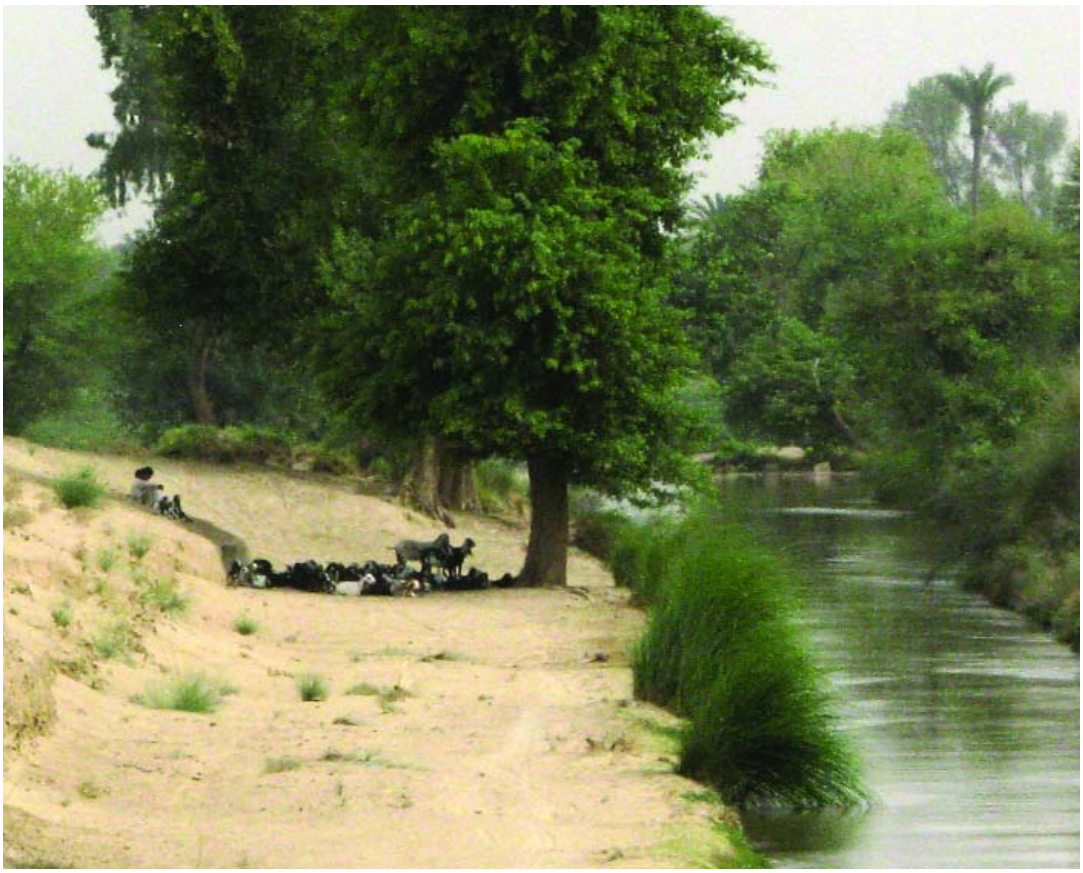
Profile of district

Bahawalpur

with focus on livelihood related issues



South Asia Partnership-Pakistan

Profile of district
Bahawalpur
with focus on livelihood related issues

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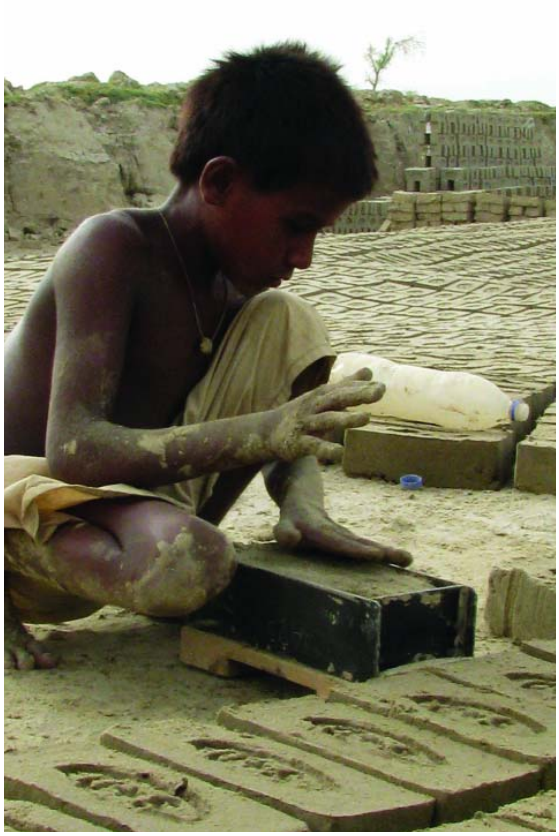
This publication is a result of a research exercise carried out to understand and document the current status of different ways and means of earning livelihoods in a group of selected districts of Pakistan and other factors that have an impact on people's capacity to utilize available resources and that of creating new ones. The study is a part of South Asia Partnership, Pakistan's (SAP-PK) strategy to realize its mission of creating an engendered, critical society in South Asia based on the universal principles of human dignity, justice, democracy and peaceful coexistence. As member of South Asian civil society movement, SAP-Pk is striving to empower marginalized sections of society and working to influence policies in their favor.

Data for the study is collected through secondary as well as primary sources. The secondary data is mostly quoted from Population Census 1998, Agriculture Census 2000, Agriculture Machinery Census 2004, Industry Census 2004, Animal Census 2006, Punjab Development Statistics 2008 and other government sources. Information from some departmental studies like Multiple Indicator Cluster Study by Planning Commission 2003-04 has also been used. The figures have been projected to the latest year using growth rates. But growth rates for some parameters are either not available or are generalized for the national or provincial level as their district break-ups are not available. This may have resulted in not very accurate projected figures for the district. We however believe that this is unlikely to undermine the broader conclusions drawn from these.



Livelihood has very rarely been a subject for any scientific research despite its utmost importance. The need to initiate such work was absolutely necessary, as the traditional livelihood sources are rapidly depleting. This situation has pushed a large portion of population, especially those who have been associated with agriculture and traditional sources of earning in rural areas. They are left stranded as far as their livelihood sources are concerned. This factor contributes substantial rise in poverty. The situation is particularly affecting the landless and the farmers with small land holdings and rural workers. The women farmers and tillers belonging to religious minorities are the worst affected as they were solely dependent on traditional modes of earning.

In this scenario the work in hand is a commendable task undertaken and completed by the writers. It is a wonderful effort in the right direction. The work definitely provides a basis for further research on livelihood sources. There is not only occasional analysis included in the profile but the facts and figures provided also stimulate the reader to build up different analysis. The book very clearly shows how the nature and availability of livelihood sources can have effects on poverty and poor people.

This research work was conducted in 15 districts of all four provinces. The districts selected include

where the South Asia Partnership Pakistan has been working since its inception for the betterment of poorer sections of the society through various initiatives. The publication gives a detail description of demographic factors such as population of male and female in the district and how these differences denote to discrimination and bias against womenfolk of the country. The research focuses more on female population of the rural areas with stress on maternity health, literacy, school enrollment and drop-out ratio among girl students.

The district profile also notes the changes in pattern of livelihood sources. It also deals with the number of issues such as health facilities, transportation and communication, irrigation, pattern of crops, land ownership patterns, livestock and industrial growth in the district. The work includes the politics of international trade agreements and its implications on Pakistan's industrial and agricultural sectors and especially on livelihood sources of the population. All the facts are substantiated by related data which is another quality of this work.

It is in fact a valuable addition in the efforts of South Asia Partnership- Pakistan spanning over the periods of two decades in the field of research especially on the subjects related to poor farmers and rural workers. And of course livelihood stands high in this list.

I want to conclude by removing some misconceptions prevalent in our 'intellectual' brethren about the efficacy and usefulness of written work. They opine that since the South Asia Partnership-Pakistan is working for the peasant and rural workers, the big majority of those are unable to read so the written work will be fruitless. I wonder if one goes with this approach then the publishing and printing of books should be halted at once, for even the big majority of literate population has no tendency towards reading the books especially on serious subjects. The efficacy of the written work cannot be measured by mere number of souls who have actually read it but by the effects the work has generated. To quote an example "DAS CAPITAL" would have been, most probably, read by some thousand people but the effect it produced and still generating is even immeasurable.

This work will definitely be helpful for the policy makers, for the development experts, for non governmental organization in evolving their strategies to coup poverty and deprivation. The research is capable of organizing peasants and workers both rural and industrial around identified issues.

Mohammed Tahseen
Executive Director

Bahawalpur city was founded in 1748 by Nawab Bahawal Khan Abbasi I, whose descendants ruled the area until it joined Pakistan in 1954. The princely state of Bahawalpur was one of the largest states of British India and was last ruled by Nawab Sir Sadiq Khan Abbasi V, who decided to join Pakistan after its independence. Bahawalpur city was formerly the capital of the state and now is the District and Divisional Headquarters of Bahawalpur Division.

The royal house of Bahawalpur is said to be of Arabic origin and claims descent from Abbas, progenitor of the Abbasid Caliphs of Baghdad and Cairo. Sultan Ahmad II, son of Shah Muzammil of Egypt left that country and arrived in Sindh with a large following of Arabs in 1370 A.D. He married a daughter of Raja Rai Dhorang Sahta, receiving a third of the country as a dowry. Amir Fathullah Khan Abbasi, a recognized ancestor of the dynasty, conquered the Bhangar territory from Raja Dallu, of Alor and Bahmanabad, renaming it Qahir Bela. Chani Khan Abbasi entered the imperial service and gained appointment as a Panch Hazari in 1583. At his death, the leadership of the tribe was contested between two branches of the family, the Daudputras and the Kalhoras. Daud Khan, the first of his family to migrate to and rule Bahawalpur, then left Sindh where he had opposed the Afghan Governor of that province and was forced to flee. The Abbasi-Daudputras, who later ruled the state for more than two centuries, are the heirs of Amir Daud Khan Abbasi. The tribe assumed independence during the decline of the Durrani Empire. The mint at Bahawalpur was opened in 1802 by Nawab Bahawal Khan II with the permission of Shah Mahmud of Kabul. The first treaty with Bahawalpur was negotiated in 1833, the year after the treaty with Ranjit Singh for regulating traffic on the Indus. It secured independence of the Nawab within his

own territories, and opened up the traffic on the Indus and Sutlej.

During the first Afghan War, the Nawab assisted the British with supplies and allowing passage and in 1847-8 he co-operated actively with Sir Herbert Edwards in the expedition against Multan. For these services he was rewarded by the grant of the districts of Sabzalkot and Bhung, together with a life-pension of a lakh rupees.

In 1863 and 1866 insurrections broke out against the Nawab who successfully crushed the rebellions; but in March, 1866, the Nawab died suddenly, not without suspicion of having been poisoned, and was succeeded by his son, Nawab Sadiq Khan IV, a boy of four. The Nawab attained maturity in 1879, and was invested with full powers, with the advice and assistance of a council of six members.

During the Afghan campaigns (1878-80) the Nawab placed the entire resources of his State at the disposal of the British Government, and a contingent of his troops was employed in keeping open communications, and in guarding the Dera Ghazi Khan frontier. On his death in 1899 he was succeeded by Bahawal Khan V, a minor who attained maturity in 1900, and was invested with full powers in 1903. The Nawab of Bahawalpur was entitled to a salute of 17 guns.

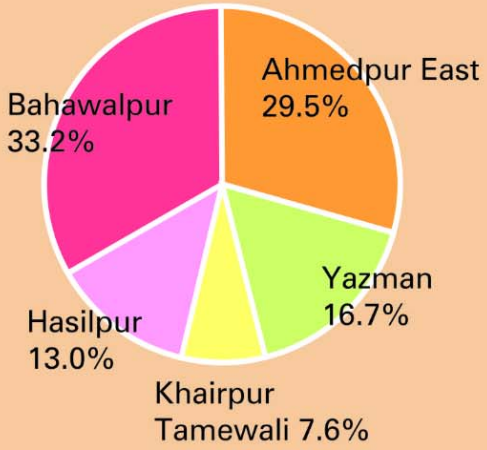
The Abbasi family ruled the State for more than 200 years (1748 to 1954). During the rule of the last Nawab Sir Sadiq Khan Abbasi V, Bahawalpur State was merged with Pakistan in 1954. Nawab family was however given special privileges by the government of Pakistan.

Bahawalpur is one of the largest districts of the

Bahawalpur district
Population 2007
2,906,023

8 Towns	957 Villages
27.3%	72.7%
Urban 794,622	Rural 2,111,401

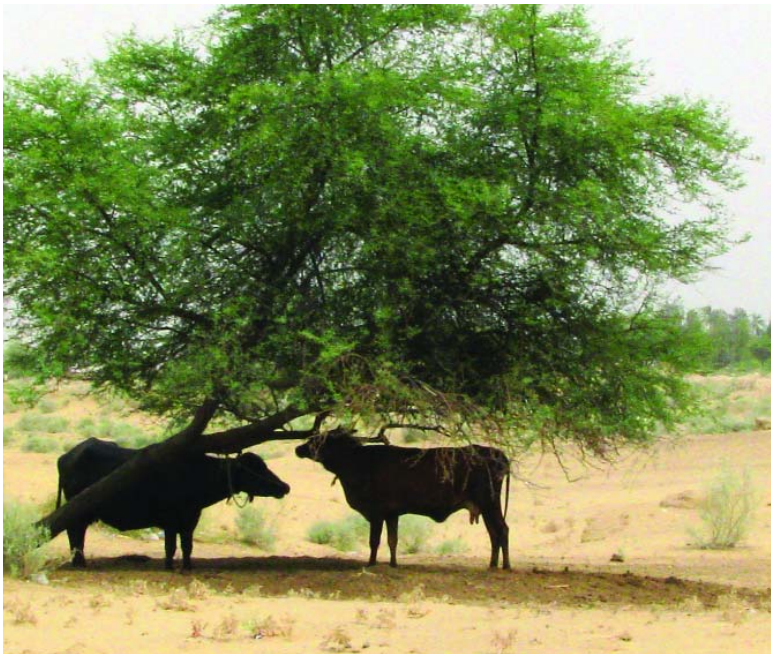
Tehsil shares in population



Towns	Population
Bahawalpur	425,945
Ahmedpur East	115,156
Hasilpur	85,153
Bahawalpur Cantt	61,832
Khairpur Tamewali	32,074
Yazman	25,115
Samasatta	24,892
Uch Sharif	24,456

Villages	No	% share
5000 & above	71	27.8
2,000 to 5,000	265	46.1
1,000 to 2,000	232	18.8
Less than 1,000	389	7.3
All villages	957	100.0

KHANEWAL
KHANEWAL DISTRICT
SAHIWAL DISTRICT
Qadirpur Ran
BUREWALA
MULTAN
MUZAFFARGARH
JAHANIAN
VEHARI
VEHARI DISTRICTS
Tibba Sultanpur
Karampur
Khangarh
SHUJABAD
MAILSI
CHISHTIAN
DUNYAPUR
Jamalpur
Jalla Jeem
Qaimpur
HASILPUR
HASILPUR TEHSIL
Ranwanwald
KAHROR PACCA
Dhanot
LODHRAN
KHAIRPUR TAMEWALI
Shahidanwala
Mangatwala
Shahr Sultan
JATOI
JALALPUR PIRWALA
BAHAWALPUR
Nursar
Wasiranwala Toba
ALIPUR
Khairpur
Jadid
Samasata
Lalsohanra
Forest
Uch Sharif
Mubarakpur
Nurpur
BAHAWALPUR TEHSIL
Bohrawala
Chak 359
FORT ABBAS
BAHAWALNAGAR
DISTRICT
AHMADPUR EAST TEHSIL
AHMADPUR EAST
YAZMAN
Chak 373
Chani Goth
Wodaha
Rohri
Nagar
Mojgarh
Fort Bara
Dingarh
Bhurewala Toba
LIAQUATPUR
Kanganwala
Marochiwala
Gappanwala Toba
Chah Kaura
Derawar Fort
Ramkali Toba
Badalwala
Kandiwala Toba
Chachar Toba
Lakhewala Toba
YAZMAN TEHSIL
Kirwala Toba
Samanewala
Rukanpur
Khangarh Fort
Nawa Kot
Dand Toba
Dhandwala
Sarwar Ka Toba
Lilarwala Khu
Ranhal
Niddewala Toba
Bijnot
Chilanwala
Motwaliwala Toba
Khaki
INDIA
Area of detail
Bahawalpur
Peshawar
Islamabad
Lahore
Multan
Quetta
Karachi



Punjab covering an area of 24,830 sq.km. The geography of the district can be divided into three parts that is the riverine area, the plain area and the desert. The riverine area lies close to the river Sutlej which used to flows in the north along its boundary with Lodhran and Vehari districts. Most of the lands in this area have been brought under cultivation. The desert, also known as Cholistan, lies towards the south and east of the irrigated track and north of the desert of Bikanir and Jaisalmir in India. It extends along the entire eastern boundary with the Bahawalnagar district in the north and Rahim Yar Khan district in the south. The surface of the desert consists of a succession of sand dunes rising in some places to a height of 150 meters. It is covered with the vegetation peculiar to the sandy tracks.

The district is situated almost in the center of the country at an elevation of 152 meters from the sea levels. The district is bounded on north by Lodhran, Multan and Vehari districts, on the east by Bahawalnagar district and India, on the south by India and on the west by Rahimyar Khan and Muzaffargarh districts. Location of Bahawalpur city has made it an important stopover for the huge Karachi-Peshawar traffic whether its train or road transport. The main railway track and the Highway that connect north and south of the country touch the city and hence plays an important role in its economy. Distance of major cities from Bahawalpur city is quite symmetrical; Peshawar is at 877 km in north, Karachi at 851 km in south, Lahore at 441 km in north and Larkana at 465 km in south, while Multan is relatively nearer at 94 km only.

Hunters used to find special attraction in Cholistan and some other areas of the district as a wide variety of wild animals was found there. Some famous were deer, black buck (Kala Hiran), neel gai, sand-grouse and quail.

The climate of Bahawalpur district is extremely hot and dry in summer and cold and dry in winter. The summer season starts in April and continues until October. May, June and July are the hottest months. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures during this period are 42 and 28 centigrade respectively. December, January and February are the coldest months. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures for this period

The urban population was 27.3 percent of the total population in 1998. It grew at an average rate of 4.21 percent during the 1981-98 period. The rate was 4.65 percent during 1972-81 period. There are one Municipal Corporation, two Municipal Committees, one Cantonment and four Town Committees. The towns are Bahawalpur, Ahmadpur East, Hasilpur, Bahawalpur Cantt, Khairpur Tamewali, Yazman, Samasatta, and Uch Sharif.

are 22 and 6 centigrade respectively. The months of November, February and March are pleasant. Dust storms are frequent during summer months. The annual precipitation is 125-200 millimeters which usually occurs during monsoon months of July and August. Average rainfall is less as the district is located at the tail end of monsoon region. The winter rains are received in the month of January and sometimes in February.

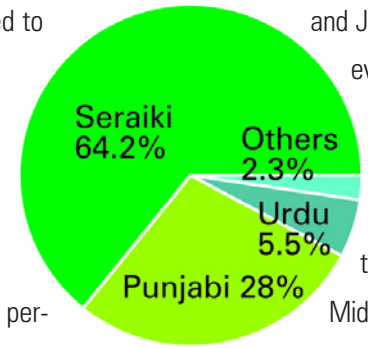
Bahawalpur district consists of five tehsils: Bahawalpur, Ahmed Pur East, Yazman, Khairpur Tamewal and Hasilpur. According to the 1998 national census, the population of Bahawalpur was 24,33,091 compared to 14,53,438 in 1981. The population grew by 67.4 percent in 17 years which indicates an average annual growth rate of 3.07 percent. Propagated at the national annual growth rate, the population is calculated to be 29,06,023 for 2007. The average household size in the district is 6.8 persons.

72.7 percent of the total population of the district lived in rural areas at the time of 1998 census. There were a total of 1,216 mauzas out of which 259 were un-inhabited. Villages are predominantly medium sized as 65 percent of the total rural population lives in the villages having 1000-5000 inhabitants. Only 71 villages have a population of more than 5,000.

The population of the district is predominantly Muslim who constitutes 98.1 percent of the total population, with almost equal proportions in rural and urban areas. The most important among the minorities are Hindus who are 0.9 percent in the district with larger concentration at 1.1 percent in rural areas compared to 0.3 percent in urban areas. Christians make 0.6 percent of the district population with a concentration in urban areas (1.4 per-

cent) as opposed to that of Hindus. Presence of other minorities in the district, both in rural as well as urban areas, is quite insignificant.

Seraiki is mother tongue of the majority, spoken by 64 out of every 100. It is predominant in rural areas at 70 percent as compared to 49 percent in urban areas. The next prominent group is of Punjabi speakers at 28 percent and is more in urban areas at 32 percent as compared to 27 percent in rural areas. Urdu speaking community is only 5.5 percent of the district's population, almost entirely concentrated in urban areas at 16.6 percent compared to only 1.3 percent in rural areas.

