

IRRIGATION ENGINEERING AND PRACTICES



Final Examination Paper

September 26, 2020

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Semester: Summer

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Q1:

(a) Define “Delta” and “Duty” and write the significance of duty of crop.

Ans:

Delta: Each crop requires a certain amount of water after a certain fixed interval of time, throughout its growth period. The depth of water required varies from 5 cm to 10 cm depending upon type of crop, climate etc

The total quantity of water required by the crop for its full growth (maturity) throughout the crop period is called Delta.

The Depth of water in (inches or cm) for the crop throughout the base period is called Delta of the crop

Duty: The duty of water is the relationship between the volume of water and the area of the crop its matures.

Of land irrigated for full growth of a given crop by supply of $1 \text{ m}^3 / \text{sec}$ of water continuously during the the entire base period (B) of the crop.

Thus if a water flowing at a rate of one cubic meter per second runs continuously for B days and matures 200 hectares per cumes to the base of B days.

Q1:

(b) What requires about 10 cm of water after every 35 days and the base period or crop period of wheat is 140 days. Find out the delta for wheat?

Ans:

Given data:

Depth of water = 10 cm

Crop period = 140 days

Interval = 35 days.

Required = find out the delta

Solution:

Water is required at an interval of 35 days for a period of 140 days .

So it means that $140/35 = 4$ no of watering are required

As each time 10 cm depth of water is required

so therefore the total depth of water required = $4 * 10 = 40 \text{ cm}$

So Delta for wheat is = 40 cm Ans

Q1:

(c) Explain the factors affecting consumptive use.

Ans:

1. PRECIPITATION

The amount and rate of precipitation may have some minor effect on the amount of water consumptively used during any summer. Under certain conditions, precipitation may occur as a series of frequent, light showers during the hot summer. Such showers may add little or nothing to the soil moisture for use by the plants through transpiration but do decrease the withdrawal from the stored moisture. Such precipitation may be lost largely by evaporation directly from the surface of the plant foliage and the land surface. Part of the precipitation from heavy storms may be lost by surface runoff. Other storms may be of such intensity and amount that a large percentage of the moisture will enter the soil and become available for plant transpiration. This available soil moisture may materially reduce the amount of irrigation water needed.

2. TEMPERATURE

The rate of consumptive use of water by crops in any particular locality is probably affected more by temperature, which for long-time periods is a good measure of solar radiation, than by any other factor. Abnormally low temperatures retard plant growth and unusually high temperatures may produce dormancy. Consumptive use may vary widely even in years of equal accumulated temperatures because of deviations from the normal seasonal distribution. Transpiration is influenced not only by temperature but also by the area of leaf surface and the physiologic needs of the plant, both of which are related to stage of maturity.

3. HUMIDITY

Evaporation and transpiration are accelerated on days of low humidity and slowed during periods of high humidity. During periods of low relative humidity, greater rate of use of water by vegetation may be expected.

4. WIND MOVEMENT

Evaporation of water from land and plant surfaces takes place more rapidly when there is moving air than under calm air conditions. Hot, dry winds and other unusual wind conditions during the growing period will affect the amount of water consumptively used. However, there is a limit in the amount of water that can be utilized. As soon as the land surface is dry, evaporation practically stops and transpiration is limited by the ability of the plants to extract and convey the soil moisture through the plants.

5. GROWING SEASON

The growing season, which is tied rather closely to temperature, has a major effect on the seasonal use of water by plants. It is frequently considered to be the period between killing frosts, but for many annual crops, it is shorter than the frost-free period, as such crops are usually planted after frosts are past and mature before they recur. For most perennial crops, growth starts as soon as the maximum temperature stays well above the freezing point for an extended period of days, and continues throughout the season despite later freezes. Sometimes growth persists after the first so-called killing frost in the fall. In the spring, and to less extent in the fall, daily minimum temperatures may fluctuate several degrees above and below 32° F. for several days before remaining generally above or below the freezing point. The hardier crops survive these fluctuations and continue unharmed during a few hours of subfreezing temperature. In fact, many hardy crops, especially grasses, may mature even though growing season temperatures repeatedly drop below freezing. In southern Arizona and California alfalfa and citrus trees grow throughout the year. Although the frost-free season may be used as a guide for computing consumptive use, actual dates of planting and harvesting of the crops and average annual dates of the first and last irrigation are important in determining the consumptive irrigation requirements of the crops.

