

# **Changes in land use and farming systems in the Northern Areas of Pakistan**

**By Mohammad Ayaz, 1996**

## **Abstract**

The present study deals with the changes in the farming system with special reference to land use in space and time in two agro-ecological zones of Northern Pakistan. Each household was considered as a sample unit. Samples were taken randomly in the single cropping zone close to KKH, single cropping zone away from KKH and in the double cropping zone (herein after called zone). Simple statistical tools for drawing inferences were applied. In addition t-test for paired samples and t-test for independent treatment to assess changes in resource use with regard to time and space were applied respectively. The findings display relative changes in all the three zones during the last fifteen years. The development of new, cultivated land has fulfilled to a certain extent the demand for fodder for livestock. Potato cultivation has taken over the lead in the single cropping zone close to KKH and consequently declined area under cereal cultivation. No significant change has taken place in land under cereal cultivation in both of single cropping zone away from KKH and double cropping zone. Grain produce Per unit area has increased in all the three zones. The use of improved high yielding varieties and chemical fertiliser have compensated the decrease in farm yard manure application caused by a decline in livestock numbers, in the double cropping zone followed by the single cropping close to KKH. Total numbers of trees, both fruit and non-fruit, have increased in all the three sites. Apart from changes in the land use practices, there are other independent factors responsible for affecting socio-economic conditions. The combined force of these factors has increased the literacy level and decreased the morbidity and mortality rates by improving hygienic conditions.

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