

3. Description of the study area.

3. DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

3:1 LOCATION

Matar taluka is situated in the western part of the Kheda district and lies between 72° 30' to 72° 47' East longitude and 22° 18' to 22° 51' North latitude (Fig.9). The taluka is bounded by Ahmedabad district on the north and west, Khambhat taluka on the south and Nadiad and Petlad talukas on the east.

3:2 NATURAL RESOURCES

i) **Climate** : The climate of the taluka is characterised by a hot summer and general dryness except during southwest monsoon season. The average temperature ranges from 15° to 45°C. The average annual rainfall in the taluka is about 815 mm.

ii) **Physical features** : The taluka is featured by fairly leveled physiography but there are two large areas of depression occurring in the northern and southern side of the taluka. Vatrak and Sabarmati are the two main rivers passing through this taluka. The taluka has adequate irrigation facilities from Mahi River Bank Canal (MRBC) system. Most of the areas in the study area are underlined by quarternary formation comprising of fine to coarse grained sand, sandy clay, silty and clay. Above all, Matar is one of the agriculturally prosperous talukas in Kheda district which depends on the canal irrigation.

The main crops growing in this area in Kharif season are Rice (Oryza sativa L.), Bajra (Pennisetum typhoides (Burm. f) Stapf and Habb), Jowar (Sorghum bicolor(L.) Moench.), Kodari (Paspalum scrobiculum L.) oil seeds and other fodder crops. The main crops in Rabi season are Wheat (Triticum aestivum L.), Rajgiro (Amaranathus hybridus L.), Cotton (Gossypium arboreum L.), Tobacco (Nicotiana tobacum L.) along with vegetable crops.

LOCATION MAP

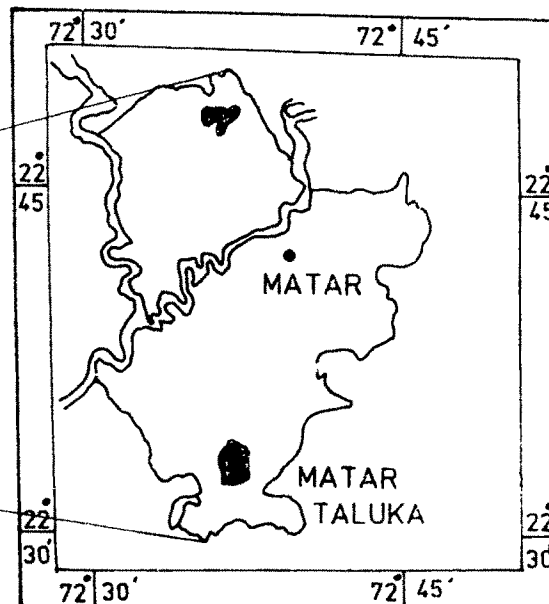
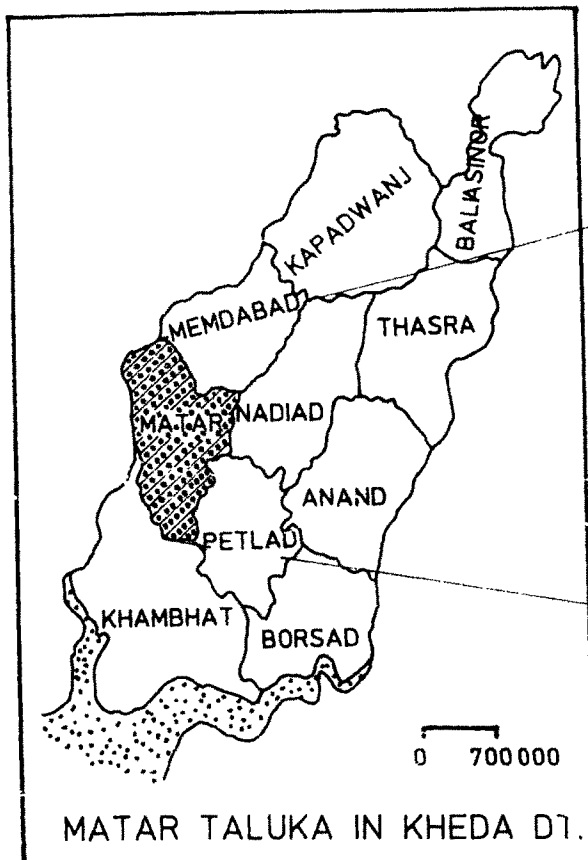
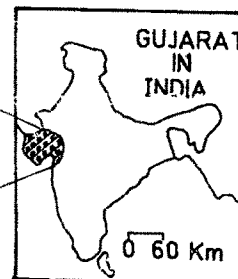
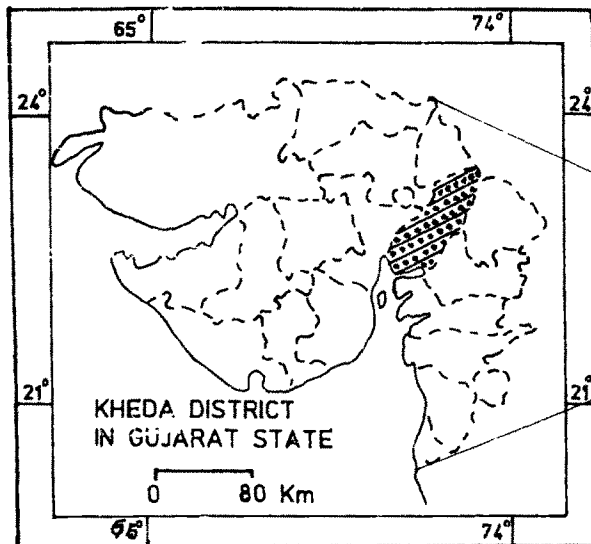


