

Preliminary report on the newly discovered phosphate deposits of Soban Gali, Paswal Mian and Banseri areas, District Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Hazara area is well known for the phosphate mineralization having the economical deposits. The discovery of phosphate in Hazara area has opened new vistas for the fertilizer industry to use the indigenous phosphate rock and save the valuable foreign exchange. The newly discovered phosphate deposits of Soban Gali, Paswal Mian, Banseri and surrounding areas are situated north of Abbottabad on the Abbottabad-Sherwan road at a distance of about 25 km. The mineralization is restricted to early Cambrian rock units of Abbottabad and Hazira/Galdanian Formations. The phosphate beds are thick to thin and are associated with Cherts at most of the places. In Abbottabad the phosphate is found at the basal part of the dolomite member of the Abbottabad formation. The phosphate deposits found in the Soban Gali, Paswal Mian and Banseri areas are comparatively new. The mineralization has occurred quite close to the contact of the dolomite and quartzite member of the Abbottabad formation. The largest phosphate deposits occur in Soban Gali and Banseri areas. The P₂O₅ percentage ranges from 25-40 in the Ilyas mine and Banseri mine areas. The phosphate is light grey to reddish and white in color, dense, heavy and hard. It follows thick dolomite beds for hundred of meters and is locally mined by non-technical methods. Detailed geological survey for reserved estimation and modern techniques for mining is required.