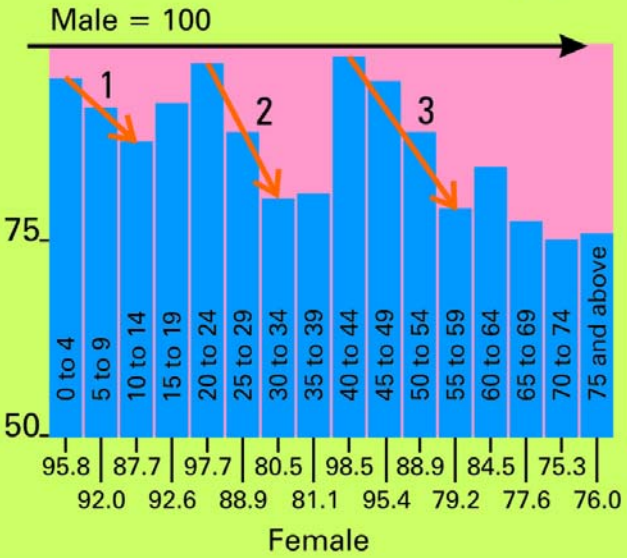


Population of male and female is not and has never been equal in most parts of the globe. Females are naturally more in numbers, for a variety of reasons. United Nations figures tell us that there are more females than males in 119 of the total 191 countries in the world. It is equal in 10 and female population is less than that of males in the rest 62.

In the developed countries like Europe, USA, Australia and Japan, there are 105 women against every 100 men. The sex ratio is 102 in the poor continent of Africa as well as in Latin America. In a sharp contrast, number of females is less than that of males in China, South Asia and Middle East.

Pakistan besides falling in the list of countries with negative female to male ratio, is also one of the only four countries where life expectancy at birth of females is less than that of males. In Pakistan, female population per hundred male population is 92. Situation is worst in Balochistan where the ratio is 87, while it is 89 in Sindh, 93 in Punjab and 95 in NWFP.

The 3 declines in female population of Bahawalpur

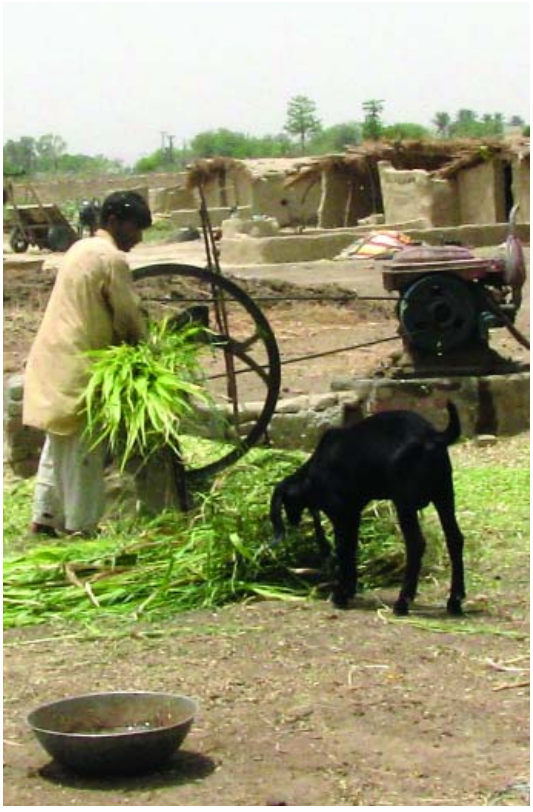


1. Son preference and discrimination against girl child is responsible for the decline in their numbers from 0 to 14 years of age.

2. Very high maternal mortality rate is likely to be instrumental in great fall in number of women from the age of 20 to 45 years.

3. Poor health care seems to be the dominating factor in reduction in number of women from 50 years on ward. The two surges within this period can't be explained.

A typical household



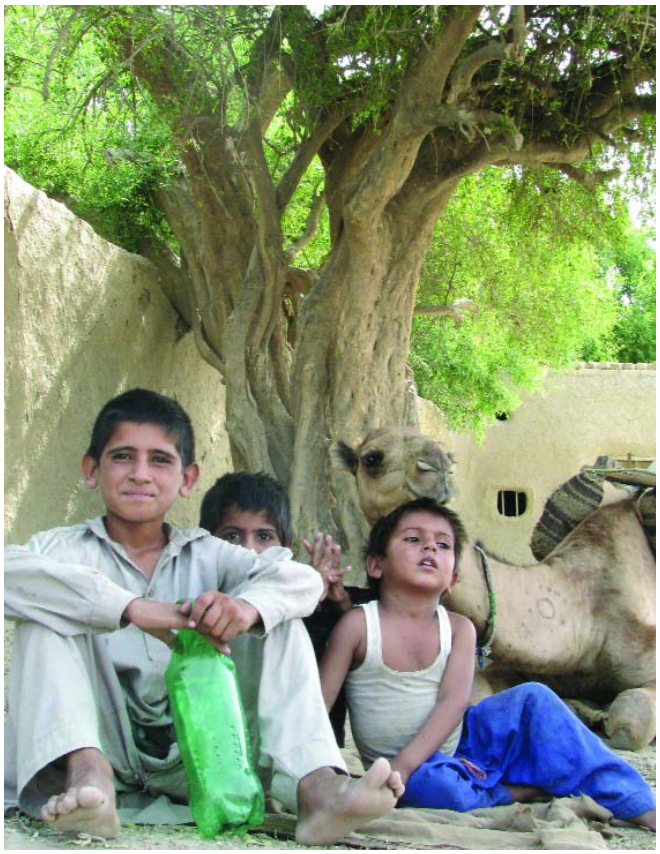
- Average household size in Bahawalpur district is 6.8 persons. The urban households are larger with an average of 7.2 persons against the rural average of 6.2 persons.
- Households having four or less family members make little over one fourth (27 per cent) of the total households in the district while the households hosting 8 or more family members are 36 per cent.
- 42 per cent the families of the district live in houses which are made of just one room. Every one-room house provides shelter to 5.4 persons, on average. One-room houses are more in number in rural areas (47 per cent) against 29 per cent in urban towns.
- A typical house of Bahawalpur, on an average has two rooms with 3.4 persons sharing every room.
- The houses on rent are found only in urban areas (16 per cent) while just one percent rural houses are on rent.
- 58 percent of the urban houses were built 10 or more years ago, when documented in 1998 while this figure for rural houses stood at 41 per cent
- The outer walls of majority (53 per cent) of rural houses are made of unbaked bricks while 29 per cent of urban houses also have similar outer walls. 45 per cent of rural and 31 per cent of urban houses have wooden roofs.
- While 95 per cent of urban population have access to tap and/or hand pump water, only 64 per cent of rural households have access to these drinking water sources.
- 62 per cent of rural households are yet to be provided electricity facility; however 85 per cent of urban population enjoys electricity facility.
- Wood is the major fuel for rural households (75 per cent), however wood fuel (54 per cent) is supplemented by the natural gas connections by 40 per cent urban households in Bahawalpur district.
- 83 per cent of rural houses while 18 per cent urban houses don't have latrines.
- 54 per cent urban households have TV while this ratio for rural households stands at just 19 per cent.

Number of female per 100 male population in the Bahawalpur district (sex ratio) is 90.3. This is lower than the provincial as well as national average. Rural ratio in the district (91.6) is better than the urban one that is 86.8. Sex ratio is highest in urban areas of tehsil Hasilpur while lowest in urban areas of tehsil Bahawalpur.

When compared with other districts of the province, Bahawalpur stands at number 33 among the 35 districts of Punjab. It is third only to Rajanpur and Lahore districts, which are the least developed and the most developed districts of the province, respectively.

If all the districts of Pakistan are arranged in descending order of sex ratio, Bahawalpur stands at number 70 among 106 districts. Highest ratio is in Chakwal (109.1) while the lowest is in District Malir of Karachi (78.9). There are ten districts where the ratio is 100 or more, and most of them fall in Potohar area and NWFP. 58 districts of the country have a ratio equal to or better than the national average while the other 48 have lower than it.

The age wise breakup of sex ratio in Bahawalpur district shows the three troughs in female life that are typical for all parts of the country. The first decline starts right from the birth and lasts till the age of 15 years as the nutritional and health care requirements of the girl child are not taken care of by the families that prefer sons over daughters. Girls and young women play a very important role in subsistence activities. There are numerous house and farm chores that are considered solely the job of women. Women in Bahawalpur are mainly involved in looking after livestock, harvesting of various crops, fetching water in desert areas, embroidery and domestic tasks. As they cross puberty, their 'productive value' increases and their ratio improves dramatically. This is also their reproductive age. In Bahawalpur, the number of women of age 20 to 25 compared with 100 men is 97.7, that is highest for any age group in the district. Unfortunately the good luck of the female population starts and stops in the same age group. They start bearing children and suffer heavily from maternal health problems. This is also the age when they become victims of honor related crimes and discriminations. As the graph shows their num-



The last crest in the graph shows that the ratio increases in favor of women once again after reaching the age of sixty. This may be attributed to the natural factors that make women live longer than men.

There are sharp differences in the sex ratio for the rural and the urban populations. For example, the number of females aged 20 to 24 in rural Bahawalpur is 101.6 that means more women than men. But in urban areas their number is only 88.8.

bers tumble sharply till the age of 40. The female population gets a brief respite at the end of reproductive age and their number again climbs up. But this relief is also short lived and the number falls down once more.

At around the age of 50, generally the daughters-in-law take over the charge and the old women's role in the family shrinks to marginal and complementary jobs. They don't have any social security resources to draw upon for their health care. They neither have ownership of any resources like land. In comparison old men are more likely to be enjoying some pension or might be in possession of a property which makes them more preferable for their children when it comes to expenditure on health care and taking care of other old age needs.

The literacy rate of the district was 35 percent according to the district census report of 1998. The male literacy rate is almost double at 45 percent compared with the 24 percent for the females. The rate in the urban areas is more than double at 57 percent as compared to 26.3 percent in the rural areas. In the rural areas, male literacy is more than double at 36.4 percent compared to female literacy rate at only 15 percent. The difference is relatively less in urban areas where it is 65.3 percent for males and 47.1 percent for females.

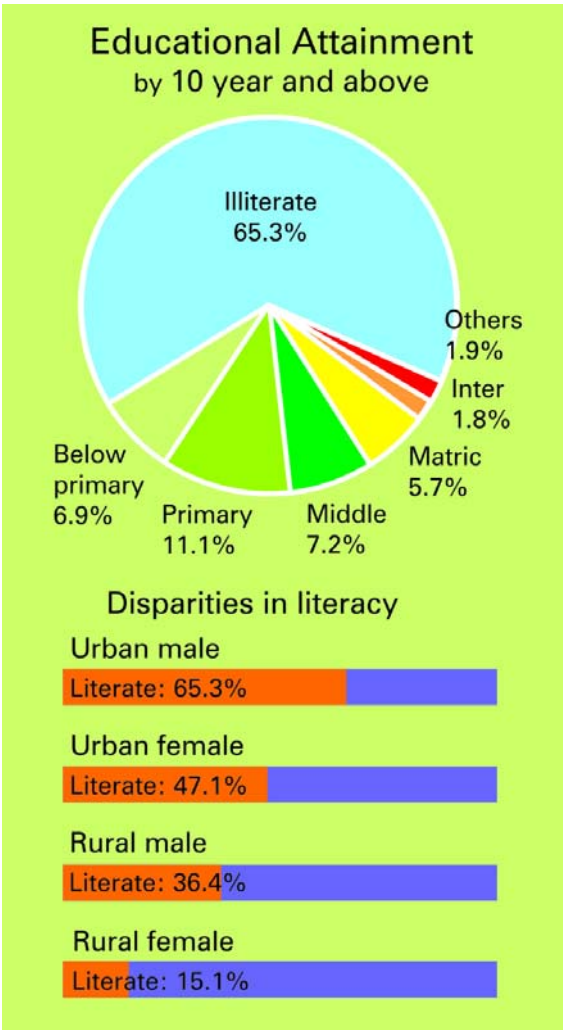
Literacy-wise, Bahawalpur tehsil stands first in the district with 45.4 percent (both sexes) literate population followed by Hasilpur 37.9 percent, Ahmedpur East (24.2) percent, Khairpur Tamewali (23.25) and Yazman. The literacy rate of urban areas is higher than rural areas and that of men is higher than women in all cases. Urban population of tehsil Bahawalpur is the most literate community of the district while rural population of tehsil Ahmedpur East is the most illiterate.