6. LATITUDE AND SUNLIGHT

Although latitude may hardly be called a climatic factor, it does have considerable influence on the rate of consumptive use of water by various plants. Because of the earth's movement and axial inclination, the hours of daylight during the summer are much greater in the northern latitudes than at the Equator. Since the sun is the source of all energy used in crop growth and evaporation of water, this longer day may allow plant transpiration to continue for a longer period each day and to produce an effect similar to that of lengthening the growing season.

7. AVAILABLE IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY

All the above-mentioned climatic factors influence the amount of water that potentially can be consumed in a given area. However, there are other factors that also cause important differences in the consumptive use-rates. Naturally, unless water is available from some source (precipitation, natural ground water, or irrigation), there can be no consumptive use. In those areas of the arid and semiarid West where the major source is irrigation, both the quantity and seasonal distribution of the available supply will affect consumptive use. Where water is plentiful and cheap, there is a

tendency for farmers to overirrigate. If the soil surface is frequently wet and the resulting evaporation is high, the combined evaporation and transpiration or consumptive use may likewise increase. Also, under more optimum soil moisture conditions, yields of crops such as alfalfa may be higher than average and more water consumed. In irrigating some crops, such as potatoes, water is applied to the field not only for the purpose of supplying the consumptive water needs of the crop but also to help maintain a favorable microclimatic condition.

8. QUALITY OF WATER

Some investigations have shown that the quality of the water supply may have an appreciable effect on consumptive use. Whether or not plants actually transpire more or less if water is highly saline may be debatable. However, if it is necessary to apply additional water to the land to leach the salts down through the soil, more water will probably be lost by evaporation from the soil surface and such loss will be chargeable against the consumptive requirement of the cropped area.

9. SOIL FERTILITY

If a soil is made more fertile through the application of manure or by some other means, the yields may be expected to increase with an accompanying small increase in use of water. However, an increase in fertility of the soil causes a decrease in the amount of water consumed per unit of crop yield.

10. PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES

Where plant pests and diseases seriously affect the natural growth of the plants, it is reasonable to assume that transpiration will likewise decrease. It is recognized that some damage to crops is caused every year by pests and diseases. Ordinarily the losses may not vary greatly from year to year, but in those years when they are unusually severe consumptive use may be lowered materially.

Q2:

(a) What are the principal causes and ill effects of water logging?

Ans:

Land is said to be water logged when its productivity is affected by high water Table (WT). High WT causes saturation of root zone. It leads ill aeration which causes the decay of nitrifying bacteria and thus reduces the crop yield.

Water logging in Pakistan

Recharge of Ground water (GW):

1. Before canal system- 10 Million acre ft. (MAF).

2. After canal system- 41.9 MAF.

WT risen 10 ft in half of canal irrigated area and 5 ft in 16 % of canal irrigated area.

In Pakistan the total water-logged area is 2 MLN acres.

GW Reservoirs: 1.Indus plain 2. Bannu basin .3.Warsak- Peshawar area.

Problems due to water-logging

Delay in cultivation operations such as tilling, ploughing etc. Weed growth.

Salinity.

If WT has risen up or plant root happens to come up in capillary zone, water continuously evaporated by capillarity thus continuous upward flow of water to land surface is established.

Salts rise with water & deposits in root zone.

It reduces osmotic activity of plants and the plant decays.

PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF WATER-LOGGING:-

1. Intensive Irrigation:

If max. area of land is irrigated, percolation of water takes place. This causes the rise of WT.Extensive irrigation (irrigation spread over wider regions) to be followed to avoid water logging.

