



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Characterizing (Agri)culture: Production vs. Products in the Archaeobotanical Assemblage of Kimirek Kum 1, Uzbekistan

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## Abstract

Irrigation agriculture in arid regions of Central Asia has historically and heuristically been linked to state-level organization, sedentism, and hierarchal social organization. The archaeological site of Kimirek-kum-1 (KK1), located in the Bukhara region of central Uzbekistan, provides evidence for agricultural products during the later second millennium BCE, when the hallmarks of state-level organization and marked hierarchy are lacking in the wider region. Analysis of archaeobotanical remains from KK1, summarized here for the first time, has identified several domesticates including barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), broomcorn millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), and legumes (*Pisum sativum*, *Vicia ervilia*, *Lens culinaris/orientalis*), as well as numerous charred wild seeds. Environmental proxies (wood charcoal, pollen, and wild seeds) and the site's location along a former branch of the Zerafshan River, point to a greater variety of plant genera than is present around KK1 today. This site serves as a case study in interrogating the relationship between archaeological context, agricultural products, and broader evidence for food production. In so doing, we might look past sterile associations between agriculture and particular socio-political forms, toward deeper anthropological questions about the role of agriculture in small, decentralized, potentially mobile communities.

## Keywords

Agriculture, Archaeology, Environment, Agropastoralism

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