Bahawalpur stands at number 27 among the 35 districts of Punjab with respect to overall literacy while at number 29 with regards to the male literacy rate. It ranks a bit higher in terms of female literacy that is 20th in 35 districts. It is one of the few districts of the province which are ranked higher in female literacy than male literacy.

In 1998, only 28 out of 100 children of school going age (5-24 years) were going to school. This ratio is extremely low itself as well as when compared to other districts of the province. Out of the 35 districts of Punjab province, only three other districts: Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh and Lodhran have an enrollment ratio less than that of Bahawalpur. Significant difference between the enrollment ratios are observed when it is segregated on the basis of gender and urban-rural area. Enrollment ratio of rural females is 17 percent as compared to 42 percent in urban females and 47 percent in urban males.

Of every 100 literate persons, only 21 could pass middle, 17 passed matric, 5 passed intermediate and only 3 were graduates. Postgraduates were only 1.4 percent of the total literate persons, according to the 1998 census data. Regarding gender differential, males were more educated and had higher education than females. In urban areas of the district, there were more than 21,000 graduates while in rural areas, the level of education tapered off sharply and hardly 6,000 were found with a graduate degree.

A later study, Punjab Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in 2003-04, notes that overall literacy in the district has little bit increased reaching 37 percent.



School enrollment for children aged 5 to 9 was 51 percent (excluding katchi class) in Punjab during the year 2002-2003. The difference between the districts in overall enrollment figures is quite big. It was over 70 percent in certain districts including Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Jhelum and Hafizabad while in others like Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Lodhran and Bahawalpur it was under 35 percent. Net enrollment rate at primary level in district Bahawalpur is 32 percent which is much lower than the provincial average and the district ranked at number 33 in the

province, higher only than Lodhran and Muzaffargarh. A low enrollment rate at primary level indicates that there has not been a remarkable improvement after the last census in 1998. Of every 100 children that complete primary education, 65 are boys while only 35 are girls. The proportion of female students goes on decreasing further as the level of education increases. It becomes 72 boys and 28 girls as they reach tenth grade.

Infant mortality rate for the district Bahawalpur is 90, implying that 90 children out of 1000 live births die before reaching their first birthday. This is extremely high as the average for Punjab province is 77. Bahawalpur is grouped in this regard with the least developed districts of the province like Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan and Lodhran where IMR is 90 or higher. Highest IMR in Punjab (97) is in Rajanpur while lowest (55) is in Lahore.

Under 5 mortality rate for Bahawalpur is 142 while average for Punjab is 112. One third of the children in this district are malnourished and are underweight for their age.

There are a total of 191 government health facilities in the district which include one Allied Teaching Hospital, one cancer specialty hospital, one women hospital, four tehsil headquarter hospitals (THQs), 60 dispensaries, 12 rural health centers, 73 basic health units and 3 TB clinics.

Total number of beds in these health institutes is 1,553. This means that there is only one bed for every 1,567 people, or in other words, 6.4 beds for every 10,000 people. Pakistan in general is ranked in the bottom 10 countries of the world in this regard as the country has only 7 beds for every 10,000 persons. This average is 165 for Japan, 30 for Sri Lanka, 17 for Iran and 13 for Iraq. The ratio in the district is almost equal to the national and provincial average and compares with other similar districts of the province as Multan (6.5), Sargodha (5.5) etc. It is worth mentioning that the health facilities of this district do not cater exclusively to the district's population. Neighboring districts of Lodhran, Khanewal and Bahawalnagar don't have enough health facilities both in terms of quantity as well as quality, hence people from these districts normally end up here.

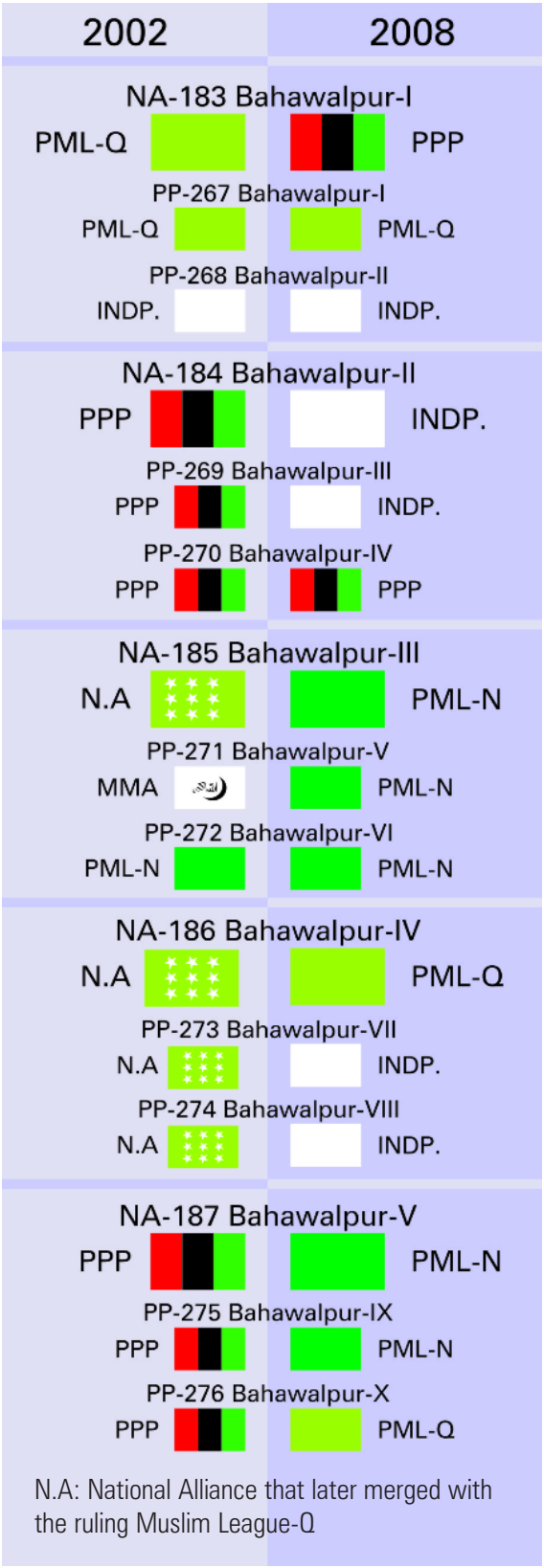
A comprehensive Lady Health Worker (LHW) program was started in Pakistan some years back, under which around 100,000 LHWs have been trained till today. These LHWs are trained to provide antenatal (before birth), delivery and postnatal (after birth) medical care to the pregnant women besides treating other minor illnesses. Currently around 38 percent of the households in district Bahawalpur are covered by the Lady Health Workers. Average cover in Punjab is 35 percent. There are areas where the coverage is much better for example Hafizabad (89 percent), Multan (74 percent), Jhelum (73percent).

Although the coverage under LHW program in Bahawalpur is better than the average, yet ratio of the births attended by trained attendants is quite low in the district. This is 20 percent for Bahawalpur while average for the province is 33 percent. Assistance after delivery has a similar pattern.

The modern political history of the princely state of Bahawalpur began with Nawab Bahawal Khan III's request to East India Company to save it from Ranjit Singh's Lahore Empire in 1833. The Nawab was facing the wrath of mighty Punjabi Raja for non-payment of the agreed taxes. Consequently a pact was signed between the State and the Company. Captain Wade was appointed as the first political agent of Bahawalpur State by the British the same year. The rest is the tale of British mastery over arm twisting and palace intrigues and the immense influence they enjoyed in this princely state.

Amir Bahawal Khan IV was poisoned to death in such an intrigue, which helped British rule the state almost directly. As Nawab's only son Amir Sadiq Khan was only four years old at that time, his wife requested the British to arrange the administration till the prince attains the age of maturity. Mr. Ford resident of the British Government was assigned to look up the new set up.

The young Amir was enthroned in 1879 and ruled for next 20 years. Educated in British institutions the young Amir organized the civil departments and improved their working as well as converting the entire government structure on modern lines.



N.A: National Alliance that later merged with the ruling Muslim League-Q

When he died at Adan while returning from Hajj, the Crown Prince Amir Sadiq Muhammad Khan V was only four and half year old. Once again Council of Regency was appointed to run the affairs of the state. It included the English and native aristocracy and Amir Sadiq was sent to England for education. He was enthroned in 1924 in Bahawalpur Darbar where Lord Reading, Viceroy of India, conferred the title on the young ruler. His era is remembered for his distinctive features like strong administrator, promoter of brotherly relations with contemporary rulers and leaders of the Sub-continent and financial support and donations to the institutions projecting the separate Islamic identity.

Nawab Sadiq took active part in the World War II and helped the British that won the Bahawalpur army the Sword of Honor and George Cross.

Sutlej Valley project, which changed the demographics of the state altogether, was developed, designed and executed by the English with the financial cooperation of the State. The project brought prosperity in the State but it also resulted in the influx of migrants from central Punjab, who in some parts of the state outnumbered the locals.

After the emergence the new state of Pakistan on the world map, Nawab Sadiq announced the affiliation of the State with Pakistan. Nevertheless there was hesitation and delay caused by the desire of the Nawab and his Chief Minister Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani to maintain the independent status of the State. Pakistan's Council Zafar Ullah Khan represented Bahawalpur before the boundary commission. At the same time he sent representatives to the Pakistan's Constituent Assembly to take part in

the negotiations. But events were moving at a fast pace for these meticulous matters. An almost complete evacuation of Hindus and Sikhs from more than half the State had taken place by the end of September. On 3rd October 1947, Bahawalpur acceded to Pakistan. Bahawalpur State was merged into the One Unit of West Pakistan in 1955 and it became a division of Punjab province comprising Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Rahim Yar Khan districts, never to be restored as a State. The army of the state was merged into Baluch Regiment. The last ruling Nawab of the Abbasid lineage died in London on 24th May 1966 and was buried in Derawar.

