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Comparative Economics of users and nonusers of Dharabi Dam, Pakistan

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Abstract: *Water is a limiting factor for sustainable agriculture in Barani(Arid). However, rainfall is the only source of water the spatial and temporal variation of which is very high. Therefore conservation and management of this source is vital for agriculture development and socio-economic uplift of the area. This study was, mainly, also devised to address land distribution problems and consequent farm productivity in the study area. The farmers were divided into two main categories irrigated and rainfed farmers. The performance of most of the indicators i.e. yield, gross margins, farm income, labour productivity, income distribution, cropping intensity and crop diversity was found better in irrigated as compared to rainfed. While marginal factor productivity, irrigation productivity and rate of institutional credit availability was higher in irrigated area. However, rainfed area was always least efficient with respect to all of the quantified indicators. The findings of the research are helpful for the farmers of the study area in decision making among different farm enterprises. Hence it can alleviate poverty and help to bring food security in the deprived regions.*

Keyword: Production Possibility; Socio Economic Characterization; Whole farm budget; gross margin

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's agriculture is classified as an irrigated one. Out of about 23.5 million hectares of its total culturable land, 19.62 million hectares come from irrigated area, giving about 90% of its total agriculture production. Culturable waste is about 8.32 million hectares. Like in other developing countries, poverty in Pakistan is largely a rural phenomenon; therefore, development of agriculture will be a principal vehicle for alleviating rural poverty (GOP, 2011). There could be two possible approaches to increase the agricultural production viz. either by bringing more area under cultivation or increasing the yield per acre. The first option is almost flexible, however, the yield per acre could be increased. To increase the crop yield, water input is the most limiting factor particularly in the barani areas (Bhutta, 99). The Punjab province contains about 70%, or 14.8 million hectares of Pakistan's total cultivated area. Of these 12.6 million hectares are irrigated of which 8.3 million hectares is irrigated through the Indus Basin irrigation system. Decentralized irrigation system in the so-called barani (rainfed) tract of the Punjab province irrigate part of the remainder (International Irrigation Management Institute, 1999).

A common feature of the rain fed areas is that agriculture is not developed due to low yield, inconsistent and tardy rainfall over a year, losses of rainwater due to swift run off, small size holdings and primitive technology. At the same time, topography of Barani areas having sheer ground slopes, helps the rain water to flow with high velocity to the slant of numerous brooks, thus resulting in erosion of the fertile soils.

The Dharabi dam project is one of such efforts to develop water path by making the dam in Dhrab River, a tributary of Soan River out fall in Indus River at a distance of about 5 kilometers from village Balkasar of tehsil and district Chakwal. Total catchment area of dam site is 147.31Sq.Km (56.88 Square miles). Mean Annual rainfall in the Catchment area is 701.52 mm (28 inch). The proposed project will bring about 6400 Acres of land water under irrigation out of which 6000 Acres through gravity flow and 400 Acres through lift (Small Dam Organization, 2007). After heavy investment on these small dams, less than one third of the proposed area was irrigated by small dams. Therefore, the desired changes in cropping pattern could not be achieved (Iqbal and Shahid, 1992). Owing to high surface area to volume ratio, these small reservoirs are subject to high evaporation losses. On an average, small reservoirs lose 50% of their impoundments to evaporation in arid and semi-arid areas. The leaching and percolation losses in small reservoirs are about 20% of reservoir volume against 5% in large dams (Keller et al., 2000).

The research study of the gross margins has been carried out at Dharabi dam. Dharabi dam is located in Tehsil Kalar Kahar District Chakwal, Pakistan

Number of Small Dams in Different districts of Potohar, Punjab

| Districts | Number of small Dams |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Islamabad | 2 |
| Rawal pindi | 8 |
| Chakwal | 16 |
| Attock | 15 |
| Jhelum | 9 |
| Grand Total | 50 |

Source: Small Dam Organization, Islamabad. 2007

Silent features of Dharabi dam

| C.C.A (acres) | Catchment Area (sq.miles) | Live Storage (Aft) | Capacity of Irrigation Channel (Cfs.) | Length of Canal (ft) |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 6400 | 56.88 | 37000 | 32 | 131800 |

Source: Small Dam Organization, Islamabad. 2007

This research identifying the Production possibilities of the communities of two villages i.e. Chak khushi and Kalar kahar located in the Dharabi dam command area. It reflects somehow a true picture of farmer's economic condition in the form of gross margins at enterprise and at a farm level. The coefficients estimated from the study will be used for analysis of different models constructed for farm level under different resource system.

