

Former Punjab. The remaining 10 percent comes largely from the Vale of Peshawar and other irrigated lands of the Former Northwest Frontier.

Food and other crops

In weight of useful organic matter, food grains are the principal agricultural crops of West Pakistan (Table 1.7). In terms of value, however, they make up only 42 percent of the total harvest. A third of the area planted each year is in wheat. The food grains next in importance are rice and millets, followed by corn, sorghum, and barley. Other food crops, including a variety of pulses, oil seeds, cane sugar, fruits, vegetables, and potatoes, are planted on slightly more than a fifth of the land, and yield somewhat more than two-fifths of the total crop value. The principal non-food cash crops are cotton and tobacco, but only about 10 percent of the planted area is devoted to them, and they yield about 8 percent of the total value of crops. On the average, 12 percent of the planted area is in fodder. This is used in part, together with straw and some grains and pulses, to feed the bullocks and buffaloes that are needed to cultivate the land, and in part to feed the cows and cow buffaloes whose milk is such an essential component of the diet of the people.

Food and money values

In terms both of food energy and money value, cane sugar is a relatively high-yielding crop, giving nearly 10,000 calories per day per acre and over 500 rupees. The corn yield averages nearly 4,000 calories per day per acre and 120 rupees per acre, followed by rice and wheat, both of which yield more than 3,000 calories per day per acre and 100 rupees per acre. The highest values, sometimes 1,000 rupees or more per acre, are obtained from fruits, principally mangoes, citrus fruits, and dates (and recently bananas), and these also have a relatively high caloric yield, probably more than 3,000 calories per day per acre. Oil seeds, though low in caloric value, are necessary for cooking, while gram and other pulses provide an essential source of protein.

Growing seasons and water requirements

There are two growing seasons. Rice, sorghum, millet, and corn, together with some pulses and vegetables, and fodder, are grown during the Kharif, or summer season. Wheat, barley, gram, some vegetables, tobacco, and fodder, are grown during the Rabi, or winter season. Cotton and sugarcane are planted in the early spring and harvested in the late fall, so that acreage planted to these crops cannot be used again during the Rabi season. Orchards also require a year-round use of land.