Identifying River Bank Erosion Hot Spots and Mapping River Discharge Data using Geo-spatial Technologies

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Project Aim

This project was funded by FAO and run by SUPARCO & the University of Southampton, UK. The project aimed to work with UNESCO IFAS flood model for estimating potential agricultural land loss associated with a given flood episode to produce decision support information for the planning of optimal river erosion defence infra-structure.

Key Activities Carried out in the Project

- ✓ Mapping of erosion based land loss and agricultural impact on the river Indus due to 2010 floods
- ✓ Statistical analysis of 20 years satellite data for trend analysis of historical erosion hot spots
- Conducting field tests of characteristic geotechnical properties of riverbanks to model likely impacts of given flood events on agricultural land & production as well as high potential for embankment breech
- Building capacity in the country to conduct analysis and field work with joint production of erosion models based upon flood work and associated reporting/publications

Project Overview



Study Area

Project Rationale

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IFAS – Flood Extent Model

UNESCO/PMD

Bank Erosion Modelling – Loss of Agricultural Land & Breech

FAO/SUPARCO/SOTON

Full Warning System

Govt. of Pakistan







Equipment used in Data Collection

Total Station



Cohesive Strength Meter



Differential Global Positioning System (GDPS) and Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP)



High flow fieldwork

Low flow fieldwork

Study Sites



High Flow Data Collection

Three fieldworks campaigns

30th Aug - 6th Sep 2012 22th Sep – 5th October 2012 July, Aug, Sep 2013

Sites visited

- Pinch Point 1: Downstream of Taunsa Barrage
- Pinch Point 2: Dera Ismail Khan
- Pinch Point 3: Musa Wali
- Pinch Point 4: Downstream of Chashma Barrage
- Eroding Site 1: Taunsa
- Eroding Site 2: Taunsa
- Eroding Site 7: Musa Wali
- Eroding Site 8: Alluwali



Identifying Erosion Hot Spots over Time

Statistical analysis of 20 years satellite data for trend analysis of historical hot spots of erosion



Chashma Barrage Downstream - 2011

Identifying Erosion Hot Spots over Time

Aluwali, Punjab: Erosion based land loss



Chashma Barrage Downstream - 2002

Chashma Barrage Downstream - 2011

High Flow Fieldwork - Snapshots



Monitoring ADCP data

DGPS setup



1st fieldwork, Sep 2012



2nd fieldwork, Oct 2012

Flood Discharge Data during High Flow Seasons (June-Sep 2013)





Low Flow Fieldwork - Snapshots

26th Feb – 6th March 2013









Floodplain Occupancy by channel & flooding





Low flow occupancy grid

High flow occupancy grid

Further Follow-up of the Project

- Extension of the project to test the flood erosion model along the River Indus in other study areas
- Further projects/studies on river mapping on all other major rivers in Pakistan on periodic basis
- Sharing of knowledge and expertise to collect river discharge data using latest technology and techniques in the future

Thank You