CHAPTER III

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICTS

1. District 24 - Parganas:

The district of 24-Parganas, under the Presidency Division of the State of West Bengal, is one of the developed districts of this State. Pronounced is the trend towards increasing urbanisation in this district. Viewed from the angle of the rural-urban distribution of population, it becomes quite clear that this district is relatively more urbanised than the State of West Bengal as a whole. This is borne out by the fact that while about three-fourths of the total population of the State lives in rural areas, in the district of 24 - Parganas a little more than two-thirds of its population is rural. The only more urbanised district of the State is Calcutta. Calcutta, the State capital, was originally a part of this district, but now forms a separate district. The economies of these two districts are very much interdependent. Calcutta affords the marketing and various infrastructural facilities to this district, whereas the latter is the main source of supply of food to Calcutta.

Geographical and population coverage:

As regards geographical coverage, the 24 - Parganas dis-
trict which, as already mentioned, is the largest and the most populous district of the State and the most populous one in this Indian sub-continent, covers an area of 5,637.7 square miles which is inhabited by a population of 6,280,915 as per census report of 1961. According to the provisional population figures of 1971 census, the district has a total population of 8,381,743 of which 5,648,805 constitute the rural population.

The percentage of urban to rural population in this district, according to 1971 census report, stands at 34.18 as against 31.8 in 1961. On geographical and economic considerations the district is divided into two parts, north and south.

Administrative set-up:

This district has six subdivisions (Sadar, Barasat, Bongaon, Diamond Harbour, Bashirhat and Barrackpur), and 50 police stations. As on 1st August, 1961, the total number of Community Development Blocks was 31.

According to the 1961 census, the district comprised 49 towns and 3,899 villages.

Soil and rainfall:

The soil of the district is gangetic alluvial of both old
and new types and the soil is fertile and is conducive to the cultivation of paddy and jute. The major area of the district experiences the average annual rainfall of about 150 cm, whereas in the forest area which accounts for 29% of the area of the district, the rainfall is more, that is, in the neighbourhood of 180 cm.

Demographic aspects:

Out of the total population of 6,280,915 as per 1961 census, 3,366,805 were males and 2,914,110 females. Regarding the rural population according to this report, out of the total of 4,282,978, 2,216,600 were males and 2,066,358 females. In this district, the rate of increase of urban population has always, over the recent past, a strong tendency to outstrip the rate of increase of rural population.

The sex-ratio stood at 866 (that is, 866 females per 1000 males) in 1961 in this district. In the rural areas of the district this ration was at 932 in 1961. (for the State as a whole this ratio was 943 in the same year). The selective male migration to the urban areas accounted for this higher ratio of females per 1000 males in the rural areas of the State and the district.

Employment aspect:

The labour-participation ratio (i.e. the percentage of workers to total population) in the district is lower than the State average. In the State of West Bengal, in 1961, the ratio
was 332 persons per 1000 whereas for the district of 24-parganas the ratio was 294 per 1000. (In 1971, the corresponding figure for the district has come down to 261 and for the State 234.)

Here it may be mentioned that persons engaged in productive work irrespective of their deriving any income or not have been treated as workers in 1961 census. Persons such as family members and children who work but do not earn enough to maintain themselves have also been considered as workers. Against working population have also been included persons spending more than an hour per day on any productive occupation, as well as persons, in case of seasonal work, having regular work for more than an hour a day throughout the greater part of the working season. Even, in this census, undertrial prisoners or persons temporarily incapacitated if they were previously engaged in any productive work have been recorded as workers.

In 1971 the percentage of workers in the State has been estimated at 28.37% of the population as against 33.26% in 1961. That 28.37% of the population are workers as per 1971 census estimate does not mean that the rest are unemployed. There are, in the remaining figure, babies, aged persons, the infirm, students, school-going children, and other categories of persons who were in the census classified as non-workers. Unemployed persons are among them but their numbers cannot be calculated just now. Workers have been classified in only three broad
categories: Cultivators, Agricultural labourers, and other Workers. The category 'Other Workers' includes workers engaged in all branches of economic activity other than cultivation.

For the census of 1971 it was specified that a cultivator was one who actually cultivated land held by him from the Government or from a private person, trust, etc., in return of payment in cash or kind. An agricultural labourer was one who received wages for the labour he put in, without any interest of any kind in the land.

