

D. G. Khan Districts. These receive perennial canal irrigation from the upper Indus barrages. The remainder of the cultivated land in these two Districts consists of piedmont plains, some of which are watered from inundation canals and the remainder by hill torrents and sparse rainfall.

In Former Bahawalpur, cover and meander flood plains occupy about 2.5 million acres, and culturable sand plains another 1.0 million acres. In Former Sind (including Khairpur), cover and meander flood plains occupy approximately 12 million acres, while the active flood plain of the Indus extends over 1.2 million acres.

In summary, if we consider that the bars (4.5 million acres), the meander and cover flood plains (26.6 million acres), and portions of the rolling and level sand plains (3.8 million acres), have the most actual or potential promise for productive agriculture, we arrive at a total of around 35 million acres in the Indus Plain which could warrant intensive development, provided the soils were sufficiently permeable and not uneconomically saline as they appear to be in parts of southern Former Sind. This compares with the present gross sown area under canal irrigation of about 23 million acres and the culturable area presently commanded by canals from the river barrages of about 30 million acres.

The Water

Weather and Climate

From the meteorological standpoint, West Pakistan must be considered in its relation to the entire Indian Subcontinent and the Himalaya, Kara Korum, and Hindu Kush Mountains. The Province itself is characterized by great physiographic contrasts between the mountains to the north, the intervening foothills and the Indus Plain to the south. These contrasts are reflected in the regimes of precipitation, air temperature, humidity, and evapotranspiration.

Throughout the Indus Plain, most of the rain falls during the monsoon period—June to October. Winter rains, generally one to two inches, usually come in December and January.

Average Annual Rainfall

In the outliers of the Himalyan foothills, in the northern parts of the Districts of Sialkot, Gujrat, and Jhelum, in Rawalpindi, and in eastern Attock