

for intensive agriculture is significantly smaller than in other areas, and hence the gross sown area can be increased more cheaply. At the same time, large quantities of fresh ground water are locally available and cost of transporting water can be minimized.

Project Areas in Former Sind

Although costs of development appear to be higher than in the Punjab (\$110 to \$150 /acre - see Chapter 7), and benefit-cost ratios may be smaller, the Khairpur area in Former Sind, containing about 600,000 culturable acres, could justifiably be selected as an early project area. A very thorough report on Khairpur has been made by Hunting Technical Services and their associates,⁽²⁾ and we have shown some of the possibilities for increased production in Chapter 5.

Much more information is needed for realistic regional and project planning in Former Sind. From the data already available it is clear that the foreseeable supply of canal water will limit the area of intensive cultivation to around eight million acres. We believe that between four and twelve million acre feet per year of ground water can be produced from wells near the Indus. This would enable the area of intensive cultivation to be raised to between nine and eleven million acres. Before new projects are undertaken, thorough investigation is needed of the possibilities for: ground water development (see Chapter 7); reduction in field percolation and non-beneficial evapotranspiration losses through consolidation of areas of intensive cultivation (Chapter 2); drastic modification of cropping patterns in the rice-growing areas on the Indus Right Bank (Chapter 2); development of a market-oriented agriculture and of high-value specialty crops (Chapters 5 and 6); and various combinations of range land and irrigation for livestock production (Chapter 6).

The Factors of Production

Water for irrigation

The most important change in agriculture in the Former Punjab will result from the additional irrigation water provided by installation of

(2) "Khairpur Project Planning Report: Report No. 3, Sukkur-Gudugulam Mohammed Drainage and Salinity Control Project"; Hunting Technical Services, Limited, and Sir Malcolm MacDonald and Partners; London, 1962.