

At present, severe waterlogging occurs over an area watered by the Eastern Sadiquia Canal, northeast of the town of Bahawalnagar, and along the upper part of the Panjnad Canal in Rahimyar Khan. The Bahawalnagar area suffers from a shortage of water as well as from waterlogging. Much of it has been abandoned by irrigators, and is reverting to sand desert, or to dry farming.

According to the Colombo Plan report, the total area of waterlogged land in Former Bahawalpur is about 500,000 acres.

Waterlogging and Salinity in Former Sind

Two large areas in Former Sind make up the principal regions of damaging waterlogging and soil salinity in West Pakistan. One of these is the broad plain of the upper Sind, stretching 200 miles along the right side of the Indus from Dadu, 75 miles above Hyderabad, to Kandhkot and Kashmir. The northern half of this region will be watered by the new Gudu Barrage canals; to the south, perennial and seasonal irrigation is furnished by the canals of the Sukkur Barrage. "Water lies all the year round in some depressions; other low spots becomes marshy during summer, but dry up in winter. Even in lands not directly affected by waterlogging, many of the finer-textured soils are so impermeable and puddled that cultivation is difficult or impossible.

"Almost all unirrigated lands are covered with a crust of salt and as salinity increases in extent and severity, so lands fall into disuse. Large areas of cultivated land have been abandoned. Most areas are now affected by surface salts, but the condition can still be ameliorated to a certain extent by giving heavy applications of irrigation water." (32)

During the summer season, rice is grown over most of this area. Irrigation water, furnished principally in the summer, stands in the rice fields and is frequently renewed. Winter crops, called dubari, are grown with residual soil moisture from the summer irrigation. Surveys by Hunting

(32) Landforms, Soils and Land Use of the Indus Plains, West Pakistan, published for the Government of Pakistan by the Government of Canada; A Colombo Plan Cooperative Project; February 1958.