2. Seepage of water from adjoining high lands.

3. Seepage of water through canal reservoirs.

4. Impervious obstruction:

Water seeping below the soil moves horizontally. It may find obstruction & WT may rise.

5. Inadequate surface Drainage:

Storm water & excess of irrigation water should be removed. If proper drainage is not provided water percolates to rise water table.

6. Excessive Rains:

-Causes temporary water logging.

- No drainage causes permanent.

7. Submergence due to floods:

Continued floods causes the growth of water-loving plants which obstruct natural surface drainage & increase the water-logging.

8. Irregular & flat topography:

In depressions, the drainage is poor, water detention is more. The percolation increases the water table.

Causes of water logging:An agricultural land is said to be water logged when its productivity get affected by the high water table.

The productivity of land infect,gets affected when the root zone of the plants gets flooded with water and thus become ill-aerated. Ill aeration reduces crop yield Causes of water

logging:water logging is the rise of water table which may occur due to the following factors

1.Over and intensive irrigation.when the policy of intensive irrigation is adopted, then the maximum irrigable area of a sall region is irrigated .this lead to too much of irrigation in that region,resul in heavy percolation and subsequesnt rise if water table.

2.Seepage of water from the adjacent :water from the adjoining high lands may seep into the sub soil of the affected land and may rise the water table

3.Seepage of water through the canals.

Water may seep through the beds and sided of the adjoining canal ,reserviours etc situated at a higher level than the affected land resulting in high water table.

4.Impervious obstructions:water seeping below the soils moves horizontally but may find an impervious obstruction casusing rise of water table on the upstream side of obstruction.

5.Inidequet natural drainage.Soils habving less permeable sub stratum below the top layers of pervious soil,will not be able t ordain the water deep into the groung result in high water table in the effected soil

6.Inidequet surface drainage: strom water falling over the land and the excess irrigation water should be removed and should not be allowed to percolate below.if proper drainage is nt provided the water will constantly percolate and will rise the level.

7.Excessive rains:Excessinve rains may creat temporary water logging and in the absence of good drainage.

8. Submergence due to flood.

If land continuously remain submerged by floods ,

9. Irregular or Flat Topography.

In steep terrain the water is drained out quickly.

III Affects of water logging:

- I. The normal cultivation operation such as tilling ,ploughing etc cannot be easily carried out in the soil
- II. Certain water loving plants like grasses ,weeds etc grow profusely and luxuriantly in water logging land,thus affecting and interfering with the growth of the crops.
- III. Water logging also leads to salinity if the water table has risen up or if the plants roots happen to come within the capillary fringe water is continuously evaporated by capillarity thus a continuous upward flow of water from the water table to the land surface gets establish with this upward flow ,the salt which are present in the water also rise towards the surface resulting in the deposition of salt on the root zone.

Q2:

- (b) Describe the anti-water logging measures.

Ans:

The following are the anti-logging measures:

1. Lining of canals and water courses: It reduces seepage of water.
2. Reducing intensity of irrigation: Only small portion of land should receive canal water in one particular season. Remaining areas can receive water in next season by rotation.
3. By introducing crop rotation: High water requiring crop should be followed by one requiring less water, and then by one requiring almost no water. Example: Rice followed by wheat and then by cotton.
4. Optimum use of water: Certain amount of water gives the best result. Less or more water reduce the yield. Cultivators should be educated so that not to use more water. Revenue should be charged on the basis of quantity of water rather than the area of land.
5. Improving natural drainage of area: water should not be allowed to stay in one area. Natural flow is provided by bush and jungle cutting.
6. Pumping or Tube wells or Vertical Drainage: Lift irrigation should be introduced to use Ground water. Canal irrigation may be substituted by tube well irrigation.
7. Economical use of water according to need: Economical use of irrigation water should be ensured.

8. Adoption of sprinkler method of irrigation: Only predetermined amount of water is supplied to land. No percolation losses from water courses.

It is evident that water logging can be controlled only if the quantity of water into the soil below is checked and reduced.

