CHAPTER 1

The Problem And The Natural Resources Of The Region

1.0 THE PROBLEM

1.0.1 The problem under study is two fold. In the first place, the study tests the hypothesis (Sarkar 1981, 1984a, 1984b, 1984c) that the traditional pattern of centralised balanced development planning takes too long a time to make use of our vast labour power and the resource of land which are very cheap from our national point of view. Although during the last few years various anti poverty programmes and special crop development programmes have certainly contributed to some extent greater utilisation of our labour power, the net impact might still be not far away from a net result of over-centralised 'balanced' programme. Secondly, the study makes a measure of the resources of a grass-root rural area viz. the block economy (covering a whole police station) of Chanchal in the district of Malda and indicates a rough development plan for the same grass-root rural economy and lays down the institutional set-up to implement the plan.

1.0.2 The main abuse of implementing a centralised development plan is that the resources at the bottom of a variegated country like India can not all be seen from the top (Sarkar 1990e). Great authors like Viner, Kuznets, Rostow stressed long ago that a big country can not gather its speed of development without developing its agriculture first. Agricultural revolution must precede industrial revolution.

1.0.3 Theoretical work on or on the basis of unused labour was done in ununiform ways by various authors beginning from Joan Robinson. Of the model builders and writers mention may be made apart from the ones we have mentioned in the preceding paragraph, of Nurkse, Lewis, Leibenstein, Ranis & Fei, Jorgenson, Okhawa and Nakamura. Empirical work in different countries was done by D. Warriner, Rosenstein Rodan, K. Mandelbaum. In India for the country as a whole agricultural labour enquiries undertaken in 1950-51 and 1956-57 and the Surveys of the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission provided some information about the position and level of living of agricultural labourers. Occasional studies were made by Mazumder, Parthasarathi, N.K. Sarkar and others.

1.0.4 In various centres of India regional studies are being conducted, some examples of which are : Naidu, Area Planning for Regional Development; Kabra, Development of Weaker Sections; Kumar, Land use Analysis; Singh, Geography of Rural Development; Upadhyaya, Development Problems and Prospects of Mizoram; Das, Peasant Agriculture in Assam; Sinha, Planned Development of Resources in Developing Region; Verma, Post Independence change in Rural India; A.K. Singh, Population and Settlement in U.P.; Mishra, Politics and Society in Rural India; Mishra, Political Socialisation in Rural India; Mahajan (Ed), Emerging Pattern of North-Eastern Economy; Hiramani, Social Change in Rural India; Singh, Rural Income Distribution; Srivastava, Integrated Rural Development Programme in India; and Thabar, Rural Development and Political Leadership in India.

Under the University of North Bengal some other studies on the use of basic resources are being undertaken for different areas. The present study is a part of such series of studies with a view to enlarge our knowledge of the different areas in respect of the mobilisation of the basic resources.

1.0.5 Agricultural development of a monsoon economy of the Indian type is not possible without planning from the bottom. Here in the countries of South-Asia water rather than sunshine is a limiting factor. Water resources alone can be the basis of dividing the country into various zones of farming . When we take into account heat, humidity, topography, rainfall, surface and under-ground water, the number of grass-root rural area economies might indeed be a few hundred. A plan for each of these grass-root rural economies may be prepared and executed locally. The authorities higher up have to transmit and or receive aid in a variety of forms from these grass-root economies. The central plan may only be built up by aggregating plans of these lowest units.

1.1 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

1.1.1 As we are for almost autonomous planning for each ~~district~~ district grass-root economy having homogeneous characteristics, naturally we select such an economy to deal with our problem under investigation. The superiority of water and natural resources of the district of Malda to those of many of the districts of the central part of the State of West Bengal is well pronounced. Malda is the southernmost district of the North Bengal Division of the State of

West Bengal and lies between 25°33'08" to 24°40'20" north latitudes and 88°45'50" extreme east longitude. Having a high potential of agricultural productivity Malda naturally stakes its claim for consideration of one of its grass-root rural economies as a case for special study for the problem in question.

1.1.2 A state agency of development[1] of the district of Malda divides the district into three natural divisions viz. (a) the area of the district, enclosed by the rivers Kalindri and Mahananda, called Tal Region, (b) the area of the district to the east of the Mahananda called the Barind Region and (c) the area of the district enclosed by the rivers Kalindri and Ganga called the Diara Region. We sub-divide the Tal Region into three agro-climatic zones, and each of Barind and Diara Regions into two such zones.