The mainstream political leaders of Bahawalpur region fell victim to infamous Elective Bodies Disqualification Order (EBDO) laws of Ayub Khan. Elections of 1962 and 1965 were dominated by the family of Maulvi Akhtar Ali as the members of this political family were elected in both these elections and sided with Ayub Khan's Convention League. The land reforms of 1960s reduced the erstwhile Nawab family to conventional landlords. They enthusiastically participated in the first ever parliamentary elections held on adult franchise basis in 1970. In these elections, two independent and one shared national seats were allotted to Bahawalpur district. First independent seat was won by Council Muslim League's Mian Nizamuddin Haider who defeated PPP's Ghulam Jaffar. On the second seat Sahibzada Saeed-ur-Rasheed Abbasi, a member of Nawab family, posed a huge defeat over Maulana Habibullah of JUI. The winner-loser margin was about 75 thousand votes.

By 1977 elections, Abbasi family had joined ruling PPP. In these elections three independent and one shared national seats were allocated to Bahawalpur district, which were all clinched by PPP. Two members of Abbasi family Sahibzada Saeed-ur-Rasheed Abbasi and Prince Salah-ud-Din Abbasi were among the winners.

In 1985 Saeed-ur-Rasheed Abbasi contested the elections despite the PPP's boycott decision and completed his hat-trick of victories by defeating Haji Haq Nawaz quite easily.

Since these elections Abbasis, Gardezis, Pirzadas and settler Jats are the major players in the politics of this district.

In 1988 elections, three independent constituencies were allotted to Bahawalpur. On one two members of Abbasi family were up against each other. Saeed-ur-Rasheed Abbasi was the PPP candidate while Prince Salah-ud-Din Abbasi was an independent candidate. Salah-ud-Din defeated Saeed quite easily with a lead of around 23 thousand votes. On the second Bahawalpur constituency PPP candidate Farooq Azam Malik defeated IJI's Iqbal Athar in a one-sided contest with a superiority of over 21 thousand votes. On third constituency Sardar Maqsood Hussain Gill of PPP was not fortunate enough to overpower Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi, who was an IJI candidate in these elections. Gardezi was 13 thousand votes ahead of his opponent. Thus Bahawalpur district seats were equally distributed among IJI, PPP and independents.

In 1990 elections, two Abbasi princes Salah-ud-Din and Muhammad Usman were vying for the national

elections on first Bahawalpur constituency. Salah-ud-Din was a candidate of IJI in these elections while Usman was an independent candidate. Salah-ud-Din won this seat in these elections as well, his third victory in a row. However, it was a tough contest as he managed just 9 thousand more votes than his closest rival. On the second constituency another Abbasi prince Sahibzada Farooq Anwar Abbasi of IJI easily defeated the 1988-winner Farooq Azam Malik of PPP. IJI manifested a clean sweep in the district as Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi edged past PPP's Riaz Pirzada with a faint margin of 300 votes.

In 1993 elections, PPP could manage to win just one seat while PML-N was able to retain two national seats. Prince Salah-ud-Din, a PML-N candidate this time, overpowered Usman Abbasi of PML (Junejo) while Sahibzada Farooq Anwar Abbasi retained his seat on PML-N platform defeating a new PPP entrant Tariq Bashir Cheema. Tasneem Gardezi, however, could not continue his winning spree as PPP contender Riaz Pirzada won with a huge margin of about 17 thousand votes.

In 1997 elections, PML-N once again clean swept the national elections in Bahawalpur district. Aqeel-ur-Rehman was elected unopposed from NA-143 Bahawalpur III. The two princes Salah-ud-Din and Farooq Anwar also made it to the parliament. More interestingly, no runner-up was from PPP.

In the new demarcations before 2002 elections, five national constituencies were allocated for Bahawalpur district. The seemingly all powerful PML-N crumbled like a house of cards. PML-N's 1997 winner Farooq Azam Malik and PPP' Riaz Pirzada defected to National Alliance. Both the defectors managed to win their seats. Two of the five seats went to the PPP while the rest to pro-Musharraf parties. The veteran Abbasi politicians went missing after these elections.

In 2008 elections, PML-N partially reclaimed its stronghold by winning two seats. PPP could get just one seat while its 2002-winner preferred it to successfully fight as independent candidate while one seat went to PML-Q.

From 1988 to 1997, Bahawalpur had seven provincial seats. In 1988 elections, PPP dominated the elections as four out of seven seats were clinched by the party against one of IJI and two of independents. In the following elections of 1990, all the seven seats went to IJI. In 1993 elections, PPP came back claiming four provincial seats, remaining three going to PML-N. In the 1997 elections People's Party was wiped out again as six seats went to PML-N while one was won by an independent candidate. Abbasi, Gilani, Awaisi, Gardezi, Bukhari, Varan as well as settler like Cheema and Gill are the major players in provincial electoral politics of the district.

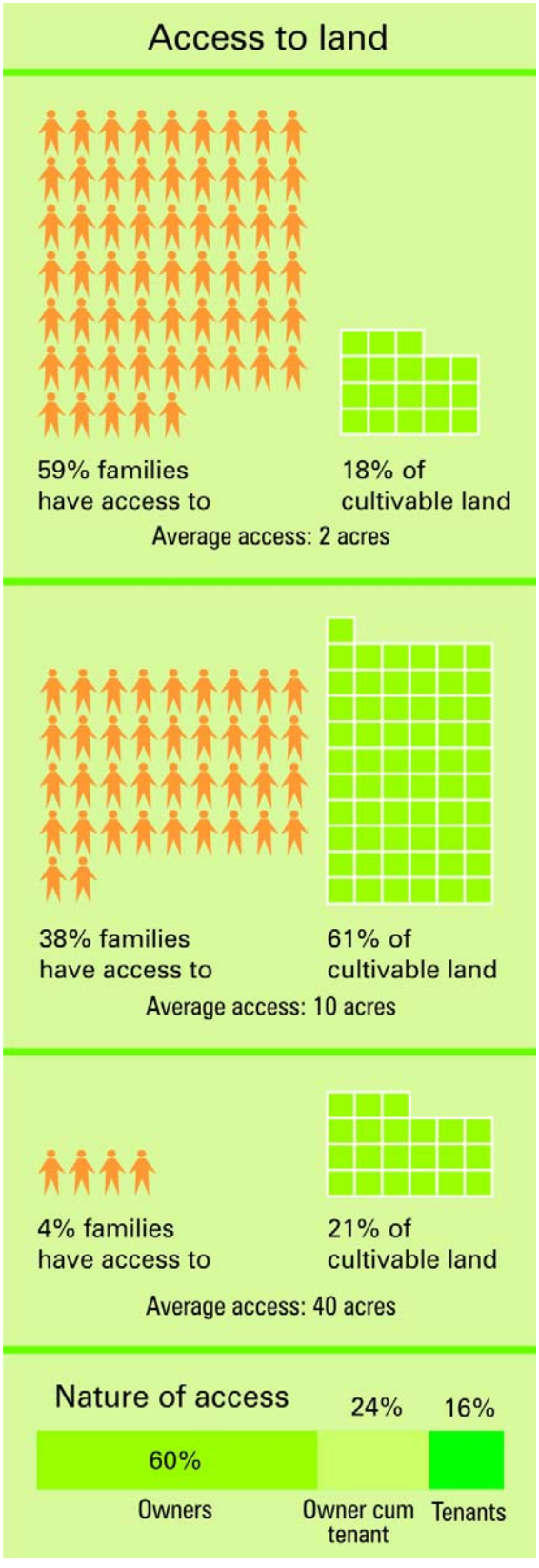
In the new demarcations before 2002 elections, Bahawalpur district was given ten provincial seats. PPP emerged as largest party by winning four seats followed by National Alliance, which won two seats. One seat each was won by PML-N, PML-Q, MMA and independent. In 2008 elections PML-N turned out to be the most successful party winning three seats, followed by PML-Q's two and PPP's one seats. Remaining four seats were won by independents.

Bahawalpur consists of three different types of soil: riverine area along river Sutlej, the canal-irrigated plain and the Cholistan desert. Apart from a portion falling in Cholistan desert, the entire district of Bahawalpur is a fertile tract of alluvial clay where agriculture is a major economic activity. The economic outlook of rural Bahawalpur started taking a turn from pastoral to cultivation of cash crops in the later part of nineteenth century and early in 20th century. The agricultural inhabitation or what is called the colonization is still under process in the district with Cholistan land being allotted to new cultivators. The part of settled Cholistan desert is considered a separate district in agricultural statistics of Punjab.

With the exception of few northern and southern districts of the province, the land-use intensity in the entire Punjab is very high. In the central belt it reaches to 98 per cent. Bahawalpur is among the districts where the land-use intensity is higher than the national average of 92 percent or in other words 9.5 of every 10 cultivable acres in the district are actually cultivated. For settled Cholistan, the land-use intensity is 82 per cent. There is no land formally cultivated in the unsettled Cholistan.

Almost all the cultivated area is irrigated through elaborate canal system. According to Agriculture Census 2000 one in every 25 farming families of Punjab belongs to Bahawalpur districts. Similarly three in every 100 cultivable acres of the province are there in this district.

Like most of the Punjab districts, as many as 73 percent people live in villages in Bahawalpur district. According to a careful estimate 310,500 families live in rural Bahawalpur, out of which almost half (148,600 families) have some sort of access to land. This simply means that 52 per cent of the rural population are landless inhabitants of the rural Bahawalpur. These landless and non-farming families rely on trade, industrial labor, rural service



industry, livestock or simply agricultural or menial labor for their livelihood.

If we keep these 52 per cent landless and non-farming rural population aside, the land ownership pattern in the rest 48 percent farming families is also extremely unequal. Out of this farming community mere 64 per cent are owners while 15 per cent are owner-cum-tenants. It means that more than 21,000 families' ownership of land is so limited that they get additional piece of land on rent. Another 28 thousand families are purely tenants, which are 21 per cent of the farming community. It implies that little less than one fourth of the farming community has adopted the occupation of farming despite the fact that they own no land in the district. The high tenancy rate resembles with the potato-growing belt of Okara, Sahiwal and Pakpattan districts, which is known for market-oriented cash crops. The high tenancy ratio can be linked to viability of cash crops in an area.

