

often farmed by several. At times of soil preparation and harvest, not only must the farmer travel, but also his bullocks. For these underfed animals this represents an additional expenditure of energy for non-useful purposes. After tubewells are installed, and the farmers attempt to increase the intensity of cultivation by utilizing the additional water, the time required for harvesting the previous crop, preparing the soil for the new crop, and sowing, may stretch beyond the critical sowing period or the water delivery date.

The small size of holding can have a gravely inhibiting effect on the introduction of changed procedures. Because of the bare subsistence level at which they live, the farmers are reluctant to experiment by trying new varieties of seeds, or in any other way altering their traditional methods. They literally cannot afford to take the chance of losing any fraction of their small harvests.

Inadequacy of irrigation water

Presently available water supplies are inadequate for intensive development of most of the land under cultivation, and much of the cropped area receives insufficient water to prevent the accumulation of injurious salts. Unfortunately, adequately large sites that can be economically developed for surface storage of excess river flows are scarce.

Difficulties of drainage

For the applied irrigation water, the minimizing of salination is complicated by the flat slope of the land, which makes drainage difficult.

Lack of development in other sectors of the economy

Because of the low level of basic industrial development and the lack of a technical infrastructure, construction and operation of fertilizer plants and electric power systems are costly, especially in foreign exchange. Foreign exchange costs for construction of economically large tubewells are also high. Roads, trucks, and communications facilities in the rural areas are completely inadequate for modern agriculture. Present methods of distribution and marketing seriously limit the potential benefits to the farmers from increased production.