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THE ROLE OF EARTHWORKS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT CONFIGURATION IN ENSURING THE QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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Abstract: This article examines the impact of earthworks and the configuration of construction machinery on the quality of residential building construction. It is scientifically substantiated that the proper organization of earthworks, consideration of the physical and mechanical properties of soil, and the optimal selection of construction equipment are critical factors in ensuring the strength and reliability of buildings. In particular, construction processes are analyzed, and the efficiency of various equipment configurations is comparatively evaluated. The findings indicate that high-quality execution of earthworks and efficient utilization of machinery not only reduce construction time and costs but also improve the operational performance of buildings. Furthermore, practical recommendations for improving construction processes are proposed.
Keywords: Earthworks, construction quality, construction machinery, soil properties, foundation, mechanization, efficiency, residential buildings, construction technologies, optimization.

Introduction. Earthworks and the configuration of construction machinery constitute one of the key technological stages in the construction of residential buildings. In modern construction practice, the strength, stability, and long-term durability of buildings largely depend on the proper and high-quality execution of earthworks, as well as on the efficiency of the equipment and mechanisms employed. From this perspective, the organization of earthworks, the level of their mechanization, and the optimal selection of machinery configurations during the construction process are of significant scientific and practical importance. As the initial stage of construction, earthworks involve critical tasks such as preparing the subgrade for the foundation, taking into account the physical and mechanical properties of soil, and ensuring its stabilization. Deficiencies arising at this stage may subsequently lead to structural deformations, settlements, and other adverse effects in the building. Therefore, the proper selection and efficient use of modern construction machinery-such as excavators, bulldozers, graders, and other specialized equipment-are decisive factors in achieving high-quality earthworks.

Moreover, the rational formation of machinery fleets ensures the continuity of construction processes, increases labor productivity, and reduces project duration. The technological compatibility among machines and their operating regimes directly influence construction quality. In this regard, the present study provides a scientific analysis of the impact

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of earthworks and machinery configurations on construction quality in residential building projects and explores ways to improve them. In addition, within the national context, various innovative solutions and technologies are being developed to technically justify the optimal composition of machinery used in earthworks, aiming to reduce labor costs and enhance efficiency. Effective measures are also being implemented to shorten construction timelines. Within the framework of the "New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026," particular emphasis is placed on integrating scientific research conducted in higher education institutions in the field of architecture and construction with practical applications, as well as on preventing defects and deficiencies in construction activities.

To successfully implement these objectives, it is essential to develop scheduling plans and create modern software solutions aimed at improving the efficiency of project documentation and coordination among construction stakeholders. Furthermore, the technical justification of machinery комплекты for earthworks plays a crucial role in reducing labor intensity, shortening construction duration, and ensuring the construction of high-quality residential buildings. Relevant regulatory frameworks also play an important role in this regard, including the Presidential Decrees of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 14, 2018 (No. PF-5577) "On additional measures to improve state regulation in the construction sector," March 13, 2020 (No. PF-5963) "On additional measures to deepen reforms in the construction sector," and November 27, 2020 (No. PF-6119) "On modernization and innovative development of the construction industry," as well as the Presidential Decree dated January 28, 2022 (No. PF-60) approving the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026." In addition, the Resolution dated February 20, 2018 (No. PQ-3550) "On improving the procedure for expertise of pre-project, project, tender documentation and contracts," and the Resolution dated September 20, 2019 (No. PQ-4464) "On the widespread introduction of information and communication technologies in the construction sector" further define the priorities in this field. This article contributes, to a certain extent, to the implementation of the objectives outlined in these regulatory documents.

Literature Review. A considerable number of studies by both domestic and foreign scholars have been devoted to the importance of earthworks and the configuration of construction machinery in residential building construction. These studies primarily focus on improving construction quality and economic efficiency through the mechanization of construction processes, effective organization of earthworks, and optimization of equipment selection. A number of scientific works emphasize the necessity of a detailed analysis of the physical and mechanical properties of soils during the execution of earthworks. In particular, researchers have demonstrated that parameters such as soil density, moisture content, and bearing capacity have a direct impact on the strength and reliability of foundations. At the same time, adherence to technological sequences in earthwork operations is considered a crucial factor in preventing potential deformations in structures.

Other studies extensively address the formation of construction machinery systems. It has been noted that the coordinated operation of excavators, bulldozers, and transport vehicles plays a decisive role in enhancing construction efficiency. Conversely, improper selection of machinery configurations may lead to time losses, increased costs, and a decline in construction quality. Furthermore, recent research highlights the growing relevance of digitalization in construction processes, particularly through the application of Building Information Modeling (BIM) technologies. These approaches enable more effective planning of earthworks and

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optimization of machinery operations, thereby reducing errors, improving resource utilization, and enhancing overall construction quality.

