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PERSPECTIVES OF AGRO BASED INDUSTRY OF BARRGE AREA OF SINDH

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Abstract

This study is perspective of agro-based industry of Tharparkar, and fourth chapter of the thesis of Ph.D submitted in 2002. In this study perspective of agro-based industry is 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 perspectives of agro-based industry. Purpose of the study was to give the complete picture of perspectives 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 corps. 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 the fact that milk taken out butter is used for personal nutrition and somewhat for saleable, there is no market for sale in villages. However poultry farm system does not exist only few people rare it in informal way. From all these discussion it is clear that only livestock is main agro-based industry and source of income. However in future if developed may increase income and alleviate poverty.

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

CHAPTER-IV

AGRO BASED INDUSTRY OF BARRGE AREA OF SINDH

I. Agro Based Industry

“Those industries are called Agro-based industries, which have a backward linkage with agriculture sector. The Agro-based industries include rice and wheat milling, gur and sugar making, oil crushing, cotton ginning, hosiery, poultry, fish processing, dairy products etc. The Agro-based industries mentioned above are with in the range of ordinary investors. The technology and skill required for the development of these industries is not lacking. What needed is the creation of appropriate environments for the development of these industries in the rural areas. For suitable planning, the Agro-industries are divided in many major areas, which are as under:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Crops | 2. Non-crops | 3. Livestock |
| 4. Fishery. | 5. Poultry | 6. Edible oil.” (1) |

They are distributed for easy description as :

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Crops | 2. Non-crops | 3. Livestock |
| 4. Dairy products | 5. Edible oil. | |

Description of all of these in details is as under:

A. Live Stock

1. Domestic Livestock Farming

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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.

Livestock contributes about 34 percent of Pakistan's agriculture sectors (2) in over all Pakistan. Farmers can easily rear livestock at their farmlands. They need fodder, which is easily available in the area. They get fodder from crops e.g. all the other parts of crops, which are not edible by man, however soft and chewable by animals, are mostly used for fodder purpose. Some types of grass are especially grown for the purpose of fodder for e.g. losson grass (Barseem), maize, bajra, (millet) etc. Farmers rear all types of livestock, which are not wild. Landlords mostly rear them on their farms for the purpose of milk. Some landlords have separate cattle farms. They get milk, butter, meat, wool (hair) and fur from these animals. In barrage area few landlords have got too much land. In the second category there are people who have 4-50 acres farmland and they are self-labored landlord-cum farmer. Such landlords are 33 percent. Overall landlords including one acre and more land are 51 percent. More than 34 percent farmers are without land, round about 20 percent are hired farmers, who are very poor and work under pressure of landlord and landlord has got every kind of power for them. All of such farmers do not have livestock. There are some cattle farms properly managed by traditional methods.

There are no dairy farms for the preservation of milk or preparation of butter and ghee. There is no system of preservation of butter for sale. There is also no especial storage facility of these products.

According to Business Recorder report of October 26,2000, Sindh Dairy Farmers Association has demanded six non-official members from the SDFA for appointment in the newly Sindh Dairy Development Board (SDDB). While talking to Business Recorder, a source of the SDFA said that the government has recently made a Sindh Dairy Development Board for the development of dairy farming. The board has selected 11 officials and 14 non-officials as its members. Out of 14 non-official members, only one has been appointed by the SDFA. At least another six non-official members should be appointed at the board. He said most of the non-official members were not genuine dairy farmers. He said majority of the un-official members are doing their dairy business. In their individual capacity, they are financially sound and have no concern with the prosperity and progress of the weaker and have neither played any role to boost the dairy business, nor for the betterment of other small farmers of the province. He said more than 90 percent of the dairy farmers of Sindh were financially weak and were getting poorer. The DFA is the only organization, which has been working unequivocally for the amelioration of the dairy farmers for the last 30 years. This association has been striving hard to boost the dairy sector in the province. The DFA has been planning to establish Milk Task Force, Milk Authority and Dairy Farming Development Board for several years and has approached the government several times to do so, he said. (3)

“In Badin district there is a world famous livestock farm at Luari Sharif, wherein high standard breeding animals are available.

A number of improved breeds of broilers and layers are available throughout the province. Poultry farming has now attained status of a major industry and million of families are engaged in this business, especially around Karachi and Hyderabad where climate is mild and more favorable.” (4)

a). The present position of livestock

(1). Buffaloes

Buffaloes as compared to other animals in the barrage area are income generating for their milk producing capacity. According to census report of 1986 and 1996, their growth rate is 174.4 percent for the last ten years and an increase of 17.43 percent per annum. The growth rate is more than others and that people like it more comparatively.

(2). Cows

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of cows is 141 percent for last ten years and 14.1 percent per annum.

(3). Sheep

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of sheep is 141 percent for last ten years and 14.1 percent per annum.

(4). Goats.

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of goats is 144 percent for last ten years and 14.4 percent per annum.

(5). Horses

According to census report 1986 and 1996, the growth rate is 82.89 percent for ten years and 8.3 percent per annum.

