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Herani, Gobind M.

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PROBLEMS OF AGRO BASED INDUSTRY OF THARPARKAR AND BARRAGE AREA OF SINDH

Gobind M. Herani
Khadam Ali Shah Bukhari Institute of Technology

Abstract

This study is about problems of agro-based industry of Tharparkar and barrage area of Sindh, and fifth chapter of the thesis of Ph.D submitted in 2002. In this study problems faced by agro-based industry are discussed. Main topics of the study are: Crops, Non-crops, Livestock, Fishing, Poultry and Edible oil. Secondary data from different resources is collected to indicate the problems of agro-based industry. Purpose of the study was to give the complete picture of problems of the study for proper occlusions and recommendations for policy maker to get the Tharparkar better economically and socially. Study reveals that Thar depends on livestock and not crops. People of Thar are poor and they have strong attachment with in the crops. In spite of uncertainty of rain people like it and take risk. Dairy products are not so income generating due to the fact that milk taken out butter is used for personal nutrition and somewhat for saleable; and there is no market for sale in villages. However poultry farm system does not exist only few people rare it in informal way. A barrage area is more developed than Thar. From all these discussions it is clear that only livestock is main agro-based industry and source of income for Thar. However in future if developed may increase income and alleviate poverty.

Keywords: Problems; Agro-Based Industry; Livestock; Rangeland Plantation; Tharparkar
JEL Classification: D13;D18;D24;D31;H51;H52;H53;I38;O47;P17;P21;P28

CHAPTER-V

PROBLEMS OF AGRO BASED INDUSTRY

I. Barrage Area of Sindh

A. Crops (Sustainable Source of Income)

1. Agricultural Crops

Crops are sustainable source of income in barrage area of Sindh. Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy. River Indus irrigates the land of this area. As described in agricultural activity and according to PTV programme on December 5th, 2000, General Manager WPDA said, "the flow of water in country's major rivers, has also marked a rapid decline, for this activity riverine water is required which is in decline since last ten years. Reservoirs of Mangla and Tarbella are decreasing day by day. Overall decline in two major reservoirs Tarbella and Mangla is 60 percent. Adding the situation critical, Secretary Irrigation Punjab Javed Majeed in the same PTV programme said that presently Pakistan is in the grip of repeated dry years. The situation has promoted water shortage conditions to the disadvantage of the agriculture sector. This situation is emerging because country does not have required number of water reservoirs to store maximum amount of water during wet years, which goes waste into the sea. Even in dry years a large amount of water flow into the sea due to shortage of reservoirs, he added."⁽¹⁾

Many landlords have installed the tube wells the level of under ground water is also going to be down and at the same time it is saltish which creates problems and salinity increases due to this saltish water. Another problem is leveling of soil of those areas where there is no light and wherein farmers cannot install tube wells. The installation of generator is costly and increases the expenditure. Small landlords become dishearten due to lack of investment. All these indicators show declining trend in this field.

2. Crops Fruits and Vegetables

Following are the main problems:

- a). There is no proper arrangement of cold storage. Therefore lots of production gets spoiled.

1. Dogar Brothers, To Wards Pakistan Economy for banking and finance services commission and other competitive examinations. (S.M. Dogar, M.A & dia 1994,Zahid Bashir Printers Rasheed Road, Lahore) p.127.

- b). There is no prediction about rates
- c). There is no security of rates.
- d). There is no proper re-search for suitable species.

B. Livestock (As a Sustainable Source of Income)

1. Domestic Livestock Farming

It is sustainable source for income generating “livestock contributes as about 34 percent of the value produced by agriculture sector.” (2) Principal produces are milk, beef, mutton, poultry and wool. As agriculture activity becomes affected, then this sector automatically becomes affected, resulting in decrease of numbers of livestock. People in the drought and famine conditions sale their livestock to meet their daily life requirements. Health care facilities are not enough in rural areas. There is no awareness of health care. Farmers are not aware about special species, which are more productive. Some farmers are so rigid and they follow old traditional methods for rearing and they do not follow the new methods and technology. Farmers do not use new methods of Semenation. Transport, road, middle man, desertification due to scarcity of rain and riverine water, lack of awareness and lack of investment for further improvement, loss in crops, lack of proper government encouragement, lack of use of new technology; all these are the indicators of problems for the improvement of livestock.

2. Fish Farming

Following are the main problems:

- a). There is lack of water and some times, some types of diseases spoil it.
- b). Saltish water also spoils it.

3. Poultry Farming

Following are the main problems:

- a). Health care is needed
- b.) There is no preservation of meat.
- c.) There is no proper arrangement of export facilities.
- d.) There is no proper arrangement of allotting plots for farming.

C. Dairy Products

In barrage area, the dairy farming is not in improved form. There are so many reasons of it. SDFDA is also not taking much interest in the prosperity and progress.

According to business recorder's news items appeared on October 26, 2000 the government officials are also not serious to develop it and proper work is not being done and they favour their own favorite. (3)

Other indicators are lack of finance, awareness of species, lack of milk, butter and ghee preservation, transport, roads, natural environment for the livestock growth, lack of NGOs involvement, use of bio-technology and rigidity of farmers to not accept the new species etc. Due to these indicators dairy farming is not improving.

D. Non-Crops

1. Non-Crops Vegetation

In non-crops vegetation of rangeland and naturally grown grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees are included.

As described in natural environment the water is in scarcity and it is in declining since last ten years. Storage of big reservoirs is also decreasing. (4) Rainfall is also not regular and enough for the rangeland which is actual meadow for the livestock. Due to lack of water in the field, main crops also show-declining trend. Along with these factors, there are some other indicators. For example special fencing around the rangeland, salinity, introduction of new researched grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees, which require little water; lack of introduction of drip water irrigation for plants, nutrition studies, lack of introduction of latest biotechnology, pressure of population by using fuels and timber etc.

All these are the indicators for the decline of non-crops, which results in the desertification and loss in

natural vegetation.

2. Non-Crops Fruits and Vegetables

In barrage area there are no fruits and vegetables in non-crops.

E. Edible Oils

The edible oils are extracted from the seeds of Cotton, Soyabean, Mustard, Sunflower, etc. All these produce are of agriculture, but agriculture activity is declining day by day, and also it is the problems with edible oils.

F. Mills

Following are the main problems:

- a). There is need of loans to mill holders.
- b.) Some times, proper raw material is not available.
- c.) Raw material is costly.
- e.) Labors are not secured that is why they do not work heartily.
- f.) Decline of water, results decline of raw material for mills.

II. Tharparkar

A. Crops (Non-Sustainable)

1. Agricultural Crops

As we know that Thar's life depends on livestock and agriculture. It is also observed that the rainfall is very low in Thar since so many years.

As rain is not confirmed source of water, so, agriculture crops are not confirmed source of income generation. In some areas such as "Vat" area, under ground water is available; but people are not aware of taking it out and use for the agricultural purpose; only few people use dug wells and do agriculture, in very small area. Except some areas of Nagarparkar and one deh (some area) of barrage area whole Thar entirely depends on rain.

2. Crop's Fruits and Vegetables

a). Water Melon

Following are the main problems:

- (1). Rain is not regular that is why estimated output cannot be predicted.
- (2). Fruit cannot be supplied to towns / cities / urban market due to ill transportation and marketing methods.
- (3). Seed species are not selected for purpose of preservation for much time without cold storage.
- (4). Some varieties are hard inside and remain for much time but their taste is not good.
- (5). Hybrid seed should be selected.
- (6). Farmers do not regularly do sweetening process (local traditional way of sweeting fruit).
- (7). There is no market re-search.
- (8). Big size quality seed is not selected.

b). Melon

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Following are the main problems:

- (1). This is very soft and difficult to store because it gets destroyed at the time of storage and loading.
- (2). Difficult to supply to cities with in time.
- (3). It requires boxes like tomatoes, mangoes etc. that people do not use.
- (4). Transportation / Communication / infrastructure is not there.
- (5). Advertisement is not done in cities.
- (6). Market is not searched in cities.
- (7). People are not aware of economic importance.
- (8). People think it should not be sold in market.
- (9). Training is not given to farmer's family to cut the surplus for drying process for vegetable.

