India is basically an agricultural country where more than 70 per cent of the people are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Thus, in searching ways for economic development of the country, one is forced to look towards problems of agricultural land use.

It is no wonder, therefore, geographers, agricultural scientists and other persons interested in the scientific development of resources of any area, are constantly concerned with the study of agricultural land use and nutrition. The importance of the problem attracted the writer to conduct local and regional surveys to know how the inhabitants of Garhwal Himalaya were utilising the land at their disposal and to assess the nutritional level of the people who are dependent on the land.

The writer in the present study, "Agricultural Land Use and Related Nutritional Level of the Population in the Garhwal Himalaya. " selected sixteen sample villages to study and interpret the utilization of land in the region. Beside it, the author calculated the carrying capacity of agricultural land on the basis of population data collected during field surveys and computed the caloric and other nutrients intake per head per day and, with help of SFU, calculated the
nutritional level of people in the region. It is admitted that such a study cannot be a substitute of field to field survey of the entire region. But considering the cost and time involved, sampling is the only method left for assessing the capability and carrying capacity of the lands in the area. In the absence of any other comprehensive study of use and misuse of agricultural lands in the Garhwal region, the value of the present work increases manifold.

The sources of information for this work were limited only to few books, reports and articles of varying nature. The present work is, therefore, chiefly based on first-hand information gathered by the writer by conducting an intensive field work during the kharif and rabi seasons of 1978-79 in each of the selected villages of mountainous and bhabar tract. The method involved in this study required recording of utilization of land on the outline map of each village showing field boundaries. The villagers were interrogated several times for the information regarding yield of different crops, rotation of crops, condition of implements, availability of manure, irrigation facilities and the dietary habits of the inhabitants. An enumeration of population in each village was also undertaken and on the basis of occupational structure the population was grouped into primary rural, secondary rural and the adventitious categories.
The entire work is divided into eight chapters which together combine to form three parts. The first part comprising the physical setting of the region deals with the chapters on structure, relief, drainage, climate and soils. The study on structure, relief and drainage is based on published material. In the absence of climatic data for a long period of time, only general climatic conditions are described and the author has tried to divide the area into different climatic zones based upon altitude. Chapter fourth dealing with soils is based on some published soil reports and field work by the author. The description of soil fertility is based on the data collected from Regional Soil Laboratory, Srinagar (Garhwal).

Second part dealing with selection of villages and general land use patterns consists of three chapters on the interpretation of land utilization in respect of geographical factors. Chapter fifth describes the general land use patterns, crop ranking and crop combination regions in the area. Chapter sixth is the review of work done so far in the realm of land use together with the principles and techniques involved in the selection of representative villages. On the basis of physiography, the region has been divided into four zones and the villages have been chosen from each of the zone. Chapter seventh gives a detailed study of various selected villages in the light of existing
land use patterns, yield of different crops, Potential Production Unit, dietary habits and intake of different nutrients as well as calories per head per day, and the Standard Nutrition Unit. Six villages were selected from middle Himalaya, eight from lesser Himalaya and two from bhabar. Inner Himalaya is uninhabited owing to its high altitude and cool climate.

Part third regarding the conclusion and suggestions spreads over one chapter which summarises the findings of the work. A few very important suggestions for the future development of the Garhwal Himalaya are also incorporated in this chapter.

Here, in the end, the writer wishes to take advantage of the opportunity to express his gratitude to Dr. Muhammad Farooq Siddiqi for introducing him to this exciting field of Agricultural and Medical geography and guiding him to successful completion of this work. Grateful thanks are also due to Professor Mohammad Shafi, Head of the Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Chairman of IGU Commission on World Food Systems for going through each chapter of the thesis and offering encouragement and many useful suggestions. It was through his expert advice and provision of necessary research facilities in the department that this work could be
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(Shah Alam)