To achieve this the inflow of water into the underground reservoir is checked and reduced and the outflow of water into the underground reservoir should be increased as to keep the highest position of water table at least about 3 m below the ground surface.

There are various measures adopted for controlling water logging which are discussed below.

1. **Lining of canals and water courses.** to reduce the water seepage from canals and water courses is achieved by lining them and is a very effective method to control water logging.
2. **Reduced the intensity of irrigation.** In areas where there is a possibility of water logging intensity of irrigation should be reduced only a small portion of irrigable land should receive canal water in one particular season.
3. **By introducing crop rotation.** certain crops require more water and other require less water. In order to avoid this a high watering requiring crop should be followed by one requiring less water.
4. **Optimize use of water.** it is a known fact that only a certain fixed amount of irrigation water gives best productivity. Less than that and more than that reduce the productivity.
5. **By providing intercepting drains.** an efficient drainage system should be provided in order to drain away the storm water and excess irrigation water.
6. **By improving the natural drainage of the area.** the percolating the water should not be allowed to stand for a longer period.
7. **By adopting consumptive use of surface and subsurface water.** the introduction of lift irrigation to utilize ground water helps in lowering the water table.

Q2:

- (c) Explain the methods adopted to reclaim saline soils.

Ans:

Alkali salts (Sodium chloride, Sodium Sulphate, and Sodium Carbonate) are injurious to agriculture. NaCl is least harmful, Na₂SO₄ is medium harmful while Na₂CO₃ is the most harmful. These salts are soluble in water. When water table rises up or roots are in capillary zone, the ground water moves upwards and salts are deposited in root zone and surface of soil. The phenomena of salts coming up in solution and forming a thin crust (5-7.5cm) on the surface after evaporation of water is called Efflorescence. Land affected by efflorescence is called saline soil. Salts surrounding the roots reduce the osmotic activity of plants.

Methods adopted to reclaim saline soils are as follow:

1. Avoid efflorescence: By maintaining the water table sufficiently below the roots.

- Hence all the measures which were suggested for preventing water logging hold good for

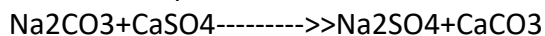
preventing salinity of lands

- An efficient drainage (surface and subsurface) must be provided to lower the water table in saline soils.

2. LEACHING:

In this process, the following steps are involved.

- 1) Land is flooded with water
 - 2) Alkaline salts will be dissolved in water
 - 3) Percolation to the ground water
 - 4) Drained by sub surface drains
- High Salt resistant crops like rice are grown on leached land for 1 or 2 seasons
 - Then ordinary crops like wheat or cotton are grown
 - Then the land is said to have reclaimed.
 - When Sodium carbonate is present in the soil, gypsum is added before leaching
 - Sodium sulphate is formed which is leached out easily



3. Surface Drainage

- Removal of excess of water using open ditches, field drains, land grading etc.
- Open drain which remove excess of irrigation and storm water are broad and shallow are called shallow surface drains.
- Shallow surface drains carry runoff to point of entrance to outlet-ditches. These Large and deep outlet ditches are called deep surface drains.

4. Land Grading:

- It is a continuous land slope towards field drains.
- It is necessary for surface irrigation.

5. DEEP SURFACE DRAINS OR OUTLET DITCHES: They carry the seepage water from tile

drainage. They carry storm water and excess of irrigation water. They are designed for combined discharge.

6. SURFACE INLET

• A surface inlet is a structure constructed to carry the pit water into subsurface drain. The surface water from pot hole depressions, road ditches may be removed by:

1. Random field drain or 2. Inlet surface inlet.

7. Surface Drainage

• Surface drainage is often achieved by land forming and smoothing to remove isolated depressions, or by constructing parallel ditches. Ditches and furrow bottoms are gently graded and discharge into main drains at the field boundary. Although the ditches or furrows are intended primarily to convey excess surface runoff, there is some seepage through the soil to the ditches, depending on the water table position. This could be regarded as a form of shallow subsurface drainage. Surface drainage is especially important in humid regions on flat lands with limited hydraulic gradients to nearby rivers or other disposal points. There is also a need for good surface drainage in semi-arid regions which are affected by monsoons.

