

Rural areas take a turn for the better

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of 32.5 per cent since the last census conducted in 1998.

The increase in the number of tractors was the highest in the NWFP (43.2 per cent), followed by the Punjab (33.3 per cent), Balochistan (26.5 per cent) and Sindh (22.6 per cent).

The tubewells also increased from 401,808 in 1998 to 626,788 in 2003, showing a raise of 56.0 per cent. The number of tubewells increased by 68.8 per cent in the NWFP, 52.5 per cent in the Punjab, 117.4 per cent in Sindh and 85.6 per cent in Balochistan.

Sindh achieved the highest percentage improvement in the number of tubewells.

FISH FARMS: The number of fish farms in 1998 was 6,173 which had increased to 10,432, showing an increase of 69 per cent.

The Punjab and Balochistan registered increase in fish farms to the tune of 90 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively, while Sindh and the NWFP show a decrease of 17 and nine per cent, respectively.

POULTRY FARMS: The number of poultry farms increased from 15,791 in 1998 to 27,193 in 2003, recording an increase by 72.2 per cent.

The number of poultry farms increased by 93.6 per cent in the NWFP, 64.1 per cent in the Punjab, 107.4 per cent in Sindh and 396.7 per cent in Balochistan.

SOURCE OF IRRIGATION: The number of mouzas using river or canal as main source of irrigation supplies was 19,691 in 1998 that increased by 4.2 per cent to 20,522 in five years.

The number of mouzas using tubewells or wells as a main source of irrigation supplies has increased by 34.2 per cent from 15,030 in 1998 to 20,162 in 2003.

On the contrary, the coverage of other minor irrigation sources like spring, Rod Kohi, stream, Karez, drain has decreased from 5,059 mouzas in 1998 to 3,130 mouzas in 2003. This decrease works out to 38.1 per cent.

WATERCOURSE SCHEMES: The number of mouzas using watercourse improvement schemes has increased from 8,957 in 1998 to 11,907 in 2003, showing expansion of 32.9 per cent in the coverage of watercourse improvement schemes launched by the provincial On-Farm Water Management Departments. This expansion was 89.5 per cent for the NWFP, 32.7 per cent for the Punjab, 6.3 per cent for Sindh and 55.9 per cent for Balochistan during the inter-censal period.

It highlights the efforts of the provincial

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governments to minimize transit losses of water being the scarce and important farm input.

BRICK STREETS: The number of mouzas having bricked streets was 16,262 in 1998 which improved to 18,993 in 2003, depicting an increase of 16.8 per cent during the last five years.

The number of mouzas having bricked streets increased by 24.1 per cent in Sindh, 17.0 per cent in the Punjab and 15.5 per cent in the NWFP.

However, the mouzas with bricked streets in the settled areas of Balochistan have decreased by 26.2 per cent which may be due to inclusion of semi-urban bricked mouzas in urban localities.

METALLED ROADS: A total of 30,309 mouzas fell within a radius of less than five kilometres from metalled road in 1998. The number moved up to 32,361 in 2003, showing an increase of 6.8 per cent.

The number of mouzas linked by metalled road increased in all the four provinces — around 13 per cent in Sindh and 12 per cent in the NWFP while it is only four per cent in the Punjab. However, this number is about 32 per cent in Balochistan which shows that the road network has considerably improved in Balochistan during the last five years.

The number of mouzas away from metalled roads between the radius of six to 10 kilometres has appreciably decreased in all the provinces, except Balochistan.

The decrease is 29 per cent in the NWFP, 11 per cent in the Punjab and 22 per cent in Sindh while for Balochistan, the increase is 15 per cent. This indicates that road network has expanded more in the radius of 6-10 kilometres in Balochistan compared to other provinces.

The range of decrease in number of mouzas in the radius of 11 kilometres and above is 15 to 56 per cent for all the four provinces.

Agricultural Census Commissioner Muhammad Younis told *Dawn* that a total of 130,64 functionaries of the federal and provincial governments took part in the seventh Mouza census preparation.

The planning and preparatory work of the report was carried out by the Agricultural Census Organization (ACO), comprising 149 employees and 25 officers. The services of revenue departments of the four provinces were borrowed for carrying out the enumeration work.

"The ACO collect data for the report according to the parameters and standards of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN," he said.

He said the planning, preparation of cen-

sus material, training of field staff, distribution of census material and execution of field operations were completed within seven months. The data processing phase was completed within nine months.

Mr Younis said the report would be very beneficial for the local government system because it contained information about socio-economic indicators of all settled mouzas or dehs or killies of the four provinces.

He said the villages inflated overtime into urban areas and expanded up to the boundaries of adjoining town, but maintaining rural status in the revenue record, had also been covered in the report.

It would help plan and evaluate development activities at the tehsil and district level.

He said the Azad Jammu and Kashmir had also been covered in the exercise, but a separate report would be prepared for the territory.

The scope of the Mouza census 2003 was extended to unsettled areas. For the first time the Northern Areas, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA), NWFP's Kohistan, Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir districts were covered.

Similarly unsettled area of Cholistan in the Punjab and a vast unsettled area of Balochistan — Kalat, Khuzdar, Awaran, Kharan, Kech (Turbat), Gwadar, Panjgur and Mastung districts, excluding Panjpai tehsil and Sheerani tehsils of Zhob district, had been covered.

The portion of the report about the unsettled areas was in printing process, Mr Younis said, and added it would provide a sound statistical ground and meet most of the development requirements of these areas.

He said conducting of mouza census was one of the major responsibilities of his organization, besides agriculture, agricultural machinery and livestock censuses.

The data processing for the Agricultural Machinery Census 2004 had been completed and its report was being printed, he said.

Established in 1957, the ACO conducts Mouza census after every five years, the agriculture census in the year ending on the digit 0, the agricultural machinery census in the year ending on 4 and the livestock in the year ending on 6.

The agriculture census was carried out in 1960, 1972, 1980, 1990 and 2000, the agricultural machinery census in 1968, 1975, 1984, 1994 and 2004, the livestock in 1976, 1986 and 1996, and the Mouza in 1971, 1979, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003.