



## Agricultural Development under Thal Development Authority (1949-69)

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### Abstract

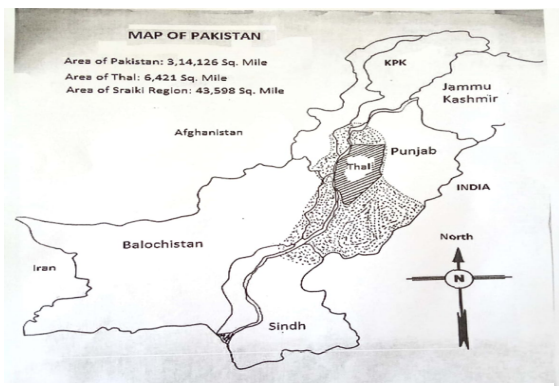
The Thal is a desert in the west of Punjab province of Pakistan having an area of five million-acre. It had been a barren piece of land for centuries. West Pakistan Government not only provided canal water to almost 2.1 million acres of the region but also developed the area from 1949 to 1969. The agricultural development of the Thal region carried out by the Thal Development Authority is a historical event in the history of Pakistan. This study is historical research and data has been collected through primary and secondary sources. This paper will highlight the agricultural development of the region in detail and its socio-economic effects on the masses as well.

**Key Words:** Agricultural Development, New Villages, Mandi towns, Thal, Thal Canal, Thal Development Authority.

## Introduction

The desert of Thal lies in the south of Salt Range in Punjab province of Pakistan with a total area of five million-acre. The shape of the desert is like a triangle with its length and width 175 miles and 65 miles, respectively. The desert comprises upon mostly in District Bhakkar and Layyah and some parts in District Jhang, Khushab and Mianwali. The Thal is naturally divided into three parts Northern Thal, Thal Kalan and Daggar or Jandi Thal (Abdul Haq, 2003). In 1939, the British government started Thal Canal Project to irrigate the lands of barren region. Up to 1947, only thirty per cent of the Thal Canal Project could be completed due to the Second World War and partition of Sub-continent. After the partition, the new established Government of Pakistan received almost 7.15 Million out of which 4.8 Million entered in the province of Punjab (Census of Pakistan, 1951).

The Government of Pakistan decided to initiate the Thal Development Project for the completion of the Thal Canal Project and settlement of refugees in 1949. This project remained to continue for twenty-year from 1949 to 1969. A corporate body, known as Thal Development Authority was constituted in 1949, under the provision of the Thal Development Act



**Figure 1:** Map of Pakistan

Note: The desert of Thal lies in the middle of the map in a triangle shape. The figure is adopted from Mehar Abdul Haq Book, "Thal" Published by Lok Virsa Page 4.

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(XV) of 1949. It not only settled the thirty-one thousand families of the refugees but also ensured the equal development of the area. The development of the Thal is a historical event in the history of Pakistan, especially agricultural development. It was not an easy task to break the hard land of northern Thal and level the big dunes of Daggar or Jandi Thal, but TDA did this efficiently ([A Handbook of Thal Development Authority, 1954](#)).

## **Literature Review**

The Thal Development Act 1949 published by Government of Punjab provides complete information about TDA, its causes of formation, accounts and finance, duties and powers, working area and dissolution. A Handbook of Thal Development Authority is a big source of information about the authority, its working, development and settlement. This book was published by public relation division of the authority, but it only highlights the work carried out in the first five years after the establishment of the authority. A book, "Thal Development Authority and Galaxy of Revenue Tenures" written by Malik Ghulam Shabir Khokhar provides valuable in-depth detail about the adjustment and acquisition of land by the authority, but it is silent about the agricultural development of the area. J.M. Qureshi book, "An Economical Survey of Eight Typical Villages in the Thal" delivers significant information about the socio-economic conditions of eight newly established villages under TDA. A very informative book about the socio-economic conditions of Thal especially Bhakkar before 1949 is, "Indebtedness in the Pastoral and Agricultural Zones of the Bhakkar Thal" written by T. D. Bedi. This book is a research work conducted by the British before the partition of Sub-continent. Muzaffargarh and Mianwali District Gazetteers are also big sources of information about the Thal area, its history and culture, physical aspects and socio-economic conditions of the masses. Sharjeel Ijaz and Sameer Ijaz's book, "Colony Manual" published by KLR Publishers is a very important book about the acquisition, adjustment of land and colonization of Thal. It provides a full official record of the colonization process of the whole country since the British rule. Book, "Tareekh Riasut Mankera" written by Malik Dost Muhammad Khokhar is a very informative book about the history of Mankera state and Thal region, its politics, culture and economy since ancient times.

