INTRODUCTION

The Subject Matter and its Significance

The present study treats the land use patterns in the Koradabad district of Uttar Pradesh. It was carried out in the years 1934-59. It is an attempt by a student of Geography at assessing the land resources of part of the Ganga Plain where he has been living for some time.

It was in the early part of the twentieth century that Mackinder, Mill and Herbertson stressed the need for detailed regional studies. But, it was under L.D. Stamp, in the thirties of this Century, that some really useful work was initiated in respect of land use surveys in the United Kingdom. The Second World War, however, soon created conditions suitable for the recognition of its worth and in June 1942 Stamp was called upon to act as the Chief Adviser to the Ministry of Rural Land Utilization in the U.K.* Since then the World Land Use Survey has been established and land use studies have acquired a world-wide recognition. Recently, G.P. Bhardwaja of the Panjab University and Muhammad Shafi of the Aligarh University have completed their theses concerned with land use in the Bist Jullundur Doab of Panjab and Eastern U.P., respectively, from the London University. Some work on land use is being done at various levels in India, too, and some articles have appeared in different journals.

* Stamp, L.D. The Land of Britain; Its use & misuse pp.3-16.
Technique of Work

For the present study the following technique has been utilized:

(a) The official data both published and unpublished (cf. Bibliography) was utilized for obtaining a general picture of the things in the district.

(b) Some twenty villages (Fig.1) were selected as purposive samples from the physiographic units of the district with a view to comparing the conditions prevailing in its different parts. (A brief introduction to these villages is given in Appendix I). In respect of each of these villages studies were carried out as detailed below:

(i) Study of the record of the land use at the time of the 10th Land Settlement completed in the years 1870-80, when the first cadastral survey was carried out in the district. Its record is maintained at the district Land Record Office in the form of the Settlement Volumes (Jild Bandobast) written in Urdu. A field number map and a soil demarcation map of each village are also appended to its volume, which contains the description of the use of each field at the time of the Land Settlement.

(ii) Study of the record of the land use at the time of the 12th Land Settlement, completed in the years 1939-42, whose record is also maintained in the same way.

(iii) In some cases the record was also studied in respect of the settlement years 1909-10.
(iv) Study of the record of the land use in the years 1953-58. This record was available in the Khasras maintained by the village lekhpalas. A field number map is appended to each Khasra, which contains the account of the use to which each field has been put in the current year.

(v) The village lekhpalas also maintain triennial Khataunia showing the land tenure in respect of each field. The same was consulted for determining the land holdings.

(c) Plot to plot survey was carried out personally by the writer in the under mentioned mutually contrasting villages, selected out of the Sample Villages:

1. Bahadurpur
2. Khaliqpur Kalan
3. Chaki Khera
4. Bhagwanpur Khadar
5. Daulat Bagh Mustehkam
6. Daulat Bagh Ahtmali*
7. Ramnawala

(d) Investigations with regard to the economic conditions, population structure, livestock, settlement pattern and the carrying capacity of land were also carried out in these villages. Most of the conclusions, herein, are based on these studies of the Sample Villages, which have provided examples of the various facts and for the regional differentiation.

* Daulat Bagh Mustehkam and Daulat Bagh Ahtmali were combined in one village, formerly. But, now they are separate.
Since the district comprises the administrative unit, where various data are collected and planning schemes are carried out, it was considered to be an appropriate unit of area for the study which may be of a practical value to the area.

Contributions by the writer and the scheme of the work

The writer’s contribution to the field of geographical studies consists of the systematic presentation of the results of his investigations, illustrated by sixty-eight maps and diagrams (with many insets), which are mostly original and have been based on either field work or on unpublished and published materials. The sources of information and methods of the preparation of these illustrations have been explained in footnotes in the text where they have been referred. It has been tried to bring out the trends of the various types of land use, in general, and those of the arable land and its products, in particular. Investigations have been carried out with regard to the types of farming, crop associations, changes in the crop pattern, trends of settlements, roads and railways and the utilization of wastelands and land under water. Through door to door enquiries in some of the sample villages, the carrying capacity of land and related features have been determined. Further, enquiries have been conducted into the potential yields of the cropland. Spot light has been thrown on the problems of land use in various parts of the
district. A concise appreciation of the up-to-date land planning schemes of the government has also been made and some suggestions have been offered for planning the land use in future, giving the basis for the line of thinking.

Throughout the whole of this work the assessment of the correlation of various factors, both physical and cultural, and the land use pattern resulting from their influence has been the main undercurrent of thinking. Thus, in Chapter I, while on the one hand the influence of the changes in river courses on the lot of villages lying in their valleys has been made clear, on the other hand, the cultural influence on the evolution of soils has been pointed out. In Chapter II, the effects of the rapid population increase and of the development of transport and means of irrigation have been shown. In Chapter III factors influencing the progress and distribution of the arable land have been explained. In Chapter IV factors influencing the distribution of various crops and cropping practices have been discussed. In Chapter V the influence of various factors on the development of different farming types, crop associations and changes in the crop pattern has been brought out. In Chapter VI various influences affecting the carrying capacity of land have been made clear. In Chapter VII the factors influencing the site, nature and trend of settlements and housing plans have been pointed out. Chapter VIII makes it all the more clear that the problems of land use arise from the geographical environment and the main
idea behind the land use planning suggestions put forth in Chapter IX is that all planning schemes must be based on the objective knowledge of the various physical and cultural factors influencing land use in various parts of the district.

The whole study has been divided into three parts as noted below:

**Part I** deals with the Geographical setting and has been split up into separate chapters on the physical and the cultural setting.

**Part II** treats the patterns of land use. In it Chapters III to V are concerned with the arable land, crop patterns, types of farming and crop associations, etc. Chapter VI discusses the carrying capacity of land based on the output of foodgrains and Chapter VII gives an account of the settlements.

**Part III** discusses the problems and the planning of land use in the district.

It is followed by the Summary and Conclusion.

Details of the scheme of the work are clear from the list of contents.

In addition, there are six appendices. **Appendix I** contains a brief introduction to each of the Sample Villages. **Appendix II** gives a summary of the recent soil studies in the adjoining tracts carried out under the sugarcane Research Scheme of Uttar Pradesh. **Appendix III** contains
tabulated data relevant to the description in the text. Appendix IV gives a brief sketch of the II Five Year Plan of the district. Appendix V describes the salient points of the U.P. Method of Wheat Cultivation. Appendix VI comprises the bibliography.

Thirty-two plates show certain features related to the description.

Acknowledgements

All this work owes to the enlightened guidance received from Dr. R. L. Singh, M.A., Ph.D. (London), Professor and Head of Geography Deptt., Banaras Hindu University, who has shown keen interest in supervising it.

All teachers, research scholars and other members of the staff of his department have been very kind and helpful throughout.

The writer received much help from so many people, both official and non official, in completing his enquiries, field surveys and other work connected with this thesis and he feels thankful to them all at the time of its completion. The librarians of the Library of the Collectorate, Moradabad, Library of the Banaras Hindu University, Library of the Panjab University Geography Deptt., Government College, Ludhiana, National Library, Calcutta, Peace Library, Muzaffarnagar also deserve his thanks. Further the writer received suggestions and encouragement from Prof. A. N. Kapur, Dr. O. P. Bhardwaj, Dr. P. K. Sircar, Dr. Muhammad Shafi, and Dr. L. D. Stamp.
Part I

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING