

Extension of Water Saving Agriculture, Pakistan

(Period of the study: 1 months from April, 2003 Our assignments: Water Saving Irrigation)

Background of the Study

Farmers depend fully on groundwater resources as their irrigation and domestic water at the inland area of Balochistan where the annual precipitation is about 200mm by applying traditional karez and tube well. Delay action dams have actively been constructed. Although the production of fruits mainly apple has been developed by utilizing limited water resources in Quetta, water table is lowering year by year due to over pumping. The depletion of water resources is thus giving negative impacts on the agricultural production. Under such circumstances, along with the recent drought, the situation related to the limited water resources becomes critical phase. The introduction of modern irrigation system becomes very important issue in order to make sustainable use of the water resources and also to save irrigation water that is about 90% of the total water use.

Outline of the Study

Under such circumstances, the study to formulate the technical cooperation program for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation was requested in order to investigate the present situation of agriculture and water resources and also to clarify the technical and social constraints in the extension of water saving agriculture. The study includes the survey on the present situation of agriculture, present situation of water resource depletion, future water balance, government and donor activities on the introduction of modern irrigation system, present situation of extension activities and their constraints along with the examination of already requested projects. Based on the results of all such surveys, various projects including dispatch of long term expert, development study and project type technical cooperation were practically recommended.

Our Assignments

- Collection and analysis of information related to the agriculture sector of national level,
- Survey and analysis of present situation on water resource depletion in major areas of the country,
- Survey and analysis of activities by the government and donors related to the introduction of modern irrigation,
- Field survey and the analysis of constraints on the extension of water saving agriculture,
- Examination of already requested project by the Balochistan state government, and
- Formulation of future program on technical cooperation in the concerned field.

