Agriculture sector contributes about 50 percent of the national income of the country. In U.P., which is the most important state of the country, agriculture is playing a very predominant role. Although land plays a very important part in agriculture, yet agricultural labour occupies a key position in all the stages of agriculture in U.P.

1. TOPOGRAPHY OF U.P.

Physical factors of U.P. have a great influence of the agricultural pattern of the State. The geographical factor comprises the three well defined regions of the State.

(1) The great mountainous zone of the Himalayas
(2) The Indo-gangetic plains
(3) The Southern tract of Bundelkhand region.

The geographical importance of the Himalayas lies is giving characteristics rainfall by obstructing the moisture bearing currents from the South. Moreover, they give rise to perpetual rivers like Ganga, Yamuna and others, which bring silt from the mountains and deposit in the plains.

The Indo-Gangetic plain is watered by the Ganga and its tributaries - the Yamuna, the Gomti, the Ghogra and the Gandak.
UTTAR PRADESH

HIMACHAL
•
PRadesh

HARYANA

RAJASTHAN

NEPAL

BIHAR

MADHYA
PRADESH

SHOWING LOCATION OF KANPUR DISTRICT.
It has a fertile soil depleted by continuous cropping, and is the region of deepest soil in India. It has a flat surface rendering possible the construction of roads and railways.

The Bundelkhand region is marked off from the Indo-Gangetic plain with peculiar black and red soils - mar, kabar, parwa and rakar.

**CLIMATE**

The State has a tropical climate over a greater part of the area. Monsoon plays a very important role in bringing the seasonal rhythm in the State - cold weather, hot weather, and rainy weather. The average annual rainfall for the major part of the State, excepting the Himalayan regions, varies from 80 to 115 cm. In the Himalayan region the rainfall varies from 25 to 200 cm.

**GENERAL ECONOMY**

The economy of the State is predominantly agricultural with 86% of its population living in villages.

**ECONOMIC STRATIFICATION**

The classification of population according to the means of livelihood shows that 78% of the people depend upon agriculture. The agricultural population of the hill area constitutes 98% of the population.

The following Table 1 shows the population, trend of growth and density of population of U.P., by different years of the population census.
**Table 1:** Population of U.P., trend of growth and density of population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population in crore</th>
<th>% increase in a decade</th>
<th>Density per sq. km.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>4.67</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>6.32</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>7.37</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>8.83</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>11.09</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Division of Economics and Statistics, State Planning Instt., U.P., Lucknow.

**Table 2:** Percentage distribution, classification of workers in U.P. for the years 1961, 1971 and 1981.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>1961</th>
<th>1971</th>
<th>1981</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivators</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agril. labourers</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Agricultural Census, U.P., 1981.

**SMALL FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS**

For the development of the small farmers, having holdings between 1 and 3 hectares, a project known as 'Small Farmers Development Agency (S.F.D.A.)' was launched in the four districts of Fatehpur, Budaun, Rae-Bareilly and Pratapgarh during 1970-71. The main functions of the agency are to provide financial assistance in the shape of loans, primarily through Land Development Banks, other banks and co-operatives, and to provide incentive in the
form of subsidy which is given for minor irrigation programmes, crop loaning, custom service, construction of storage bins and subsidiary occupation like 'Dairying' and 'Poultry-keeping'.

Another project, known as 'Marginal farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency' was also launched in the same year for bringing economic improvement in the condition of farmers having holdings of less than 1.0 hectare in Mathura and Ballia districts. The main programmes included in this scheme relate to minor irrigation crop loaning, custom services and subsidiary occupations.

2. TOPOGRAPHY OF KANPUR DISTRICT

Kanpur district is the central district of Uttar Pradesh. This district lies in the lower Ganga and Yamuna Doab and surrounded by Fatehpur district in the East and Etawah district in the West, Farrukhabad district in the North and Jalaun and Hamirpur district in the South. River Ganga serves as the boundary of the district in the North and river Yamuna as the boundary in the South. Smaller rivers like Pando, Rind, and Sengur also flow in this district from North to South.

The geographical area of the district is 6121 sq.kms. The total cropped area in this district in 1984-85 was 569726 hectares.

Soil and Climate

Soil

The soil of the district is generally the same in all the
parts. All types of soil are found in all parts. In Akbarpur and Derapur tehsils soil is loam, clay loam and sandy loam. Same type of soil is also found in Bilhaur, Bhognipur, Ghatampur and Kanpur tehsils.

