**Published Date: - 30-09-2025** 



# DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF THE KHOREZM OASIS'S ANCIENT FARMING

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### **Abstract**

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of some considerations about the agricultural culture of Khorezm in ancient times. Including this in the period artificial structures built canals, irrigation harbor methods about in detail information given.

**Keywords:** - Khorezm oasis, ancient period, water structures.

#### Introduction

After the Khorezmians built a city with a defensive system, they began to build military fortresses in areas close to nomadic tribes in order to rapidly develop agriculture and livestock farming in fertile areas. Due to the construction of Kuyisaykala in the south and Kangkhaqala in the Tuzgir hills in the southwest, the military security of the agricultural oases from this side was ensured. On the western side, the Butentou-1-2 monuments were built as military fortresses. After strengthening the defense capabilities of the southern and western sides, Odoytepa and Koshqala were built on the eastern side. In our opinion, since the military threat from that side was not as great as the Khorezmians expected, they built small military posts to control the agricultural activities in the oases. After securing the southwestern and southeastern regions, the Khorezmians gradually began to develop new territories.

Kuzalikyr is located on the hill near the Charmanyab canal, Khazorasp is located on the lowland near the Khazorasp canal, Dingilja is located on the lowland in the Kaltaminar irrigation area. In this historical period, the internal structure of the city consisted of a single part, with palaces, warehouses, and residential buildings built along narrow streets and walls. Khazorasp in the southern region, and Bazarkala in the northeastern region were irrigation farming cultures . The northeastern irrigation farming center was Oybuyirkala, Ichankala, and the last part of the Palvanyab canal was the irrigation farming center. The irrigation farming centers of the Sarikamysh basin were the cities of Kuzalikyr and Qalalikyr. In the late 5th - early 4th centuries BC, the knowledge of architectural, topographic, and defensive structures covered the northern and northeastern sides.

In Khorezm, a high culture of agriculture emerged in ancient times based on artificial irrigation and developed in the same way as in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and other countries of the East.

The development of such main canals as a continuation of the primitive estuary method of irrigation is also observed in the left-bank Khorezm region. If we count from the time when the Devkeskan fortress was founded (approximately at the beginning of our era), water may have flowed in Davdon at that time as well.

We witness the further expansion and development of agriculture based on artificial irrigation, which was based on the excavation of large main canals in the urban ruins of the 6th-3rd centuries BC. The Bazarkala monument from the so-called Kang period is of particular



**Published Date: - 30-09-2025** 

importance. The area along the canal that flows through this area is where most of the material sources of the Bazarkala culture are found. The results of archaeological research at the site have shown that this area has been inhabited by people who were engaged in agriculture since ancient times. In the 1st millennium BC, the construction of large main canals, the reconstruction of various water distribution and drainage structures in Khorezm was in full swing. The traces of irrigation structures and demarcated fields found in the ancient Akchadarya basin are reminiscent of classical basin agriculture in ancient Egypt.

Even in ancient times, the farmers of the Khorezm oasis developed farming traditions to further improve their lifestyle, expanded artificial irrigation networks, and improved undeveloped lands. As a result, the agricultural area expanded and they invented other methods of bringing water to irrigate their fields. For example, they used methods such as "sepma", "dapma", and "nova". In the sepma and dapma methods, water was poured from the bottom up using a wooden handle 1-1.5 meters long, like a bucket or a bucket, using hands or feet. In the nova method, a trough was made of long wood, and in this way, water was also pumped from the bottom up to the top, irrigating the fields. The farmers of the Khorezm oasis faced a number of difficulties in irrigating their fields. Over time, agriculture gradually improved. Since the Amu Darya River flowed below the fields in some places, farmers took measures to transport water to higher ground. As a result, they invented various methods of transporting water to higher ground. Perhaps they also used other methods unknown to us.

As a result of the development of the artificial irrigation system, the cultivated areas expanded and the number of agricultural products increased. During this period, wheat, peach, grape, and apricot seeds were identified among the agricultural products in Khorezm.

Intensive and productive agriculture, associated with the desire to use even a small piece of irrigated land, the dense settlement of the population in irrigated areas, and finally, the use of raw bricks and clays containing nitrate from the ruins of buildings since ancient times to fertilize the fields, led to the fact that ancient villages and cities in populated areas were either completely destroyed or remained among the layers of medieval culture.

As a result of the development of the artificial irrigation system, the cultivated areas expanded and the number of agricultural products increased. During this period, wheat, peach, grape, and jiida seeds were identified in Khorezm. Even today, peach, grape, and jiida fruits are grown in many areas of the Khorezm region. The taste of jiida, planted in rows along the ditches (yap), is especially unique.

In 1937, Yahya Gulomov resumed archaeological excavations of the ancient irrigated lands of Southern Karakalpakstan and examined the medieval sites of Guldursun and Narinjan, as well as the ruins of Pilkal'a near Shabbos, dating back to the early centuries of the new era. In the same year, an expedition led by S.P. Tolstov also began its work in the same area.

It is no coincidence that this area was chosen for archaeological research. The task was to go beyond the inhabited areas, into the desert, and find there the relics that had survived from the most ancient times. This was required by both the experience of expeditions to East Turkestan at the beginning of the 20th century and the specific features of Central Asian agriculture.

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**Published Date: - 30-09-2025** 

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