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CHAPTER I
SAMPLE SOIL SURVEY OF BANASKANTHA DISTRICT (GUJARAT)

INTRODUCTION :

Through out the world considerable effort has been spent and is continuing to be spent, in gaining a better understanding of the natural resources, which exist. Among important considerations are the quantity and quality of these resources, their location and distribution.

In the ~~realm~~ ^{realm} of soil and land resources, which are of vital significance to agriculture, it is imperative that an inventory of these resources should be carried out in a systematic manner. More now than in the past, it is realised that for rational planning of soil and land resources, the extent, nature, distribution and location of various kinds of soils and land is the fundamental information which should be obtained, before sound economic, social and political decisions can be made.

Because soils and lands vary so widely in their traits and characters, it is but natural that their response to inputs, use and management vary.

The time necessary to organise and conduct soil and land resources inventory by traditional methods is too long in the light of urgency for land resource assessment and development.

In long range planning of agricultural development programmes within districts of India, as many judgements as possible should be based on actual knowledge concerning the soil and land resources of each districts.

The presence and extent of various soils and land types, treatments which lands require for effective soil and water-management, expected response of lands to various treatments and development benefits in relation to costs are among a variety of considerations.

The time and cost required for systematic soil survey is an underlying reason for such a situation and suggests the use of assessment methods which can fill this critical information void as rapidly and economically as possible. This way essential data can be made available in time to help broad area planning, which should precede implementation of district development programme

With the primary objective of acquiring districtwise soil and land resource inventory information as rapidly as possible a sample soil survey was undertaken in Banaskantha district, Gujarat state during December, 1977 to April, 1979 by Ahmedabad Sub-centre of All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organisation, Ministry of Agriculture Department of Agriculture and cooperation, Government of India.

A general description of the area, location, extent, physiography, relief and drainage, geology, climate, natural vegetation, water supply, socioeconomic status, agriculture and present land use, methodology of sample soil survey, description of the soils and interpretation of soil and land use data ~~is are~~ presented.

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