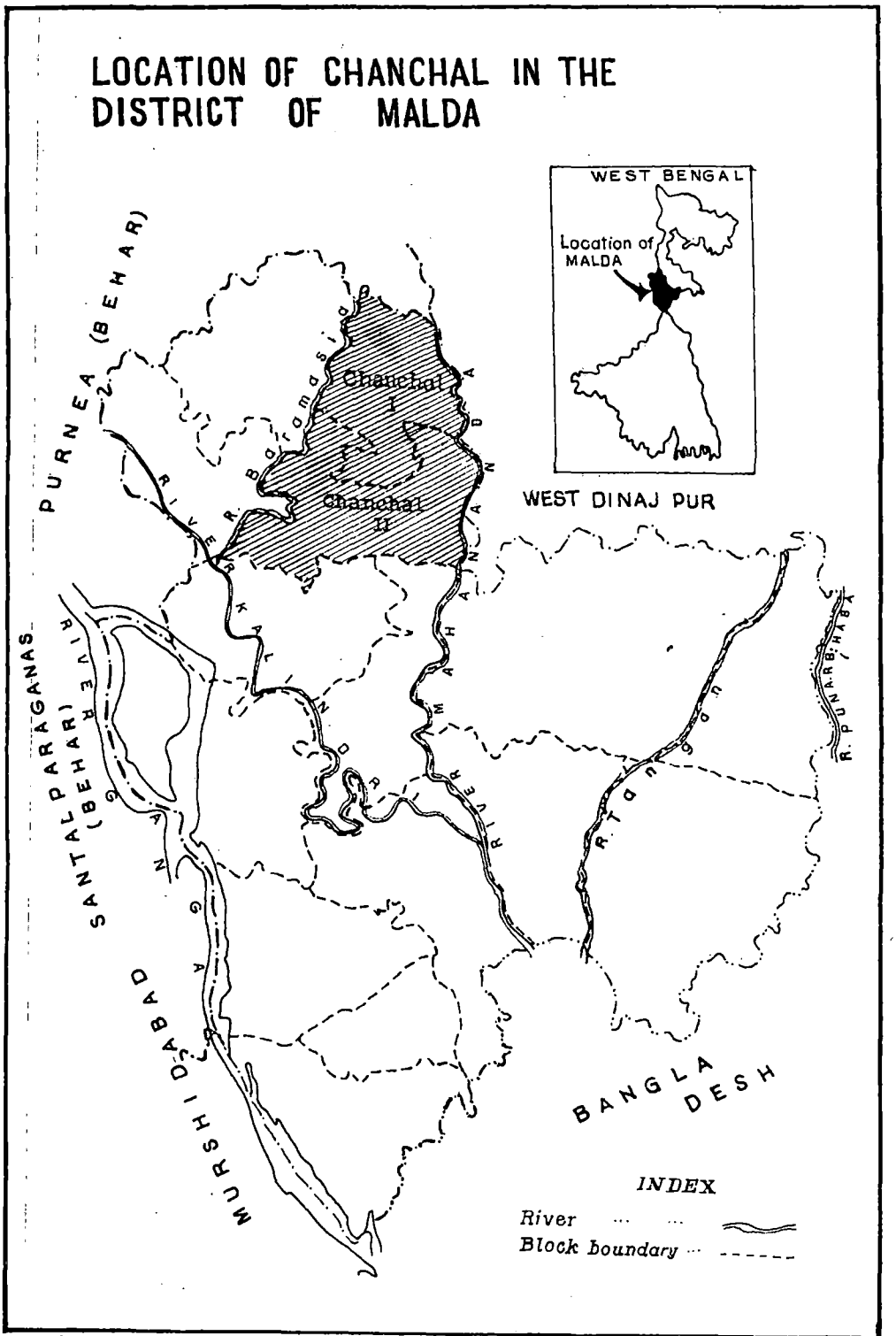
1.1.3 Thus we have a total of seven agro-climatic zones in the district of Malda. The Tal Region isolated by the agency of development is not uniform from every point of view. There are two areas which are especially flood-prone and they are so from different sorts of sources. The two blocks of Harishchandrapur, for example, are flood prone for three reasons. Firstly, the area of these two blocks are not uniformly slopping towards the south. Some areas are low-lying. Secondly, the river Baramasia carries flow of water only during the rainy season. The bed of this river has gone up for lack of perrenial flow. The amount of cusecs it can carry during torrential rains is very limited. Thirdly, the river Kalindri in this area has a wide responsibility of clearing the rain water of bigger catchment area including a big area of the Purnea district of Bihar. Since this special cause induced flood can be best dealt with a specialist

management of a grass-root rural area, the blocks of Harishchandrapur may be rightly construed as a grass-root rural economy for the purpose of autonomous grass-root rural planning.

1.1.4 Similarly the two blocks of Ratua have flood problems of another type. Rain water carried through the rivers Kalindri and Mahananda and the 'Mallik para Dara (drain)' overflow through the blocks of Ratua. This is often accentuated by the over-flooding of the Mahananda in the far south. Thus although rainfall and quality of soil are nearly the same as in the blocks of Harish-chandrapur, at least on ground of a special kind of flooding different from that of Harishchandrapur, we may reasonably have a separate grass-root rural area with the blocks of Ratua I and II.