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire Formation

Through informal survey, the questionnaire covering important aspects of output and input costs components was prepared and are tested in field for accuracy. During pre-testing there were observed some flaws and complications in questionnaire, those were removed in final questionnaire.

Selection of Respondents and Collection Of Data

The primary data pertaining to the gross margins of the command area of Dharabi dam from two villages (Kalar kahar & Chak Khushi) was collected on the basis of stratified random sampling. Data was collected by making two categories of farmers. First, farmers using dam water (irrigated), second, farmers from control area (rainfed).

The sample size for study was 60 as mentioned in Table. Farmers from both categories were selected randomly. The data was collected through face to face interview with each individual farmer. Questionnaire was in English language but questions were interpreted in local language for farmers and exact reply was written instantaneously.

Categories of farmers

| Categories | No. of farmers | Sample farmer percentage |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Irrigated | 30 | 50% |

| | | |
|----------|----|------|
| Rain fed | 30 | 50% |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

The data thus collected was sorted out, tabulated and enterprise budgets were prepared and gross margins were calculated for the purpose of analysis.

Calculation of Gross Margins

Gross Margin at Enterprise level

Enterprise gross margin was calculated by enterprise gross income minus the variable expenses attributable to that enterprise. In order to calculate gross margins. Budgets were prepared at enterprise level for different crops and livestock in both irrigated and rain fed areas.

Revenues from output and costs of different variable inputs used were calculated. Gross margins were calculated at average sample size level by taking a difference in the activity per unit revenue and per unit variable cost.

Gross margin at farm level

Gross margin at average farm level was calculated by different area allocation to different enterprises multiplied by Gross Margin/unit area.

Economic techniques used

The Economic techniques used were:

Enterprise Budgeting
 Whole farm Budgeting
 Marginal Analysis

Estimation of activity variable costs, revenues, and gross margins

The total cost of the variable input used to produce one unit of each enterprise consists of money costs and opportunity costs. The opportunity costs were estimated for the operations performed by owned farm machines, family labour and farm inputs (Farm yard manure and seed). The money costs were paid for inputs like fertilizer, herbicide, insecticide, fuel, improved seed, casual hired labour, picking and transplanting. The total variable costs to produce an activity x j were measured as

$$c_j = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{t=1}^T P_{ijt} \quad a_{ijt}$$

Where p_{ijt} is the unit price of the i th variable input applied to activity x_j in time period t ; a_{ijt} is the amount if i th input used by activity x_j in time period t ; the subscript $t = 1, \dots, T$ identify the time intervals with in the activity's production period

The revenue earned by production activities is the type and quantity of outputs, and their market price. The types of output per activity were categorized into main product and by product. Given the prices received for each output; the total revenue earned from each unit of activity x_j was measured as

$$r_j = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T P_{njt} Y_{njt}$$

Where p_{njt} is the unit price of the n th output of activity j in time period t ; Y_{njt} is the yield of the n th output produced from one unit of activity j in time period t ; and $n = 1, \dots, N$ denotes the outputs.

The contribution of each enterprise to farm profitability is that activity's gross margins; that is the difference between an activity's per unit revenue and variable input costs per unit, computed as

$$G_j = r_j - c_j$$

Where r_j is an activity's per unit revenue and c_j is an activity's per unit variable input

Gross Marginal Analysis

Gross marginal analysis is a technique, which assists farm managers when calculating profitability of alternative plans. Gross margin may be define as returns above variable costs, and are expressed per unit of some common resource (per hectare or per head of animal). It is a very useful measure of efficiency for both single activity farm business and multiple activity plans of a business. (Chaudhry et al., 1995).

To calculate Gross Farm Income firstly, enterprise budgets were prepared. For enterprise budgets returns and costs of different enterprises were calculated, in estimating the returns from an agricultural enterprise or a production system, an important distinction is drawn between variable and fixed cost. The market value of the produce (and that of any by-product) of a production system is defined as its output. Normally this value is based on prices of the farm. When the variable costs are subtracted from the estimate of the output, the remainder is called the Gross Margin (Chaudhry et al., 1995).

The difference between the output and the variable costs, usually calculated on per acre or per hectare basis, is a very useful measure of the performance of an enterprise and the contribution that it can make to farm income or profitability.

Gross Margin at average farm level was calculated by different area allocation to different enterprises multiplied by Gross Margin / unit area. The gross margins of crops at farm level are presented in Table prices used for different crops to calculate outputs is given in Annexure 3.