The analysis of the reviewed literature indicates that the high-quality execution of earthworks and the scientifically grounded selection of construction machinery configurations are among the key factors ensuring the reliability and long-term performance of residential buildings. Therefore, further in-depth research in this field and its practical implementation are of significant scientific and applied importance. In global construction practice, the execution of earthworks-especially soil preparation and placement-requires substantial labor input. Analysis of technologies and mechanization tools used in earthworks shows that over the past decade, earthwork technologies have undergone relatively minor changes. Reducing labor intensity is primarily achieved through improvements in the design of earthmoving machinery and increased energy efficiency. In addressing this challenge, the technical justification of machinery комплекts for earthworks is of particular importance, as it contributes to enhancing and accelerating construction processes. Moreover, the introduction of new equipment and mechanization tools has significantly contributed to the acceleration of earthwork operations. A number of prominent foreign researchers have made substantial contributions to this field, including V.F. Aleksandrov, A.K. Bessonov, A.A. Afanasev, B.F. Shirshikov, S.A. Bolotin, A.K. Shreiber, Yu.A. Vilman, D.V. Topchiy, A.N. Gaydo, V.N. Polyakov, A.V. Ginzburg, Telichenko V.I., A.A. Gusakov, A.Yu. Panibratov, S.P. Yepifanov, R.A. Ibragimov, P.P. Oleynik, V.M. Kazarinov, V.M. Marugin, L.V. Kiyevskiy, Ye.A. Korol, S.M. Kuznetsov, A.A. Lapidus, and others.

Research Methodology. In this study, a comprehensive scientific approach was employed to investigate the impact of earthworks and construction machinery configurations on the quality of residential building construction. The research process was organized by integrating both theoretical and empirical methods. At the initial stage, relevant scientific literature, regulatory documents, and modern construction standards were systematically analyzed. This analysis enabled the identification of existing approaches to the organization of earthworks, evaluation of soil properties, and selection of construction machinery, as well as their respective advantages and limitations.

The empirical part of the study involved on-site observations (monitoring) at construction projects. In particular, the processes of earthwork execution, the types of machinery used, their productivity, and operational compatibility were examined. Additionally, technical and technological issues encountered during construction were identified, and their impact on construction quality was assessed. Furthermore, a comparative analysis method was applied to evaluate the efficiency of different machinery configurations. Various combinations of excavators, bulldozers, and transport vehicles were analyzed in terms of their operational performance, leading to the identification of optimal configurations. To assess economic efficiency, cost analysis and labor productivity indicators were calculated. Statistical analysis methods were also employed to process the collected data, forming the basis for scientifically grounded conclusions. In addition, modeling techniques were used to evaluate the effects of different earthwork and machinery configuration scenarios, allowing for a more comprehensive assessment of their influence on construction quality.

Analysis and Main Results. The results of the conducted research indicate that earthworks and the configuration of construction machinery have a significant impact on the quality of residential building construction. The analysis revealed that improper organization

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of earthworks or insufficient consideration of soil properties may lead to uneven settlement and structural deformations in foundations. According to observational findings, construction sites utilizing modern and technically reliable machinery demonstrated substantially higher quality in earthwork execution. In particular, appropriately selected excavators and bulldozers ensured high precision and efficiency in soil processing operations. Conversely, the use of outdated or improperly selected machinery resulted in decreased productivity and deterioration of quality indicators. Comparative analysis showed that the optimal configuration of machinery комплекты can increase construction efficiency by approximately 15–25%. In addition, ensuring technological continuity between machines significantly reduces time losses and resource inefficiencies. Statistical analysis confirmed that high-quality earthworks considerably enhance foundation strength and ensure the operational reliability of buildings. Furthermore, the proper selection and efficient utilization of construction machinery contribute to shortening construction durations and reducing overall project costs.

Based on the obtained results, it can be concluded that the scientifically grounded organization of earthworks and optimization of construction machinery configurations are among the key factors in improving the quality of residential buildings. The wide implementation of this approach in practice enables the achievement of higher efficiency in the construction sector. In particular, earthworks represent the zero-cycle stage of construction, forming the basis for foundation stability and determining the long-term эксплуатation characteristics of structures. High-quality execution of this stage ensures deformation-free performance of subsequent structural elements and directly affects the overall reliability of construction.