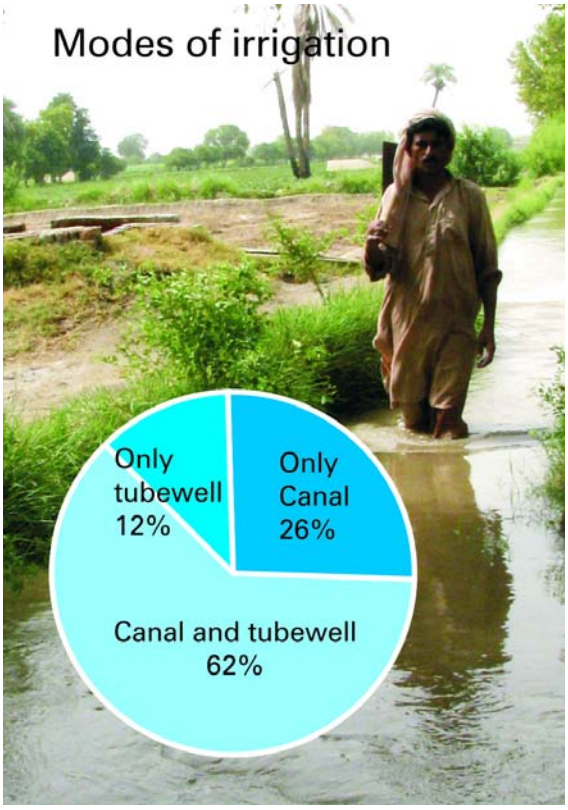
Agriculture in Bahawalpur is characterized by the dominance of very small farmers. Almost six in every ten farmers of the district are small farmers with an average access to just 1.8 acres. They make an overwhelming part of the farming community but have access to just 18 per cent of the total cultivable land of the district. On the other hand the medium farmers with an average access to 9.8 acres make 38 per cent of the community while they enjoy access to 61 per cent of the available cultivable area of the district. The large farmers are just three per cent of the community but they enjoy big land holdings with an average access of 39.5 acres and control over 21 per cent of the cultivable

land of the district. It means that only 4,900 families have access to more than one fifth of the district's farm area.

According to 2004 Agriculture Machinery Census, there is one tractor and its implements available for every ten farming families. District Bahawalpur is 15th on the list of districts with respect to more machinery use in the entire province. Bahawalpur's machinery use is little better than the provincial average of one tractor for 12 farms, Lahore being on top with a tractor for 5 farms while Rawalpindi being on bottom with one tractor per 30 farming families.

The main source of irrigation in the district is canals. Qaim Canal, Bahawal Canal Upper, Bahawal Canal Lower, Panjnad Canal and Abbasia Canal quench the thirst of Bahawalpur land. These canals are part of Bahawalpur irrigation zone, which covers a total area of 4.42 million acres, including the area of Bahawalpur district.

While canals irrigate more than one fourth of the total irrigated land, tube-wells are second most important source of irrigation in the district, which supplement the canal water in irrigating 62 per cent of the total irrigated area besides exclusively feeding another 12 per cent of the district's irrigated area. According to Machinery Census 2004, there were around 19,000 tube-wells in the district, which means that one tube-well is available to every 8 farming families. This ratio is lower than the Punjab average of one tube-well for five farming families. Hafizabad is the district in Punjab with almost one tube-well for every two farming families while in Rawalpindi district one tube-well is available to 190 farming families. Seven in every hundred tube-wells



installed in the Punjab province have electricity connection available, with Kasur enjoying 36 per cent tube-wells being run on electricity while Cholistan having not a single tube-well on electricity. In Bahawalpur district 5 in every 100 tube-wells are electric-powered while the rest of 95 per cent are diesel-engine powered pumps.

Bahawalpur's crop pattern revolves around wheat-cotton rotation, which is typical to entire South Punjab. In fruits, citrus and mango are cultivated on commercial scale. There is not much area under minor crops in percentage terms but despite that thousands of acres are allocated to rapeseed, mustard and sunflower enough to earn Bahawalpur the fame of topping the province in their production. 83 per cent of the total cultivated area comes under

Top five

Wheat producers of Punjab

Jhang	1,373,500	tons
Rahimyar Khan	1,159,800	
Muzaffargarh	1,079,400	
Bahawalnagar	1,065,000	
▶ Bahawalpur	888,700 ◀	

Cotton producers of Punjab

Rahimyar Khan	1,106,600	bales
▶ Bahawalpur	822,400 ◀	
Lodhran	769,600	
Vehari	760,400	
Multan	749,200	

Mango producers of Punjab

Multan	431,173	tonnes
Rahimyar Khan	369,513	
Muzaffargarh	219,282	
Khanewal	144,670	
▶ Bahawalpur	59,383 ◀	

2005-06 figures

wheat in Bahawalpur district, which is extra-ordinarily high. Same is the case with cotton as 82 per cent of area comes under cotton in Kharif season in the district. In 2005-06 wheat was cultivated on almost 0.76 million acres out of total 0.87 million acres available in Bahawalpur. Bahawalpur is fifth largest wheat producing district in the Punjab and the country. The top four are Jhang, Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh and Bahawalnagar. Its share in provincial production and acreage is above 4 per cent each while the average yield of 28 maunds per acre is equivalent to the provincial average.

Cotton dominates the entire rural economy of the district. In 2005-06 cotton was grown on a vast tract of 0.7 million acres in the district. 12 in every 100 acres of Punjab under cotton are there in Bahawalpur while 10 in every 100 cotton bales of the province come from this district, which is second biggest cotton producing district of province and country. The biggest is the bordering Rahimyar Khan. The per acre yield of cotton in Bahawalpur (7.4 maunds per acre) is little less than the provincial average of 8 maunds an acre.

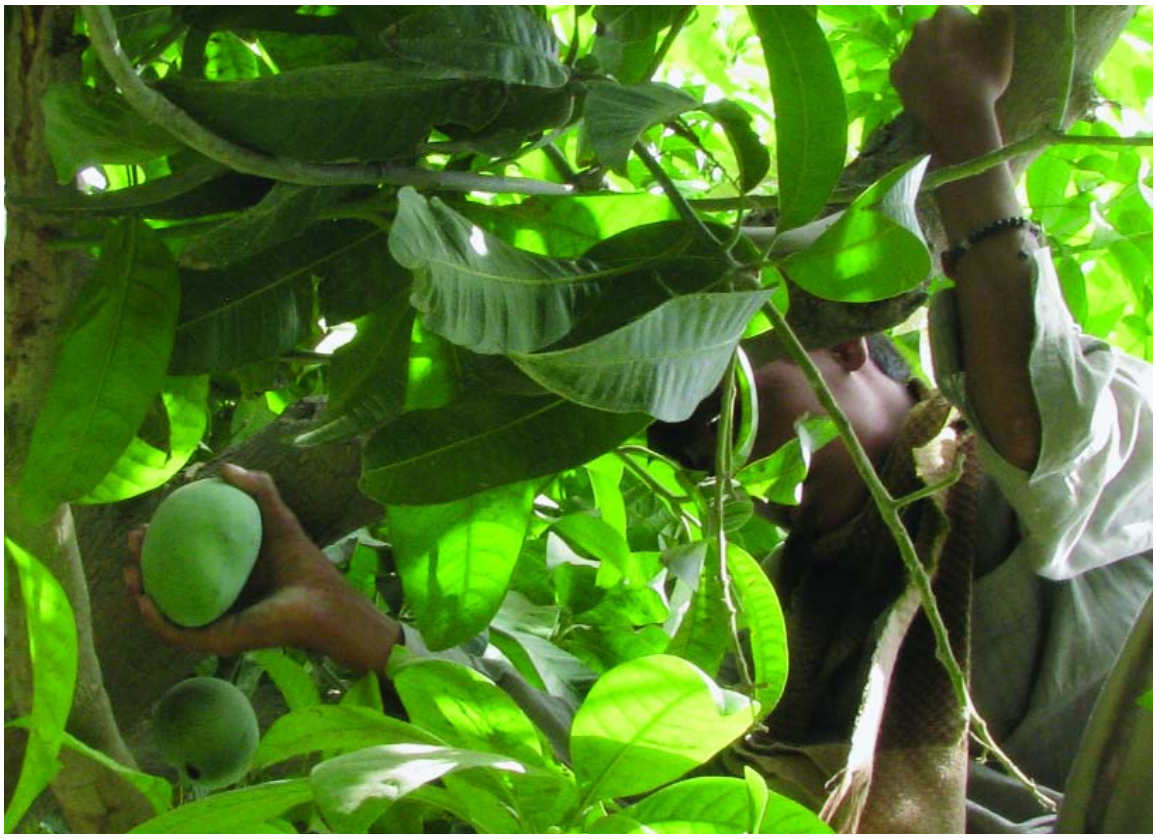
Besides cotton and wheat, sugarcane is grown on 2 per cent of the land while rice and maize get only one per cent of land each. In minor crops, rapeseed and mustard are grown on a huge tract, which accounts for 4 per cent of the total land and the district is second biggest rapeseed growing district after Bahawalnagar in Punjab. Castor seed is grown on very little scale yet Bahawalpur tops the list of castor seed producing districts of the province. Similar is the case with linseed, in which Bahawalpur, despite dedicating few hundred acres

of land, is fourth largest producer. Same is true for tomatoes in which Bahawalpur is among top ten districts of Punjab despite dedicating few hundred acres of land to this crop. Only one per cent of land is dedicated to vegetables. Four percent of land is allocated to sunflower, making it the second most sunflower producing district in terms of production of sunflower after Vehari in entire province.

On fruits front, 2 per cent of the total area is under citrus as the district is 8th largest producer of citrus in the province. The other major fruit is mango, which captures one percent of total district area. Bahawalpur is 5th largest mango-producing district in Punjab but its share in overall provincial production is just 4 per cent.

In rural Bahawalpur district livestock is as big an economic activity as is the farming. There are more than 148 thousand households associated with farming while the families rearing milch animals are more than 199 thousand. If it is assumed that all the farming families keep some milch animal (as is the practice in agrarian districts), there are 51 thousand landless families in the district that rear milch animals. This is one third of the total landless population of rural Bahawalpur.

Bahawalpur stands fourth in terms of more livestock holding families in the province after Jhang, Faisalabad and Rahimyar Khan. According to Livestock Census 2006, every livestock holding family in Bahawalpur districts owns three cows while every two have seven buffalos. Around 19 thousand families rear sheep in the district with an average herd size of 6 animals. The families rearing goats are about 186,000 with an average herd size of 6 animals. The census also counted 3,107 camels, 2,657 horses and a little less than one million poultry birds. Contrary to extremely uneven access to land, livestock ownership is relatively balanced. The small herd owners make 96 per cent of community and won 78 per cent of livestock. Medium and large herd owners make 4 per cent of the community and own 22 per cent of the district's livestock population. On an average small herd owner owns 2, medium 9 and large ones 82 large animals respectively.



