Farmer's Experience

(Village: Drigh Bala, Tehsil: Johi)

Kachho area (lying between the Khirthar Mountains Range and Flood Protection bund) depends on 13 hill torrents for spate irrigation. Nai Gaj, the primary torrent, originates from Balochistan and drains into Manchar Lake (post 1931, after construction of Sukkur barrage reducing the command area from over 55,000 hectares to around 38,000 hectares). The catchment area experiences a significant drop in elevation, causing high-velocity water flow and erosion. Traditionally, a natural irrigation system was established during the British era. Off-shoot inundation channels divert water from the Nai to agriculture fields both during the kharif and rabi season. This system has no headworks or structures as they would be washed away during flash floods. Nai Gaj is perennial, with short intervals of huge torrential flows, mostly in monsoon season and very low discharge in non-monsoon period. On the tributaries of Nai Gaj, the water rights of the farmers are determined as per their land holdings on rotation basis.