FIG.9

iii) Forest : The taluka has no natural forest cover. However, it has good coverage of social forestry plantations. Plates 2 a, b, and 3 clearly exhibit the roadside, canal side plantations and village woodlot in the Matar taluka.

3.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESOURCES

The taluka having an area of 577.25 sq.km accounted for about 8.02 per cent of the total land of the district. It accommodates population of 182902 person as per 1991 population census. The taluka has 82 villages with Matar as the head quarter. The village-wise area and population are given in fig. 10 and table 6.

PLATE 2 a

Closed stands of Acacia plantation growing on eitherside of Mahelej village road.

PLATE 2 b

A close view of canal side plantation near Limbasi village.



PLATE 2

PLATE 3

Woodlot plantation in the village Aslali.



PLATE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF VILLAGES IN THE STUDY AREA

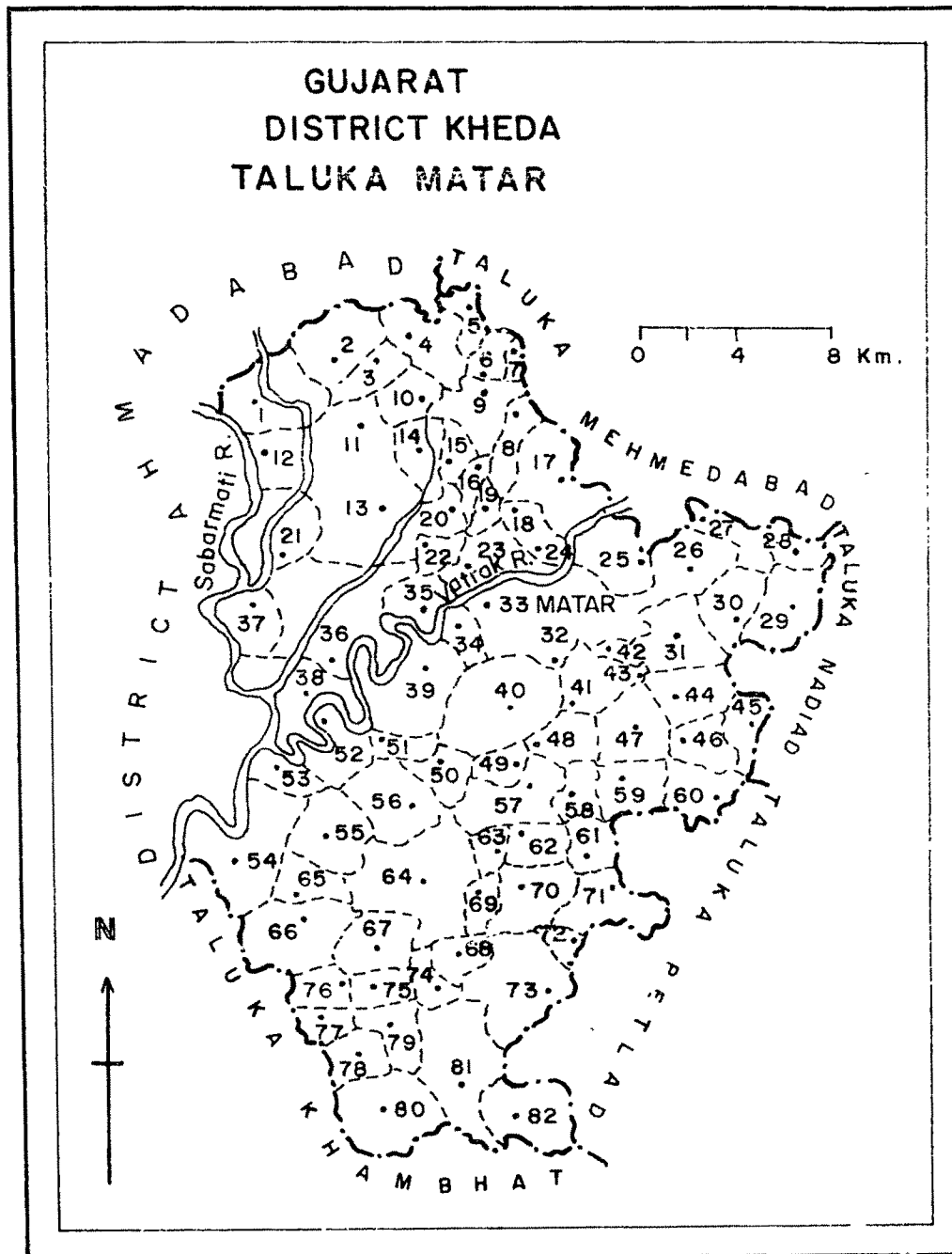


FIG.10

(SOURCE : 1991 CENSUS BOOK)

Table 6. The area (in Hectares) and population (1991 census) in various villages of MATAR taluka.

Village Code No.	Village Name	Area	Population
1	2	3	4
1	DHARODA	1137.28	2400
2.	KATHWADA	836.30	2005
3.	NAVAGAM	648.66	4178
4.	PINGLAJ	325.16	626
5.	KANERA	488.89	1537
6.	MALARPURA	302.68	727
7.	VAIKUNTHPURA	72.20	357
8.	KAJIPURA	172.36	1042
9.	GOBHALAJ	950.91	2307
10.	PANSOLI	266.66	636
11.	CHALINDRA	596.66	831
12.	CHITRASAR	818.10	1552
13.	NAIKA	2072.63	6508
14.	BHERI	403.69	1024
15.	DHATHAL	330.10	853
16.	VADELA	256.08	756
17.	HANALA	1523.54	4379
18.	VAVDI	430.25	922
