

A REVIEW OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT WORKS CARRIED OUT IN PAKISTAN TILL JUNE 1978

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Pakistan can be divided into the following watershed regions, grouped to the north and the west around the vast alluvial plain of the Indus which forms the core of the country (Roitzsch, 1968).

- (1) The Northern Mountain Region comprising the inland Indus Basin above Attock with Swat-Chitral and Gilgit tributary catchments, and the inland Jhelum Basin upstream of Mangla
- (2) The Uplands of Northern Punjab with the catchments of Haro and Soan rivers
- (3) The Western Mountain Region including the catchments of Kohat Toi, Kurram, Zhob—Gomal, and small streams of Quetta district
- (4) The South-Western Baluchistan Plateau, not a water-producing area
- (5) The Coastal Zone with Hub, Porali-Kud, and Dasht river catchments
- (6) The Indus Plains

Of these, the most important are the mountainous areas which yield water after it is received in the form of snow or rain. It is the management of these areas which is posing problems

“These areas have so far been regarded at best, as areas producing water for use in the southern irrigated sections. At worst, these have become in the minds of many programme planners, a source of increasing loads of silt and sediment which clog the irrigation-power infrastructure. Seldom is it recognised as a region whose potentially productive soils could produce significant portions of needed foodstuff for the national welfare as well as higher quality water for plains irrigation.

But the area is important not only for the water and power it can export to southern areas of Pakistan. The land already supports over ten million people who depend on it for their livelihood, even though farming practices are crude and its land resources are

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