The value of output per unit farm of irrigated and rainfed crops were 32678 and 16435 rupees, respectively. Thus, irrigated crops fetched more returns than rainfed crops. The calculation of gross Margin and other performance indicators for livestock enterprise follow essentially the same principles as for cropping enterprises. The value of output per unit farm of buffaloes and cows is given in table 22. The value of output per unit of irrigated livestock was higher than rainfed ones. It was due to the fact the availability of fodder to irrigated livestock's

GROSS MARGINS OF CROPS AT FARM LEVEL

| Crops | Observed Average | Gross Margin | Gross Return |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Area allocation (Ha) | Per unit area/ha | At Farm Level |
| Irrigated Crops | | | |
| Wheat | 2.23 | 13456 | 16201 |
| Sorghum | 0.43 | 13025 | 7231 |
| Maize | 0.51 | 20456 | 6411 |
| Groundnut | 0.26 | 69540 | 12715 |
| Berseem | 0.17 | 1913 | 1240 |
| Raddish | 0.04 | 31567 | 204 |
| Turnip | 0.06 | 23456 | 104 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|----------|
| Spinach | 0.02 | 14321 | 35 |
| Carrot | 0.002 | 25613 | 24 |
| Cauliflower | 0.0048 | 24367 | 3.4 |
| Tori | 0.005 | 23416 | 0.21 |
| Coriander | 0.001 | 2130 | 451 |
| Okra | 0.03 | 43521 | 721 |
| Tomatoes | 0.02 | 36781 | 789 |
| Melon | 0.03 | 24367 | 123 |
| Bitter gourd | 0.01 | 21456 | 156 |
| Onions | 0.19 | 10987 | 1214 |
| Chilies | 0.12 | 14356 | 31 |
| Garlic | 0.08 | 23222 | 40 |
| Tinda | 0.009 | 32781 | 2 |
| Brangil | 0.0006 | 12233 | 1 |
| Total | 4.2224 | | 47696.61 |
| Irrigated GM per unit Farm | | | 32678 |
| Rainfed crops | | | |
| Wheat | 1.24 | 10231 | 15123 |
| Sorghum | 0.51 | 4567 | 1876 |
| Maize | 0.11 | 7685 | 1324 |
| Groundnut | 0.25 | 61238 | 16578 |
| Gram | 0.16 | 29876 | 4561 |
| Total | 2.27 | | 39462 |
| Rainfed GM per unit farm | | | 16435 |

Value of Output per Unit Farm of Buffaloes and Cows.

| Livestock | Value of output in irrigated area in rupees | Value of output in Rain fed area in rupees |
|-----------|---|--|
| Buffalo | 91400 | 48725 |
| Cow | 61433 | 43200 |

Nature of Farm Costs

Farm costs include cash cost and imputed cost. Cash costs are those costs which are met ‘Out of pocket’. The items included in the cash cost are seed, fertilizer, farm yard manure, casual labor hired, permanent labor, threshing, payment to artisans and livestock rearing (Iqbal, 1989).

Imputed cost is defined as the cost for which no cash expenditure is incurred; instead these are met by using resources already available with the farm household. Imputed costs include the imputed wages of family workers, rental value of land etc (Iqbal, 1989). In the study the costs of family labor, rental value of land, irrigation labor, and additional labor from time to time for different activities were used as imputed costs.

The cost per unit of crops of irrigated farm is higher than rainfed farm. It was due to the more usage of inputs. The average annual cost per unit farm of irrigated and rainfed crops were found to be 24034 and 7958.5 rupees respectively. The cost per unit of animal of irrigated and rainfed areas presented was also calculated by same procedure.

Average Annual Cost per Unit Sample Farm

| Crops | Observed Average | Cost | Cost |
|-------|------------------|------|------|
|-------|------------------|------|------|

| | Area allocation HA | Per unit area/ha | At Farm Level |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Irrigated Crops | | | |
| Wheat | 1.31 | 24567 | 30065 |
| Sorghum | 0.43 | 8678 | 4356.4 |
| Maize | 0.51 | 13426 | 678.95 |
| Groundnut | 0.26 | 9658.5 | 2164.2 |
| Barseem | 0.17 | 12453 | 1345 |
| Raddish | 0.04 | 22345 | 185 |
| Turnip | 0.06 | 24537 | 192.5 |
| Spinach | 0.02 | 21987 | 247.2 |
| Carrot | 0.002 | 18617 | 23.35 |
| Cauliflower | 0.065 | 19876 | 14.56 |
| Tori | 0.005 | 9768.6 | 4.345 |
| Coriander | 0.001 | 6745 | 1.324 |
| Okra | 0.03 | 20567 | 345.6 |
| Tomatoes | 0.02 | 36781 | 1297 |
| Melon | 0.03 | 14678 | 123 |
| Bitter gourd | 0.01 | 21456 | 39.6 |
| Onions | 0.19 | 53261 | 7921 |
| Chillies | 0.12 | 67545.2 | 11362 |
| Garlic | 0.08 | 6931 | 437 |
| Tinda | 0.009 | 16782 | 147 |
| Brangil | 0.0006 | 18796 | 8.435 |
| Total | 3.3626 | 449455.3 | 60958.464 |
| Cost per unit Farm | | | 24034 |
| Rainfed crops | | | |
| Wheat | 1.24 | 10231 | 14123 |
| Sorghum | 0.51 | 4567 | 1976 |
| Maize | 0.11 | 7685 | 1524 |
| Groundnut | 0.25 | 61238 | 17578 |
| Gram | 0.16 | 29876 | 4861 |
| Total | 2.27 | 113597 | 40062 |
| Cost per unit farm | | | 7958.5 |