8. Subsurface drainage

• Surface drainage alone is seldom sufficient to remove excess water from the crop root zone. Deep

ditches or subsurface pipe drainage systems enable a more rapid water table drawdown. The downstream ends of the laterals are normally connected to a collector drain. The required diameter

of the pipe collectors increases with the area drained. Drain spacing is usually dependent on soil

hydraulic conductivity and a design drainage rate coefficient. Depending on topography, land

formation and proximity of a water receiving body, the collector may outlet by gravity to an open main drain or into a sump. In the latter case, the discharge is then pumped to another drain, or ultimately to a lake or stream.

- Horizontal subsurface drainage systems are used in irrigated arid and semi-arid regions to reclaim saline and waterlogged lands, and to maintain favourable long-term salt and water balances in the crop root zone. Salinity and waterlogging are caused by a buildup of the water table due to deep percolation of normal excess water and canal seepage. Buried pipe drains are generally installed deeper in arid regions than in humid regions in order to control salinity. Water in excess of plant evapo transpiration (ET) needs is always unavoidably applied during irrigation. This additional quantity of water applied is known as the leaching fraction. Naturally occurring as well as applied salts are then leached from the root zone by this water, and removed from the field via the pipe drains. Deeper drain installation ensures that salts do not rise too rapidly to the soil surface due to capillary action. Drainage also prevents waterlogging of the root zone. The amount of irrigation water to be removed is generally less in arid than in humid regions
- . Vertical drainage by means of tube-wells is also used to control waterlogging and salinity in some parts of the world, e.g., India, Pakistan and central Asian republics. The primary purposes of tube wells are the same as those of horizontal drains, and at the same time to extract groundwater for irrigation. As a result of pumping, the water table is lowered, and salinization due to capillarity is minimized. This situation is ideal where the groundwater is not very brackish or saline, and is therefore suitable for irrigation. In areas where the groundwater is highly saline, the pumped water may be too saline for irrigation, unless mixed with fresher or less saline water. Where the groundwater is too saline for crop production, it must be disposed of. Drainage does not have a direct impact on groundwater quality. It only serves to collect and transport excess.

Q3:

(a) How does Kennedy's theory differ from Lacey's theory for the design of irrigation canals?

Ans:

Lacey states that as the shape of an irrigation canal is fixed to particular geometrical figure, it cannot achieve final regime conditions and hence may be said to achieve initial regime only. **Kennedy** assumes that when there is neither silting nor scouring the channel is in its regime condition.

1- Both (K & L) considered that the vertical eddies are responsible for holding silt in suspension. But Kennedy neglected the eddies generated by sides.

2- Kennedy: All channels which are not silting or scouring are in regime. But Lacey differentiated between initial and final regime.

3- Lacey: Grain size is important.

- Silt factor $F = 1.76 * M^{0.5}$

Designing of non-erodible (lined) channels:

The initial dimensions of a channel are determined by uniform flow or Manning's Formula. But final dimensions are determined on the basis of

- Hydraulic efficiency
- Empirical rule of the best section
- Practicability & economy

Factors considered in the design:

1. Kind of material to find n .
2. Minimum velocity.
3. Maximum velocity:
4. Bed Slopes
5. Side Slopes
6. Free board

1. Kind of material is important to find the roughness coefficient of channel.
2. Minimum velocity: It is 2-3 ft/sec, non-silting velocity to prevent aquatic growth.
3. Maximum velocity: Up to 8 ft/sec, more than the above value, the lining blocks are pulled away by moving water.

