

TRENDS IN LAND UTILIZATION IN RAJASTHAN, 1951-1962

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IN A RECENT STUDY ON *Growth Rates in Agriculture*,¹ published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, it was shown that during the first two plan-periods, the rate of growth of the area under crops was the highest in the State of Rajasthan. In terms of agricultural production, the rate of growth in Rajasthan was higher than that in many other states of the Union. This comparatively high position was, however, due almost entirely to the very high growth-rate in the area under crops, nearly 50 per cent over a period of a decade since 1952-53. This overall growth raises a number of interesting questions : How steady or uniform was this growth over time ? How was this growth distributed over the various regions of the state ? Was the increase in the total cropped area more due to new lands brought under cultivation or due to multiple-cropping on the same pieces of land ? What types of land came under cultivation ? Was it due to a decline in what is called "fallow" land in agricultural statistics, or due to a decline in "culturable waste" land, or decline in forest area ? and so on. This paper is devoted to examining the available land-utilization-data for each of the districts of Rajasthan, to try to answer such and other questions. The choice of the district as the unit for detailed study is obvious, as any other break-down of the state into various geographical regions is handicapped by the absence of relevant statistical information.

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The available official reports² are the sources of our data on land-

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¹ *Growth Rates in Agriculture*, Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi, December 1964.

² *Indian Agricultural Statistics*, Vol. II, Issued by Econ. & Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi; and *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, published by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Rajasthan, Jaipur.