Mehar Abdul Haq's book, "Thal" published by Lok Virsa Publishers is a book written in the Urdu language. It focuses not only the flora and fauna and physical aspects of the desert but also throws light on the socio-economic conditions of the people of the region in detail. A very important book, "The Punjab under Imperialism 1885-1947" written by renowned historian Imran Ali highlights the history of canal colonies initiated by the British after their arrival. A complete overview of the canal colonies about the pattern, policies adopted by the new rulers can be seen in this book. H. St. George [Tucker's land settlement report of D.I.Khan 1872-1979](#) was published by W. Ball Publishers is a big source of basic information about the agricultural conditions of the Thal region before the partition of Sub-continent. It is a very comprehensive and detailed and very important report for the researchers. In recent times, the Master of Philosophy thesis of Mr Muhammad Wasim Abbas, "Role of TDA in the Progress of Thal with Special Reference to Bhakkar Region" is the only research work about the agricultural development of the Bhakkar region. It is a very significant contribution of the researcher about the Thal region. It highlights the development and settlement process of the area from 1949 to 1969 but fails to provide information about the whole Thal region. Yearbooks from 1950 to 1968 published by Public Relation Department under the Government of West Pakistan are very informative about the development process carried out by the authority year wise. After careful study of the literature available about the development of the Thal region during 1949 to 1969, a researcher cannot find a single document which provides comprehensive detail about the agricultural development carried out by TDA in twenty years. This article is a big contribution because it will help the researcher to understand the whole agricultural development process.

## **Agricultural Development**

The gigantic task of development in Thal was a big challenge for the planners. The climate, the sandy soil, the influx of thousands of refugees and countless other problems necessitated the harmonious and speedy mode of work, which was not likely to be achieved in routine fashion. The Thal Development Authority was headed by the Chairman whereas Deputy Commissioners of Mianwali, Muzaffargarh and Sargodha were the members of the Thal Development Authority Board. The area under TDA jurisdiction was 9, 06, 036 acres within irrigation boundaries and 7, 15, 000 outside irrigation boundaries. The foundations of TDA were laid down in 1949 with

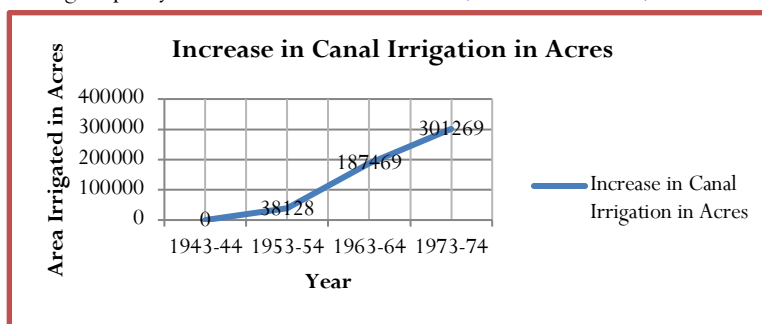
the intentions to achieve its goals between 1950 and 1955. But the project had to be extended till 1961 as the targets could not be achieved in the given period of time. In 1961, the Government of Pakistan had to extend the project for the second time till 1964 and because of the failure to achieve the goals; TDA was given a third extension from 1964 to 1965. In 1965, TDA was handed over the third development scheme by the government for the period of next five years. The late Mr Zafar Ul Ahsan, C.S.P. was the first chairman of Thal Development Authority. The Thal desert, which stretches from Joharabad to Kot Adu was a vast landscape inviting the attention of a dedicated officer who could impart a masterly touch to this seemingly impossible task (Abbas, 2015).

During the entire tenure of TDA, from 1949 to 1969, it established 1110 new villages in the whole region of Thal. The agricultural land was allotted through Tube Well Scheme 1952, Well Scheme 1952, Sheep Breeding Scheme 1952, Sale/ Auction Scheme 1954, Peasant Grant Scheme 1955, Fixed Price Scheme 1957, Garden-Nursery Scheme 1958, Tube Well Scheme 1963 and Free Grants of TDA Land. The grantees of the land benefited from different schemes offered on easy instalments of payments after the fulfilment of the due requirements laid down by the government. Additionally, Residential plots to the new settlers were allotted apart from the agricultural lands. Basic facilities including Schools, dispensaries and post offices were provided at their doorstep. TDA managed the construction of 8002 peasant houses, 1712 huts for artisans and 2570 cattle sheds in the new villages. It was because of these arrangements that nearly 31000 families of refugees and others were settled in Thal permanently reducing the pressure of the congestion of population on the upper Punjab of Pakistan (West Pakistan Year Book 1968, 1968).

