

Q. Present a balanced Geographical account of Nile Basin?

Ans

INTRODUCTION : -

^{most} Nile basin is one of the ^{river} important ^{of world} basins formed by world's largest and most important African river Nile. During very early history / ancient times it has a great importance especially for Egypt. Egypt has been called the gift of the Nile. And its a boon for Egypt & Sudan.

= Site & Situation / Location - ^{stretches} It extends

3° south to 32° N with 7000 km in length. ^{situated in the NE part of Africa} It covers an area of 34 lakh

sq km with 5 crore population residing in this basin. This suggest that this basin is quite

narrow but long as well. It starts from many streams

in the Equatorial Rain forests of the Lake Victoria & Ruwenzori mt. region.

From Lake Albert, it flows as the white Nile. At Khartoum, it is joined by the Blue Nile which starts from Lake Tana on the Ethiopian Highlands. The Nile

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flows from the dry desert of Egypt, forms a delta at its mouth & enters the mediterranean sea.

General width of the Nile valley is only about 8 to 16 km. From above, the Nile basin looks like a thin green ribbon winding through the desert. It has a narrow elongated shape.

=> STRUCTURE →

structurally Nile basin is formed of recent formations. Along the upper Nile basin some ancient structures are found belonging to early geological period while, whereas in the middle & lower parts of the basin alluvial, deltaic as well as some alluvium formations are present. These depositions are associated with recent geological periods. They show more or less simple & uniform structural characteristics.

PHYSIOGRAPHY →

Basically Nile basin can be termed as a level plain land. However along its upper course some undulating features can be seen ^{but} towards middle & lower courses more levelled land is present.

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Depending upon the physiographic formations & physical characteristics. Nile basin can be further subdivided into 3 physiographical units.

a) Upper Nile basin →

It extends from its origin ^{to} southern parts of Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda & Uganda regions. It is a region of high volcanic plateau and Great Rift valley area. The ~~height of plateau~~ area is 2100 m & volcanic mountain is 4500 m & rift valley area is 1200-1500 m high.

b) Middle Nile basin →

It extends from S. Sudan to Cairo or Kahira where its slope is towards North-East & North. Height/altitude of middle basin is 750-1200 meters this part is undulating, rocky & uneven with porous soil.

c) Lower Nile basin → It stretches from Kahiro to Mediterranean sea in north. Here its height is lower than 100 meter. & it ^{forms} is the most famous flat & fertile delta region.

It is a typical flood plain with an avg. of 300m from sea level. Thick alluvial deposits are found here.

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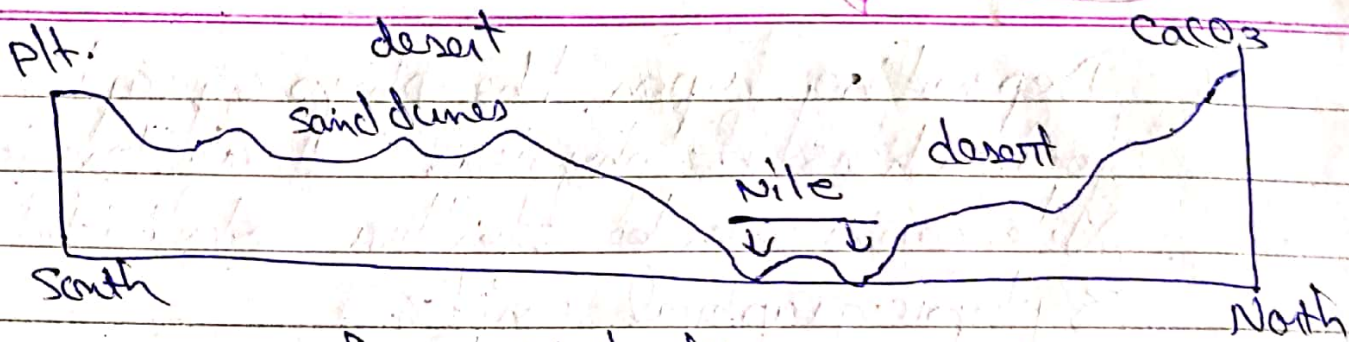


