


UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. John Standish, Chief, CDE

DATE: August 4, 1976

FROM : Donald W. Reilly, CDE 

SUBJECT: Helmand Drainage Project Areas Land Classification

There are several items which should be discussed at the next meeting of the Central Helmand Drainage Project committee concerning land classification. The attached table shows the various types of land in the four project areas as determined by the M.K. land classification system. Extra copies are attached for use during the discussion.

Questions that need to be raised are as follows:

1. Should work in the Nad-I-Ali area continue to be considered, if as shown on the attached table, 84% of the land is classified as not suitable for continuous irrigation?
2. What correlation can be made between M.K., Burec and the proposed SCS land classifications systems, if any?
3. What is the extent (and credibility) of classification data coverage currently available for each project area in the M.K., Burec and SCS systems?
4. When can a draft input be expected from the Soil and Water Survey team on problems such as the above?
5. When can maps be prepared showing the land classification in each of the four project areas?
6. Given the limited HAVA resources (men and machines) should efforts be concentrated in working in areas where benefits to be realized will be maximized? In other words, should early project efforts go into the areas with a higher percentage of better soils such as the river valley areas, Shamalan and Darweshan? (Answers to this will depend somewhat on how much of these areas are already drained).

cc: D/DD
C&R

Attachment: a/s

CDE:DWReilly:sp

8/4/76

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HELMAND VALLEY LAND CLASSIFICATION

Area	MK LAND CLASSIFICATION %				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Nad-I-Ali	0	2	14	84	0
Marja	0	30	28	42	0
Shamalan	32	51	13	4	0
Darweshan	16	34	49	1	0

- Class I - Land suitable for irrigation of all climatically adapted crops with normal good practices.
- Class II - Land suitable for irrigation of majority of climatically adapted crops with addition of one good practice in addition to normal good practices.
- Class III - Land suitable for irrigation of limited climatically adapted crops but requiring special treatment to overcome deficiencies and maintain yields. Economic justification must weigh costs of development against returns which will probably be low.
- Class IV - Land not suitable for continuous irrigation of common crops, but has limited use, May be used for forest or pasture.
- Class V - Land unsuited for irrigation of crops.