Thal Canal system was commissioned in 1947 on the accomplishment of Jinnah Barrage near Kalabagh at Indus River. This system was planned to irrigate the districts of Muzaffargarh, Mianwali, Layyah, Khushab and Bhakkar. Only Jinnah Barrage, Main Line Upper and Dullewala Branch had been completed by the British. One of the main duties of TDA was the extension of the irrigation system, so the Agricultural Machinery Organization (AMO) helped the irrigation department in this task. Irrigation Department with the help of TDA completed Main Line Lower in 1951 whereas the construction work of Munda Branch and Indus Branch had been continued afterwards. It is important to mention here that both Munda and Indus Branches were constructed to irrigate the regions of Layyah and Muzaffargarh. The remaining portion of the Thal Canal System was completed in 1957-58 successfully with a total expenditure of 191.70 Million Rupees although minors and sub-minors were constructed later. The approved water share of Thal Canal is 3.18 Cusecs with 80 per cent intensity (Record File Irrigation, 1980). Gross Command Area, Cultural Command Area and design discharge of Thal Canal is given below:

Gross command area	=	1.855 million acres
Cultural command area	=	1.472 million acres
Design discharge	=	6,000 cusecs

In the start, the discharge capacity of Thal Canal was 6000 cusecs, but with the extent of the area developed over time, the discharge capacity was increased to 7500 cusecs (Record File, 1980).



**Figure 2:** Increase in Canal Irrigation in Acres of the Thal Region

*Note: The figure shows an increase in canal irrigation in acres in the Thal desert from 1943-44 to 1973-74. The source is TDA statistics file of housing department Bhakkar page no. 143.*

There were two types of surfaces of Thal desert, levelled in north and big dunes in the south. It was not possible any type of development, provision of canal water and cultivation in the desert without levelling the desert. The levelling of land was not an easy task for the authority because the land was very hard in the north to break, and there were huge dunes in the south always changing their position during sand storms. It was a big challenge for the authority to level the desert and also the first experience of its nature in the history of the country. TDA established tractor division for the levelling of the region. It was a difficult task because of frequent sand storms and severe heat of summer. TDA had to level 1.5 million acres of land for colonization and farming that was out of the capacity of tractor division. It was cleared after the experience of one year that tractor division can't break the hard land in the north and level the huge dunes in the south. Therefore, TDA set up Agricultural Machinery Organization (AMO hereafter) in 1953 with the help of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development. The said bank provided 3.25 million dollars for AMO. The headquarter of AMO was established in Layyah whereas it consisted of one workshop and two operational divisions in Bhakkar and Layyah respectively. The main duties of AMO were levelling of land, construction of roads connecting new villages, construction of main roads and construction of watercourses. The authority proposed 690,000 acres of land to be AMO from 1957 to onwards ([TDA Statistics File, 1969](#)). The detail of the land category wise is given in the following table:

**Table 1.** Proposed Land to be Levelled by AMO

S. No	Detail of Land	Thousand Acres
1	The government land in first Thal Circle	115.0
2	The government land in second Thal Circle	69.0
3	Land acquired and by TDA	185.7
4	Proprietary land in the Thal	270.2
5	Area available to be levelled with disc and ploughs	50.1
	Grand Total	690

*Note: Table highlights the detail of land available to AMO for levelling. The source is TDA Record File, Housing Department Bhakkar, page no. 54.*

In the first five years from 1957 to 1962, AMO levelled 284, 000 acres of land at maximum capacity of fifty thousand acres annually. In the next three years from 1963 to 1965, AMO levelled 158, 000 acres of land because the canal water was available for the levelled area. Up to June 1965, AMO had levelled 442,000 acres of land within Thal canal irrigation boundaries. On the other side, 250,000 acres of land was lying unlevelled, so the authority directed AMO to level the remaining land in its third plan. Every year TDA had to level 50,000 acres of land. AMO was chasing its target of the third plan, but Thal Development Authority was dissolved in 1969. AMO levelled 631,000 acres till 1969, and remaining 59,000 acres were left without development ([TDA Statistics File, 1969](#)). The in-depth detail of levelled land and constructed watercourses is given in the following table:

**Table 2.** Year Wise Levelled Land and Water Courses Constructed by AMO

S. No	Year	Area levelled in Thousand Acres	Water Courses in Thousand Miles
1.	1957-58	49	7.3
2.	1958-59	38.7	10.0
3.	1959-60	42.8	7.6
4.	1960-61	65.4	8.6
5.	1961-62	76.7	9.2
6.	1962-63	70.9	2.6
7.	1963-64	48.8	2.9
8.	1964-65	39.0	1.0
9.	1965-66	49	0.65
10.	1966-67	49	1.3
11.	1967-68	52	11.45

S. No	Year	Area levelled in Thousand Acres	Water Courses in Thousand Miles
12.	1968-69	50	1.3
13.	Grand Total	631.3	63.90

Note: Table describes year wise detail of area levelled and constructed watercourses by AMO. The source is TDA Record File, Housing Department Bhakkar page 60.

The new settlers had a shortage of money, and they were not able to buy bullocks, seeds and agricultural equipment. Keeping in view the prevailing situation, the authority provided loans to the new settlers, which are called “Taccavi loans”. The authority sanctioned 18.38 Million rupees for loans, and this loan was given on easy instalments. This was a big help for the new settlers, and they were able to fulfil their agricultural needs (A Hand-Book of Thal Development Authority, 1954). It is pertinent to mention that the newcomers couldn't face windstorms and hard weather conditions without a proper residence. Therefore, the authority itself constructed 8002 peasants' houses for shelter. The shelter was a paved house with two rooms, kitchen, verandah and a drinking water pump. Besides this, the authority built 1712 huts for the artisans, and 2570 sheds for cattle. The authority received the price of the house on easy instalments. Later it was decided by the authority that it would only provide loans for the construction of houses and cattle sheds (Abbas, Gillani & Ahmed, 2020).

Keeping in view the severe weather conditions of the Thal, the agriculture experts suggested the authority for the provision of extension service, so that the new settlers could not only be familiarized with the hard conditions of the area but also to learn new methods of farming. It was really important to encourage and guide the newcomers through extension services so that they could prepare themselves for fruitful farming and gardening in a desert. Therefore, the authority established twenty-two extension centres supervised by field assistant within its jurisdiction. The extension work was limited to newly established villages. Besides, the authority also set up farms, gardens, parks and nurseries (History File Bhakkar, 1974). The objectives for the establishment of farms, gardens, parks, nurseries, experimental and demonstration centres are to prepare the new settler for farming and gardening, provision of living to the newcomers, provision of best quality fruit plants, stabilization of watercourses, working as demonstration centres, the introduction of sowing pattern of different crops (Abbas, 2020). It is pertinent to mention that the authority set up each farm or garden, keeping in view the conditions and requirement of the region, so each had its own specific aims and goals. Some farms were established to serve as a research centre for native industries, some for the crop and some for the fruits (Abbas, 2020).

**Table 3.** Experimental Farms, Gardens, Nurseries, Parks Established by TDA

S. No	Farms/ Gardens/Nursery etc.	Total
1	Fruit Garden	10 Numbers
2	Fruit Nurseries	3 Numbers
3	Rest house plots, Green belts	8 Numbers
4	Parks in Mandi Towns	2 Numbers
5	Ornamental Plant Nurseries	3 Numbers
6	Field Experimental Farms.	1 Number
7	Tube well Irrigation Experimental Farms	1 Number
8	Demonstration Farms	1 Number
9	Mechanized Farms	1 Number
10	Sprinkler Irrigation Experimental Farm	1 Number

Note: Table shows farms, gardens, nurseries and experimental farms established by TDA from 1949 to 1969, retrieved from TDA Record File, Housing Department Bhakkar Page no. 42.

According to the official record, the information of some farms and gardens set up by the TDA is given as under:

