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**The Board of Economic Inquiry,  
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**PUBLICATION No. 29**

[GENERAL EDITOR : J. W. THOMAS, B.Sc., B.Com.]

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**RATES OF FOOD CONSUMPTION  
BY  
71 FAMILIES OF TENANT-  
CULTIVATORS IN THE KHANEWAL  
TAHSIL, MULTAN DISTRICT.**

**INQUIRY**

**CONDUCTED BY**

**SARDARI LAL, B.A.**

**UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF**

**W. ROBERTS, B.Sc.**

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**MAP SHOWING THE FARM OF  
THE BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION (PUNJAB), Ltd.,  
AT KHANEWAL, DISTRICT MULTAN.**

SCALE 1 INCH=1,000 KARAMS (i.e., 1,833 YARDS).



To Multan  
To Lodhran

**KHANEWAL JUNCTION**

From Shorkot

**MANDI**

**REFERENCES**

- 1. FARM BOUNDARY
- 2. VILLAGE SITE
- 3. CANAL WITH ROAD
- 4. WATER-COURSES
- 5. DISTRICT BOARD ROAD
- 6. VILLAGE PATH
- 7. TIBBA (HIGH LAND)
- 8. BANJAR (WASTE)
- 9. GRAVEYARD
- 10. SQUARE NUMBER
- 11. CHAK NUMBER

**CHAK No. 90**

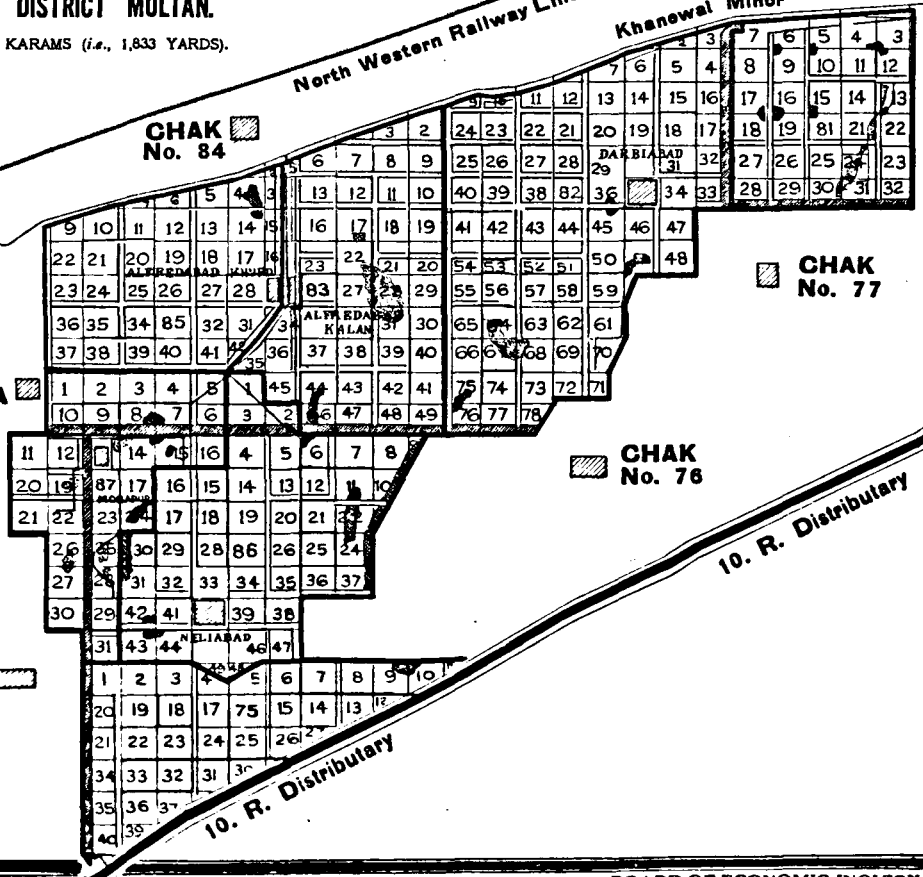
**CHAK No. 88-A**

**CHAK No. 84**

**CHAK No. 80**

**CHAK No. 77**

**CHAK No. 76**



## FOREWORD.

The investigation which forms the subject of this report is one of those conducted under the auspices of the Punjab Board of Economic Inquiry. For this purpose it is usual to select a recent graduate who has attained some distinction in Economics or a permanent investigator, who is thought likely to be able to get into friendly contact with the people in the area chosen, and to gain their confidence sufficiently to gather accurate facts regarding their economic life. The investigator spends from a couple of months to twelve or more in each area according to the nature of the inquiry, notes the facts which he has set out to ascertain, using a questionnaire framed by the Board, and finally makes his report upon them. He works throughout under the supervision of a member-in-charge, who may not necessarily be a member of the Board of Economic Inquiry, but who has special knowledge of the area or subject under investigation. The questionnaire used in this inquiry is printed in Appendix A.

This particular investigation was of a somewhat different nature from the more general Village Surveys conducted by the Board, its special object being to ascertain the normal consumption, in a prosperous village, of the various articles of food, and particularly of wheat, by the various classes of the population. The area chosen was a farm belonging to the British Cotton Growing Association and situated in one of the Canal Colonies of the Punjab, an area with a generally prosperous population, and where facilities existed for checking the facts elicited. This choice had the further advantage that there would be an opportunity of comparing the economic conditions in a Canal Colony with those which prevailed in the same area before the advent of the canal. The investigation was conducted by Lala Sardari Lal, B.A., of the Panjab University, who spent the " cold weather " of 1926-27 in the area, and was supervised by Professor W. Roberts, B.Sc., formerly of the Indian Agricultural Service and now Managing Director of the British Cotton Growing Association (Punjab), Ltd., who naturally had exceptional opportunities of checking and verifying the investigator's work. His estimate of the reliability of the latter will be found in the Introduction.

The general method followed by the investigator, in accordance with the questionnaire already mentioned, was one of observation, supplemented by inquiry. The various families were visited at their meal times, and the various articles of food noted and weighed. A more detailed explanation of the method of estimating the consumption of wheat will be found in Chapter II., which deals with that particular article of food. Information which was not ascertainable by observation was obtained, as far as possible, by verbal inquiry.

The editor's task has been to attempt to put into readable form the substantial body of information supplied by the investigator, and to produce, so far as possible, a conspectus of the area as a whole, with regard to food consumption. There are some things which he might have done differently, had he been conducting the investigation himself, with a view to making the process of digestion more easy. He might for instance, have made a point of getting details of the same kind with regard to each family in each village, so that it might have been possible to summarise them accurately for the whole area. And, in presenting the report, he might have attempted, with a similar object, to summarise the same details in the same way for each village. As it is, such a conspectus as he has attempted is based upon the information available. It must not be assumed, therefore, that the average consumptions stated for the whole area represent what any particular inhabitant thereof, or even the normal inhabitant of a particular class, consumed or consumes. It is possible, however, that they represent an approximation to what the "economic man" would consume if he lived in the area under the particular conditions applicable.

Thus the most valuable part of the report is still the considerable mass of detailed information contained in Appendix B. This is the information gathered at first hand by the investigator, generally from villagers who appear to have given him every facility for gathering it, and should constitute a notable original source for the student of rural economics.

I have to thank Professor Roberts, B. Sc., for his kind assistance by way of explanations of the working of the B. C. G. A. farm and kindred matters.

D. REYNELL,  
*Editor.*



## PREFACE.

The problem of food consumption in the Punjab is attaining an ever-growing importance. The population is increasing, progress is being made in communication and means of transport, and the large area being brought under cultivation in Sind by the Sukkur Barrage irrigation scheme will, to a certain extent, compete with the Punjab in its exports of agricultural commodities. This report, which is the second in the series, embodies the results of an inquiry into the food consumption by cultivators in an area where it was possible to make inquiries into the amounts of food taken by different families—a by no means easy task in India—and where conditions existed to enable some cross-checking of the data to be made. The investigator selected was able to get into close touch with the people and the figures collected were as complete as is possible in such investigations. Perhaps they could have been collected in a different manner to get more uniform results, but the experience gained in the inquiry should be of use in subsequent inquiries, if and when held.

The inquiry was conducted under the immediate supervision of Mr. W. Roberts, B.Sc., of the British Cotton Growing Association (Punjab), Ltd., who is a member of the Board, and the mass of data was later re-arranged by Mr. D. Reynell, M.A., B.C.L., I.E.S., who has edited the report. The thanks of the Board are due to these gentlemen for their assistance rendered at a great sacrifice of leisure time. The delay in publication has been unavoidable but it is also partly due to the very careful checking that has been done in the report. It has not been attempted to take the figures beyond general averages, but as much data as was collected is given in Appendix B., which contains details of consumption of the individual families examined, and to these an inquirer must go to investigate the problem further. A short introductory note has been appended by the office to this Appendix explaining the general plan of presentation of details of each family and giving brief descriptions of the different items of food consumed.

J. W. THOMAS,  
*General Editor.*

## CONTENTS.

	PAGES.
MAP OF THE B. C. G. A. FARM, KHANEWAL ..	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
FOREWORD .. .. .	iii
PREFACE .. .. .	v
INTRODUCTION .. .. .	ix
<b>CHAPTERS—</b>	
I. GENERAL .. .. .	1
II. CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT .. .. .	8
III. MEAT .. .. .	12
IV. MILK .. .. .	13
V. CHRISTIANS AND MUSSALLIS .. .. .	14
VI. SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLIES OF FOOD GRAINS .. .. .	15
VII. SCARCITY .. .. .	17
VIII. CHANGES IN DIET .. .. .	18
IX. RAMZAN .. .. .	19
X. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.. .. .	20
<b>APPENDICES—</b>	
A. QUESTIONNAIRE USED IN THE INQUIRY .. .. .	21
B. DETAILS OF FOOD CONSUMED BY THE 71 FAMILIES—	
INTRODUCTORY .. .. .	23
Chak 82 : 13 Sikh Jat Families .. .. .	32
Chak 83-85 : 25 Muslim Jat Families .. .. .	60
7 Christian and Mussalli Families .. .. .	112
Chak 86 : 15 Arain Families .. .. .	128
Chak 87 : 11 Kumboh Families .. .. .	160
C. MEAT CONSUMPTION .. .. .	184
D. MILCH CATTLE AND MILK SUPPLY .. .. .	186
E. ESTIMATE OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT .. .. .	189
GLOSSARY .. .. .	191

## LIST OF TABLES.

	PAGE.
I. Number of Meals and Kinds of Food taken by all Classes of Population—	
A. During the Cotton Season, from October to end of February .. .. .	4
B. During the Rabi Season, <i>i.e.</i> , April to June ..	5
C. From July to September and in March ..	6
II. Average Rates of Monthly Consumption of Various Articles of Food by the Different Classes, according to Age-groups .. .. .	7
III. Numbers under Observation within Different Age-groups, and Average Consumption of Wheat Flour Per Head Per Diem—	
A. Males .. .. .	10
B. Females .. .. .	11
IV. Landlord's and Tenant's Share of Wheat in 1925 and 1926 ..	15
V. Estimates of Export of Wheat in 1925 and 1926 ..	16
VI. List of Families Examined, with General Details ..	29
VII. CHAK 82: Average Rates of Consumption of Wheat Flour by 13 Sikh Families, based on Daily Observation	58
VIII. Average Rates of Monthly Consumption of Foods by 13 Sikh Families .. .. .	59
IX. CHAK 83—85: Average Rates of Consumption of Wheat Flour by 25 Mohammedan Families, based on Daily Observation .. .. .	110
X. Average Rates of Monthly Consumption of Foods by 25 Mohammedan Families .. .. .	111
XI. Average Rates of Consumption of Wheat Flour by 7 Christian and Mussalli Families, based on Daily Observation .. .. .	126
XII. Average Rates of Monthly Consumption of Wheat Flour by 7 Christian and Mussalli Families .. .. .	127
XIII. CHAK 86: Average Rates of Consumption of Wheat Flour by 15 Arain Families, based on Daily Observation.	158
XIV. Average Rates of Monthly Consumption of Foods by 15 Arain Families .. .. .	159
XV. CHAK 87: Average Rates of Consumption of Wheat Flour by 11 Kamboh Jat Families, based on Daily Observation .. .. .	182
XVI. Average Rates of Monthly Consumption of Foods by 11 Kamboh Jat Families .. .. .	183
XVII. Number of Milch Cattle and those in Milk—	
A. Chak 82 .. .. .	186
B. Chak 86 .. .. .	187
C. Chak 87 .. .. .	188
XVIII. Estimate of Production and Consumption of Wheat—	
A. Chak 82 .. .. .	189
B. Chak 86 .. .. .	189
C. Chak 87 .. .. .	190

## INTRODUCTION.

Investigator L. Sardari Lal worked on this inquiry for over four months. The B. C. G. A. Farm consists of seven *Chaks*, each containing roughly 40 "squares"—the area of a "square" is 25 acres. Generally two *Chaks* are put together for purposes of administration, and a village built in the centre of the two. There is thus one village for *Chaks* 81-82, one for *Chaks* 83-85, one for *Chaks* 86-75, and a small village for *Chak* 87.

It was found impossible, in the time given, to examine all the families in the various villages. The food consumption values of a total of 71 families comprising 544 members, including infants and labourers, were examined in detail, and compared with the records of wheat consumption as deduced from Farm records. The calculated consumption (based on Annual Estimates) comes to 3,019 maunds, 34 seers, and the consumption based on Farm records to 3,035 maunds, 35 seers, which is a remarkably close agreement.