(6). Asses/Donkeys

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of Asses is 138.8 percent for last ten years and 13.88 percent per annum.

(7). Camels

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of camels is 103 percent for last ten years and 10.3 percent per annum.

(9). Mules

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of mules is 240 percent for last ten years and 24 percent per annum.

2. Fish Farming

Fish farming is adapted as a profession, by keeping fish farms and feed is supplied for them in the storage of water. Fish becomes mature within six months. In barrage area of Sindh, in District Jacobabad, Larkana, Thatta and Badin some landlords have ponds and fish

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hatcheries and using modern methods of fish farming, thereby earning lot of money and earning foreign exchange by exporting fish products.

3. Poultry Farming

Poultry farm is mostly found in the barrage area. Near Karachi, there are lots of such farms. In all other parts of Sindh there are so many farmers who have sufficient income from poultry farming. This is good source of income. Owners of these farms sell their products in the form of meat, egg and breeding chickens. This is also good source of nutrition for the healthy life, as it is essentially needed as food. This field is increasing day by day due to the much pressure of population in cities and at the same time in village too. The most noteworthy recent growth in poultry production was the result of a series of government concessions and investments.

According to census report of 1986 and 1996, the growth rate of poultry is 131.26 percent for last ten years and 13.1 percent per annum.

B. Dairy Products

Livestock is very important factor of Sindh and income generation source. Its importance is too much due to bones wool, milk, butter, meat and ghee etc. The livestock which gives milk (products butter and ghee) are buffaloes, cows, sheep and goats. How much each of these gives production that is different for cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats and even for different species. At this time mostly milk is sold in the villages too. Mostly people carry it to towns and cities for sale at suitable rates. People make yogurt butter and ghee and sale ghee also. There is no preserving system of these productions except ghee, which can remain as other oil, and vegetable ghee for some years.

Their production depends upon fodder crops and imported fodder. As the fodder of livestock is based upon agro-based. Therefore we should study agriculture, which is actual base of agro-based industry. Without study above development of agrobased industry and agriculture cannot be imagined. They are inter-related with each other.

C. Crops

1. Agricultural Crops

This is also a reliable source of income in the area. Crop cultivation is well established in barrage area. There is a network of canals, which irrigates the soil in barrage area of Sindh. This network of irrigation system is the best in the Asia. But for the tail enders landlords, water is not enough for irrigation due to injustice of water distribution through canals and in small streams by government functionaries. Since last ten years the water of Mangla and Tarbella is continuously declining and as a result of this decline, the River Indus flow is also decreasing. (5)

There are some other problems in irrigation system. For example saline, fertility of soil and improper maintenance of drainage system is also there. It is well explained in agricultural activity and water in chapter one.

2. Crop's Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit farm supports a large industry in barrage area. These fruit farms produce large quantity of fruits, which are used at local level by villagers, at domestic level in the whole country and they are also exported to earn foreign exchange for the country. In Sindh there are some farms which are popular at international level e.g. Kachhelo Farm. The mangoes of Kachhelo farm are exported and are popular all over the world.

In the barrage area fruit farming is easy but it takes some years to wait for its products. So big landlords only can keep and manage it. Small farmer cannot manage it due to finance and cannot afford to fruit ripening.

Vegetables are also grown in huge quantity in barrage area. They depend on crops, as its growth rate is similar to crops. Crops depend on water of river. If water is enough then it will improve.

D. Non-Crops

1. Non-Crops Vegetation

Non- crops consist of those plants, which are not ploughed for the edible or commercial purpose. They are either naturally grown or planted with low cost and in easy way. They need little care and less manpower. They are also a reliable source of income, for example: from forest of government and little forests of landlords / rangeland. Wild life, meadows for animals and wood for fuel and furniture grow very well due to these no-crops. They protect the soil from erosion of soil. It has already been discussed in details in chapter one under the topic “ natural vegetation”.

2. Non-Crops Fruits and Vegetables

In barrage area fruits and vegetables are not grown as non-crops. A few vegetables are there but people do not collect these. However poor people collect and utilize them for personal use.

E. Edible Oil

Sun follower, Barassica, Caster oil Seed, Cottonseed etc are the sources of edible oil in barrage area. Their oil seeds are cash Crop. These crops are grown in the farms for the income generating and oil production. The oil is used in manufacturing of edible ghee and other oils. Products of this oil crushing are used in manufacturing of soap etc. The cakes of these are used as good fodder for livestock.

F. Mills

Sindh is now one of Pakistan's most industrialized regions, with much of its large-scale manufacturing centered in Karachi. The province accounts for a substantial part of the country entire raw-cotton production and contains many of the nation's cotton mills and there is a sugar industry with a large number of mills.

The share of Hyderabad and Sukkur divisions in the industrial structure appears to be increasing because of government policies are directed towards the dispersal of industries. This

is also applied to other districts of the province. Thus gradually industries have flourished in many districts.