Mango economy is a story of wasted opportunities

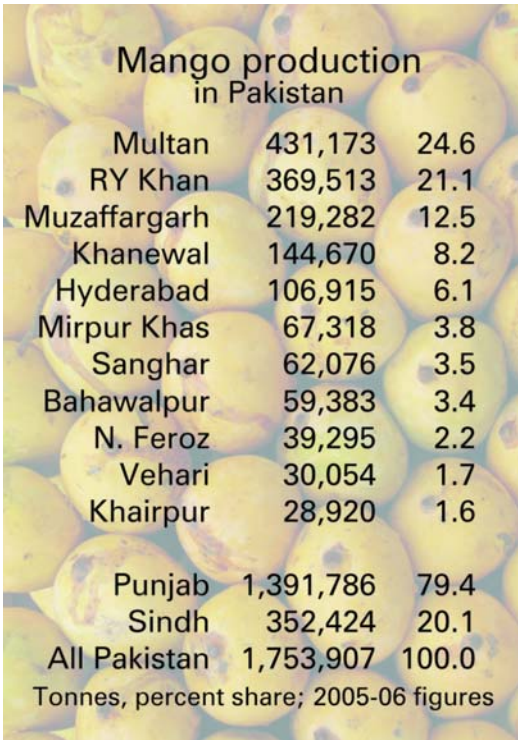
The king in tatters

Former princely state of Bahawalpur was known for being home to good quality mangoes. It was among the gift items sent by the state to its friends across the Sub-continent every year. The same area, now comprising the districts of Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Rahimyar Khan along with the neighboring districts of Muzaffargarh and Multan, produces the bulk of good quality mango - 79 percent of the total production of Punjab. The three districts of Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagr and Rahimyar Khan districts produced 31 percent of the total mangoes produced in the province in 2005-06 season. Punjab contributes 79 percent in the country's overall production of 1.75 million tones while the rest 21 percent comes from Sindh.

Pakistan is the world's fifth largest mango producer. Mango is the second major fruit crop in Pakistan after citrus. At present it is grown on an area of 387 thousand acres. The country annually exports about 80,000 tonnes, mainly to the Middle East and the UK. The principal varieties are Sindhri, which dominates Sindh production, and Chaunsa, which dominates Punjab production. Pakistani mangoes are sweet, aromatic, yellow skinned and soft. Less than 3 per cent of the crop is used by processing industry, mostly to make mango pulp.

More than 90 percent of the mango production is consumed locally. Domestic supply chains are fragmented and involve up to six or seven intermediaries between the primary source (growers) and the end user. Most important links of the chain include growers, contractors, dealers, wholesalers and retailers.

Others are transporters, processors, importers etc. Because of the presence of so many layers and the lack of adequate marketing infrastructure facilities, about one third of the perishable produce gets spoiled before reaching the ultimate consumer. The post harvest losses in fruits in Pakistan are estimated at Rs 31 billion and in vegetables Rs 18 billion per annum. The value of wasted quantity in case of just three fruits (mango, banana, and dates) amounts to over 4 billion rupees per year. Modern infrastructure for cold storage, grading, post-harvest treatment and transport is almost non-existent. Periodic gluts occur on domestic markets and with no capacity to store fruit, heavy discounting of retail prices is the only method of clearing stocks.



Pakistani mango growers operate between the range of less than five acres to over 1,000 acres. Growers fall into three categories: small growers (greatest in number) manage up to 50 acres, medium sized growers manage 50 to 100 acres and large growers (smallest in number) manage more than 100 acres. It is estimated that 20 per cent of the growers produce 80 per cent of total production.

Mango growers in Pakistan do not usually harvest their own crops, relying instead on contractors. It is estimated that about 90 percent of the growers sell harvesting rights to the contractors at flowering stage. The harvesting contractors camp in orchards, pick and pack the fruit and send it to dealers/commission agents called aarhtees. The contractors specialize in picking and packing techniques, possess knowledge of what and when to pick. Moreover they maintain active liaison with dealers in urban markets and follow their leads about price fluctuations while sending a consignment to them. They are in fact field agents of the dealers. Most of them work with the finances forwarded by the dealers and stand committed to supplying their lender. Studies suggest that around 95 percent of the contractors are financed by the commission agent. One contractor can manage up to 1,000 acres, but the average medium sized contractor manages 50 to 100 acres. Contractors employ one laborer for 2.5 aces and larger contractors employ one field supervisors for every 20 to 30 laborers. The contractors pay the orchard owners a fixed per weight amount while the dealers pay them back a fixed percentage of the auction price of their forwarded consignment. The deal between contractor and the grower is a gamble for the contractors as they cannot influence the fluctuations in the market prices. The profit and loss both are taken up by the contractor. The farmer though

gets very little yet he feels secure as the price of his produce is fixed per weight irrespective of the market rate. The farmers have not entrenched themselves into this rather low yielding yet safe position by choice. They in fact have been pushed into it. The dealers discourage the farmers picking and packing their own produce by offering them low prices or using other delaying tactics. The harvesting contract system actually denies the farmers direct access to markets and levels the field for the dealers to directly control all the facets of this trade. This marketing system has converted the farmers into a 'rent seeker' rather than a producer of a commodity.

The harvesting contractors are interested in extracting the most out of a season's contract. They do not bother to take care of many aspects that are important for the health of orchards. Their harvesting techniques are also poor - fruit is often dropped from the tree by either cutting or hitting with a pole, causing bruising, piling up the fruit after harvesting that can cause bruising, heating (accelerating ripening), disease infection (Aspergillus) and sap burn, poor grading and packing - this is usually carried out in the field or sometimes in open sheds with earth floors. Fruit is sorted in piles then usually packed in roughly nailed wooden crates lined with newspaper, no cool chain practices are adopted causing short shelf life as mangoes are harvested at up to 50 C air temperature.

Commission agents (arhtees) are the linchpin in the supply chain. They finance the operations of the contractors, and through them, the operations of growers, especially smaller growers. A small grower is paid in advance for his crop at fruit set. He lives off this advance until next season, but many run out of cash before the next season starts. At this point the commission agent again finances them in advance for the purchase of crop inputs, effectively binding them to the agent for another season. Rates charged by commission agents for their services range from 6 to 10 per cent, although the total margin captured by them is between 20 and 30 per cent. Commission agents control the product and the information in the supply chain more than any other participant.

Commission agents usually operate from wholesale markets, where their product is auctioned to wholesalers, who may then sort and re-grade fruit before

selling it (in the wholesale market) to buyers, especially street vendors.

Only a small portion of mangoes, about 3 percent, is used for processing into value added products such as pulp for use in drinks and ice cream, canned mangoes and dried mangoes. Mangoes for processing are generally purchased from the wholesale market. No quality standards are communicated to potential suppliers; mangoes are purchased mature green and ripened using calcium carbide on the processor's premises. Fruit is then graded for processing. After processing, skins are discarded and seeds supplied to the plant nursery units. Although its inherent quality is suitable and supply is available, very little processed mango is exported from Pakistan, mainly due to competition from a more organized mango industry in India.

Less than 10 per cent of total production is exported. Most fruit for export is sourced from commission agents, and most is graded and packed by hand with no other post harvest treatment. Many exporters are also commission agents and many commission agents are also exporters. Most exports are of low value product to Middle Eastern markets, notably Dubai. Many importers are Pakistanis living abroad. Currently there is no effective cool chain between the farm and the exporter, with fruit arriving at exporters' premises at ambient temperature. Very few exporters have a forced air cooling system, some have conventional cool rooms, some rely on reefers for cooling, others use open containers and have no interest in cooling fruit. Most exporters do not cool fruit shipped by air.

There is very little regulation and no accreditation of mango exporters in Pakistan. Consequently there are many exporters undertaking various roles in the system. Apart from the general requirement to register as a business (Sales Tax Number and National Tax Number), and the specific requirements of destinations that require certified disinfestation treatments, there appear to be no other impediments to exporting.

Resultantly Pakistani mango has earned the reputation of being cheap but low quality. The Middle East, particularly Dubai, has become a dumping ground for Pakistani mangoes. The vast majority of Pakistan mangoes entering the Middle East appear to be consumed by expatriate workers through the wholesale market system. This is a price sensitive market, accustomed to poor quality fruit at cheap prices. The sheer volumes and poor quality, particularly from open container shipments, drives the whole market down to a point where it is very difficult for exporters with better quality product to achieve profitable margins. Whilst volumes of export have grown over the past five seasons the returns per kilogram have not, remaining relatively static at around US$ 0.30 per kg, giving Pakistan mangoes the lowest return per kilogram of any major mango exporter in the world.

The leading exporting countries have consolidated their position on the world market during the last 10 years in spite of the fact that their export volume has increased 3 folds. New players like Ecuador and Ivory Coast have appeared on the mango exporters list. They were exporting almost nothing in 1991. Brazil now exports 12 times more volume than it did in

1991 and Peru 14 times more while Pakistan could only increased its export volume four times. The growth factor for many of these countries has been to build efficient packing houses and a reliable cold chain and to shift from exporting by air to exporting by reefer containers. Pakistan has been late to follow those trends and to invest in up-to-date modern packing facilities in order to improve quality and extend mango shelf life which is absolutely necessary for sea-shipments.

The solution of these issues seems to be lying in two basic interventions: empowerment of the grower and increased investment into the system. Growers, whether large or small, need to be empowered through better access to information, specific skills training and more incentive so that they are able to take responsibility for the quality of mangoes they produce. Currently commission agents hold most of the power in the supply chain, and any chain improvement strategy would depend on their support and involvement. Since they are beneficiaries of the current system, they would favor a status quo. But growers can challenge their monopoly through making alliances, for example, alliance for skills enhancement, for commercial-chain activities etc.

The second most important intervention is to increase the investment. The investment in this sector almost always gives reasonable profits, as evident from a research study carried out by the Agriculture University of Faisalabad in collaboration with GoP and UNIDO in 2006. The study observes that investment in mango cultivation fetches higher returns whereas benefit cost ratio is reasonably high and it came to be 2.61 implying that investing one rupee in mango cultivation would return Rs. 2.61. These results indicate that investing in mango orchard would bring huge returns to the farmers on one hand and for the country in the form of foreign earnings on the other hand.

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Pakistani mango in the global trade hurdle race

Pakistani mango is considered among the best in the world, for their aroma, taste, size and appearance, yet it could never become a big export. US imposed ban on import of Pakistani mango, 40 years back, due to quarantine issues. The ban continues till today. Australia, Germany and Japan also banned it later on the same health and safety grounds. The biggest export market for Pakistani mango today is the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and Oman, accounting collectively for 68.5 percent of its total mango exports. This perhaps is because of the presence of a large number of Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi workers in these countries. It is worth mentioning that the total exported quantity of mango from Pakistan is less than 10 percent of its local production.

The biggest problem that Pakistani mango faces are the restrictive phytosanitary laws of potential importers. They either require the Pakistani traders to follow numerous stringent health and safety standards or quarantine consignments from Pakistan for long periods effectively destroying them.

More than 86 species of insect pests have been recorded on mango, Fruit-fly being the most common among them. Most of the developed importing countries have explicit laws and regulations to control the import of infested fruit and vegetables. Besides the insect pests, chemical contamination is another major hurdle in export of mango. The fruit gets contaminated because of poor post-harvest management, washing it with contaminated water and/or using hazardous chemicals for ripening.

One way of getting around these limitations is offered by irradiation technology. Food irradiation is the process of exposing food to high levels of ionizing radiation. This kills the pests and increases the shelf life of the fruits as well. It has been used to sterile medical equipment since long. Food Irradiation eliminates insect infestation and significantly adds to the shelf life of the fruit by delaying its ripening. It also improves the quality of fruit by reducing microbial load on the mangoes.

Food irradiation is endorsed by World Health Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, Food and Drug Administration, Codex Alimentarius Commission and others. Some European countries however are not in favor of treating food with any kind of radiations.

USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) is undergoing agreements with different countries for the trade of irradiated food products. Thailand was the first country in Asia to reach an agreement with USDA for export of mangoes in February 2006. India under a similar agreement started exporting irradiated mangoes to USA in 2008. There are many other countries that accepted and responded positively to the changing global situation and were able to turn the threat into opportunity. One such example is Mexico who took measures proactively and was able to increase her mango export after WTO was established.

USA is the largest import market of mangoes in the

world as it imported 37 percent of the total global mango imports during the year 2005. Getting even 5 percent share of this market can provide a big boost to exports of any mango producing country. Pakistan, though quite late, signed an agreement with USDA in 2007 whereby it approved irradiation in Pakistan as a phytosanitary measure for export of mangoes to USA. Pakistan's first food irradiation facility with the name of Paras Foods (Pvt) Ltd has been set up in Lahore. The company is a joint venture between Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Board and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. It has an annual processing capacity of irradiating 60,000 tons and will process the horticulture commodities as approved under SRO of the government for the food irradiation in Pakistan. The company considers mango as the leading candidate for irradiation. The Paras Foods is collaborating with different research institutes to explore the benefits of irradiation on different mango varieties, including Chunsa, Sindhri, Anwar Rathol and Sensation. The company in collaboration with Post-

WTO agreement on phytosanitary measures

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are one of the most important technical regulations and standards proposed and implemented by the World Trade Organization (WTO). The standards set by importing countries have to be met by exporters of food items. Primary purpose of SPS is to protect humans, animals and plants from risks arising from additives, toxins and contaminants in foods and feedstuffs. The SPS Agreement entered into force with the establishment of the World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995. Before introduction of SPS, the measures to limit the trade of hazardous food materials were covered under GATT.

The potential of being misused as a protectionist measure, instead of protective one, was realized right at the start and specific remedial articles were incorporated to avoid this. Any decision based on SPS agreement needs to be justified technically and can be challenged in a dispute committee, especially constituted for the purpose of solving the issues arising from the misuse of this agreement. Further the WTO member countries must establish official contact points for communicating about SPS measures and SPS notifications are also posted on the WTO website.

In spite of all these measures, issues have been arising between the trading countries every now and then. One complexity is that individual countries can define their own standards based on the broader framework given in the agreement. Thus almost all the developed, importing countries have their own specific quality and safety standards that the exporting country have to meet. It has been observed that these countries have tendency to use higher than actually required health and hygiene and ecological and environmental standards. The exporters thus have to invest huge inputs every time they want to export to a

Harvest Research Institute, Faisalabad has established that irradiation significantly adds to the quality of mango by increasing its shelf-life and dealing with the fruit fly - the most dangerous insect as far as international quarantine requirements are concerned, particularly for the USA.

The company is also collaborating with the Department of Plant Protection (DPPO) for elimination of fruit fly and a comprehensive study is being planned, in collaboration with the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, for promoting mango exports to the USA.

Research trials on other seasonal fruits are also underway that include peach, banana, apple, dates and vegetables including lady finger, karaila (bitter gourd), potato, onion, tomato and garlic.

The company provides an opportunity to boost mango exports by meeting quality requirements for the developed countries like USA and secondly to explore far off destinations where mangoes could not be exported due to short shelf life or sea shipments were previously not possible.

new country, which is not, most of the times, feasible for them. They have to compete with the domestic or other developed country suppliers, who have more resources, higher subsidies and thus better chances of winning the bid.

Bangladesh, for example, spent US$ 17.6 million in the frozen shrimp industry in order to satisfy EU and US. Furthermore, it is estimated that US$ 2.2 million are spent each year to maintain a system of control and monitoring. Same has happened with Pakistan as well when EU banned Pakistan's sea food for quality reasons.

European Union imposed ban on export of fish three times, the first ban was imposed in 1998, the second in February 2005 and the third one was imposed in April 2007 due to quality problems at fish processing plants in Karachi.

Fisheries exports have been suffering from $100 million loss per year due to this ban. Although Government of Sindh has spent Rs 50 million to meet the EU export standards, yet the ban has not been removed till now.

SAP-Pk partner in district

Cholistan Development Council (CDC)

Cholistan - a part of Bahawalpur District - is a dry belt in South Punjab. It is precisely a sandy expanse reaching out to Rajasthan of India and Tharparkar in Pakistan. It has a cultural romance associated with folklore, traditional colors, sand and camels.

Life in Cholistan is very tough due to immense heat and cold, scarcity of water and absence of economic opportunities being far flung and rural in nature. The Hindu and Christian communities are the worst hit in this battle of survival. It is in this context of rich cultural heritage and the intensity of deprivation that Cholistan Development Council started off in 1998. It started working for the social, cultural, economic, political development of vulnerable sections of society.

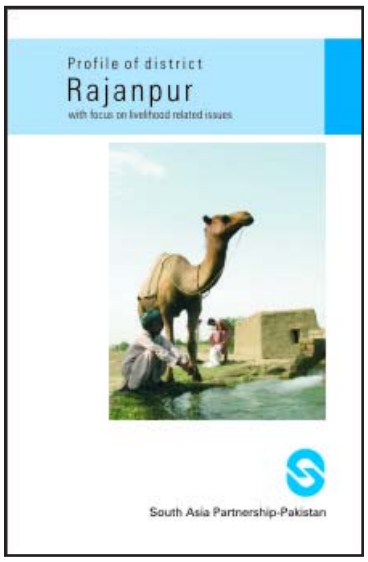
Education and awareness are two important tools for CDC in the struggle for change. Its program areas include health, education, peace, child rights, women rights, political rights and cultural fairs. Poverty is also a special focus for CDC because most of the people in Cholistan are deprived of even very basic amenities. Cholistan sports events and cultural fairs are two of its significant activities that have become a reason of fame for CDC in Pakistan. The organization also brings one festival to Lahore every year. Besides sensitizing people of the Cholistani heritage that event also adds to the richness of the Lahori tradition of festivity.

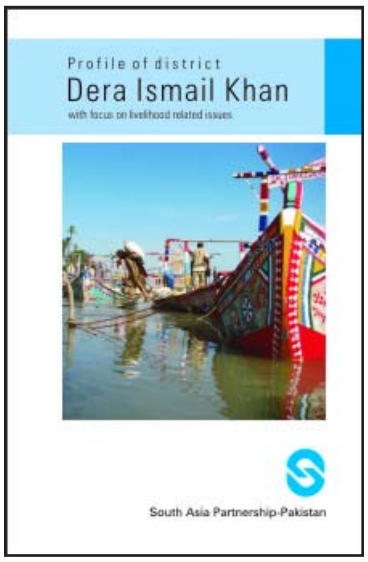
SAP-PK and CDC are old partners. Both organizations have implemented Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan (SDGP), Pakistan Coalition for Free, Fair and Democratic Elections (PACFREL) and Community Support & Development Program, at Bahawalpur. CDC is also member of SAP-PK's campaign on Ending Violence against Women (EVAW). There are more than one hundred thousand members of this campaign.

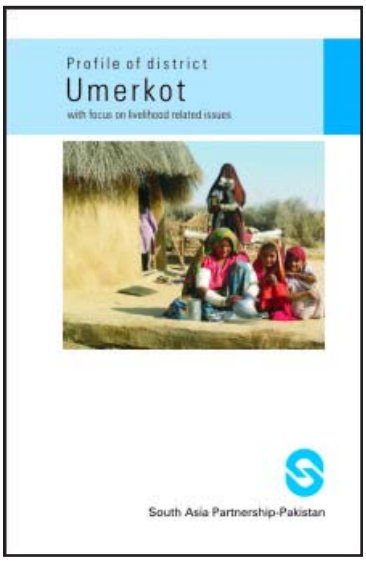
CDC is a well connected organization. It has experimented some of the best models of fish-cooperative made by peasants. It also demonstrated its high level credibility in creating harmony between the so-called untouchables - the Hindus - and the Muslim communities.

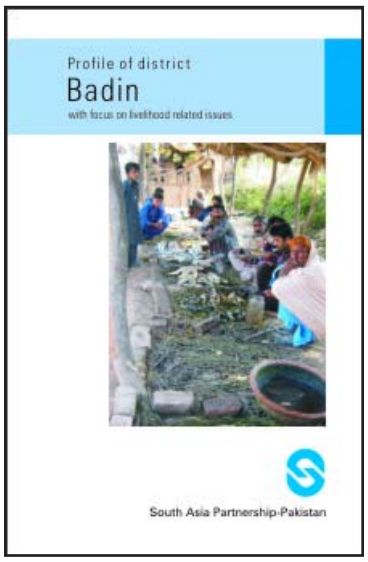
CDC has six staff. Its office is located at Model Town, Bahawalpur.

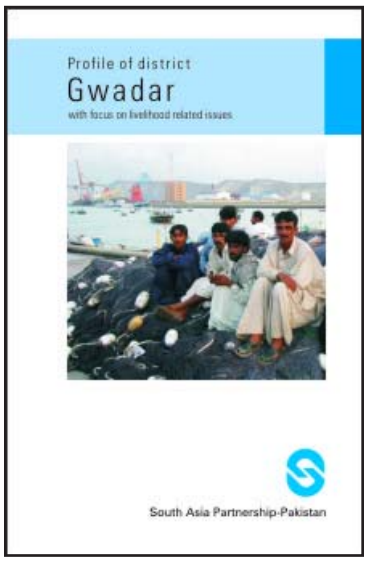
Other publications in this series

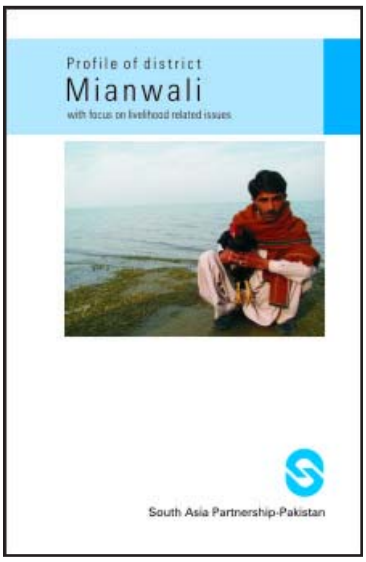


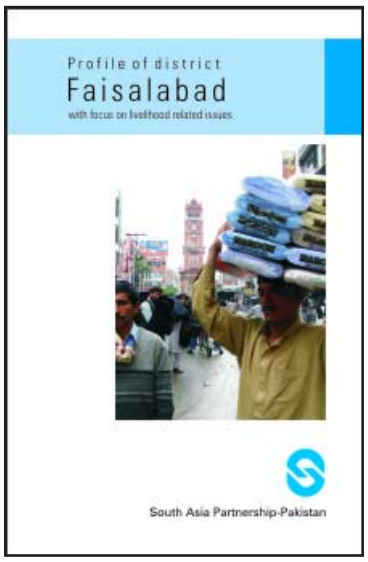












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