c). (Hanzel/Tooma/Meho)

Following are the main problems:

- (1). No transportation and communication system is available.
- (2). No market of dry vegetable is in local and city market.
- (3). Drying and preserving method are tradition.

d). Guar Phalli (Pod)

Following are the main problems:

- (1). It is difficult to collect the pods (Phallies) in sufficient quantity.
- (2). Selected seeds are not sown for large production.
- (3). There is no demand for it in the local market.
- (4). Local market is not connected to towns and cities

B. Livestock

1. Domestic Livestock Farming

Following are the main problems:

- (1). Livestock is main source of income generation and “23 percentage of Tharies families depend on livestock, 22 percent families depend upon livestock 50 percent” (see table-7.18 primary data). As in Thar there is no surety of rain, due to which there is problem of fodder.
- (2). There is no proper system of preservation of fodder in the monsoonal season.
- (3). No Proper arrangement of husbandry is available.
- (4). According to the people, even during marriages there is no use of meat, so it is the one of the factors of less demand of livestock.

(.5). There is no network of roads, therefore, the transportation of fodder from barrage area, on the one hand and that is expensive on the other hand.

2. Fish Farming

There is no fish farm in Tharparkar

3. Poultry Farming

Following are the main problems:

- a). There is no proper farming.
- b). No light is available.
- c). No awareness is there for large-scale farming.
- d). There is no need of meat in local market.

C. Dairy Products

Following are the main problems:

1. To sell the produce is somewhat difficult due to middleman.
1. There is no road network that is why people cannot reach to market to sell their produce at reasonable rates.
2. People are not aware about milk products like Paneer, Cush and Joshanda (milk product).
3. There is no preservation system of milk, butter and ghee.

D. Non-Crops

1. Non-Crops Vegetation

Following are the main problems:

- a). It is the main facilitator to livestock and for human beings.
- b). Due to scarcity of rains rangeland is also getting affected and promote desertification.
- c). Other main problem is that people cut the trees for timber and fuel and other domestic purpose due to lack of awareness.
- d). There is no proper arrangement of awareness of planting new plants at the required level.
- e). Government is not taking special steps for rangeland.

2. Non-Crop's Fruits / vegetables

a). Chibhar

Following are the main problems:

- (1). They are not advertised out side of Thar
- (2). Good selected species are not grown up.

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- (3). They are not aware of economic benefits.
- (4). No proper arrangement for cold storage is available.
- (5). No modern preserving methods are applied.
- (6). No other market is available.

b). *Salvadora oleioides* (pilo)

Following are the main problems:

- (1). Fruit is very small in size that is why it is difficult to collect.
- (2). In connection of collecting fruits any body can collect fruit of the field of any body.
- (3). People wander in search of trees and when they reach there, find, them harvested.
- (3). Due to no mastery, people waste their time.
- (4). Species are not selected this results low yield.

c). *Capparis aphylla* (kirur)

Following are the main problems:

- (1). There is no master of this plant, in connection of collecting fruits.
- (2). They are not looked after.
- (3). They are not considered as an income generating.
- (4). They are going to be destroyed by cutting.

E. Edible Oil

Following are the main problems:

- 1. There is no proper awareness of extracting oils from seeds, which are in Thar.
- 2. Crops and non-crops are not in progress, so it is difficult to collect seeds and extract oil.

F. Mills

There is no milling in Thar except some small flourmills.

III. The Socio-Economic, Political, and Cultural Problems

This material is taken from Internet and is concerned with studies of Indian Thar Rajhistan. Since the conditions of the Pakistan's Thar are nearly same. The culture, the situation, the soil fertility, customs traditions and way of thinking are also same. So after little consideration the Socio-Economic, Political, and Cultural Problems are given here. These conditions also indicate and represent the conditions of the areas of this study and these are given bellow:

A. Social Distance and Socio-Economic Interaction among Castes

The amount of social distance and socio-economic interaction among castes varies regionally and among communities. This is, because of the number, importance, privileges, and obligations of each caste tend to differ from place to place. Another variable is the interrelationship between caste and economic stratification. Caste and class should not be viewed as two exclusive or even distinctive concepts, since the two often overlap and are related. Many times a village's dominant caste (or castes) holds power not only by virtue of its position within the traditional social hierarchy but also because of its control over strategic resources such as land and water. Differences in wealth also exist between members of the same caste.

