

language that would be required for future research in Thailand. The second purpose was to examine the current distribution of agricultural products in Bangkok.

## Subsistence and Water Use in Arid Region in Central Asia: The Case of a Village in Uzbekistan

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Place of Fieldwork: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia

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Keywords: Arid region, Central Asia, irrigation system, pastoralism, water use, socialism

- Background

Today, the world is facing several problems. However, in most cases, only developed countries located in relatively temperate regions such as Western Europe have led the world toward solutions for these issues. Countries in arid regions, although just as affected by these global environmental problems, have had little opportunity to take a leadership role. Arid areas make up a large proportion of all the land mass in the world and the cultures in those arid regions are strongly characterized by their ecological environments. Thus, realizing the relation between culture and ecological environment in arid areas will provide a valuable perspective for solving global problems.



- Purpose

The aim of this research is to clarify the interaction between the ecological environment and culture in the arid region of Central Asia. To this end, I focus on “water use” in limited agriculture like horticulture and raising in the village. In arid Central Asia, oasis farming and pastoral nomadism have been prevalent for a long time. However, through the time Uzbekistan was a part of the Soviet Union and after its independence in 1991, the agriculture in this region has greatly changed and become more complex. In this research, I

examine (1) how people get water, (2) how people use water for agriculture, and (3) the community systems that have been put in place around water use.

- **Results and Achievements of Fieldwork**

The main purpose of this fieldwork was to examine the circumstances of agriculture in villages in Central Asia. Specifically, I examined the types of crops grown in gardens, the types of livestock the people have and how they control them, the presence of irrigation systems, and the structure and functioning of other agricultural infrastructure.

I found a persistent influence of the national policies from the years of socialism. However, the extent of influence varied by location. For example, in Uzbekistan, people used the irrigation system constructed during the Soviet Union period during that time but afterwards relinquished it. In Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand, a family that I contacted was completely independent of that influence in their management of their water supply.



- **Implications and Directions for Future Research**

In this fieldwork, a general outline of the agriculture in arid Central Asia was developed and a detailed analysis could not be accomplished. Future research will focus on one village as a case study and will survey the previous research area, and in the next fieldwork, I will examine the agricultural circumstances by quantitative data.