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KAZAKH AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

History and Organization

The Kazakh State Agricultural Institute, now 20 years old, opened in Alma-Ata in autumn 1930 with 120 students. It is now one of the largest institutes in the Kazakh SSR, with a student body of over 1,100. (1) The institute graduated 153 persons at the end of the 1949 - 1950 school year, and admitted 325 new students at the beginning of the present school year. (2)

Since it opened, the institute has graduated 1,500 highly qualified agricultural specialists, including agronomists-husbandrymen, pomiculturists, bacciculturists, agricultural, mechanical, and electrical engineers, and conservation and forestry engineers, who now work in all parts of the USSR. In addition, the institute has retrained over 4,000 agricultural administrative personnel, such as directors of MTS and sovkhoses, heads of rayon soviet agriculture sections, and MTS mechanics and agronomists. (1)

Entrance Requirements

The institute is open to any Soviet citizen, 17 - 35 years of age, of either sex, who has completed secondary school and who is able to pass entrance examinations in mathematics, physics, chemistry, Russian language and literature, and Kazakh language and literature. Students who have been awarded gold and silver scholarship medals upon graduation from secondary school are exempted from entrance examinations.

Applications for entrance are accepted each year, from 20 June to 31 July. The applicant must indicate the department (fakul'tet) and specialty in which he intends to do his work, and submit an autobiography, diploma of graduation from secondary school, identity card to be presented upon arrival, three photographs, and record of draft status.

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Entrance examinations at the institute are usually given 1 - 20 August, registration of students takes place 21 - 25 August, and instruction begins 1 September. (3)

Fees

The fee for instruction at the institute, by decree of the Council of Peoples' Commissars, No 1860, 2 October 1940, is 400 rubles a year. Decree No 1696, 15 October 1942, exempts Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Uigurs, and Tatars from payment of the fee. Disabled war veterans and their dependents, and disabled pensioners and their children are also exempted from payment of the fee. (4)

Scholarships

All students enrolled in the institute are provided with a monthly stipend, ranging from 140 rubles during the first year, to 160 rubles the second year, 185 rubles the third and fourth years, and 210 rubles during the fifth year. In addition, students who receive a grade of excellent in all their school work receive an additional of 25 percent.

Outstanding students, chosen by the academic council, receive, in addition to the amounts listed above, a Stalin Stipend of 500 rubles per month. (4)

Departments, Chairs, and Courses

The institute has six departments: Agronomy, Pomiculture, Agricultural Mechanization, Agricultural Electrification, Water Resources Development, and Timber Management. One section in each department carries on instruction in the Kazakh language. The institute also has a Department of Correspondence Education, which provides instruction in Agronomy, Pomiculture, Water Resources Development, and Timber Management. (3)

Fifty chairs and laboratories have been set up at the institute. (1)

Work in specialties under the Agronomy and Pomiculture departments may be completed in 4 years and 7 months; work in specialties under the departments of Agricultural Mechanization, Agricultural Electrification, Water Resources Development, and Timber Management require 5 years and 6 months to complete. (4)

Officers and Faculty

The director of the institute is A. Zhumatov.

The Chair of Soil Science and Agrochemistry, headed by Professor A. V. Mukhlya, Honored Scientist of the Kazakh SSR, has done much work on agricultural utilization of the natural resources of Central Kazakhstan. Mukhlya is one of the pioneer scientists engaged in research on the arid and semiarid regions of the republic.

The Chair of Pomiculture, under the direction of A. P. Dragavtsev, Honored Scientist of the Kazakh SSR, has introduced a number of agronomic improvements into kolkhoz pomiculture.

The Chair of Farming, headed by Professor V. Ye. Kazakov, Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, is working on the development of an improved grassy layer for the dry steppe area of Kazakhstan. On the basis of his extensive experimental work, Professor Kazakov has worked out practical methods for the rapid growing of such a grassy layer.

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The Chair for Organization of Agricultural Enterprises, until recently directed by the late K. B. Babayev, Honored Scientist of the Kazakh SSR, has almost completed a project on the problem of agricultural distribution and specialization in the various regions of the republic. This work is based upon the development of a system for increasing the crop yield and cattle productivity in all oblasts of Kazakhstan.

The head of the Chair of Repairs is Docent A. O. Proskuryakov, Candidate of Technical Sciences.

The head of the Chair of Hydraulic Structures is Docent I. M. Volkov.

The head of the Chair of Agricultural Conservation is Docent V. I. Alekseyev.

During the past 5 years, dozens of scientific research works have been completed in the various chairs of the institute, and 24 resulting improvements have been introduced into socialist agricultural production. The 500 members of the institute's student scientific society have been assisting in the research. Individual research is carried on by the teaching staff, which includes eight professors and doctors of sciences, and 36 docents and candidates of sciences; 30 of the 38 staff members holding academic degrees and titles are Kazakhs.

The institute also performs a variety of other functions directly aiding agricultural production. In addition to propogandizing the fundamentals of Michurin biological science and giving regular lectures and talks on agriculture, workers at the institute give direct aid to MTS and kolkhozes in the course of periodic visits.

At the suggestion of the institute's party organization and the academic council, many of the institute's scholars are devoting their services to the new 3-year courses for training skilled kolkhoz workers. (1)

New Facilities

Two new school buildings, plus a shed for tractors and agricultural machinery have been erected. A complex hydraulic-engineering laboratory has been set up for use by students in their practical training; other student training is done on the leading kolkhozes, MTS, and sovkhoses of the republic. (1)

SOURCES

1. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 12 Nov 50
2. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 24 Jun 50
3. Spravochnik dlya postupayushchikh v vysshiye uchebnyye zavedeniya Soyuznaya SSR v 1950 g, Ministry of Higher Education USSR, Moscow, published by Sovetskaya Nauka State Publishing House, 1950, pp 5 - 9, 139
4. Vysshaya Shkola (Basic Degrees, Orders, and Instructions), compiled by M. I. Movshovich, edited by A. M. Khodzhayeva, All-Union Committee on Higher School Affairs, Council of Peoples' Commissars USSR, Moscow, published by Sovetskaya Nauka Publishing House, 1945, pp 65 - 75

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