The industries in Hyderabad and Sukkur consist of Vegetable Oil, the famous Tullo Ghee is at Hyderabad, textile, soap, tanneries, biscuits, Tabasco, leather, pharmaceuticals, agricultural implements.

The industries in Thatta and Larkana are Sugar, Paper, Jute, etc. Similarly the industries of sugar, cotton ginning, flour and rice-husking mill are thriving in Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Nawabshah, Dadu and Sanghar districts.

Sindh has always remained a Centre of cottage industries. Khes of Nasarpur, Carpets of Bubak and Lungis of Thatta were famous during historical period.

Still there are many cottage industries flourishing in the province. Hyderabad district is famous for lacquered woodwork.

In Shikarpur and Larkana districts folk embroidery are the main cottage industry items; also Shikarpur is famous for its pickle.

In Sukkur districts the main cottage industries are boat making, fishing line and duress making. In Karachi division there are many cottage industries like Khadhi, Silk and Shoe-making, etc.

Nooriabad State in Dadu District is about 72 kilometers from Karachi and was established in 1983. It is spread over areas of 3342 acres, out of which 1620 acres were allotted. In 1988 tax concession, provided to the state earlier, was withdrawn and since then it is in state of doldrums. The matter was raised with the Federal Government at various forums, but all in vain. Some major industries are given below:

1. Cotton Ginning.

Cotton is the backbone of the national economy. It is a good cash crop of barrage area. It is crop of summer season. Good quantity of it is sown in the area. To get separate seed and cotton fiber there are so many mills. Mostly they are found in Mirpurkhas district, Tandadam, Hyderabad etc. It is the main product of agriculture farming. Separated seeds are used in oil mills for crushing oil. And residue of them is used as animal fodder and their by-products are used in soap manufacturing.

2. Gur Making

Gur is product of sugarcane. Sugarcane is crushed at local level and by traditional methods. Gur is manufactured in villages, where in sugarcane is cultivated.

3. Sugar Mills

Sugar can is product of agriculture Sugar mills use sugarcane for producing sugar. This industry is alive due to sugar can. GM WAPDA in PTV programme of 05-12-2000 said that if oil seeds are replaced with sugarcane cultivation, considerable amount of water could be saved (6). This is also encouraging to note that there are many mills in lower Sindh area.

4. Rice Milling

Various kinds of rice are grown in the barrage area feed rice mills. It is one of the major exportable items. It is essential commodity for nutrition. All the other parts of rice except

grain are used as fodder for animals.

5. Flour Mills

Four mills are available in barrage area. In mostly each village, there is a small flourmill called, chaki. In cities there are large-scale mills and supply flour to cities, towns and also villages too.

II. Government Funding Pattern for Agriculture

Pakistan is developing country, with limited sources of income. However government provides loans to landlords and farmers for the purpose of boosting production, from the allocated budget. The bureaucrats distribute this allocated budget. These bureaucrats distribute this amount to landlords for political pursuits at their own discretionary powers, whatever situation is, it depends on types of government. In this way the amount does not reach in the proper hands. Those who get benefit are already rich and government policy is never implemented in its' real sense.

Government policy to provide the loans to the small farmers have some formalities, which are beyond the reach of a poor farmer such as grantee of gazetted officers and deposit of personal amount. Due to these formalities poor farmers never benefit from government schemes. Another real problem is that loan forms of the farmers are filled by landlords and amount sanctioned by the government goes to the landlords' pocket. Because farmer is illiterate and does not know that landlord has taken the loan in his name. In this way real poor farmer does not get benefit out of such loan facilities announced by the government.

III. Conclusion

From the detailed study of this chapter it is concluded that at present ever-increasing Riverine water is not sufficient for cultivation. For the last ten years reservoirs of Mangla and Tarbella are also decreasing. In 2001, monsoon rain it is getting better. From this it is concluded that the main source is rainfall but that is not a confirmed source. People of barrage areas have tried their best to install their own tube-wells. The underground water is not sweet, therefore it is not good for irrigation for whole Sindh and water is not available also at required level. The specified availability of water automatically affects all the branches of agrobased industry in every respect.

The specified availability of water automatically affects all the branches of agrobased industry in every respect. The condition of crops in 1999-2000 was very bad, due to that so many crops and non-crops got affected and rangeland was getting desertified.

Non-availability of water also affected livestock as the meadows and fodder for livestock became short. The landlords and farmers conserve fodder for their livestock, when crops, non-crops and livestock got affected. This condition also affects all the other branches of agrobased industry.

In spite of all these things agrobased industry of barrage area is the major source of income. On the one hand crops manufacturing is sustainable source of income at first level and on the other hand livestock is sustainable source of income at second level. For farming communities in barrage areas dairy products at some extent are income generating, but they are not the confirmed job, because milk in villages is not sold due to lack of demand. Mills are more labour incentive and confirmed job oriented. Poultry farming is a source of income. Fish farming

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is also good income source but for big landlords only. Over all barrage area depends on agro-based industry a, confirmed source of income.

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