The total number of workers in this district has registered a rise by about 22% from 1961 to 1971. The total number of cultivators in the district declined from 5,75,369 in 1961 to 5,40,033 in 1971. The number of cultivators as a percentage to total workers dropped from 31.4 in 1961 to 24.1 in 1971.

But it is important to note here that the agricultural labourers, as compared with the cultivators, have presented a different picture during the same period. In this case, there has been rise in the proportion of agricultural labourers to the total number of workers. This rise has been from 17.6% to 26.8%. As per 1971 census estimate, in the State of West Bengal the percentage of cultivators (31.75% of the workers as against 38.5% in 1961) has dropped and that of agricultural labourers has sharply increased. The percentage of other workers has dropped slightly.
from 46.2% in 1961 to 42.5% in 1971. All these, no doubt, indicate the deterioration of the economic conditions in the rural areas of this State. The percentage of agricultural labourers has risen everywhere. There has been a smaller proportion of workers as compared to 1961. This pattern holds good in every district of this State.

Land utilisation:

The total area of the district is 3,630,200 acres of which the area under forest is 10,52,600 acres or about 29% of the total area. The net and the total areas sown in 1964-65 as percentage to the total area of the entire district were 45.81 and 53.13 respectively. The area under multiple cropping as a percentage to the net area sown in the district was about 16. The area under fallow lands and the area not available for cultivation as percentage to the total area of the district were 1.18 and 17.75 respectively.

Agricultural activities:

As the principal food crop in the district, rice has to be mentioned first. This apart, potato, pulses, gram, etc. deserve mention as some other important food crops. Jute, among the non-food crops, is the most important type of commercial crop.

Among the different varieties of rice sown in the district, Aman is the most important. The percentage share of such winter rice in the total acreage in 1964-65 was as high as 95.29. Subsequently, this share kept falling and during 1968-69, it dropped to
In the case of Aus and Boro, their share steadily increased.

Regarding the yield rates, there has been a gradual fall in the productivity rates for Aman and Aus varieties. In case of Boro, there has been a consistent rise in the rate.

In 1968-69, the acreage under rice was 1,521 thousand acres. During this period the total acreage of rice increased by 2.7% over 1964-65, but the total production during this time fell, mainly due to a fall in the yield-rate. The total area under High Yielding Variety paddy as a percentage to the total acreage under rice was about 8% during the said period. The production and yield rate of wheat have shown a rising trend during recent years. As for jute, the area, production and yield rate were the lowest in 1968-69 during the recent years whereas these were the highest in 1967-68.

This district can be said to be mainly Aman-producing. This particular variety of rice has far greater land-coverage than Aus or Boro. Here, local Aman covered 1215, 100 acres, local Aus 69,800 acres and local Boro 2200 acres during 1970-71.

During this same period (1970-71), in the district of 24-Parganas, the cultivation of H.Y.V. Aman covered 120,000 acres and that of H.Y.V. Aus covered 8,400 acres. Of course, the area covered under the cultivation of H.Y.V. Boro which was 49,600
acres during this period far exceeds the acreage under the cultivation of local Boro. But, as regards local Aman and Aus, the acreage covered is much greater than the acreage under H.Y.V. Aman and Aus the cultivation of which appears to be relatively too insignificant to be considered. As a matter of fact, the cultivation of Boro crop is, by and large, carried on for H.Y.V. type instead of local type. The case is just the reverse in case of Aman and Aus. After all, for all practical purposes, the cultivation of local Aman, as yet, has the pride of position in the field of rice cultivation in our agriculture.

Irrigation:

During 1964-65 the total area irrigated in this district covered 1,48,800 acres. (See the following table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irrigation (in acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the north 24-Parganas 15.49% of the net area sown is irrigated. Notable here is the fact that shallow tubewells constitute one of the important sources of irrigation in the north. Another source is deep tubewells. Irrigation by tanks is the
common mode of irrigation in almost all the Blocks in this part of the district.

In the south, irrigated areas as a percentage to the net sown area are 5.64. In this part, irrigation facilities are mostly made use of for the purpose of cultivation of vegetable crops and Boro rice.

In 1964-65, the net area shown in the district was 16,63,000 acres and the area under irrigation was 1,48,800 acres. Thus, in the entire district as a whole, irrigated areas constituted 8.95% of the net area sown.