4. Bed slopes: It depends upon topography and energy head required for flow of water.
5. Side slopes: It depends upon the material forming the channel section

H: V

e.g. Earth with lime stone 1 : 1

Earth with concrete lining $\frac{1}{2} : 1$

6. Free Board: Distance between top of channel to maximum water surface. It should prevent waves. It should be 5-13 % of depth.

$$\text{U.S.B.R } F = \sqrt{cy}$$

F= free board in ft

y=depth in ft

C = 1.5----20 cft

C = 2.5----300 cft

Best section: Max Q for Min P

Design steps for non-erodible channel

1. Collect all the information and estimate n & s .
2. Compute section factor AR

2

3 =

nQ

$1.486s^{0.5}$

3. Substitute the values of A & R

From

$$A = (b + zy)y$$

$$P = b + 2y\sqrt{1 + z^2}$$

$$R = \frac{(b + zy)y}{b + 2y\sqrt{1 + z^2}}$$

& solve for y (depth) by assuming b & z .

- Assume different values for b and z and different dimensions of y are obtained.
- Final dimension is based on hydraulic efficiency and practicability.

4. If best hydraulic section is required, directly substitute for A and R for best section.

- e.g. Trapezoid

- $R =$

y

2

- $A = (3)^{0.5}y^2$

5. Check for minimum permissible velocity
6. Add proper free board to depth

Balancing depth:

· For a given cross-section of channel, there can be only one depth, for which a balance between cutting and filling will occur. This depth is known as balancing depth.

· This can be computed by equating the areas of cutting and filling.

· Types of lining:

1- Hard surface type lining

a. Cement concrete lining

b. Pre-cast concrete lining

c. Brick- burn clay lining

d. Shot-crete lining

e. Asphalt concrete lining

f. Stone masonry lining

2- Buried and protected type membrane lining

a. Sprayed in place asphalt membrane lining

b. Pre- fabricated

c. Synthetic rubber and plastic film membrane lining

d. Bentonite-clay membrane lining

3- Earth type lining

a. Compacted earth lining

b. Soil cement lining

4- Porous type lining, Boulder and brick lining

Q3:

(b) Design a regime channel for a discharge of 30 cumecs and mean diameter of the particle of 0.56 mm using Lacey's theory.

Ans:

Given data:

Q= 30cumec/sec

D mm=0.56m

Required = design

Solve : As we know

$$V = \left(\frac{Qf^2}{140} \right)^{1/6}$$

$$\text{as } f = 1.76 \frac{\sqrt{d \text{ mm}}}{\text{mm}}$$

$$\text{so } f = 1.76 \frac{\sqrt{0.56}}{\text{mm}}$$

$$f = 1.31$$

$$\text{so } v = \left(\frac{30 \times (1.31)^2}{140} \right)^{1/6}$$

$$=0.84\text{m/sec}$$

$$A = 30/0.84 = 35.46\text{m}^2$$

$$R = 5/2 \cdot V^2/f$$

$$= 5/2 (0.846)^2/1.31.$$

$$= 1.36\text{m}$$

$$P = 4.75 \sqrt{q}$$

$$= 4.75 \sqrt{30}$$

$$= 26.01\text{m}$$

For a trapezoidal channel with

1/2 H : 1 V Slopes.

$$P = B + \sqrt{5} y$$

$$A = [b+y/2]y$$

$$26.01 = b + \sqrt{5} y \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$35.46 = by + y^2/2 \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

From Equation (i)

$$B = 26.01 - 2.24 y \quad \text{Putting the values in equation (ii)}$$

$$35.46 = [26.01 - 2.24y] y + y^2/2$$

$$= 26.01y - 2.24y^2 + 0.5y^2$$

$$= 26.01y - 1.74y^2$$

$$= 1.74y^2 - 26.01y + 35.46 = 0$$

$$Y^2 - 14.94y + 20.37$$

$$Y = 14.94 \frac{\pm \sqrt{223.20 - 81.48}}{2}$$

$$Y = \frac{14.94 \pm 11.90}{2}$$

$$Y = \frac{14.94 \pm 11.90}{2}$$

$$Y = 1.52$$

$$\text{So } b = 26.01 - 2.24 \times 1.52$$

$$B = 22.60\text{m Ans}$$

Compute slope of the bed

$$s = f^{5/3}/3340*Q^{1/6}$$

$$S=1.32^{5/3}/3340*Q^{1/6}$$

$$s = 1/3707$$

Therefore the design velocity V_m is 0.849m/sec, channel base width is 22.65 m, depth of water in channel is 1.51 m and bed slope of channel is 1/3707.

