

rate of several hundred thousand acres a year. During any particular year of the last decade, about 22 percent of the cultivated area lay fallow, while 9 percent of the remainder was double cropped. Consequently, the gross area sown to either a Kharif or a Rabi crop averaged 85.5 percent of the cultivated area. Out of the average of 29.6 million acres sown to a crop each year, 21.2 million, or 71 percent, were irrigated by perennial and non-perennial canals. Probably at least 2 million more acres were irrigated with water from Persian Wells.

There are marked differences between different regions. In the nine long-settled, largely canal-irrigated Districts of the Former Punjab, (14) only about 13 percent of the total area of nearly 22 million acres is not considered culturable. This proportion varies from less than 9 percent in Lyallpur in the center of Rechna Doab, to 18 percent in Muzaffargarh, which contains a considerable proportion of the rough and sandy lands of the Thal Desert. In Muzaffargarh, only 29 percent of the land designated as culturable is actually cultivated. In Lahore and Lyallpur, on the other hand, all but about 14 to 15 percent of the culturable land is cultivated. The proportion of culturable but not cultivated land in other Districts of Chaj, Rechna, and Bari Doabs is somewhat higher, varying from 19 percent of the total culturable area in Montgomery to 30 percent in Sheikhpura, and to 38 percent in Jhang. Like Muzaffargarh District, part of Jhang lies in the Thal Desert. Sheikhpura has the highest percentage of waterlogged and saline land of any of the Punjab District. Approximately 12 percent of the cultivated area in the 9 Districts lay fallow, and an almost equal amount was double cropped; hence the gross sown area and the cultivated area were nearly the same during any particular year. Eighty-seven percent of the cultivated area was canal-irrigated, and about 10 percent received Persian Well irrigation.

The Gujrat District, in the northern part of Chaj Doab, receives canal irrigation over a much smaller proportion of the gross sown area (less than 45 percent). In this District and in Sialkot, which lies just to the east in Rechna Doab, the percentage of fallow land, and of culturable but not cultivated land, is small, and the cropping intensity is high. On the average, 25 percent of the gross sown area in these two Districts is irrigated with Persian Wells, about the same as the canal-irrigated area.

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(14) These are: Lahore, Montgomery, and Multan in Bari Doab; Guhranwala, Sheikhpura, and Lyallpur in Rechna Doab; Shahpur in Chaj Doab; Muzaffargarh in Lower Thal Doab; and Jhang, which lies partly in Rechna and partly in Chaj and Thal Doabs.