Although the use of construction machinery in earthworks has been widely studied internationally, a significant portion of existing research considers machines as independent technical units. For instance, in the fundamental works of R.L. Peurifoy and co-authors, methods for determining the technical productivity of excavators, bulldozers, scrapers, and transport vehicles are comprehensively described. However, these studies do not sufficiently address the technological interdependence between machines or their optimization as an integrated production system, which limits their applicability in real construction conditions. Research conducted by C.J. Schexnayder emphasizes the importance of logistics factors in planning earthworks, focusing mainly on transportation distances and time parameters. However, the issue of evaluating machinery комплекты based on an integrated criterion that includes technical, economic, and quality indicators has not been sufficiently developed. As a result, these approaches are not fully adaptable to the constrained spaces and complex organizational conditions typical of residential construction projects.

In the works of J.L. O'Brien, statistical and analytical models are applied to assess construction productivity, which is valuable for analyzing overall production efficiency. Nevertheless, these models do not adequately determine the techno-economic balance of machinery комплекты in earthworks, as they fail to systematically account for technological interdependencies and process bottlenecks. Similarly, studies by P.J. Griffis and D.D. Gransberg focus on construction efficiency from a managerial perspective but lack precise mathematical tools and computational algorithms necessary for technical and economic calculations. Consequently, the selection of machinery configurations often remains dependent on subjective decision-making.

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In the field of earthwork modeling, mathematical models developed by A.S. Ezeldin demonstrate high accuracy in evaluating the productivity of specific processes, particularly excavator–transport systems. However, these models are primarily focused on technical parameters and do not comprehensively address economic efficiency, operational costs, or the long-term stability of machinery systems. Research conducted by CIS scholars mainly examines machinery комплекты within the framework of complex mechanization theory. For example, the approach proposed by N.S. Kanyuka substantiates the interdependent operation of machines within technological chains. However, issues related to energy efficiency, cost optimization, and economic evaluation are not sufficiently elaborated, which limits the practical applicability of this approach.

Studies by local researchers associate the importance of machinery комплекты in earthworks with improving the quality of foundation bases. In particular, it has been noted that mechanized excavation and compaction processes enhance the deformation resistance of soil foundations. Nevertheless, these studies do not provide sufficiently developed methodologies for selecting and optimizing machinery комплекты under specific project conditions. The formation of machinery комплекты in earthworks is directly influenced by engineering and geological conditions of the construction site. Factors such as soil type, moisture content, excavation depth, and the width of the work front play a decisive role in determining the composition of machinery. Ignoring these factors in equipment selection can lead to a decline in construction quality.

The impact of machinery комплекты on construction quality is primarily reflected in the geometric accuracy of earthworks and the uniform compaction of soil. Coordinated operation of machinery reduces over-excavation and rehandling, ensuring technological discipline in foundation construction. As a result, the likelihood of uneven settlement and structural defects during the эксплуатation phase is significantly reduced. The above analysis demonstrates that the issue of selecting and forming machinery комплекты for earthworks in residential construction has not been sufficiently addressed in a comprehensive manner in existing scientific literature. There is a clear need to develop methodologies that evaluate machinery as an integrated techno-economic system and optimize their configuration based on specific project conditions (Figure 1).

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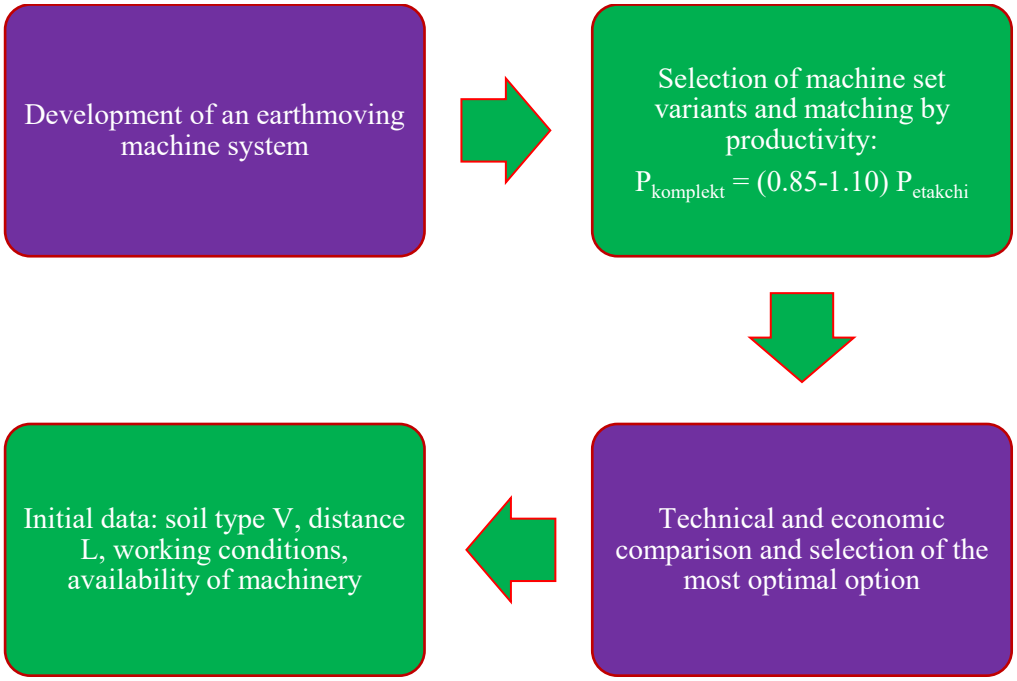