Q4: Writes notes on the following:

- (a) Field Capacity
- (b) Permanent wilting point
- (c) Canal Head Regulator
- (d) Uder Slucies.

Ans:

(a) Field Capacity:

When all gravity water has drained down to water table, a certain amount of water is retained by surface soil. This water which cannot be easily drained under the action of gravity so it is called field capacity. Its period of drainage is 2 – 5 days and field capacity (FC) is also measured after 2 or 5 days.

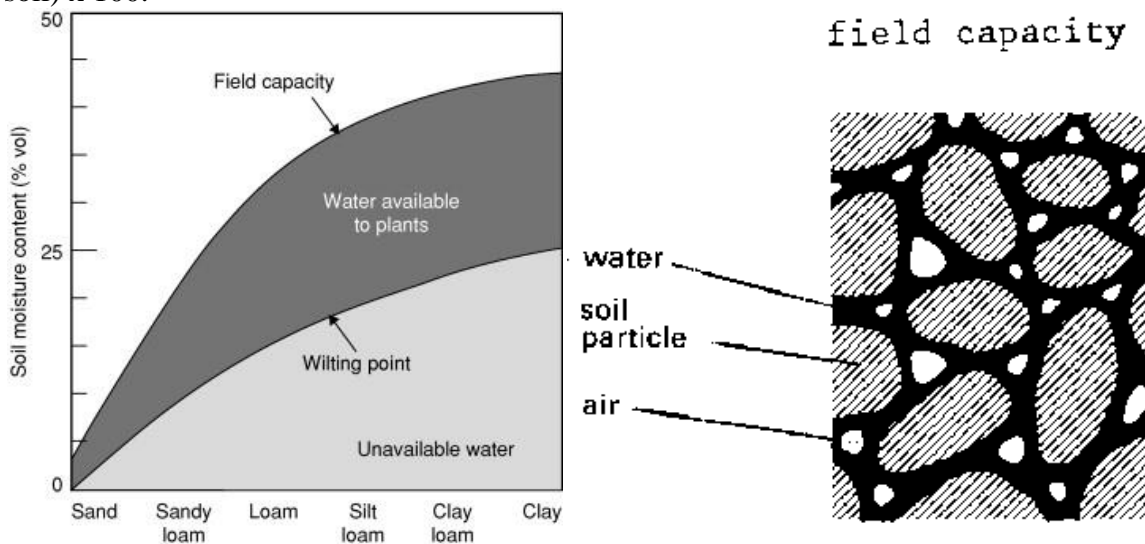
After the drainage has stopped, the large soil pores are filled with both air and water while the smaller pores are still full of water. At this stage, the soil is said to be at field capacity. At field capacity, the water and air contents of the soil are considered to be ideal for crop growth as shown in fig below.

Capillary water: that water which attached to soil by surface tension, which can easily be extracted by plants by capillary action.

Hygroscopic water: water attached to soil by chemical bonds, which cannot be extracted by plants by capillary action.

Mathematically it is written as:

Field Capacity= (weigh of water retained in a certain volume of soil)/wt. of same volume of soil) x 100.



(b) Permanent wilting point:

A plant can extract water from soil till a permanent wilting is reached. Permanent wilting

point is that water content at which a plant can no longer extract sufficient water for its growth and wilts up.

