optimal feed components for horses in America. Following labor, rest is provided to facilitate muscular relaxation in the animal. If a horse is watered 30–40 minutes before the cessation of work, it consumes feed with an enhanced appetite. Conversely, if a horse is watered immediately after feeding, it undergoes a metabolic arrest; during this time, barley, oats, and rye swell within the digestive tract, initiating a fermentation process. In young foals, this condition induces colic (gastrointestinal chills) or emesis (vomiting). Consequently, watering should be administered either 40–50 minutes prior to feeding or 2 hours subsequent to it.

Furthermore, watering animals during hot weather can precipitate hoof laminitis (founder) and symptoms of rheumatic inflammation. After labor, the horse is allowed to rest for muscular relaxation; once the animal has cooled down—approximately half an hour later—it is given half a bucket of water, and after another half-hour interval, it is allowed ad libitum water consumption. However, if a horse is watered during active labor, it can immediately resume its duties. The peak milk productivity of mares is observed between 7 and 12 years of age, and milk quality is directly correlated with pasture conditions, feed processing technologies, and the nutritional value of the forage. The provisioning of moldy, decayed, fetid, or toxic plants and feedstuffs is strictly prohibited.³

Due to the fact that foals suckle from their dams 20 to 30 times a day, they must not be separated for extended periods, and mares harnessed to wagons should not be driven at high speeds. Premature weaning of foals significantly impedes their optimal growth and development. The foals of working mares are typically weaned at 5 to 6 months of age, whereas the offspring of breeding mares are separated at 8 months. Young colts are housed in pairs within loose boxes (denniks), where they are systematically trained to tolerate grooming, hoof cleaning, and the fitting of halters and bridles, alongside being turned out daily for exercise. Physical activity in open-air environments promotes anatomical growth, enhances skeletal density, and strengthens immunological resistance against various pathologies. The daily dietary ration must

³ Turdiyev A.K., Islomov G'.P., Kulmanov B.P. Zoogigiyena va chorvachilik binolarini loyihalash: o'quv-uslubiy majmua. – Samarqand: Samarqand davlat veterinariya meditsinasi, chorvachilik va biotexnologiyalar universiteti, 2025. – B. 105.

incorporate high-quality legume and cereal hay, haylage, carrots, and other essential forage components.⁴ Upon reaching two years of age, young horses are progressively trained to accept halters, saddles, and harnesses, as well as to perform various gaits and haul light loads. The successful development of a well-trained horse is heavily contingent upon the knowledge and experience of the trainer, continuous and repetitive exercise regimens, a compassionate attitude toward the animal, patience, the judicious application of discipline and positive reinforcement, and a personalized approach tailored to the individual temperament of the horse.

Proper exploitation of horses as a draught power source plays a pivotal role in maintaining their health and maximizing work productivity. Workloads must be distributed in strict accordance with the physical capacity of the horse. Excessive overworking must be avoided, as it diminishes productivity and predisposes the animals to various pathologies. Horses reach their full physical maturity and strength at 4 to 5 years of age. Optimizing equine labor efficiency without compromising animal health depends on the following critical factors: 1. The body condition score (fatness), age, and live weight of the horse; 2. Proper pre-conditioning and conditioning exercise protocols; 3. Selection of appropriately fitted saddles and harness equipment (tack); 4. Timely feeding, watering, and scheduled rest intervals; 5. Climatic conditions, topographical features, and road quality; 6. The physiological state of the horse.⁵ Harness and saddlery equipment comprises a comprehensive suite of components, including the bridle (yugan), collar/yoke (bo'yinturuq), saddle (egar), girth (ayil), stirrups (o'zangi), breeching/stay-straps (to'xtatuvchi tasma), tug-straps (shoti tasmasi), backband (egarchani ko'tarib turadigan tasma), trace chains (shoti zanjirchasi), throatlatch (tomoqbov), browband/ear-guards (quloqbov), saddle pads/blankets (chirgi, jobuv), neck-straps (tomoq tasma), and coupling reins (qo'shqoq), among others. It is imperative that this equipment is individually fitted and precisely sized for each horse. Proper fitting facilitates optimal equine control, utilization, and riding, while significantly enhancing draught and traction efficiency. Such meticulous attention to equine management has substantially contributed to the historical advancement of horse breeding in Uzbekistan.

Conclusion. Based on the conducted research, it can be concluded that the 1980–1990s constituted the most critical phase in the institutionalization of horse breeding in Uzbekistan. The primary outcomes of this period are summarized as follows: Implementation of Uniform Standards: The application of unified technical regulations

⁴ Turdiyev A.K., Islomov G'.P., Kulmanov B.P. Zoogigiyena va chorvachilik binolarini loyihalash: o'quv-uslubiy majmua. – Samarqand: Samarqand davlat veterinariya meditsinasi, chorvachilik va biotexnologiyalar universiteti, 2025. – B. 105.

⁵ Turdiyev A.K., Islomov G'.P., Kulmanov B.P. Zoogigiyena va chorvachilik binolarini loyihalash: o'quv-uslubiy majmua. – Samarqand: Samarqand davlat veterinariya meditsinasi, chorvachilik va biotexnologiyalar universiteti, 2025. – B. 106.

(TLM 9-83) enabled the establishment of standardized horse-breeding enterprises across the republic, characterized by optimal microclimatic conditions and mechanized feeding and watering processes, which effectively minimized mortality rates among young stock. Strategic Sectoral Integration: During this decade, the Uzbek horse-breeding industry firmly consolidated its status as a strategic sector that harmoniously integrated agriculture, sports, and medicine. Preservation of Genetic Resources: Enhancing personnel qualifications, developing the craftsmanship of saddlery and harness manufacturing, and employing a scientific paradigm in selective breeding facilitated the preservation of the unique gene pool of indigenous equine breeds.

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