Some general observations:

Of the two parts of the district — the north and the south, the north is economically more developed. It is more industrialised and urbanised. The south is ostensibly more agricultural; nonetheless, the north has better productivity rate in agriculture. It is mainly because the north has to its advantage such factors as better achievements, scored by H.Y.V. Scheme in cultivation operations, better irrigation and better marketing facilities. The south is less urbanised and quite a sizeable fraction of its land areas falls under forests.

Agricultural productivity is low and little is the progress on the H.Y.V. front, so far as the south is concerned. Irrigation facilities in this part of the district are not worth mentioning.
Only about 6% of the net area sown in this sector gets proper irrigation facilities, whereas more than half of this area, that is, about 13% of the net area sown is irrigated in the northern sector of the district.

The benefits, emanating out of the system of multiple-cropping are mostly enjoyed by the north inasmuch as 19% of the net area sown in this part is multiple-cropped. This figure is about 15% in the case of the south. In this regard, the Block-wise performance is more or less uniform in the south which is not so in the north.

One particular problem, peculiar to the south, is that during the monsoon months the intrusion of the saline water from the sea poses a great threat to the soil of the area under the plough. For the purpose of saving the crop it becomes necessary to take measures to meet the exigencies of this difficult period. The southern part, or more precisely, the south-eastern part is full of forests. The forest area, known as the Sunderbans, lies along the bay of Bengal. The area abounds in ponds, canals and small islands. The other part of the district present a picture of continuous flat lands with an average height of 150 metres above the sea level.

In spite of being the largest district of West Bengal, covering as much as 16% of the total area of this State, the total area sown as a percentage to the total area of the district
is to the tune of only. One reason is that a major slice (29%) of the district's total area is engulfed by forests. The area not available for cultivation accounts for 17.75% of the total area in this district.

The agricultural income of this district constituted 12.3% of the State agricultural income as evident in 1960-61 report. (The district contributed over 17% of the total State income.) The only other district, ahead of 24-Parganas in the field of agricultural income generation, as shown in the report, was Midnapore.

2. District Midnapore:

The district of Midnapore is the southernmost district under the Burdwan division of the State of West Bengal. This purely agricultural district has considerable importance since, next to 24-Parganas, Midnapore is the second largest and the second most populous district in West Bengal.

This district presents the picture of a large, open and well-cultivated plain. Gentle undulations appear towards the north and west of the district. The ridges are shrouded by a thick growth of dwarf sal trees and other scrub jungle. The intervening depressions produce rich crops of rice.

Geographical and population coverage:

This district covers a land area of about 5,253.4 square
miles, inhabited by 4,341,855 people as per 1961 census. As regards population, this district ranks third in the Indian sub-continent. According to the provisional population figure of 1971 census, the population of the district number 5,515,320 of which 5,092,320 formed the rural population and 423,000 urban. The percentage of urban to rural population of the district remained almost unchanged throughout the last decade, (7.7% in 1961 and 7.67% in 1971) In this district, major portion as large as 92% of the total - live in villages.

Administrative set-up:

The district consists of five (but virtually six) subdivisions: Sadar (now Sadar north and Sadar south) Contai, Ramuluk, Ghatal, and Jhargram. There are 34 police stations.

According to the 1961 census report there were 52 Development Blocks covering 34 police stations of the district. As per 1961 census, the district comprised 10,618 villages.

Soil and rainfall:

The extreme north-west part of this district is dotted by
several hills and hillocks. Here, the soil smacks of aridity and a considerable chunk of the land area, remains unproductive. The remaining part of the country stretches forth a wide panoramic landscape of a level plain, broken only by sand hills, bordering on the sea coast. The south sector and the east sector, in particular, of the district are marked by the existence of swampy tracts. Here, the fertility of the soil, particularly meant for rice cultivation, is quite high. These fertile rice fields produce rich crops.

The north and north-west parts, consists of a hard laterite formation. The east abounds in alluvial deposits. The south and south-west is a maritime tract. This bespeaks the district's peculiar geographical location which accounts for the different characteristics of the soil condition of the different parts of the district.

On the point of climatic conditions, the arid part of the north and west palpably differs from the swampy stretches of the east and south which have a very close affinity with the southern districts of West Bengal, like 24-Parganas. On an average there are 73 rainy days a year in this district. The average annual rainfall is 1525.5 mm. 74% of the annual rainfall is accounted for by the monsoon months of June to September.