**Rainfall and temperature**

Although the rainy season of the district is from the month of June to month of October every year, yet the arrival of monsoon is generally with effect from 20th June and that lasts upto the month of October. The rainfall of the district during these months ranges from 100 to 500 cm. According to the data of 1981-82 the minimum rainfall was 95.6 cm in June and the maximum was 495.6 cm in the month of July. In the month of January also the rains are expected, and in 1981-82 this rainfall was 31.5 cm. In other months the rainfall may or may not be there.

So far as the temperature of the district is concerned the maximum temperature is observed in the month of June and the minimum in the month of December and January. In 1985-86 the maximum temperature was 44.6°F in the month of June and the minimum was 4.0°F in the month of December.

**Some basic data of Kanpur Mahanagar and Kanpur Dehat districts**

The total area of the district is 6176 sq.km. Kanpur city consists of one tehsil of Kanpur and some portions of Bilhaur and Ghatampur. Kanpur Dehat consists of five tehsils viz., Bilhaur, Derapur, Pukhraya, Ghatampur and Akbarpur. The total number of blocks in both the districts are 20 and the number of villages is 1905.
The irrigation of fields is done with the help of canals, tubewells, wells, tanks, etc.

**Land utilization statistics**

According to 1984-85 figures the net area sown in both the districts was 68.13% and the current fallows, other fallow land, and culturable waste was 10.88%. The area of forests was 1.90%.

**Major crops and crop-rotations**

According to the figures of 1986-87, the total area under wheat which is the major crop of the district, was 1,74,927 hectares. The other major crops of the districts are paddy and gram and the area under them respectively were 1,06,000 and 78,752 hectares.

The farmers of the districts adopt (a) one-year crop rotations, viz., paddy - wheat, paddy - pea, paddy - gram, maize - wheat, maize - potato, maize - onion, jowar - gram, bajra - arhar, maize - mustard and sanai - mustard, and potato - onion, (b) two years crop rotations, viz., paddy - pea - sugarcane, jowar + arhar, fallow - wheat, fallow - mustard + potato - maize - wheat and tori, wheat - moong + maize - mustard and (c) three year crop rotations viz., paddy - pea - sugarcane - ratoon, maize - mustard - sugarcane ratoon, and urd - sugarcane - fallow - wheat.

3. **Importance of Agricultural Labourers**

Agricultural labour is done by the farmer himself and by the hired labourers also. When a farmer possesses some land and does the different agricultural operations on the land himself, his position at that time is nothing more than that of an agricultural labourer.
Before the 19th century in India there was no particular section of agricultural labourers and the agricultural work was done by the farmers himself. In 1868 agricultural labourers were only 3% of the total number of farmers but up to the end of the 19th century, this increased enormously, so much so that different types of problems in connection with the agricultural labourers started arising in the society and this drew the attention of concerning Government authorities.

In the 20th century there was a rapid increase in the number of agricultural labourers. According to the census of 1921 this number was 2.10 crores and in 1931 it increased to 3.3 crores. According to the census of 1971 this number rose to 5.32 crores. The latest figure according to the census of 1981 was 7.50 crores. Thus the agricultural labourers were found to increase by 257% from 1921 to 1981. This rapid and enormous increase in agricultural labourers made agricultural labour a very unfortunate agricultural industry.

In the modern economic development of the villages, where the people solely depend on agriculture, agricultural labourers are available in majority. Agricultural labourer plays a dynamic role in the agricultural production, which itself transmits the dynamism to other sources and other spheres. The agricultural production mainly depends upon the agricultural labour. For agricultural operations the skilled and unskilled both the types of labourers are needed. Without the help of agricultural labour agricultural operations can not be carried out in a systematic way. Although in agricultural work mental and physical both the labourers are
needed yet physical labour is needed more than the mental labour. Where the local labourers are not available sufficiently, they are brought for the purpose from outside either on a temporary basis or an permanent basis.

The importance of agricultural labourers is also due to the fact that an Indian farmer is financially poor and cannot afford to use the different types of implements for the agricultural operations which have been invented for the purpose, and can replace the agricultural labourer. Since, these implements are too costly for a poor farmer, he comparatively likes a human labour more.

