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ISSUES OF PASTURE LIVESTOCK IN THE REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

Abstract: Pasture livestock farming plays an important role in the economic and social development of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. This sector plays an important role in ensuring the country's food security, creating jobs, and providing income for the local population. However, there are a number of problems related to pasture livestock farming, which negatively affect the development of the industry.

Keyword: pasture, desert, infrastructure, intensive, degradation.

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ПРОБЛЕМЫ ПАСТБИЩНОГО ЖИВОТНОВОДСТВА В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ КАРАКАЛПАКСТАН

Аннотация: Пастбищное животноводство играет важную роль в экономическом и социальном развитии Республики Каракалпакстан. Этот сектор играет важную роль в обеспечении продовольственной безопасности страны, создании рабочих мест и обеспечении дохода местного населения. Однако существует ряд проблем, связанных с пастбищным животноводством, которые негативно влияют на развитие отрасли.

Ключевое слово: пастбище, пустыня, инфраструктура, интенсивный, деградация.

INTRODUCTION. The territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan is located mainly in the desert and semi-desert zone, and pasture livestock breeding is one of the main economic sectors here. However, in recent years, the efficiency of pasture use has decreased, and a number of problems have arisen. This article discusses these very problems, their causes and consequences, and solutions.

Main part: 1. *The importance of pasture livestock farming*

The Republic of Karakalpakstan is distinguished by unique natural conditions and resources. In this case, land resources can be recognized separately. The total land fund of the republic is 16.6 million hectares, including 419.5 thousand hectares of arable land; pastures - 4447.8 thousand hectares [3]. The population of our republic is growing day by day, and accordingly, the population's demand for livestock products is also increasing. Pasture livestock farming is aimed at satisfying these needs, that is, providing the population with affordable and high-quality products.

In Karakalpakstan, livestock farming is the main source of income for the population. Natural pastures are used for grazing goats, sheep, camels, and cattle. It is connected with the traditional way of life of the local population. Pastures are an important source of production of environmentally friendly livestock products, meeting the population's needs for meat and meat products, as well as medicinal milk and dairy products, as well as valuable and inexpensive raw materials for industry. The largest share in the total volume of livestock production in the

republic fell on the Amu Darya (13.8%), Beruniy (13.3%) and Ellikkala (12.0%) districts. Analysis of the growth rates of livestock production by region showed that high growth rates were noted in the city of Nukus (116.8%), Kegeyli (111.5%), Shumanay (109.2%) districts [7].

Despite this, the productivity of pastures in the Republic of Karakalpakstan has decreased by 42-43%, and there are several problems associated with this system. They are:

2. Major issues:

a) Pasture degradation

- Overgrazing (excessive pasture load).
- Decrease in vegetation cover due to dehydration and climate change.
- Sand drifts, wind erosion.

Excessive grazing of livestock on pastures is the main factor of desertification: 70% of pastures in Uzbekistan are degraded. Reducing or stopping livestock grazing contributes to grass regeneration, but some types of soil degradation are irreversible, such as pollution and spoilage by industry or waste [6].

As a result of improper management and overuse of pastures, erosion of lands and environmental degradation are occurring. This situation leads to a decrease in livestock productivity.

b) Water supply problems

- Obsolescence or absence of water infrastructure.
- Lack of artesian wells for watering livestock.
- Water scarcity due to climate warming.

The limitation of water resources for pastures and their misallocation, as well as the deterioration of irrigation systems, create problems. This situation complicates the water supply, which is important for livestock farming.

c) Infrastructure deficiency

- Poor condition of roads leading to pastures.

- Lack of modern livestock farms, shelters, and medical services.

The lack of modern technologies and management methods for pasture livestock farming, as well as the shortage of specialists, hinders the development of the industry.

d) Insufficient state support

- Insufficient subsidies and loans.
- Lack of training and knowledge for local livestock breeders.

Limited financial resources for pasture livestock farming, lack of credit and support programs, lead to financial difficulties for farmers.

e) development of pasture lands for other purposes;

f) insufficient fodder base;

In desert-pasture livestock farming, pastures serve as the main feed base for livestock. However, the use of pastures and their condition do not meet the requirements of today. Desert-pasture livestock farming, consisting of deserts and semi-deserts In the Republic of Karakalpakstan (total pasture area 4447.8 thousand ha) (as of 2025) 12.4% of pastures (430.0 thousand ha) are not provided with water, that is, 2498.4 thousand ha of pastures are not provided with water [2]. The decrease in the productivity of desert pastures in the pastures of the Republic of Karakalpakstan is 27%. The main factor causing the crisis of pastures is their continuous and haphazard use as a result of the fact that pastures have not yet found their owner, and the main factor hindering the system of their rational use and seasonal use is the interruption of their water supply. Most water sources (mine wells and boreholes) and shepherd's houses, open and closed pens were put into operation 60-70 years ago, and today most of them are in need of repair or are completely out of order. Based on the experience of developed countries, it is necessary to modernize pastures, wells, sheep pens, open and closed pens, and other production facilities.

3. Consequences of issues

- Decline in livestock numbers.

- Decrease in productivity (meat, milk, wool).

Irregular grazing of livestock leads to the death of plants before the end of the growing season, which leads to pasture degradation and a decrease in productivity.

- Providing the population with poor-quality products
- A sharp increase in the price of products as a result of a decrease in the number of livestock;
- A decrease in the income of the population and migration.
- Disturbance of the stability of ecosystems (Ecological risk)

4. Solutions and suggestions: As a solution to the above-mentioned issues, we should mention the following:

- Introduction of a sustainable pasture management system: development of zonal pasture load standards.
- Improving water supply, i.e. improving the irrigation system: introduction of solar-powered pumps, water-saving technologies, as well as control of groundwater, selection of favorable areas for wastewater discharge;
- Organization of sufficient seed production;
- Organization of cooperation with other sectors;
- Effective use of available land and high yields;
- State support: subsidies, grants, farmer training programs and work with qualified specialists in this field, training of personnel with strong knowledge, cooperation with foreign countries;
- Development of livestock infrastructure: mobile veterinary stations, pasture monitoring systems, intensive use of pastures,
- Organization of cultural pastures, rotational and seasonal grazing of livestock on special pastures;
- Development of livestock breeds suitable for the climate: drought-resistant breeds (for example, Karakalpak camels, local goats).
- Conducting special registrations of pastures by the cadastral agency;

- Furthermore, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Pastures" stipulates that pasture rotation should be carried out periodically and sequentially for the use of pasture plots, as well as for the organization of pasture rotation, rational use of pastures, and their protection. This law defines the development, approval, and implementation of state and other programs in the field of pasture use and protection as the main directions of state policy for regulating pasture protection, establishing rules, norms, and standards aimed at preserving pastures, implementing state control, ensuring the reproduction and restoration of pastures, developing research activities and international cooperation, and protecting them as the main directions of state policy.

CONCLUSION. Despite the fact that pasture livestock farming in Karakalpakstan is an economically and environmentally important sector, it faces many systemic problems. A comprehensive approach and cooperation between the state and the local population are necessary to solve these problems. Only through modern technologies, sustainable management, and climate-adapted livestock farming can pasture resources be preserved and developed. Scientifically based production of pasture livestock products in the territory of our republic and providing the population with high-quality and affordable products, as well as the cultivation of environmentally friendly products, are becoming increasingly problematic.

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