REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

ZAKAT SCIENCES INSTITUTE

ZAKAT COLLECTION METHODS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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Zakat Collection Methods of Agricultural Products

1. Introduction:

Islam is the religion of the majority of the Sudanese people. Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. Agriculture is the major activity of the Sudanese people, so zakat on agricultural products acquires vital importance in the Sudanese society. The Sudanese experience in the field was very rich, but it needs more studies more practices for more efficiency and effectiveness. That will lead us to greater success in our current life and the other life, were by we gain Allah acceptance.

2. The vessel of agricultural products:

Here are definitions of some terms related to the collection of zakat:

- **Vessel:** The basin of agricultural products' resources.
- Agricultural products: These are the products which produce by growing plants for direct or indirect benefits of human beings.

The vessel of agricultural products can be divided into three groups:

- **Crops:**

  This group distinguishes from the other groups as it can be dry, also can be measured and stored. The main types of this group are: maize, wheat, beans and ground nuts.

- **Fruits:**

  This group is less measurable than the first one. It doesn't dry and it can be stored for limited and short period of time. The main types of this group are: Orange, mango, lemon, bananas and guava.

- **Vegetables:**

  This group has less ability of storage, can not be dried, it is very difficult to measure it. The main types of this group are: Onion, potato, tomato, and carrot,

3. The main methods of collection:

According to Sudanese experience which practiced by zakat chamber, there are two main methods of collection for this vessel:

- **The kind method:**

  In this method zakat should be taken in kinds. This method depends on the field work in the area of the product (the farm).

  - The main characteristics of this method are:
    - Zakat should be taken in kinds.
    - The farm is the field of work.
    - Collection happens on the time of harvesting.
  - **The advantages of this method are:**
    - This method is more acceptable for large sector of people and it is the favourite for scholars.
    - It is relevant for large areas, large farms and large production (mechanized irrigated schemes), Algazeera and Algadarif regions.
    - More yield of zakat collection.
    - It enable managers and supervisors to practice well monitoring and good supervis
  - **The disadvantages of this method are:**
    - It is not relevant for small areas and small farms.
    - It costs much.
    - It needs a lot of employees.
    - It needs more means of transportation than the second one.

- **The cashual method:**
  - In this method zakat should be taken in cash what ever and when ever there are products subject to zakat and the zakat has not been paid.

The main characteristics of this method are:

- Zakat should be taken in cash.
- It is not necessary to do collection in the field (in the farm).
- It is not necessary to take zakat on the time of harvesting, but it can be collected later on or after the time of harvesting.

➢ The main advantages of this method are:

- It is easy in practice.
- It costs less than the first one.
- It needs less number of employees than the first one.
- It needs less means of transportation.
- It is relevant to small cultivated areas (small farms) as in the case of Darfur and kordofan.

➢ The disadvantages of this method are:

- This method is debatable, scholars argued that it neglects some principles of shariaa.
- Some difficulties in monitoring and supervision arise.
- The probability of corruption is relatively high in this method.
- It is not relevant to large areas (large farms).

4. The procedures of collection:

The following systematic steps should be done for efficient and effective collection:

❖ Zakat call and propagation:

The activities of propagation and information are of a vital importance for the collection of zakat prior to the beginning of collection season, meetings, discussions, seminars, and work shops should take place first Fair and proper distribution of zakat is considered as an effective mean of propagation.

❖ **Information:**

Gathering as much information as possible is key factor of successful collection. Information should be gathered from relevant and reliable sources. Also it must be verified so as to be credible information.

The main sources of information are:

- The shared information with in zakat offices
- The field surveys
- Collection and distribution points
- Other establishments (collaborators entities or individuals)

❖ **Practical steps of collection:**

Here are some steps which considered being very important for efficient and effective collection:

Declaration:

The declaration should be a form which will be filled in by the farmer (the owner).The purpose of this declaration is to inform the farmer about the time and the place of zakat payment and other related information. Practically speaking the form were neglected. Some employees provide verbal information rather than written one.

Negotiation:

According to the provided information, discussion usually takes place between the collector and the farmer in order to agree on the total and the net production of the farmer.

Identification:

It is the result of negotiation in the above previous step to identify the net production and consequently to identify the required mount of zakat to be paid. Implementation:

To apply the previous step by receiving the required mount of zakat from the farmer.

- **Registration and documentation:**

  To register and provide documented information about exact mount of received zakat. Also to provide the person who paid zakat with document against the mount of zakat he has paid.

- **Keeping and storage:**

  This step means to keep zakat in treasury or a bank if it is in cash and keep it in store if it is in kinds.

5. Conclusion:

Due to the large areas cultivatable in Sudan, the diversity of climates and the patterns of farming, there is variety of products in quantities and qualities as well. So we need to improve and develop the two methods of collection for more efficiency and effectiveness in accordance with shariaa.