GENERAL FEATURE
GENERAL FEATURES

A. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION:
Chitrakoot-Dham Division is one of the newly formed division of Uttar Pradesh. It is bounded on the East by Allahabad district, on the West by Jhansi district, on the South by Madhya Pradesh state and on the North by Fatehpur district. The area covered under the survey lies in the south corner of U.P. between $25^\circ 40'56''$ to $25^\circ 02'24''$ N latitude and $80^\circ 53'42''$ to $80^\circ 0'10''$ E longitude. The whole division is divided into 4 districts as described below:

1. **BANDA**: There are four tehsils in the district viz. Banda, Baberu, Atarra and Naraini.

2. **HAMIRPUR**: This district has four tehsils viz. Hamirpur, Maudaha, Rath and Sareela.

3. **CHITRAKOOT**: There are two tehsils in the district viz. Karvi and Mau. This is a newly formed one separated from the old district Banda.

4. **MAHOBA**: This district has three tehsils viz. Mahoba, Kulpahar and Charkhari.

B. SOIL:

On the basis of texture, the soil of the area is divided into following four types:

1. **MAR SOIL**: It is highly productive and fertile. This soil is black in colour. Percentage of clay is about 40-45% and that of sand is very low. The soil is very sticky in wet condition and have high water holding capacity. Cotton crop can be grown successfully in it. Paddy crop is also grown after proper management in Kharif season. Wheat, gram, linseed and lentil etc. gave good production in Rabi season.
2. **KABAR SOIL**: This soil is found in plains and low lying areas. Soil is dark-brown to black in colour. Percentage of clay is 39 to 43 (approx.). This soil is very hard due to higher clay percentage and has large cracks during dry conditions. It is semi-productive in agricultural aspects. Paddy, jawar, jajara etc. in Kharif season and wheat, gram, mustard and linseed etc. in Rabi season are grown without irrigation due to high water holding capacity.

3. **PARWA SOIL**: This is light yellow to dark-brown in colour. It is found in the plains and slight slopy areas. This is a low productive in comparison to Mar and Kabar soils. Percentage of clay is lower than Mar and Kabar soils. In Kharif season, jawar, bajara, paddy, arhar etc. and in Rabi season wheat, gram, pea, lentil etc. crops can be grown with proper irrigation.

4. **RAKAR SOIL**: This soil is found near tanks and river valley areas. The soil is dark-brown in colour and having sufficient quantity of Kankars. It is very heavy and porous. Due to low water-holding capacity it cannot store moisture for a long time. This soil is generally not fit for cultivation however, til, jawar, bajara, arhar can be grown during Kharif season.

C. **CLIMATE**:

Chitrakoot-Dham division falls under semi-arid climatic zone. The area enjoys three seasons i.e., cool and dry winter, a long and hot summer and a short rainy seasons including the transitional periods between the above seasons. From April to June is summer which is dry and hot. The summer days are characterised by hot winds (Loo) with maximum temperature rising up to 50°C. The June to October is the rainy season. The annual rainfall for the area concerned varies between 800mm. to 1300mm. The winter season is from mid November to February, when temperature ranges between 9.5 to 21°C. Sometimes it may falls up to 1 or 2°C with occasional frost. The drought
and less rainfall is the common feature of this area. These seasons and transitional periods between them may be broadly classified as follows;

* Rainy season- from mid June to mid October.
* Transition period- from mid October to mid November.
* Winter season- from mid November to mid February.
* Transition period- March.
* Summer season- From April to mid June.

**RAINY SEASON**: The area has a sub-tropical climate. It gets rain from the Bay of Bengal. The rain starts in the middle of June, become intense in July and August and cease by the end of mid October. The average rainfall during this period is about 96% of total annual rainfall. Since last two years rainfall is very low. So, the whole area is facing heavy drought.

**TRANSITION PERIOD**: The period from mid October to mid November shows transition between rainy and winter season. The important feature of this period is a wide fluctuation in day and night temperature as compared to that of rainy season.

**WINTER SEASON**: Winter season starts from mid November and lasts upto February. December and January are the coldest months of this season. The night temperature results in cloudiness, fog, mist and light rainfall.

**TRANSITION PERIOD**: The month of March marks the transition period between winter and summer. In this period gradual rise in the temperature changes the weather conditions. The relative humidity is low and diurnal fluctuation in temperature is considerably high.

**SUMMER SEASON**: The summer season extends from April to middle of June and is characterised by high temperature and practically little or no rainfall. Dust storms and ‘Loo’ (hot western winds) are experienced during May and in the beginning of June.
D. WATER BODIES:

The division is intersected by various major and some minor (small) rivers. The major rivers of the studied area Ken, Yamuna and Betwa. A number of small rivers like Dhasan, Bagen, Paishwani and Chandraya etc. rivers are also present in this area.

Ken is a hilly river. It originates from the Ahirgawan village on the North-West slopes of Kaimur hills of Vindhya range in the Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh at an elivation of about 550m. above mean sea level. The total length of river Ken from its origin to its confluence with river Yamuna is 427 km., out of this 292 Km. lies in Madhya Pradesh., 84 Km. in Uttar Pradesh and 51 Km. forms the common boundary between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Ken confluences river Yamuna near ‘Chilla’ town of Banda district in U.P. at an elevation of about 95 Km. The important tributaries of Ken are Alona, Bearma, Sonar, Mirhasan, Shyamari, Banne, Kutri, Urmil and Chandrawal etc.

Beside these rivers a large numbers of perennial water bodies like ponds and ditches along road sides are also present. Some of these are: Bela tal, Majhegawn tank, Sagar talab, Vijaya nagar tal, etc. (Hamirpur); Tola tal, Keerat sagar, Madan sagar, Vijay sagar lake (Mahoba); Shukla talab, Tanhati talab (Mataundh); Raja Sahib ka talab, Purana talab (Charkhari); Rani talab, Pragi talab, Babu Sahib ka talab, Chota talab, Mahaveeran talab, Kajalia talab, Chabbi talab, Kandhar das ka talab etc. (Banda); Chanhati talab (Badokhar) etc.