Cost of per Unit Animal of irrigated and Rainfed Farms

| Livestock | Cost per unit animal in irrigated area | Cost per unit area in Rainfed area |
|-----------|--|------------------------------------|
| Buffalo | 6542 | 6231 |
| Cow | 4131 | 3980 |

Whole Farm Budget

| Enterprise | Irrigated | | Rainfed | |
|------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Benefits | Costs | Benefit | Cost |
| Crops | 34582 | 28634 | 16724 | 9865 |
| Livestock | 168568 | 12462 | 106542 | 14580 |
| Whole Farm | 186524 | 56420 | 124580 | 19040 |

The cost per unit animal of irrigated area for buffalo and cow was higher than rainfed ones.

Whole Farm Budget

The farm budget is a physical and financial plan for the operation of the farm for some period of time. The total farm budget is prepared as an aid in organizing the entire farm business.

In whole farm economic analysis, the farm is considered as complete entity. The whole crop and livestock production programme is reviewed and the use of farm resource is considered on an overall basis. This type of analysis is undertaken to show the anticipated consequences, in terms of selected measures of performance, of some proposed farm plan. The costs and returns analysis accounts cash and non cash costs as well as both fixed and variable costs (Chaudhry et al., 1995). The whole farm budget was prepared by adding the benefits of crops and livestock of irrigated area and also the costs of crops and livestock of irrigated area. Same was adopted for the calculation of whole farm budget for rainfed area.

In whole farm budget the costs and returns of irrigated area, both are greater than rainfed ones.

Benefit Cost Ratio

It is a profitability indicator, which expresses the relationship between the sum of net benefits and capital costs over the life of the project. It is in fact, a form of input output analysis that is useful for on farm trails. Cash and non cash costs and benefits are include in deriving appropriate ratios (Chaudry et al., 1995).

To calculate the benefit cost ratio, the benefits and costs of irrigated crops and livestock were added, respectively. And then ration of benefit to cost was calculated. Same procedure was adopted for rainfed ones. The benefit cost ration of crops and livestock are in

Benefit Cost Ratio of crops (per Farm unit)

| Crops | Benefit | Cost | B/c Ratio |
|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Irrigated | 42568 | 34354 | 1.2359 |
| Rainfed | 24731 | 18765 | 1.3145 |

Benefit Cost Ratio of livestock (per Farm unit)

| Livestock | Benefit | Cost | B/C Ratio |
|-------------------|---------|------|-----------|
| Irrigated Buffalo | 105412 | 9784 | 10.77 |
| Rainfed Buffalo | 56785 | 6586 | 7.10 |
| Irrigated Cow | 56435 | 4120 | 13.69 |
| Rainfed cow | 46780 | 4230 | 11.06 |

The same procedure was adopted for livestock as that for crops. The benefit cost ration of irrigated livestock was higher than rainfed one. The difference of benefit cost ration of irrigated and rainfed buffalo was significant. The benefit cost ration of irrigated as 14.06 and was found greater than rainfed buffalo 7.10

Marginal Analysis

The purpose of marginal analysis is to reveal just how the net benefits from an investment increase as the amount invested increases. An easier way of expressing this relationship is by calculating the marginal rate of return. This is simply the marginal net benefit divided by the marginal cost expressed as a percentage. The marginal analysis is a highly useful measure of judging and ascertaining farmer's acceptability of new innovations at the farm level. The marginal rate of return of Dharabi dam is presented in table

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{MRR} &= \frac{\text{Incremental NB}}{\text{Incremental TCV}} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{65078}{13468} \times 100
 \end{aligned}$$

= 483%

This means that for every Rupee invested in the application of dam water facility, farmers can expect to recover Rs. 1 and also obtains an Additional Rs.4.83.