1.1.5 The blocks of Chanchal - I and II are in general free from the risks of floods[2]. On this account alone the area has a claim to be treated as a separate grass-root rural area. The area, incidentally, has a special natural problem. Throughout the whole of these two blocks the land is steadily slopping from the north to the south. But in the midst of this slopping land (called Tal) there are irregular patches of high land where ordinary shallow tube wells do not serve the purpose of irrigation in seasons outside the rainy season. Special kind of deep tube well irrigation and infrastructural facility are to be installed in a significant portion of this area. Thus although the distribution of rainfall is the same as in the two other grass-root rural areas mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, we treat the economy of the two blocks of Chanchal as a distinct grass-root rural area. Similarly we have

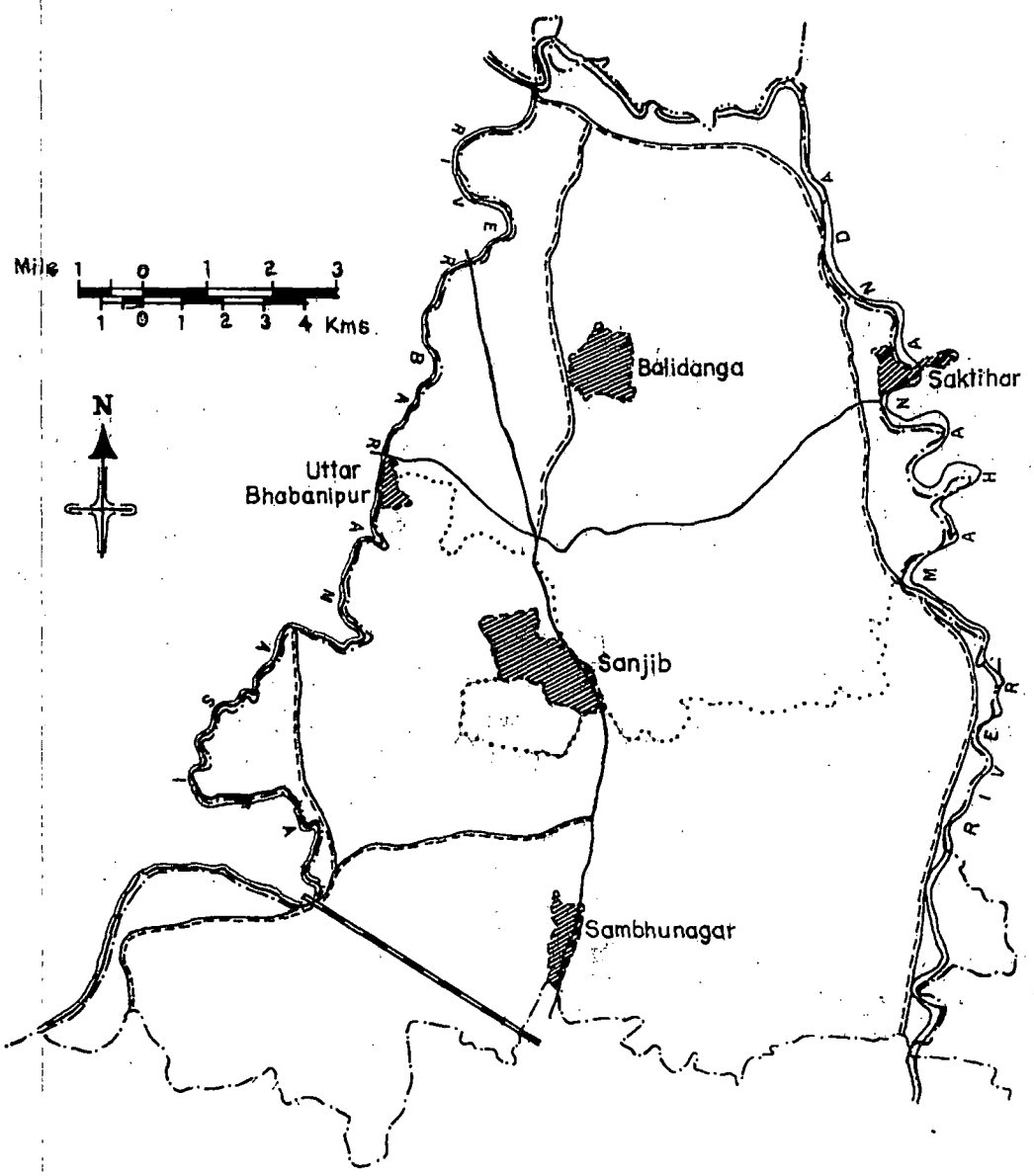
MAP – 1



SOURCE : DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK, CENSUS OF INDIA – 1981, MALDA DISTRICT.

