

CHAPTER IV
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
LAND UTILIZATION AND RECLAMATION

The district is mainly agricultural, more than 83 per cent of the population depending on agriculture for its livelihood. The average cultivated area for the quinquennium ending 1958-59 was 10,52,287 acres and the average area of culturable waste for the same period was 46,527 acres. In 1958-59, the total cultivated area was nearly 74 per cent and the culturable waste area was nearly 3.22 per cent of the total area of the district.

The following statement shows the distribution of land tahsilwise during 1958-59.

Fahsil	Total area	Land put to non-agricultural uses	Barren and unculturable land	Land under miscellaneous trees and groves (not included in area sown)	Culturable waste
1	2	3	4	5	6
Biswan ..	3,65,714	41,369	2,899	11,753	8,601
Misrikh ..	3,81,404	22,867	4,656	18,545	13,274
Sidhauli ..	3,54,827	37,242	4,482	16,304	12,408
Sitapur ..	3,27,245	25,732	2,968	17,961	12,097
Total ..	14,29,190*	1,27,210	15,005	64,563	46,380

Tahsil	Area under Forest Acts	Current fallow	Other fallow	Pastures and grazing grounds	Net area sown	
					Irrigated	Un-irrigated
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Biswan	2,804	27,305	141	19,309	2,51,533
Misrikh ..	8,968	2,002	21,857	..	42,268	2,46,967
Sidhauli ..	787	2,533	24,831	..	47,043	2,09,197
Sitapur ..	26	5,840	14,313	171	41,298	2,06,839
Total ..	9,781	13,179	88,306	312	1,49,918	9,14,536

* This area does not include the area of the forest (12,048 acres) under the control of the Conservator of Forests.

Cultural Waste

The culturable waste was shown as 2,52,912 acres in the report of the first regular Settlement, but it decreased by more than 10 per cent at the time of the second regular Settlement, the area then being 2,27,195 acres. In the third Settlement, the area occupied by culturable waste recorded an increase of 40,717 acres, which is accounted for by a corresponding decrease in the acreage of old fallow. More land appears to have been left unutilized on account of the general slump in the agricultural production which, in its turn, necessitated the bringing of more land under the plough. The prices of food as well as of cash crops went up, inducing the cultivator to use more and more of the land which had been lying unutilized. The dwindling acreage of culturable waste during the years from 1953-54 to 1958-59 becomes evident from the areas shown below :

Year	Acre
1953-54	57
1954-55	53
1955-56	48
1956-57	47
1957-58	46
1958-59	46

Cultivated Area

The first reliable figure, available in respect of the cultivated area of the district, is that supplied in the report of the first regular Settlement, it being 9,14,041 acres or about 65 per cent of the total area of the district. The percentage varied from pargana to pargana, Chandra, the highest pargana as regards soil, having the highest percentage of cultivated area (71.18 per cent). Among the tahsils, Sitapur had the smallest area under cultivation, averaging 62.04 per cent and ranging from 55.12 per cent in pargana Khairabad to 66.69 per cent in pargana Laharpur tahsil. The average was a little higher in tahsil Mirrikh, but the variations here were more marked, as pargana Mirrikh itself showed 52.49 per cent, the lowest in the whole district. Tahsil Sidhanpur showed an average of 65.37 per cent, the lowest being in pargana Kundri North and the highest in pargana Sadarpur. Tahsil Biswan showed the highest average of 67.84 per cent of the total area, the figure being highest in pargana Biswan and lowest in pargana Kundri North. Even in the latter the area was not less than 64.2 per cent. It was ascertained that cultivation had increased by over 17,000 acres.