Marginal Rate of Return

| | Irrigated | Rain fed | Differences |
|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Benefits | 167546 | 102468 | 65078 |
| Costs | 31486 | 18018 | 13468 |

CONCLUSION

There is need for research in the barani (rainfed) area of Pakistan to diagnose factors limiting productivity and to develop recommendations that can be adopted by farmers to improve productivity. Past research has often not provided recommendations that are relevant to farmers of the area. They have generally been developed without economic analysis to determine the most profitable and least risky practices. Moreover recommendations have not considered differences in land type, rainfall and crop rotation in the area and have provided general recommendations to cover the entire region. In addition, the recommendations provide a complete package of technology, which is very costly for farmers to adopt. Given these deficiencies of research, and poor extension services, it is not surprising that many farmers have not adopted the recommendations being provided by research and extension.

It was observed during study that farmers in both the irrigated as well as the rain fed must shift from conventional crops to high value crops. They must start farming on the commercial basis. They can increase their income by an appreciable amount by commercial farming of vegetables. As they have opportunity they can send their product to nearby Islamabad urban market.

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Annex-1

Cost of input Use

| Particulars | Unit | Wheat | | Mai | |
|----------------------|---------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | | (Ha) | Rain fed | Irrigated | Rain fed |
| Deep Ploughing | Days | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Ploughing | Days | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Ploughing & Planking | Days | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Drill | Days | - | 1 | - | - |
| Manure | 40kg | 6.98 | 3.24 | 14.7 | 5.8 |
| Seed | Kg | 172 | 118 | 34.6 | 63 |
| Fertilizer N | Kg | 76.1 | 42.3 | 124. | 48. |
| P | Kg | 55 | 34.5 | 56.8 | 24. |
| Irrigation labor | Hr | 6.9 | - | 6.7 | - |
| Water rates | Rs | 256 | - | 234 | - |
| Land rent | Rs | 14678 | 5698 | 146 | 569 |
| Labor(Additional) | Day | 40 | 40 | - | 40 |
| Harvesting | Days/kg | 149.33 | 149. | 40 | 60 |
| Threshing | Days/kg | 149.33 | 149. | - | - |
| Interculture | Days | - | - | 79 | 60 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|--------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | ay | | | | |
| Labor (Thinning) | Day | - | - | - | 60 |
| | | Sorghum (Ha) | | Gro und Nut (Ha) | |
| | | Irrigated | Rain fed | Irrigated | Rain fed |
| Deep Ploughing | No | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Ploughing | No | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Ploughing & Planking | No | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Drill | No | - | 1 | - | - |
| Manure | 40kg | 9.38 | 6.24 | - | - |
| Seed | Kg | 108.2 | 124.6 | 98.6 | 122 |
| Fertilizer N | Kg | 111 | 142.5 | - | - |
| P | Kg | - | - | - | - |
| Irrigation labor | Hr | 6.9 | - | 6.9 | - |
| Water rates | R/s | 256 | - | 234 | - |
| Land rent | R/s | 14678 | 5698 | 14678 | 5698 |
| Labor(Additional) | Day | 40 | 40 | - | 40 |
| Harvesting | Day | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Threshing | Day | - | - | - | - |
| Interculture | Day | - | - | 40 | 40 |
| Labor (Thinning) | Day | - | - | - | 60 |

| Particulars | Unit | Vegetables |
|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| Ploughing | No | 4 |
| Ploughing & Planking | No | 3 |
| Manure | 40 kg | 12.2.-14.8 |
| Seed | Kg | 5-6 |
| Fertilizer N | Kg | 110.5-182 |
| P | Kg | 70-120.2 |
| Irrigation labor | Hr | 7.24 |
| Water rates | Rs | 624 |
| Land rent | Rs | 14678 |
| Labor(Additional) | Day | 40 |
| Harvesting | Day | 40 |
| Interculture | Day | 40 |
| Labor (Thinning) | Day | 7.46 |
| Plant protection measures | No | 1.4 |

Annex-2

Yield of Crops

| Particulars | Unit | Wheat | | Maize (Ha) | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|----------|------------|---------|
| | | Irrigated | Rain fed | Irrigated | Rainfed |
| Grain/Produce | 40 kg | 60 | 31.3 | 62.7 | 26.6 |
| Straw/by product | 40 kg | 64.5 | 56.84 | 91.75 | 60.54 |
| Thinning | 40 kg | - | - | - | 60.64 |
| | | Sorgham | | Groundnut | |
| | | Irrigated | Rainfed | Irrigated | Rainfed |
| Grain/ produce | 40 kg | 168 | 96.4 | 72.16 | 62.16 |

Yield of Vegetables

| Particulars | Unit | Vegetables |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| GRAIN/Produce | 40 kg | 169-210 |