MAP-2

LOCATION OF FIVE SAMPLE MOUZAS WITHIN THE TWO BLOCKS OF CHANCHAL



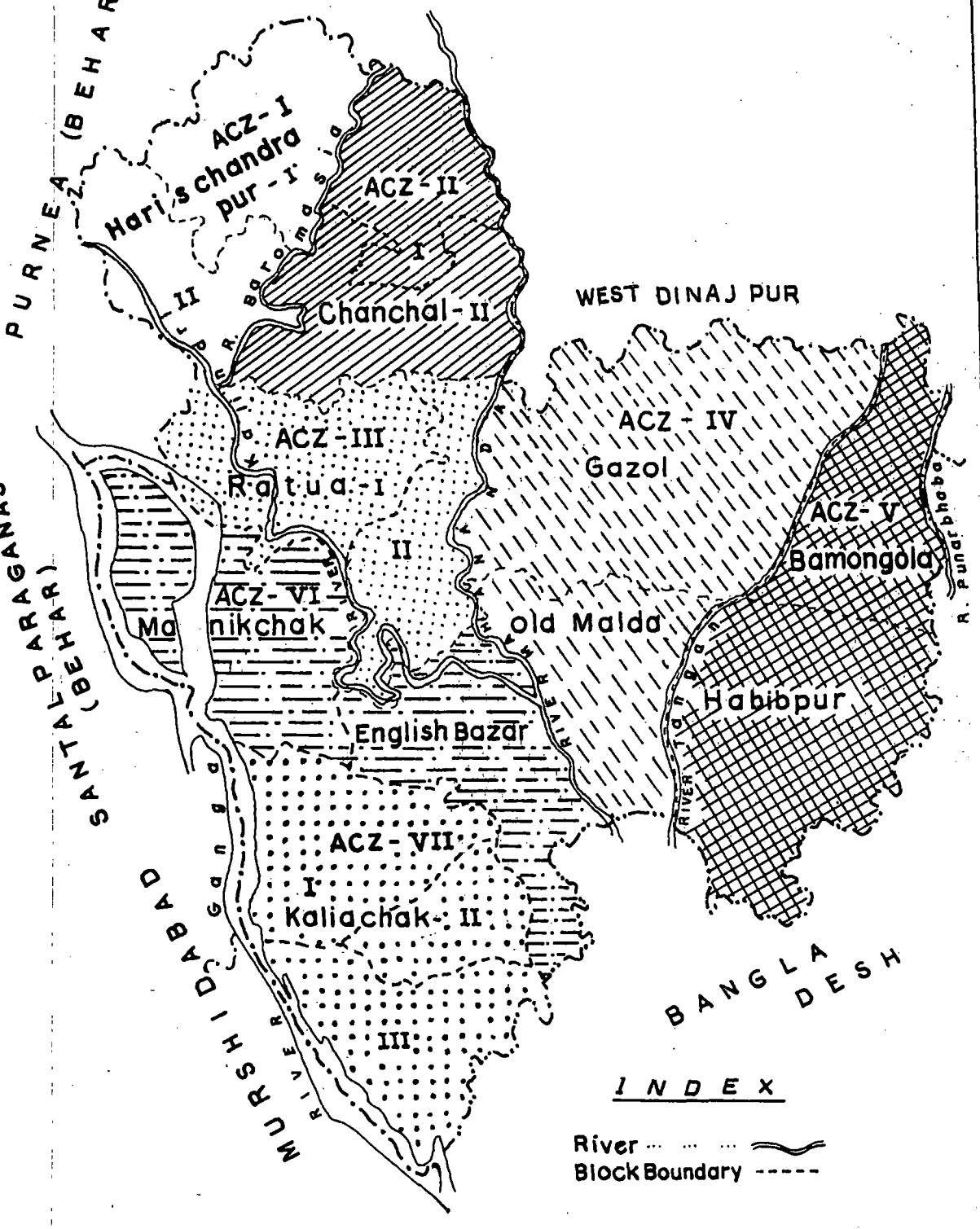
INDEX

- Mettled Roads
- Unmettled Roads
- Railways
- Rivers
- Sample Mouza

SOURCE : DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK, CENSUS OF INDIA-1981, MALDA DISTRICT.