As regards the reliability of the figures, the investigator did manage to get in close touch with the people, and although he was a Hindu, he was able to go in and out of the houses of Muslim tenants, and check weighments of *chapatis*, etc., without any hindrance. Practically all results obtained during the first six weeks or two months were "scrapped" and the observations repeated.

The usual procedure was for the investigator to weigh the *chapatis* consumed every day by a family for say three days, and to work on that basis. In some cases weighments continued for a week. In getting the calculated figures of consumption, the farm records, as well as the records of the village shopkeeper, were examined, and it may be taken that the figures are fairly near the truth.

Generally speaking, it would appear that the amount of food consumed is somewhat higher than I had expected. The increased consumption in the case of the Sikhs may be noted, where persons of 16 to 55 years consume nearly 17 *chhataks* per diem, whereas Christians and Mussallis consume only 10·3 *chhataks*. The difference between the various classes of Muslims is comparatively small, and they appear to come between the above two classes.

W. ROBERTS,  
*Member-in-Charge.*

## TABLES.

(With abbreviations used.)

### Currency—

12 Pies (Ps.)	= 1 Anna (A.);
16 Annas	= 1 Rupee (Re. or Rs.)
	= 1s. 6d.

### Weights—

5 Tolas	= 1 Chhatak (Ch.)
	= 2 Ounces. (Ozs.);
16 Chhataks	= 1 Seer (S.);
40 Seers (Srs.)	= 1 Maund (M.)
	= 82 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>7</sub> lbs. avoird.

### Area—

20 Marlas (M.)	= 1 Kanal (K.)
8 Kanals	= 1 Acre (A.)
25 Acres	= 1 "Square."*
	= 990 feet × 1,100 feet.

\* Actually a "Rectangle".

APPENDIX A.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF DELHI TAHSIL IN 1910-11.

(Source : Delhi District Gazetteer, 1913.)

1. Area—		2. Number of Wells—	
	Acres.		
Cultivated area ..	174,875	Masonry ..	3,265
Total area ..	273,557	Non-masonry ..	275
		<i>Total</i> ..	<u>3,540</u>

3. Acreage under Crops—		4. Agricultural Stock, 1909-10—	
	Acres.		No.
Rice ..	131	Bulls and bullocks ..	26,785
Wheat ..	35,051	Cows ..	21,851
Barley ..	12,477	Male buffaloes ...	562
Jowar ..	16,584	Cow buffaloes ..	16,003
Bajra ..	37,559	Young stock ..	34,308
Gram ..	70,921		
Other cereals ..	1,539	Sheep ..	9,235
Mung and Mash ..	2,824	Goats ..	18,625
Other pulses ..	19,714	Horses and ponies ..	1,817
Oilseeds ..	4,197	Mules and donkeys ..	4,610
Sugarcane ..	5,628	Camels ..	212
Cotton ..	9,148		
Indigo ..	5	Ploughs ..	11,828
Miscellaneous ..	72,358	Carts ..	5,286
<i>Total sown</i> ..	<u>238,136</u>	Boats ..	Nil.
Total cropped ..	250,549		
Total failed ..	37,587		

5. Sales, Mortgages and Redemptions of Land—

	Sales.	Mortgages.	Redemptions.
Number of cases ..	193	576	437
Area (in acres) ..	997	1,744	1,231
Consideration (in rupees)	2,17,077	1,13,540	79,960

APPENDIX B.

AREA, OUTTURN AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS  
IN 1924-5.

(Source: Season and Crops Report, 1924-5, page 4.)

	SOWN AREA (MILLION ACRES)			PRODUCTION (MILLION TONS)			APPROXIMATE VALUE (CRORES OF RUPEES)			VALUE PER ACRE. Rs.	
	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.
Wheat ..	4.7	5.0	9.7	1.7	0.9	2.6	23.5	12.5	36.0	50	25
Barley ..	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.4	2.1	35	20
Rice ..	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.5	3.6	0.5	4.1	60	26
Maize ..	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.3	2.0	1.3	3.3	49	26
Bajra ..	0.3	2.3	2.6	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.6	3.0	3.6	21	13
Jowar ..	0.2	0.8	1.0	..	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.0	19	7
Gram ..	0.9	4.8	5.7	0.3	0.9	1.2	2.6	9.1	11.7	29	19
Oilseeds ..	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	3.1	1.2	4.3	44	17
Sugar (raw)	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	4.9	1.1	6.0	162	114
Cotton cleaned—											
Desi (Bales)	1.1	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.1	0.5	8.8	1.2	10.0	80	40
American (Bales)	1.0	..	1.0	0.3	..	0.3	9.7	..	9.7	97	..
Fodder ..	2.4	1.6	4.0	..	..	..	7.2	3.2	10.4	30	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

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