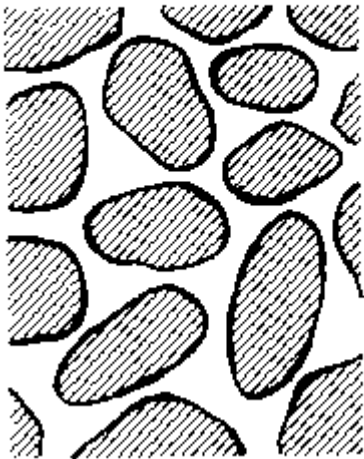
Mathematically water available to plant = Field capacity – permanent wilting point

Little by little, the water stored in the soil is taken up by the plant roots or evaporated from the topsoil into the atmosphere. If no additional water is supplied to the soil, it gradually dries out.

The dryer the soil becomes, the more tightly the remaining water is retained and the more difficult it is for the plant roots to extract it. At a certain stage, the uptake of water is not sufficient to meet the plant's needs. The plant loses freshness and wilts; the leaves change colour from green to yellow. Finally the plant dies.

The soil water content at the stage where the plant dies is called permanent wilting point. The soil still contains some water, but it is too difficult for the roots to suck it from the as shown in fig. below:

permanent
wilting point



(c) Canal Head Regulator:

A structure which is constructed at the head of the canal to regulate the flow of water is known as canal head regulator. It consists of a number of piers which divide the total width of the canal into a number of spans which are known as bays. And the piers consist of number tiers on which the adjustable gates are placed. The gates are operated from the top by suitable mechanical device. Also a platform is provided on the top of the piers for the facility of operating the gates. Again some piers are constructed on the downstream side of the canal head to support the roadway.

The function of the canal head regulator is to regulate the supply of water into canal, control the entry silt into canal and prevents the entry of floods into canal.

It is also define as the Structure at the head of canal taking off from a reservoir may consist of number of spans separated by piers and operated by gates. Regulators are normally aligned at 90° to the weir. Up to 10" are considered preferable for smooth entry into canal.

The functions of canal head regulator are:

To admit water into the off taking canal.

To regulate the supplies into the canal.

To indicate the discharge passed into the canal from design discharge formula and observed head of water on the crest.

To control the silt entry into the canal. During heavy floods, it should be closed otherwise

high silt quantity will leave to the canal.

Types of canal head regulator

Following are the common types of Canal Head Regulator:

Still pond regulation:

Open flow regulation

Silt control devices

Still pond regulation:

Canal draws water from still pond

Water in excess of canal requirements is not allowed to escape under the sluice gates.

Velocity of water in the pocket is very much reduced; silt is deposited in the pocket

When the silt has a level about 1/2 to 1m below the crest level of Head Regulator, supply in the canal is shut off and sluice gates are opened to scour the deposited silt.

Open flow regulation

Sluice gates are opened and allow excess of the canal requirement

Top water passes into the canal

Bottom water maintain certain velocity in the pocket to keep the silt to remain in suspension

Canal is not closed for scouring the silt.

Silt control devices

Another type of Canal Head Regulator is the silt control device

Silt control at head works can be controlled by Providing a divide wall to Create a trap or pocket

Create scouring capacity of under sluices By concentrating the currents towards them

Paving the bottom the approach channel to reduce disturbance because due to disturbance sediment remains in suspension.



(d) Under sluices:

The under sluices are the opening provided at the base of the weir or barrage. These opening are provided with adjustable gates. Normally the gates are kept closed. The suspended silt goes on depositing in front of the canal head regulator. It is also called scouring sluices. When the silt decomposition becomes appreciable the gates are opened and the deposited silt is loosened with an agitator mounting on a boat. The muddy water flows towards the downstream through the scouring sluices. Finally the gates are then closed. But at the period of the flood the gates are kept opened.

Under sluice sections are provided adjacent to the canal head regulators. The under sluices should be able to pass fair weather flow for which the crest shutters on the weir proper need not be dropped. The crest level of the under sluices is generally kept at the average bed level of the river.

Functions of under sluices are:

- i) Preserve a clear and defined river channel approaching the regulator.
- ii) Control the silt entry into the canal.
- iii) Pass the low floods without dropping the shutter of the main weir.
- iv) Provide greater water-way for floods, thus lowering the flood level.
- v) They scour the silt deposited on the river bed above the approach channel