Fig. - Nile basin's upper course

CLIMATE → Since Nile basin is an elongated linear shaped area it has variations in climatic conditions & Rainfall. Basically the climate of this land is influenced by its latitudinal extent & topography. which divide it in 2

a) Tropical Rainy climate →

It stretches over the lake region of Eastern African plateau. There is high temp. & high rainfall throughout the year. Temp. avg is 22°C & 120-160 cm annual rainfall. convection currents bring heavy rainfall everyday during afternoon all through the year.

b) Savanna climate →

It covers S. Sudan area of Nile basin. Avg temp. 24°C & 70-120 cm annual rainfall. Here savanna type vegetation are found due to the effect of desert & lack of climatic barriers.

o comparatively much cooler due to desert impact.

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c) Desert climate →

It covers northern Sudan & Sahara desert of Egypt. High temp. & low rainfall features this region. During winter $12-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ avg temp. & $28^{\circ}-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ avg. in summer occurs. June & July hottest with min. 35°C .

d) Mediterranean climate →

This climate is influenced by med sea, It covers the deltaic region of Nile basin. Annual rainfall is 50-100 cm. Most of the rain occurs during winter season. The summers are hot. Winters are quite cool.

VEGETATION →

Nile basin's vegetation is well-marked by its local variations.

Dense forests ^{with long grasses} are found in tropical climatic regions, while on slopes broad leaved evergreen ^{deciduous} forest are found. Types of trees grow. Sudan is very famous for its Parkland.

Undergrowth is not heavy not very dense and along the higher land some softwood trees are also found. In a major part of Nile basin the vegetation type ranges from true Savanna to sub-arid grassland type. Towards the western

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fringes the density of vegetation goes on declining merging to desert flora. However, this is the part of Nile basin very imp. for agriculture point of view. But for the purpose of expansion in agriculture much vegetation is depleted. In the extreme northern part typical vegetation grows.

Agriculture →

Nile basin is ^{pre-eminent} primarily an agricultural region. Here 95% of total popⁿ engaged in agricultural activities.

Importance — Depending upon Agro-climatic condition Nile basin has gained prominence in specific crops. Cotton, tobacco, wheat, sugarcane etc are imp. ones.

Among the whole area only Sudan & Egypt i.e. middle & low ppt. regions of Nile basin are developed for agriculture. Since Nile basin is a riverine plain

- 1) agriculturally it is very fertile & agriculture is the principal occupation here. It is world's regions of one. On the basis of Irrigation this region has developed as one of the most fertile agriculture land. 70% of Egypt is under cultivation.

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In Egypt's Irrigation & national development Aswan Dam has played a great role. It generates a lot of electricity in addition to bringing perennial irrigation water to a very large area.

Cotton & sugarcane are main commercial crops here. Cotton is mainly grown in deltaic & middle Nile Basin while sugarcane is cultivated in Aswan, Asuat & nearby areas.

Dryness $\Rightarrow$ Date palm, nuts, orange, olive, grapes & banana etc are other imp. agricultural items; with wheat, Rice, ~~Sua~~ Maize, tomato & potato crops & vegetables.

2) Sudan's agriculture Region $\rightarrow$

On the basis of limited irrigation facilities & rainfall variation of crops are grown in Sudan's middle & Interior areas. Cotton & sugarcane are main crops of foreign money while wheat, nuts are other imp. crops. tobacco, jowar, bizen

citrus large scale
Mediterranean climatic condition - It promote growth of fruits. In the middle NB sugarcane & rice are grown in a

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PRODUCTION OF CROPS IN EGYPT

Sugarcane	11,098
Mango	5,270
Wheat	8,483
Rice	3152
Cotton	838

Source:- Statemen yearbook 1993-94

PASTORALISM →

Generally Sudan & Egypt is mainly influenced by Arab's & in Arabian background cattle rearing is very popular. Therefore, cattle rearing is an imp. & old traditional activity here especially in Sudan & Egypt of Nile basin. Specially in undulating, dry areas it is practised. Cow, ox, buffalo, sheep, goat & camel are imp. main animals here. Though cattle rearing is more prominent but it is very traditional not modern in compare to Pampen, S. Africa & New South Wales.

