

available within the country are given in Table 2.5. Except for tobacco, which is a relatively minor crop, the highest anticipated increases in yield are obtained with rice, followed by maize, cotton, and sugarcane. By 1959-60, field protection measures had already been taken over 20 percent of the sugar acreage, a fourth of the tobacco land, and about 15 percent of the area planted to wheat, fruits, and vegetables. Seeds tested against disease were planted in 20 percent of the maize acreage, 17 percent of the wheat, and 13 percent of the cotton, while 16 percent of the nursery rice had also received protective measures. Improved varieties of cotton had been planted in 30 percent of the cotton acreage. Calculated future increases in these crops from protective measures and use of presently available better seeds should be reduced accordingly (See Table 5.12). The effects of interaction, discussed below, will undoubtedly more than compensate for this reduction, but quantitative estimates are not possible without further experience.

Greater utilization of salt-tolerant crops

Where poor drainage, a limited supply of irrigation water, or the necessary use of highly saline irrigation water make it impossible to maintain a low level of soil salinity, agricultural output can be increased by growing salt-tolerant crops. Appropriate highly salt-tolerant crops for West Pakistan include barley, sugar beets, bermuda-grass, and cotton⁽²⁾. Utilization of saline land for production of barley and bermuda-grass would provide much needed additional sources of feed for livestock and poultry, and growing cotton on saline land would perhaps release some non-saline land for production of salt-sensitive crops. In the absence of salinity, and with ample water, the sugar producing potential of sugarcane under West Pakistan climatic conditions is considerably greater than that of sugar beets. Yet, with limited water and much saline land, it might be advantageous to produce part or all of Pakistan's sugar needs from sugar beets grown on saline land in the northern portion of the Indus Plain.

(2) In West Pakistan, some agriculturists consider cotton to be salt-sensitive, whereas all types of cotton grown in the United States are definitely salt-tolerant. If further investigation shows West Pakistan cotton to be truly inferior as regards salt tolerance, then introduction of adapted salt-tolerant varieties is indicated.