Demographic aspects:

Out of the district's total population of 4,341,855 the
male population numbered 2,224,073 and the female population 2,117,782 as per 1961 census. According to this census report, total rural population of the district amounted to 4,007,569. Out of this figure, 2,041,386 were males and 1,966,183 females. In this district, a population as high as 92% of the total population (of the district) live in villages:

The rural population of the district has registered an increase to the order of 29.02% over the period 1951 to 1961. Over the same period urban population rose by 32.19%. The difference between the two rates of increase is not quite remarkable. The rural population per square mile in 1961 was 772 where the total rural area was 5,138.1 square miles.

The census of 1961 brought into sharp focus the picture of the sex-ratio as 952. This indicates that there were 952 females per 1,000 males.

Employment aspect:

The labour participation ratio in this district falls below the State average. In the State of West Bengal, as already noted, according to 1961 census report the ratio was 332 : 1000 (Thus 668 persons per 1,000 as non-workers). In rural areas in the district of Midnapore, it is interesting to note, this ratio stands above the State average. In the district under review, the figure is 328 (taking the rural population only) whereas for the State the figure is a little lower, that is, 327.
In the rural sector of this district it may be noted that (as revealed by 1961 census report) labour participation by male population figured as 52.98% (The State average being 53.47%). The ratio in the rural areas of the district touched the figure of 11.81% (The State average being 10.62%) for female population.

As regards agricultural and other workers in this district, we have the following figures. In the year 1961, the cultivators as a percentage to the total workers were 55.5. Here, the male cultivators constituted 59.0% and the female cultivators 38.9%. In 1971, the corresponding three figures have come to be 45.62%, 49.31% and 9.73% respectively.

Agricultural labourers constituted 29.3% of the total workers in 1961 as against 33.71% in 1971. Male and female labourers in 1961 were 17.6% and 33.4% respectively. The corresponding figures in 1971 are 30.42% as regards male agricultural labourers and 62.04% female labourers.

Thus the distinguishing aspects of the pattern of rural employment in this district are (i) larger proportion of the cultivators to the agricultural labourers and (ii) in the case of agricultural labourers, the percentage of female labourers far exceeding that of male labourers. (In 1961, the former was nearly two times higher, whereas in 1971, it came to be more than two times higher). Here, we may make a passing reference to the fact that the labour participation by female population
in Midnapore is higher than the average for the State.

Land utilisation:

The total area sown in this district is 25,08,600 acres. This area comes to 74% of the total area of the district. Of the district's total area 11% is covered by forests. In this district, it is quite noteworthy that the area not available for cultivation amounts to 16% of the total area; whereas the corresponding figure in the district of 24-Parganas is 17.75%.

About 86% of the cropped area of the district is meant for rice cultivation. And of the different varieties of rice, Aman crop claims the biggest segment of the total cropped area. 1/10th of the cropped area, here, produces other foodgrains. Jute and other cash crops are not generally grown in this district.

(All these data came from 1961 Census Report).

Agricultural activities:

Most of the workers of this district are engaged in agricultural activities. Agricultural operations have kept engaged a major chunk (76% as against 54% for the State) of the total working force of the district. Of the total workers, a little more than three-fourths follows agricultural pursuits either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers. The proportion between the cultivators and the agricultural labourers here is 2.7 : 1 (2.5 : 1 for the State).
As regards percentage of area under certain important crops to total cropped area during 1960-61, it is to be noted that rice (Aman, Aus, Boro all combined) covered 85.53% of the total cropped area. Here, again, Aman rice is the most important variety as this crop covered an area as much as 78.71% of the total cropped area.

A few words may be said in this context about the three varieties of rice. For Aman (Haimantik) or winter crop, the sowing season spreads from June to August. Harvesting season for this crop stretches across November, December and January. In the most highly cultivated parts, the seed is first sown in nurseries, and later transplanted into moist fields, especially prepared for it. But the greater portion of it is sown broadcast. For Aus variety (autumn crop), sowing (by broadcasting) takes place on dry lands during April to June and harvesting during August and September. For Boro variety (the summer crop), sown broadcast, sowing goes on during October and November and cutting operation during March and April. This third variety necessitates adequate irrigation facilities.