In southern dry regions buffalo is imp. for agriculture while in Northern areas it is imp. for both dairy & agriculture.

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Pastoralism is wide spread in Nile Basin. Here big Pastures are present. Cattle rearing has been a traditional occupation in Nile basin specially in Egypt though it is not advanced. Product is low. Being leather industries are imp. activities.

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In Eastern plateau land goat is an imp. animal while in western dry-cold region sheep are pet animals.

Numbers of Animals (1991)

	Sudan (in lakh)	Egypt
Cow or	210.2	35
sheeps	207.0	25.5
Goat	152.0	49.0
Pig	25,000	11.5
Buffallo	—	25
Camel	20000	20000

Here, animals are in great numbers & area for pastoralism is also big which results in —

- Low productivity in products
- Domestic consumption is more. Trade & export

From the point of view of Pastoralism it is not important.

Minerals & Industries →

Nile basin is a plain land & not rich in minerals. On the upper valley regions of Nile basin like Uganda, Rwanda & nearby areas metal based minerals are found but in less number.

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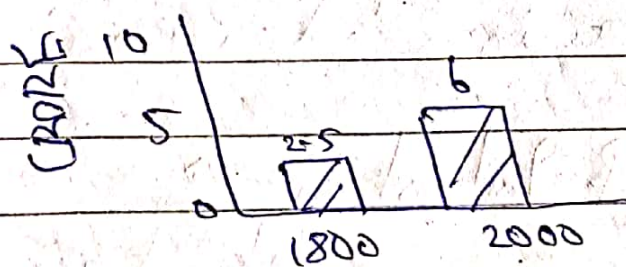
→ Since agriculture & pastoralism are most imp. occupation, the Nile basin is industrially backward. Agro-based industries flourished. Cotton textile due to availability of good quality cotton. Cairo being the chief centre. Raw cotton is exported. 10
 fibre, leather, alcoholic drinks, demand based industries - synthetic Tsh, Tungsten, cobalt, Uranium are found here around the urban areas.

Industry → Therefore, Mineral based industries are very few here. Light engineering, automobiles, electronics, chemical industry are imp. one. Mainly agro-based industries are developed here - cotton textile, cement, sugar industry, plywood, tobacco, wine, fruits along with cattle rearing etc. Centre - Cairo, Alexandria, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Port Said etc.

Population →

The total popⁿ of basin is 6 crore while 5 per sq km is its popⁿ density, but it is ~~not~~ unevenly distributed.

Egypt - 100, Upper Nile delta 2200, Lower delta 2100.



TRADE →

Egypt - IMPORT - cereals, Tobacco, cotton cloth, paper, machinery.

EXPORT - cotton, Rice, Minerals, chemical products, raw oil etc.

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Sudan Export — Nuts, Sesame, animals, leather, fruits, spices.

IMPORT — Manufactured goods, machinery, automobiles, railway, petrol, chemicals.

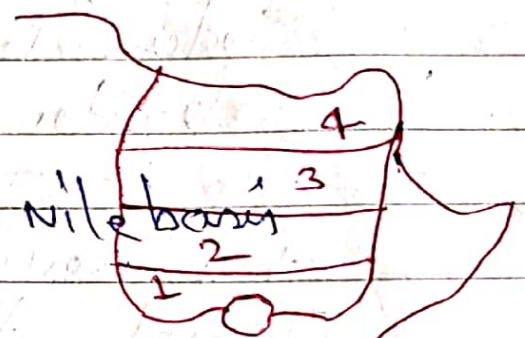
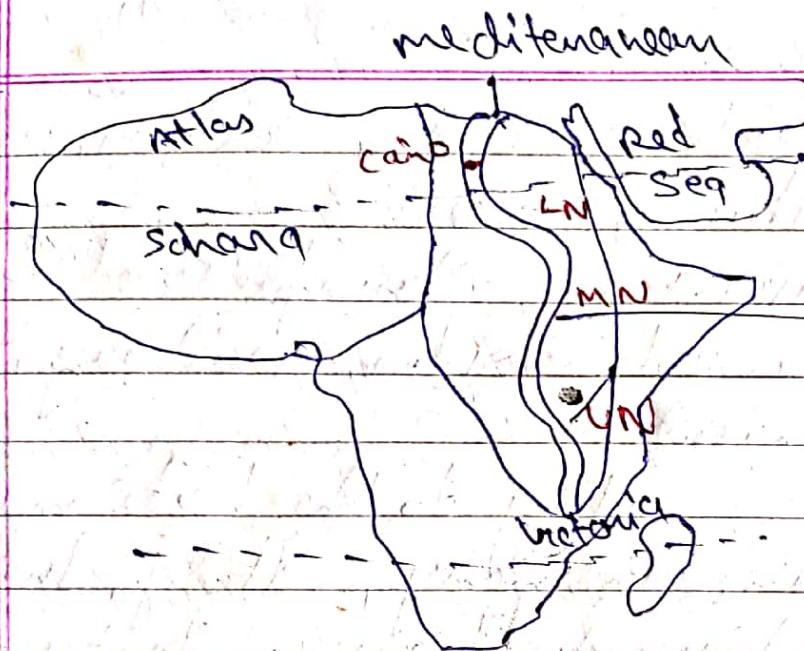
They do the trade mainly with Britain, Germany, Italy, India, America, China & France. In Egypt Export is greater while in Sudan Import is more occurs.