MAP-3

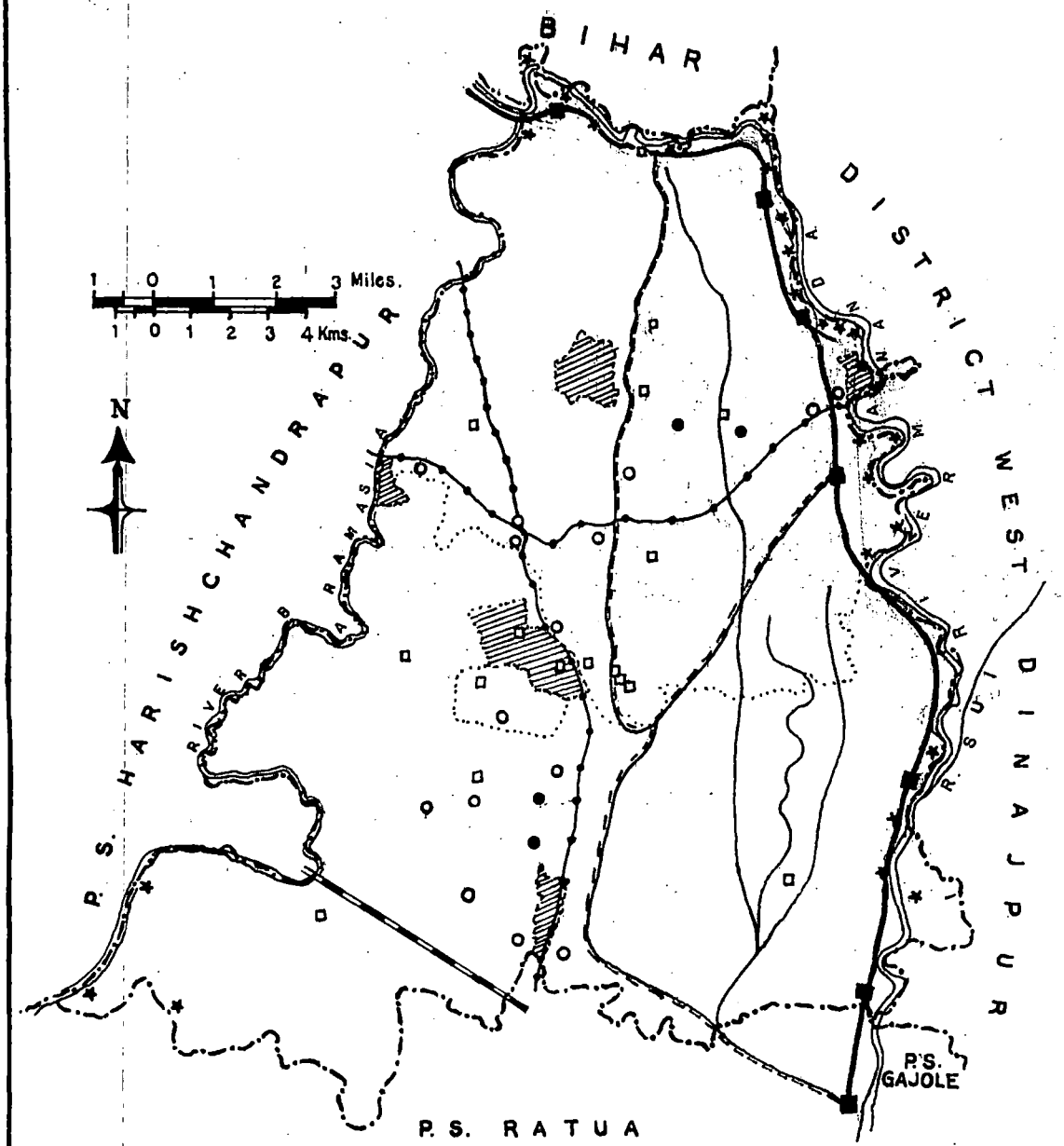
MALDA DISTRICT
OUR AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES



SOURCE: DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK, CENSUS OF INDIA-1981, MALDA DISTRICT. THE DIVISION OF SEVEN AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES IS MADE BY THE AUTHOR.

TWO BLOCKS OF CHANCHAL —

RIVER SYSTEM, DRAINAGE AND GOVT. IRRIGATION SCHEMES



I N D E X

Shallow Tube Well cluster	Mahananda Embankment
Deep Tube Well schemes	Rivers
Tanks	Sluice gate
Canals	Pucca Road
River lift Irrigation Schemes	Railways
Sample Mouzas	Narrow Drains

SOURCE: DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK, CENSUS OF INDIA-1981, MALDA DISTRICT. LOCATION OF DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION SCHEMES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE AUTHOR WITH THE HELP OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY AT THE BLOCK LEVEL.

reasons for isolating four other grass-root rural area economies in the remainder of the district. The reason that the grass-root rural area economy of the two blocks of Chanchal has been chosen as our area of the study is the writer of this dissertation has been residing in this area for a number of years. The advantages of this choice are as follows. In the first place, the farms can be visited on bicycles or by using local transport during day time. The investigator does not thus has to undergo hardships on having to stay in rural households on weeks together. Any revisit to the farms on subsequent occasions was also not much of a problem. Secondly, the question of building acquaintance with the local authorities, spokesman and men of public use and importance has never appeared as special problem as a result of the investigator being stationed permanently in the heart of the area.

1.1.6 Once we choose the two blocks of Chanchal to form the "block economy of Chanchal" as the area of study we try to locate some representative sample mouzas within the area. Out of a total of 194 mouzas of our block economy (Census of India 1981) we have selected a sample of five mouzas. For each of the 194 mouzas we got information about population, net cultivable area and irrigated area from the offices of the agricultural development officers of the two blocks. Five strata are made on the basis of the magnitude of the percentage of irrigated areas to the total net cultivable areas of the mouzas. For the purpose of construction of strata we have excluded not only the completely depopulated mouzas but also mouzas having a population of 300 or less. Then out of total 194

mouzas a net number of 160 mouzas are left which are so stratified that each strata contain equal number of 32 mouzas. A sample mouza is drawn from each strata at random which give us a sample of five mouzas to represent fully the local economy of the two blocks. The stratification is shown in Table 1.1.1.

Table 1.1.1

Selection Of The Sample Mouzas

Percentage of irrigated to net cultivable area	Number of mouzas excluding those having population equal to or less than 300	Name of the mouzas selected along with their percentage of irrigated area to net cultivable area	
0-17.86	32	Sambhunagar (110)	10.90
18.07-28.93	32	Sanjib (136)	18.07
29.00-42.47	32	Balidanga (61)	30.45
42.55-63.60	32	Saktihar (43)	63.60
64.18-98.98	32	Uttar Bhabanipur (73)	71.83

Note : Figures in parenthesis are Location Code Numbers i.e. J.L. Numbers of Mouzas.