After all, this district of Midnapore is mainly Aman producing. (One-tenth of its cropped area is given to other good-grains. This district generally does not grow jute and other cash crops.) The decade before 1961 has not seen much
change in cropping pattern. The total acreage under the cultivation of local Aman in this district during 1970-71 was 1748,700. The corresponding figures for local Aus and Boro during the same period were 188,700 and 11,100 respectively.

In the field of the cultivation of H.Y.V. Aman, Aus and Boro for the same period (1970-71), the areas covered in this district were 205,900 acres, 28,100 acres and 124,400 acres. Hence, in the district of Midnapore, the cultivation of local Aman and Aus enjoy much more significant position than the cultivation of H.Y.V. Aman and Aus. But like 24-Parganas, in this district of Midnapore, as well, H.Y.V. Boro — cultivation has far greater coverage than the local Boro cultivation. Of course, taking into consideration the cultivation of Aman, Aus and Boro, both local and H.Y.V. types, local Aman, actually, dominates the scene of agricultural cultivation. This is true again for the State of West Bengal as a whole. (See the Appendix).

Irrigation:

During the period 1958-59, the irrigated area under rice crop was 614,500 acres, whereas under wheat 1,000 acres and under sugar cane 2000 acres. Comparing with the corresponding figures during 1955-56, it is noted that there was a decline regarding rice (which covered, in 1955-56, 615,500 acres) and wheat, as well (which covered, in 1955-56, 2000 acres).
As for the area irrigated by different sources, as revealed by 1961 census, Table No. VIII in the Appendix may be useful.

Some general observations:

Midnapore is a purely agricultural district. For most of its population, agriculture is the mainstay. The cultivators constitute a higher percentage to the total workers as compared with the agricultural labourers in this district. A distinguishing trait of the labour participation here is higher percentage of female participation in the case of agricultural labourers. The labour participation ratio in the case of female population in the rural sector of this district is higher than the State average.

The south and east portions of this district conform to rice cultivation of the swampy lands of these areas. The irrigation problem is very much acute in the north and north-West parts where there is hard soil. As revealed by our survey, in this sector of the district (e.g. Jhargram subdivision), it is very difficult to pump out water from under the earth for irrigation purpose. Naturally, here in this part of the district, the condition of agriculture is obviously backward than that prevailing in the southern and eastern parts. In the south and east, there are ample opportunities for undertaking the scheme of H.Y.7. cultivation. In some parts of these areas, scheme of improvement on a large scale have already been taken and are
getting underway. Tamluk subdivision, among some other parts, is a case in point. Naturally, on the point of the yield rate, these areas differ from the north and east. In Chattal subdivision of this district, one important problem which very often besets agricultural activity is the inundation of the cultivated tracts by flood water which has become quite a regular feature. In the south, Contai subdivision has close proximity to the sea.

3. Inter-district comparisons 24 - Parganas and Midnapore:

The district of 24-parganas, as mentioned before, is the largest and the most populous district in the State of West Bengal. Midnapore district is the second one in both these respects.

Midnapore district, as we have noted earlier, has significance as the highest contributor of agricultural income in the pool of the total agricultural income of the State during 1960-61. This district contributed 14.2% of the State income in the agricultural sector. For 24-Parganas, the second in this respect, the figure was 12.3%, as already noted.

As a district, Midnapore has taken a lead over 24-Parganas so far as the coverage of the total sown area is concerned. The former claims as much as 74% of its total area as the total sown area whereas the latter, although the largest district in the State, has only 55% under cultivation.
Midnapore again possesses lower amount of lands which are not available for cultivation, as compared with 24-Parganas. For the latter, such lands constitute 17.75% of its total area whereas for the former, this figure is 16%.

In the field of labour employment, there appears one outstanding, notable point as between the two districts under review.

In both the districts cultivators as compared with agricultural labourers have a higher percentage in the number of workers. But in Midnapore the figure of cultivators as a percentage of the total number of workers is much higher than this figure in 24-Parganas. As shown before, the percentages the cultivators bear to the total number of workers were 55.6 in 1961 and 45.6 in 1971 in Midnapore and 31.4 in 1961 and 24.1 in 1971 in the 24-Parganas. For agricultural labourers, of course, these percentage figures rose in both the districts — in Midnapore it rose from 20.3 in 1961 to 33.7 in 1971 and in the 24-Parganas it rose from 17.6 in 1961 to 26.8 in 1971.