Main Cities — Cairo, Alexandria, Khartoum, Port Said, Camphala et.

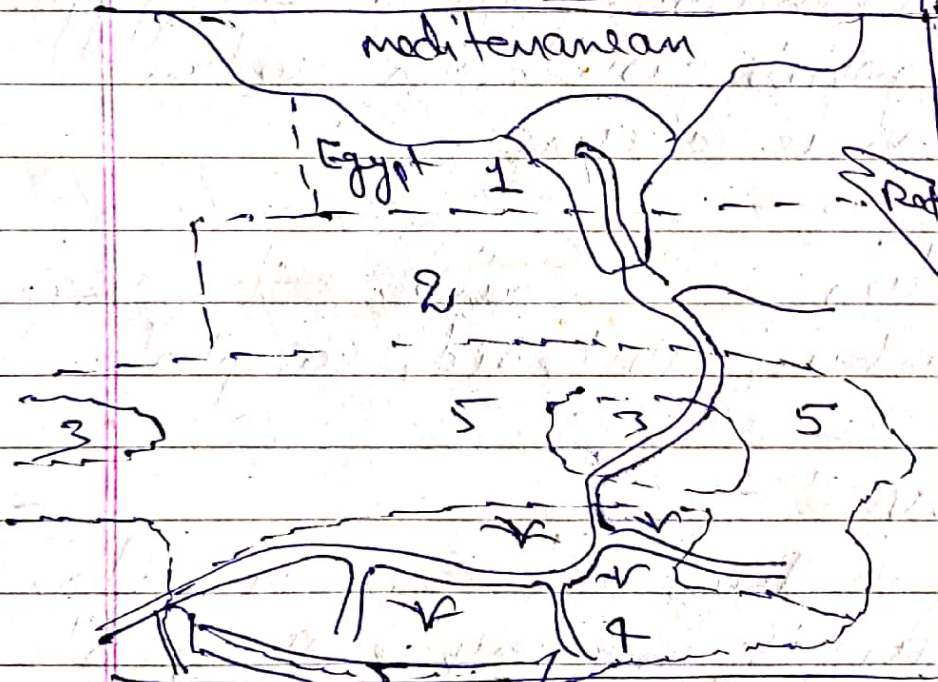
CONCLUSION ! -

Thus we can say that Nile basin is an very imp. fertile area of African continent. There are more possibilities here & with there it can developed their industries based on agriculture, forest & animals. More development can be achieved through the proper utilization of its present resources.

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- 1) Tropical rainy
- 2) Savanna
- 3) steppe
- 4) Mediterranean climatic division



Agriculture regions

vegetation As there is great variation in climatic conditions, the vegetation also differs from N-S in the Nile Basin. Towards S.v. is healthy due to good rainfall. N-rainfall declines & the vegetation becomes scantier. Mediterranean coast vegetation is quite good. In Uganda it is known as high savanna which is a transitional form of v. lying between tropical rainforest & savanna.

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