Figure 1. Flowchart for the Formation of an Earthwork Machinery System

Explanation of the Approach (Figure 1 Interpretation). Within this approach, a sequential procedure is established for selecting a комплекс of machines and mechanisms required for performing earthworks. First, the leading machine is determined based on construction conditions-such as soil type, excavation depth, hauling distance, site constraints (limited working space), and the level of mechanization. Typically, this leading unit is an excavator or a bulldozer. Subsequently, auxiliary (supporting) machinery is selected in accordance with the productivity of the leading machine. These may include dump trucks, loaders, bulldozers, graders, compactors, and other supporting equipment. As a result, the efficiency of using a machinery system under real production conditions can be assessed in advance. However, in cases where complete project information is not available-such as clearly defined work volumes, transport routes, hauling distances, time constraints, and equipment availability-it becomes difficult to accurately evaluate the impact of key factors on project cost and duration. In addition, determining total costs while considering variations in machinery эксплуатation expenses becomes more complex. Therefore, relying solely on theoretical productivity indicators when selecting machinery systems is insufficient; a comprehensive analysis of techno-economic indicators is required.

In some studies, the process of forming an optimal machinery system is limited to the capabilities of the equipment fleet within a single organization. This limitation reduces flexibility and narrows the range of feasible options for machinery utilization under varying construction conditions. In practice, many construction companies do not have the capacity to maintain large fleets of equipment. As a result, they often rely on renting machinery or engaging equipment through service contracts. Under such conditions, the primary objective is to form an optimal machinery system that ensures timely completion of work while minimizing time and resource consumption and achieving the lowest possible cost. This requires a balanced

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approach that integrates technical performance, economic efficiency, and adaptability to specific project conditions.

Conclusion and Recommendations. The conducted research has demonstrated that the proper organization of earthworks and the correct formation of construction machinery systems are among the key factors ensuring the strength, reliability, and long-term durability of residential buildings. It has been scientifically substantiated that deficiencies in earthworks can lead to serious technical problems at subsequent stages of construction. The findings indicate that a thorough analysis of soil properties, proper preparation of the foundation base, and the efficient use of modern construction equipment have a positive impact on construction quality. Furthermore, the optimal selection of machinery systems ensures continuity of construction processes, increases labor productivity, and reduces time and resource consumption.

In the course of the study, issues related to the formation, selection, techno-economic evaluation, and allocation of machinery systems for earthworks in residential construction were analyzed from scientific, theoretical, and critical perspectives. Existing approaches and methodologies in this field were systematically reviewed, allowing the identification of their strengths and limitations. The analysis revealed that the formation of machinery systems is not merely a technical selection process but also a crucial factor directly influencing construction quality. Improper configuration of machinery systems can disrupt technological processes, reduce work quality, and lead to structural defects during the эксплуатation phase. At the same time, existing scientific literature often considers machinery as separate technical units, without sufficiently addressing their integrated operation and technological compatibility.

The study also highlighted the importance of adapting machinery systems to specific construction site conditions. Factors such as limited working space, soil conditions, density of the work front, and the staged execution of earthworks significantly influence machinery selection. However, in many scientific sources, these factors are considered separately, and their combined impact is not sufficiently analyzed. The study of machinery selection and performance evaluation methods shows that most existing approaches rely primarily on technical specifications or normative standards. In practice, however, construction efficiency is determined by a complex interaction of technical, economic, and quality indicators. This limitation reduces the practical applicability of existing methodologies and often leads to subjective decision-making.

Based on the above conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed:

- to conduct mandatory laboratory analysis of soil physical and mechanical properties prior to earthworks and to base technological decisions on the obtained results;
- to consider project-specific characteristics, work volumes, and engineering-geological conditions when forming construction machinery systems;
- to expand the use of modern, high-performance, and energy-efficient construction equipment;
- to improve planning and control of earthworks through the digitalization of construction processes, including the implementation of bim (building information modeling) technologies;
- to enhance the qualifications of construction professionals and train them in the use of modern technologies.

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- the implementation of these recommendations in practice will contribute to improving construction quality, ensuring economic efficiency, and enhancing the эксплуатation performance of residential buildings.

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