Regarding the relation between urban and rural population, one aspect merits much attention as one of the vital issues of comparison between the two districts. In the year 1961, the percentage of urban to rural population was 7.7 in Midnapore. In 1971, this figure was only 7.67 meaning thereby almost no change in rural-urban distribution of population throughout the decade. But in the district of 24-Parganas the corresponding figures were 31.8 in 1961 and 34.18 in 1971, indicating a notable rise. Hence,
in Midnapore district the rural-urban distribution of population over the recent past almost remained unchanged, which is a clear indication of the lack of progress of urbanisation and industrialisation in this district, whereas in the district of 24-Parganas the percentage of urban to rural population has registered a rise, consequent upon growing urbanisation in this district. This speaks volumes of the greater industrial-urban development of the 24-Parganas district as compared with the district of Midnapore.

As compared with the district of Midnapore, the number of villages is quite small in 24-Parganas district. According to the 1961 census report, the latter had only 3,899 villages while the former comprised as many as 10,618 villages. But the area of 24-Parganas is larger than that of Midnapore. The population of the former is also greater than that of the latter. This is enough to indicate that the village area constitutes a bigger part of the total area in Midnapore than it does in 24-Parganas. One important cause for this may be traced to the phenomenon of higher rate of urbanisation, in 24-Parganas, as a sequel to which urban centres, here, have an increasing tendency to absorb more and more areas.

But the forest area in 24-Parganas has a greater coverage than that in Midnapore. The forest area covers as high as 29% of the total area of 24-Parganas whereas in Midnapore only 11%
of the total area is under forest. It is an important reason for the existence of a much lower amount of the total area sown in 24-Parganas as compared to that in Midnapore.

Another clearly discernible trace of urbanisation in 24-Parganas is more availability of the sources of secondary occupation in this district, as revealed through our sample survey. In Midnapore, as will be clarified in the next chapter, the secondary occupation does not play such a vital role as it plays in 24-Parganas. The next chapter, where we will have detailed explanation on this point, among others, is devoted to the study of some general characteristics of our sample farms, as revealed by our Sample Survey in the two districts of Midnapore and 24-Parganas.
### Table I

Land utilisation under *Aman* crop during 1970-71

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area in acres (Local <em>Aman</em>)</th>
<th>Area in acres (H. Y. V. <em>Aman</em>)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Parganas</td>
<td>1215,100</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midnapore</td>
<td>1718,700</td>
<td>205,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of West Bengal</td>
<td>8996,000</td>
<td>813,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table II

Land utilisation under *Aus* crop during 1970-71

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area in acres (Local <em>Aus</em>)</th>
<th>Area in acres (H. Y. V. <em>Aus</em>)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Parganas</td>
<td>69,800</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midnapore</td>
<td>158,700</td>
<td>28,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of West Bengal</td>
<td>1156,600</td>
<td>118,300</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Table III
Land utilisation under Boro crop during 1970-71

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Area in acres (Local Boro)</th>
<th>Area in Acres (H. Y. V. Boro)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Parganas</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>49,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midnapore</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>124,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of West Bengal</td>
<td>90,400</td>
<td>370,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table IV
Area under crops in the district of 24-Parganas(1959-60)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Area coverage (in thousand hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aman</td>
<td>572.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aus</td>
<td>25.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boro</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jute</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table V

Area under crops in the district of Midnapore (1960-61)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Area coverage (in acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aman</td>
<td>1,933,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>145,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jute</td>
<td>21,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>3,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jute</td>
<td>20,757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table VI

Distribution of working population in agriculture in the district of 24-Parganas (1961 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total workers</th>
<th>Cultivators</th>
<th>Agricultural labourers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,757,979</td>
<td>85,534</td>
<td>563,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315,369</td>
<td>10,019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table VII

Distribution of working population in agriculture in the district of Midnapore (1961 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total workers</th>
<th>Cultivators</th>
<th>Agricultural Labourers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,334,805</td>
<td>155,209</td>
<td>664,833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table VIII

Area irrigated by different sources in the district of Midnapore (in acres)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Government canal</th>
<th>Private Canal</th>
<th>Tank</th>
<th>Well</th>
<th>Other sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>680,400</td>
<td>113,400</td>
<td>311,000</td>
<td>104,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>145,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958-59</td>
<td>684,900</td>
<td>105,800</td>
<td>322,400</td>
<td>102,100</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>147,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>