19.	DAMRI	316.16	506
20.	GOVINDAPURA	343.25	565
21.	KALOLI	1070.14	2779
22.	SHETRA	449.47	854
23.	VASNA BUJARG	1004.28	2721
24.	SOKHDA	821.07	2589
25.	VANSAR	454.09	2056
26.	RATANPUR	605.65	4022

1	2	3	4
27.	ANTROLI	565.97	2460
28.	HAIJARABAD	507.76	1725
29.	SANDHANA	1122.57	5285
30.	RADHVANAJ	561.83	2531
31.	UNDHELA	743.35	3837
32.	MATAR	1565.96	11345
33.	PIPARIA	477.07	735
34.	KOSHIAL	376.69	2314
35.	CHANDNA	501.66	2058
36.	RADHU	2576.14	8683
37.	RASSIKPURA	331.58	1784
38.	VARSANG	825.13	1995
39.	MAHELAJ	1430.11	4499
40.	GARMALA	563.84	1697
41.	TRAJ	1519.13	3647
42.	KHADIYAPURA	144.51	1733
43.	UNTAI	219.64	598
44.	ALINDRA	700.40	3495
45.	SIHOLDI	384.65	2332
46.	MALIYATAJ	448.11	3040
47.	HERANJ	786.19	1879
48.	MACHHIEL	508.79	2649
49.	ASLALI	294.93	1079
50.	PUNAJ	499.95	850
51.	KUNJARA	341.80	285
52.	BARODA	800.36	2017
53.	PALLA	349.36	1730
54.	ASAMALI	1,874.61	3019
55.	NADHANPUR	958.08	1788
56.	KHARENTI	929.85	1550

1	2	3	4
57.	TRANJA	948.66	1389
58.	KATHODA	331.40	925
59.	KHANDHLI	594.46	2977
60.	LAVAL	571.87	1235
61.	NANDOLI	427.80	1620
62.	NAGRAMA	379.74	846
63.	MARALA	205.68	941
64.	LIMBASI	2146.90	6510
65.	MEHEMDABAD	360.57	262
66.	VASTANA	1,254.95	1835
67.	CHANOR	722.56	620
68.	SHEKHARPUR	311.01	1159
69.	RANASAR	328.78	653
70.	MALAWADA	855.27	2893
71.	DELHII	826.45	4332
72.	VASAI	210.44	655
73.	BHALADA	1287.81	4982
74.	SAYLA	231.41	1396
75.	INDARVARNA	336.17	751
76.	HADEVA	457.64	1177
77.	VALOTRI	317.31	798
78.	DALOLI	541.19	1141
79.	VIROJA	539.13	1313
80	BAMANGAM	1136.87	2909
81	PARIEJ	1806.91	3059
82	SINJAWADA	913.43	6092
Total		57725.25	182902