Profile of the Study Area
Chapter-III

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Prior to discuss the findings of the study on “Role of multimedia based package on food security for women”, it is essential to sketch briefly the salient features of the study area. The following are the brief features of district Kanpur.

District Kanpur

Kanpur is said to be the corruption of Kanhaiyapur or Kanhpur, which was an unimportant village till its first contact with the British. According to a local tradition, the name of Kanhpur Kohna owes its origin to Hindu Singh, Raja of Sachendi, who came here about 1750, to bathe in the holy river, the Ganga and established a village, which he (possibly) named Kanhpur, the name becoming changed to Kanpur in the course of time.

Location

The district of Kanpur occupies the north-western part of the Allahabad division and belongs to the tract known as the lower doab (which comprises the eastern extremity of the strip of country lying between the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers). In shape, it is an irregular quadrilateral and lies between the parallel of 25°26' and 26°58' north latitude and 70°31' and 80°34' east longitude. To the north-east, beyond the Ganga, the deep stream of which forms the boundary of the district, lie the districts of Hardoi and Unnao, while to the south, across the Yamuna, are the districts of Ilamirpur and Jalaun. On the south-east, the boundary marches with that of Bindki (a tahsil of I’atchpur) and to the west and north-west are the Auraiya and Bidhuna tahsils of district Auraiya and that of Kannauj district.
Area

According to the Central Statistical Organization, the district had an area of 3015 Sq.km. (Census, 2003) with 1040 Sq.km. area covered under Kanpur, district, from which four zones were selected for the present study.

Population

According to the census of 2001, the district had a population of 25,51,337 in which 13,74,121 are males and 11,77,216 are females and occupied the 2\textsuperscript{nd} position in the state in respect of population.

Sub-divisions Tahsils

The district has six sub-divisions – Bilhaur, Derapur, Bhognipur, Akbarpur, Kanpur and Ghatampur, each having a tahsil of the same name.

The Kanpur tahsil lies in the east of the district. It is bounded on the east and north-east by district Unnao, the Ganga demarcating the boundary between the two districts. On its north-west is tahsil Bilhaur, on the west is tahsil Akbarpur and on the south is tahsil Ghatampur and district I'atchpur. According to the census of 1991, it had 279 villages and 2 towns covering an area of 1040 sq.km. with a population of 24,18,487 persons (females 10,92,759). There are total 10 blocks in Kanpur tahsil.

Topography

Like the rest of the doab, the district generally constitutes an alluvial plain which slopes gradually from north-west to south-east, the slope following the line of the main rivers. This plain is somewhat undulating because of the many subsidiary watersheds that intersperse the minor drainage lines. The sectional contour is almost the same, the level rising sharply from the bed of the Ganga to the crest of the high cliff and then sloping gently towards the centre, beyond which it once again ascends to the ridge which overlooks the valley of the
Yamuna. The same phenomenon occurs on a smaller scale in the case of the minor rivers in the district but where the watercourse has a small volume and little velocity, the change in the level is hardly perceptible.

**Climate**

The climate of the district is characterized by a hot summer and general dryness except in the south-west monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from March to about the middle of June is the summer season, which is followed by the south-west monsoon season which lasts till about the end of September, October and the first half of November forms the post-monsoon or transition period. The cold season spreads from about the middle of November to February.

**Rainfall**

Records of rainfall in the district are available for 8 stations for periods ranging from 51 to 97 years. The average annual rainfall in the district is 778.9 mm (30.67") The rainfall in the district varies from 642.3 mm (25.29") at Narwal to 884.8 mm (34.83") at Kanpur. About 89 per cent of the annual rainfall is received during the monsoon months (June to September) August being the rainiest month. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is appreciable. In the fifty year period, 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall, which was 155 per cent of the normal, occurred in 1904. The lowest annual rainfall, 43 per cent of the normal, occurred in 1918. In this fifty-year period, the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 12 years, none of which were consecutive. Considering the rainfall at individual stations, two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred three times at Bilhaur, Akbarpur and Ghatampur and twice at Kanpur and Bhognipur and 3 consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once at Bilhaur.
Temperature

There is a meteorological observatory at Kanpur and the records of this observatory may be taken as representative of the climatic conditions prevailing in the district in general. About the beginning of March there is a rapid rise in temperature. May and the early part of June constitute the hottest part of the year. The mean daily maximum temperature in May is 41.3\(^{0}\)C (106.3\(^{0}\)F) or above. Hot, dry and dust laden westerly winds are common in the hot season. Afternoon thundershowers which occur a few times during the summer, bring temporary relief. With the onset of monsoon after the middle of June, the day temperature drops appreciably. Nights continue to be as warm as those during the latter part of the summer. Towards the end of the monsoon (in September and in October) there is a slight increase in the day temperature but the nights temperatures decrease rapidly. January is generally the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 22.3\(^{0}\)C (72.1\(^{0}\)F) and the mean daily minimum at 7.8\(^{0}\)C (16.0\(^{0}\)F). During the cold season, in association with passing western disturbances, cold waves affect the district and the minimum temperature drops down to about the freezing point of water and frost occurs.

The highest maximum and the lowest maximum temperature recorded in the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 were 44.2\(^{0}\)C and 0.7\(^{0}\)C, respectively.

Humidity

During the monsoon season, the humidity generally exceeds 70 per cent but after that is decreases. The driest part of the year is the summer season when in the afternoon the humidity is less than 30 per cent.