Three of the five sample mouzas, namely Sanjib, Saktihar and Balidanga belong to Chanchal Block-I and the rest two namely Sambhunagar and Uttar Bhabanipur to Chanchal Block-II. The five sample mouzas located in Map-2 are seen to be well scattered within the area of our block economy.

1.1.7 Having selected the sample mouzas we conducted a pilot survey to make complete enumeration of the households residing in each of the five sample mouzas. Thus a total of 596 households were covered leaving a very small number unattended because of their absence during the period of survey. It took a period of one year and nine months to complete the survey work from April 1985 upto the end of 1986 with some intervals in between the beginning and the end. Therefore we had two separate reference periods of household survey, April 1984 to March 1985 for three mouzas and September 1985 to August 1986 for two mouzas. For the cost, revenue and expenditure accounts of all the mouzas we considered the average price level of the two reference periods.

1.1.8 The household survey was a one-point survey conducted to fill in one household schedule for every household which itemised in schedule form all data required for the study viz., information about family members, their age, sex, education, occupation, health, arrangement of housing and sanitation, birth, death, mobility, stock of animals and other fixed farm inputs, cropwise use of all non-fixed farm inputs, cost of cultivation, returns of agricultural and non-agricultural productions, purchase and sale of land and non-land assets, consumption expenditure, use of land and labour, indebtedness, tenancy and employment. After the completion of household survey in the second phase we conducted a village survey to fill in one village schedule for each of the five mouzas. The village schedule was designed to get an over all idea of the general facilities and services the operators as well as the non-operators

of the productive activities receive in the village or in the system of which the village is a part. The village schedule itemised information like facilities of drinking water, medical and veterinary treatment, education, transport and communcation, sanitation, electricity for household consumption and farm use and also sources of entertainments and recreation. The village survey was undertaken by the first quarters of 1988. In household survey all information were taken for a reference period of last one agricultural year from the time of survey. But the data of the village schedule were collected to know the position the villagers residing in their specific area reached by the period of survey as a result of various welfare measures undertaken by the Government over the yester-years.

1.1.9 During the period of scrutiny of data by the year 1987, we had to revisit the sample mouzas on issues related to demography, mobility of labour and others that became clear only after some special probe. On some intricate issues like prices of the products, the prevalent wage level, use of inputs per acre or output harvested per acre, utmost care was attached to ensure reliable data through cross checking the farmers and the hired labourers working in the farms, the sellers and the purchasers, the landlords and the tenants. Income statements got corrected while cross-checking through statements of expenditure and outputs and costs.

1.2 LAND AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE REGION

1.2.1 Basically the soil types of the seven agro-climatic zones of the district are more or less uniform. The riverine water systems of the zones, the extent of their being flooded and the source of their floods, topographical slopes and the existence of high lands have, as has been told above, the bases of classifying the district into these zones. The raising of the efficiency of agriculture through high culture of reproducible inputs including irrigation water throughout the year, the building of roads, dykes and other agents of change of physical texture of lands would easily render the basic nature of soil uniform throughout the district. By and large the greater part of the blocks of Chanchal consists of clay loam[2] soil. Some areas which require deep tube well irrigation are also liable to be clay loam through several years of continuous culture throughout the year. Ideally, the agro-climatic zone of Chanchal, like other agro-climatic zones of the district holds out enormous potential for agricultural production and agro based industries and an important tertiary sector based on these two.

1.2.2 As in the other zones of the district, climate of Chanchal never becomes an impediment to cropping. The area is characterised by a hot and oppressive summer season, plentiful rains and moisture in the air throughout the whole year. Temperature starts rising by March and reaches the maximum in April or May when the mean daily temperature varies within 36°C and 22.1°C. The monsoon (both south east and south west) begins by Mid June and continue till the end of September. The month of October is generally a period of reduced rainfall after which the cold season starts. January is the

coldest month the mean daily minimum temperature when varies within 24.2°C to 10.8°C. Sometimes spells of cold weather bring down the mean daily minimum temperature to four or five degrees.

1.2.3 As to the amount of yearly rainfall our area falls within the assured rainfall zone (1140 mm and above) in our country. The average annual rainfall over the period of last ten years (1978 to 1987) is found 1528.29 mm with 69.57 average number of rainy days. The rainfall chart presented in Table 1.2.1 show the seasonal and annual fluctuations in rainfall. The major part of the annual rainfall is received within the period of monsoon from June upto September. The average rainfall received during this period is 1168.43 mm i.e. 76% of the average annual rainfall. In some years monsoon rain does not commence by the usual time which often disturb the production of the kharif crops. The cold season is mostly rainless. Therefore successful Aus and Rabi crops require arrangement of artificial irrigation. Utilisation of underground water may well be resorted to for the purpose without causing any ecological disbalance since the water resources of the region is renewable by monsoonal rainfall.