The importance of agricultural labour can be assessed on the basis of the following –

i) Poverty of Indian farmer

An Indian farmer of today is very poor. It is said that "An Indian farmer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt". Under these circumstances it can not be expected that he will, anyhow be a position to invest money on agriculture. Agricultural implements improved seeds of high yielding varieties, fertilizers and manures, etc. which require a lot of investment which an Indian farmer can not afford. That is why, the farmer takes the help of agricultural labour for agricultural operations which is relatively much cheaper. Hence it is clear that the agricultural labour occupies an important position amidst poverty of the farmer.

ii) Division and sub-division of agricultural land

In the country it is found that not only the farms are small
in size but they are also scattered. Although the holdings have been consolidated, yet on account of sub-division the big farms have turned to small farms, with the result that overall growth rate has gone down. When the holdings are small and scattered, number of labourers, required for performing various operations, becomes more and their use occupies a very important place. It is rightly said that greater is the sub-division and fragmentation of holdings, the more will be the need and importance of labourers agriculture.

iii) Cheapness of agricultural labourers in the agricultural production

The tendency of an Indian farmer has been not to invest much on agriculture and use the agricultural labour for the purpose even at the cost of efficiency and more production. Due to increase in population, agricultural labourers are available at the cheapest rate. As no other source of employment is available to them, they are willing to work on agriculture farms at the rates which are directed by the farmers. This is one of the reasons for not replacing agricultural labour by machinery and other improved means of agriculture.

iv) Basis of the whole agricultural work

The whole of the cycle, right from the cultivation of the land upto reaching the crop to the market, is operated through agricultural labour which is used not only on the farms but is used for other purpose also related to the farm produce. Hence, it can be rightly said that the agricultural labour is the base of the whole agricultural structure.
v) **Mechanization of farming**

In the mechanized farming also there is a great need of skilled labour without which the operations of the farm machines and other implements are not possible. Here the need for skilled labour is greatly felt.

vi) **Orthodox farmer**

Majority of the farmers of India are orthodox. They want to stick to the old techniques in agriculture. They do not realise the beneficial use of new technique in agriculture. This is why they prefer to bank on agricultural labour.

**4. COMPOSITION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE**

The composition of agricultural labour can be described on the basis of the definition of the different terms related to agricultural labour. First Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee (1950-51) defined agricultural labour as "those people who are engaged in raising crops on payment of wages". The Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee (1956-57) enlarged the definition of agricultural labour to include "those who are engaged in other agricultural occupations like dairy farming, horticulture, raising of livestock, bees and poultry etc."

The definition as given above is also not adequate, because it is not possible to completely separate out those, working on wages, from others. There are certain people who do not work on wages throughout the whole year but work for a part of it. Hence, the first A.L.E.C. used the concept of 'agricultural labour household. If 50% or more members of a household have wage employment
in agriculture then that household should be termed as Agricultural Labour Household. This concept was based on the occupation of the worker. The second A.L.E.C. gave the income criteria and said that an agricultural labour hold is one whose main source of income is wages from agriculture.

According to the National Commission on Labour "An agricultural labour is one who is basically unskilled and unorganized and has little for its livelihood other than personal labour". In this way all those fall in this category. This consists of two sub-categories.

i) Landless agricultural labour

ii) Very small cultivators whose main source of earnings, due to their small and marginal holdings, is wage employment.

i) Landless labourers can be classified into two categories.

a) Permanent labour attached to a cultivators house

b) Casual labour

a) Permanent labour

This group includes those agricultural labourers who are permanently attached for the agricultural work and other allied enterprises to a particular cultivating household.

b) Casual labour

This group includes those agricultural labourers who are engaged either during the period of heavy work on agriculture, or during the period for which permanent labourer goes on leave. He may take leave either for his urgent work or for his sickness, etc.
Their employment is purely on a temporary basis and they are paid the wages at the market rate. They are not attached to any cultivating household like permanent labourers, and they are free to leave the job at any time they like.

ii) Very small cultivators

This group includes those cultivators who possess a holding of marginal size. They do their own work and also earn wages in the capacity of agricultural labourers by getting themselves employed on the agricultural work of big cultivators. They can be further classified into the following three groups.

a) Small cultivators

This group includes those small farmers who possess very little land and consequently devote most of their time working on the lands of others in the capacity of labourers.

b) Share cropper

This group includes those small farmers who share the produce of the land for their work and also work as labourers.

c) Lease holders

This group includes those small farmers who, besides working on leased land, also work as labourers.

Besides the above mentioned groups there are other types of workers also, who have been mentioned below -

In addition to above classification, following are some classes of labourers.
i) **Bond labourer**

This group includes those labourers who have no power to bargain but are forced to do the agricultural work and other work under certain conditions and terms. A bond labourer is not free to refuse the work or the terms set by his master, and is thus tied to his needs. He can neither quite nor can take-up the work for another master without the permission of his own master.