B. Economic Inequalities

Economic inequalities are an important source of division with in sub-continent communities. Gradations of wealth are present even in the poorest communities.

These minor differences in property and income may result in sharply differentiated life-styles in terms of housing, dress, education, manner of speech, and political power. Economic inequalities in rural areas are usually based upon and measurable by, differential access to land, with the quality of land and access to water important variables. The type and number of livestock is another source and indicator of wealth differences. Holding lucrative sources of non-farm income, such as from money lending, trade, or steady salaried employment, is another source of economic differences

C. Capital-Intensive Forestry Problems

There are other problems with the strategy of afforestation based on capital-intensive forestry by wealthy landowners, in the absence of any effective participation by less wealthy community members, and if tree planting continues to be highly profitable, than a process of income and land concentration could occur. Besides the financial gain available from the tree crops, the ability to improve formerly economically marginal lands through afforestation may increase land values, creating incentives for entrepreneurs to accumulate land. Unable to compete with the large landowners' greater access to capital and inputs such as irrigation, smaller and poorer landowners may decide to sell out their holdings. While such a scenario may appear, gloomy, or slightly far-fetched, the history of "development," whether in arid rural sub-continent or elsewhere, is sometimes characterized by the accumulation of wealth by few and the dispossession of the poor. (For example, see Pearse 1980, Griffin 1979). Given the nature of existing socioeconomic and political inequalities in the countryside, the capitalization of forestry, like the capitalization of agriculture, could have the unintended consequence of concentrating land and wealth.

D. Economic and Political Inequalities

Economic and political inequalities can also pose problems for community-based or social forestry strategies. Officially, a democratic political structure exists at the local level. Administrative power is held by elective corporate councils, the local organization, at the village, Taluka (sub-district), and district levels, Scheduled castes and tribes, as well as women, are represented. Local organizations undertake and control many activities in the areas of agriculture, education, and health that relate to rural development, including regulation of community lands. Although designed to carry the benefits of development to all villages and their members equally, in some cases an inequitable distribution of funds and other benefits flow to those individuals, families, castes, or factions that dominates the community. Instead of narrowing the gulf between groups, the implementation of policies may occur in such a way as to accentuate them.

IV. Conclusion

From the detailed study of the chapter it is concluded that agrobased industry has got lots of problems. Out of them one and main is irrigation water. In Thar it is only rainfall and in some areas of Nagarparkar and 'Vat' some dug wells are used for limited irrigation. In barrage area is also problems of water and at the same time proper distribution too. Force full landlords take lion's share. The flow of water is decline since last ten years in river Indus. It is also due to less rainfall. Lack of awareness, rigidly to cultural crops and livestock, lack of use of biotechnology, transport, roads, middle main, desertification due to scarcity of rain fall, lack of awareness for alternate search and lack of proper guidance in the field are the main problems.

The market for livestock products is not available over here, at large scale and in an organized manner, both in Tharparkar and in barrage area. Dairy production are not packed, preserved and standardized for export. Market of dairy products in Thar is negligible.

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People of barrage area have no proper awareness that when there is less water, they can produce more fodder and increase livestock, which can also compensate the loss of agricultural crops. Tharries are also not aware of benefits of rangeland and fenced farmlands.

Though government is supporting the agro-based industries but benefit goes to big landlords, due to political pressure and bureaucratic favoritism. The socio-economic, political and cultural problems, economical inequalities, capital-incentives forestry and land use, economic and political inequalities, social distance, socio economics interaction amongst castes, key pro-poor services such as primary education, prevention of health care and village electrification are also problems at this time.

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