1.2.4 The main natural source of surface water for the area of Chanchal is the river Mahananda. The river has its source in the Himalayas in Darjeeling district. It flows along the northern end of Chanchal block-I, then passes through the eastern border of our combinded block area. The western boundary of our area economy is marked by the river Baramasia which has its source on a dead channel of Mahananda. As we have already mentioned, Baramasia has now become completely dead having no river current. In the rainy

Table 1.1.1

Rainfall (mm) In Chanchal 1978-87)

Years/ Months	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	Average (1978-87)
January	-	12.0	-	50.3	-	26.2	31.6	-	-	1.2	15.44
February	-	23.8	-	4.0	4.0	0.8	33.6	-	3.0	8.6	6.48
March	-	7.0	29.6	0.2	18.2	11.6	1.8	-	-	11.6	8.77
April	-	30.0	29.2	177.6	21.2	32.0	18.4	20.2	81.6	70.4	54.28
May	76.6	2.5	279.2	172.4	33.0	125.4	134.6	102.4	198.2	61.6	149.31
June	271.9	138.8	221.0	92.6	262.2	143.6	360.2	193.8	199.6	219.0	210.42
July	224.3	402.6	621.0	443.2	267.4	306.2	364.0	307.8	636.9	308.7	420.92
August	133.4	153.2	621.6	317.2	241.0	131.0	231.6	196.8	199.2	715.4	276.91
September	276.2	233.2	244.6	228.5	120.6	334.4	279.4	197.8	416.0	274.6	260.18
October	53.4	317.8	105.6	-	35.6	59.6	37.8	141.0	380.2	44.88	108.54
November	6.0	23.2	-	0.8	10.2	-	-	-	2.1	9.2	1.87
December	-	35.4	-	43.6	-	37.4	1.6	-	23.6	1.2	15.17
Total	1541.8	1379.5	2151.8	1530.4	1013.4	1208.0	1494.6	1159.6	2140.4	2426.3	1528.29

Source : Rainfall recording station of the sub-divisional Research Farm, Chanchal.

seasons it drains out the rain water of the entire west boundary of Chanchal. Since the area of Chanchal is slopping from ~~south~~ north to south naturally we find some branches of Mahananda running from north to south through some parts of Chanchal. Apart from these natural canals a long dug canal (locally known as "Dara") serves the purpose of drainage in the rainy season. Although the natural canals are now silted up and have become marshy low lands, the main dug canal has a big part in keeping the area free from water-logging.

1.2.5 As can be seen from table 1.2.2 in the appendix, the sum of the net cultivated area and forests of the block economy of Chanchal is a little higher than that of the rest of the state. While the state economy as a whole includes a great deal of urban areas, the town of Chanchal as a country town encloses rather a small area. The fact, however, remains that in principally agricultural areas the areas allotted to cultivation, forests etc. are larger than in urban areas. In a long range planning some more areas now being given to cultivation may have to be shifted to roads, buildings etc. The area has already been served by a net-work of unmetalled roads. In the forseeable future the laying out of new roads would not be much necessary. Metalling the existing unmetalled roads would not require diversion of cultivated lands to roads. However, of the 29, 241 hectares we may suppose that 241 hectares may be given to new infrastructural uses. As we shall discuss in a later chapter, a plot of land in this highly productive belt can be used for 3.5 times. So 29,000 hectares of land will be as good as 101,500 hectares of land for the purpose of production. More than ~~four~~ four decades of

planning leaving these resources not used fully would mean for us deplorable sacrifice of speed in development.

1.3 LABOUR RESOURCES

1.3.1 A crude estimate of the potential labour resources may include all people exceeding the age of 15 years[4]. The distribution of our sample population by age and sex as presented in table 1.3.1 shows that nearly 57 percent of the total population constitute the potential labour resource. The distribution of the labour force by villages and sub-samples (tables 1.3.2 to 1.3.4) reveals that the villages that constitute sub-sample-2 make relatively greater contribution to the labour force compared to the villages of Sub-Sample-1. On the basis of the estimate of our sample, the labour resource of our block economy by the reference period become a total of 141,260 people with 75,462 males and 65,798 females.

1.3.2 So far as the efficiency of the labour force depend upon their level of education we can work out an estimate of skilled and unskilled labour from a distribution of the labour force by number of years spent in education. One notices from table 1.3.5 that 60 percent of the labour force did not even spent one complete year for education. If the category of skilled labour force include only the persons having at least 6 years' education or more then for our total sample 331 people out of 1827 (18.12 percent) enter into this category and the unskilled category include the remaining 1296 people (81.88 percent). While this is the average picture considering both sexes, there has been a wide sex-discrimination against females in education.

Table 1.3.1

Population Of Total Sample - Distribution By Age & Sex.