Recently Government have taken steps to make bond labourers free from the clutches of the landlords.

ii) **Mental labourers**

This group includes those persons who are at the root of planning the whole of field work, but are not engaged in the physical work. Farm Superintendents and farm managers can be placed in this category.

iii) **Unskilled labourers**

This group includes all those agricultural labourers who are basically unskilled and are engaged in the physical work.

iv) **Skilled labourers**

Skilled labourers are those who possess special skill in doing various jobs of agricultural labourers. This skill is either evolved or acquired by experience.

v) **Mechanical labourers**

Labourers, who are engaged for machinery work related to tractors and other machines in agriculture, are known as mechanical labourers.
5. METHODOLOGY

In order to carry on research works on "Analytical study of Agricultural Labour in U.P. with special reference to Kanpur District" researcher adopted the following methodology:

i) **Collection of facts from published material**

In order to collect facts from published material a detailed bibliography of relevant literature comprising of books, bulletins, journals, Government reports and inactments etc. will be made use of.

ii) **Visits to libraries**

Various libraries will be visited in order to acquaint with the literature on the subject.

iii) **Visits to research centres**

Various research centres in India will be visited for the collecting facts and data related with research work.

iv) **Visits to Government Departments**

Various Government departments will be visited in connection with the research work of this topic.

v) **Group discussions**

In order to have a clear-cut opinion about the subject matter related to the research work, group discussions will be made.

vi) **Seminars**

Seminars will be held for eliciting the opinion of various eminent authorities on the subject. During these seminars learned
professors and farmers, representatives of the Merchant Chamber of Commerce, seasoned politicians and labourers will be invited.

vii) **Personal interviews**

Personal interviews with some of the farmers and labourers.

viii) **Preparation of questionnaires**

Questionnaires will be prepared for farmers and labourers in order to have their opinion on various aspects to agricultural labour in U.P.

ix) **Collection of data**

Data will be collected from both primary as well as secondary source -

A. **Primary data**

Field survey will be made for collection of data of agricultural labour in U.P.

B. **Secondary data**

Secondary data will be collected from various statistical reports, bulletins, journals and year books.

x) **Random sampling**

Wherever need be, random sampling method will be adopted.

xi) **Classification of data**

All the data collected will be classified and tabulated according to the requirements of the research project.

xii) **Analysis and interpretation**

Analysis and interpretation of various facts will be made keeping in view the object of the research.
Table 3: Kanpur district at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Kanpur Dehat</th>
<th>Kanpur City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Area (000 Sq.km.)</td>
<td>5136</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No. of blocks</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. No. of villages</td>
<td>1624</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Population (in thousand)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Males</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>1077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Females</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Live-stock (1986-87)</td>
<td>867027</td>
<td>169989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Literary %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Males</td>
<td>45.89</td>
<td>60.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Females</td>
<td>21.56</td>
<td>41.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over-all</td>
<td>34.70</td>
<td>51.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Small Scale Industries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Number</td>
<td>2749</td>
<td>4164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Persons employed</td>
<td>13268</td>
<td>34368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. i) % of number of total workers</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) % of agril. workers</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) % of agril. labourers</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. % of SC &amp; S. Tribes</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Division of Economics & Statistics, State Planning Institute, Lucknow.
Table 1.4: Some informations of Kanpur districts (1981).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Kanpur Dehat</th>
<th>Kanpur City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Density of population per Sq.km.</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Schedule caste &amp; Schedule tribes to total population of percentage of</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Total workers to total population percentage of</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Agricultural workers to total workers percentage of</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Family industry workers to total workers</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Literacy percentage of total population</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Division of Economics and Statistics, State Planning Institute, U.P., Lucknow.
### Table 1.5: Table showing pattern of land utilization in U.P. and Kanpur district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>1983-84</th>
<th>% of total reported area</th>
<th>1984-85</th>
<th>% of total reported area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.P.</td>
<td>Kanpur</td>
<td>U.P.</td>
<td>Kanpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest</td>
<td>5120635</td>
<td>11862</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>5126266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Barren and unculturable land</td>
<td>1105901</td>
<td>53832</td>
<td>8.66</td>
<td>1112403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Land put to non-agricultural uses</td>
<td>2351406</td>
<td>53840</td>
<td>8.66</td>
<td>2376547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Culturable waste</td>
<td>1128671</td>
<td>17576</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>1118390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Permanent pasture and other grazing land</td>
<td>297621</td>
<td>4479</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>352255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Land under misc. crops and grooves</td>
<td>549292</td>
<td>9682</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>560241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Current fallow</td>
<td>1158682</td>
<td>26558</td>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>1137539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Other fallow</td>
<td>773512</td>
<td>20496</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>819947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Net area sown</td>
<td>17272979</td>
<td>423317</td>
<td>68.10</td>
<td>17248305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reported area</strong></td>
<td>29759699</td>
<td>621642</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>29851893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Division of Economics and Statistics, State Planning Institute, Lucknow.