Age group (years)	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent to total	Number	Percent to total	Number	Percent to total
Upto 5	263	15.60	242	15.70	505	15.65
5-10	245	14.53	261	16.94	506	15.68
10-15	202	11.98	187	12.13	389	12.05
15-35	626	37.13	548	35.56	1174	36.38
35-60	288	17.08	257	16.68	545	16.89
Above 60	62	3.68	46	2.99	108	3.35
Total	1686	100	1541	100	3227	100

Table 1.3.2

Potential Labour Resource (Both Sexes) By Villages & Sub-Samples

Sl. No.	Village	Total population	Population above 15 years	Percent
1.	Sanjib	724	393	54.28
2.	Saktihar	738	438	59.35
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	836	457	54.67
4.	Sambhunagar	351	191	54.42
5.	Balidanga	578	348	60.21
6.	Sub-Sample-1	1075	584	54.32
7.	Sub-Sample-2	2152	1243	57.76
Total Sample		3227	1827	56.62

Table 1.3.3

Potential Labour Resource (Male) By Villages & Sub-Samples

Sl. No.	Village	Total male population	Male population above 15 years	Percent
1.	Sanjib	375	204	54.4
2.	Saktihar	393	244	62.09
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	441	244	55.33
4.	Sambhunagar	180	94	52.22
5.	Balidanga	297	190	63.97
6.	Sub-Sample-1	555	298	53.69
7.	Sub-Sample-2	1131	678	59.95
	Total Sample	1686	976	57.89

Table 1.3.4

Potential Labour Resource (Female) By Villages & Sub-Samples

Sl. No.	Village	Total female population	Female population above 15 years	Percent
1.	Sanjib	349	189	54.15
2.	Saktihar	345	194	56.23
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	395	213	53.92
4.	Sambhunagar	171	97	56.73
5.	Balidanga	281	158	56.23
6.	Sub-Sample-1	520	286	55.00
7.	Sub-Sample-2	1021	565	55.34
	Total Sample	1541	851	55.22

1.3.3 One notices from tables 1.3.6 to 1.3.8 that the labour force of the villages of Sub-Sample-2 have relatively good command in education than those of Sub-Sample-1. The two sets of villages do not differ with respect to any infrastructural facilities (which will be evident from Chapter 4) excepting for irrigation. Thus better facilities of irrigation and the consequent improved farming of Sub-Sample-2 (which will be evident from Chapter 5) explain its relative abundance of skilled labour resource to Sub-Sample-1. A detail study of the level of employment and the existing state of use of labour power of the entire labour force will be taken up in the subsequent chapters with the objective of framing a plan for full-employment of the unemployed and under employed labour resource in the concluding chapter.

Table 1.3.5

Potential Labour Resource Of Total Sample - Distribution By Education

Number of years spent in education[5]	Population above 15 years age					
	Male		Female		Both Sexes	
	Number	Percent to total population above 15 years	Number	Percent to total population above 15 years	Number	Percent to total population above 15 years
1 or more	534	54.71	204	23.97	738	40.39
2 " "	488	50.00	193	22.68	681	37.27
3 " "	440	45.08	174	20.45	614	33.61
4 " "	345	35.35	121	14.22	466	25.51
5 " "	294	30.12	98	11.52	392	21.46
6 " "	250	25.61	81	9.52	331	18.12
7 " "	219	22.44	67	7.87	286	15.65
11 " "	69	7.07	7	0.82	76	4.16

Table 1.3.6

Skilled Labour Resource (Both Sexes) By Villages & Sub-Samples

Sl. No.	Village	Total population above 15 years age	Population above 15 years age spending 6 years or more for education	Percent
1.	Sanjib	393	42	10.69
2.	Saktihar	438	122	27.85
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	457	61	13.35
4.	Sambhunagar	191	11	5.76
5.	Balidanga	348	95	27.30
6.	Sub-Sample-1	584	53	9.08
7	Sub-Sample-2	1243	278	22.37
	Total Sample	1827	331	18.12

Table 1.3.7

Skilled Labour Resource (Male) - Distribution By Villages And Sub-Samples

Sl. No.	Village	Male population above 15 years age	Male people above 15 years age spending 6 years or more for education	Percent
1.	Sanjib	204	31	15.20
2.	Saktihar	244	94	38.52
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	244	47	19.26
4.	Sambhunagar	94	8	8.51
5.	Balidanga	190	70	36.84
6.	Sub-Sample-1	298	39	13.09
7.	Sub-Sample-2	678	211	31.12
Total Sample		976	250	25.61

Table 1.3.8

Skilled Labour Resource (Females)- Distribution By Villages And Sub-Samples.

Sl. No.	Village	Female population above 15 years age	Females above 15 years age spending 6 yrs or more for education	Percent
1.	Sanjib	189	11	5.82
2.	Saktihar	194	28	14.43
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	213	14	6.57
4.	Sambhunagar	97	3	3.09
5.	Balidanga	158	25	15.82
6.	Sub-Sample-1	286	14	4.90
7.	Sub-Sample-2	565	67	11.86
Total Sample		851	81	9.52

Appendix To Chapter - 1

Table 1.2.2

Land Resources By 1985-86 - Chanchal And West Bengal

Sl. No.	Categories	Chanchal (I & II		West Bengal	
		Land in hectares	Percent to total	Land in thousand hectares	Percent to total
1.	Net area sown along with current follows & forests	29,241	80.32	6,513	73.6
2.	Area not available for cultivation	6,221	17.09	1,730	19.6
3.	Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows	943	2.59	606	6.8
4.	Total	36,405	100	8,849	100

Source : Data for Chanchal is collected from the offices of the agricultural development officers of the two blocks. Data for West Bengal is taken from Government of West Bengal, Economic Review (1988-89), Statistical Apendix-P54.