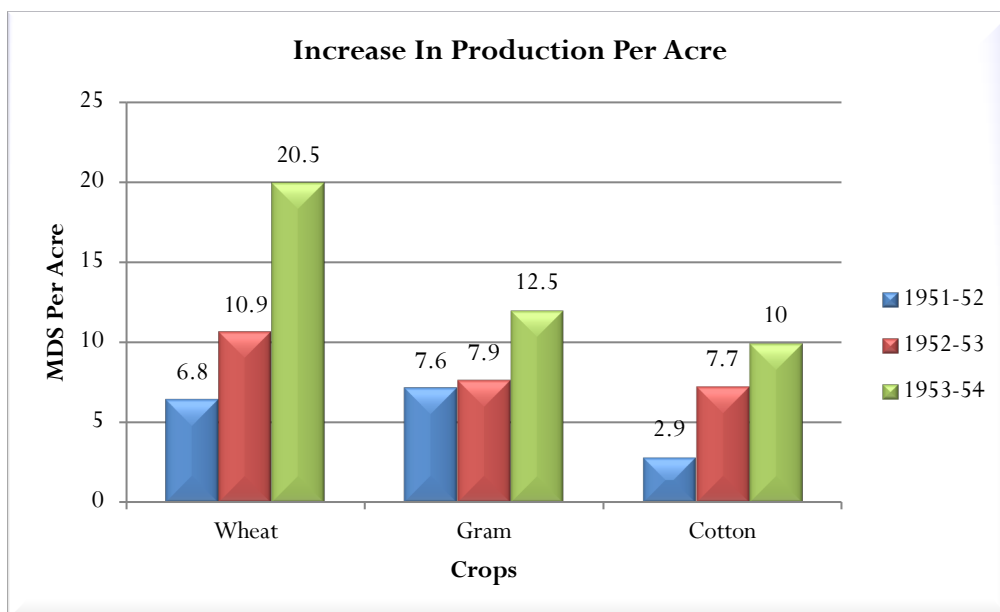
1. Thal Development Authority established a farm near Ali Khel at 65/ DB in Bhakkar region for the cultivation of different crops and fruits. The area of the farm is 122 acres out of which 93 acres reserved

- for crop farming, 19 acres for fruit plants and 10 acres for roads and buildings (West Pakistan Year Book 1968, 1969).
2. The authority established a farm at 18 TDA near Bhakkar city in 1954 for farming purpose. The total area of the farm is 124 acres out of which 13 acres reserved for buildings and roads, 52 acres for fruit farming and 59 acres for crops farming ([History File Bhakkar, 1974](#)).
  3. In the Bhakkar region, Mandi garden was set up in 1954 by Thal Development Authority. This garden not only increased the beauty of the area but also provided an opportunity for learning of fruit farming to the settlers of the area. Its area is 32 acres out of which 2 acres fixed for crop cultivation, 3 acres left for roads and buildings and 26 acres for fruit farming (History File Bhakkar, 1974).
  4. The authority established a big garden near Kalurkot in Bhakkar region in 1950 with the name of Farida garden. The total area of the garden is 482 acres out of which agricultural experts reserved 126 acres for crop cultivation, 327 acres for fruit farming and 29 acres for roads and buildings. The plants of dates, citrus, mango, red blood orange and guava were planted by the authority agricultural experts. A juice factory was also established in 1957 for the proper use of fruits of the garden (History File Bhakkar, 1974).
  5. Thal Development Authority set up Sultana garden in Khushab region near Joharabad in 1950. The total area of the garden is 240 acres out of which 24 acres of land reserved for crop cultivation, 42 acres for fruit farming and the remaining land is given to the local farmers on a contract ([History File Khushab, 1974](#)).
  6. The authority established a garden at 25/MB in Khushab region in 1951. The total area of the garden is 50 acres. The agricultural experts reserved 33 acres of land for fruit farming and remaining 17 acres for crop cultivation, roads and buildings. The garden is famous for quality fruits of Malta, Citrus and Guava (History File Khushab, 1974).
  7. Thal Development Authority set up an agricultural farm at Rakh Ultra in Khushab region in 1952. The area of the farm is 1000 acres, but 480 acres of land is cultivable and remaining 520 acres of land is not under cultivation because of waterlogging. It is only rain-dependent agricultural farm established by the Authority (West Pakistan Year Book 1962, 1962).
  8. Thal Development Authority established an agricultural farm at 65/MB in Khushab region on Rawalpindi road in 1950. The total area of the farm is 1200 acres out of which 900 acres of land reserved for crop cultivation and few acres are under roads and buildings. The land is given on contract basis annually to the local farmers (West Pakistan Year Book 1961, 1961).
  9. A farm was set up in 1953 at Nasirwala near Liaqatabad in Mianwali region to work as a research centre for the Thal Textile mill Liaqatabad. The total area of the farm is 912 acres out of which 907 acres were reserved for crop cultivation and remaining 5 acres for roads and buildings ([History File Mianwali, 1974](#)).
  10. The authority set up an agricultural farm at 26 TDA in Bhakkar region in 1952. The total area of the agricultural farm is 1625 acres, and the land is further divided into roads, buildings, fruit farming and agricultural cultivation (West Pakistan Year Book 1963, 1963).
  11. An agricultural farm was established at 44 TDA in Bhakkar region in 1953. The total area of the farm is 2049 acres of land, which is further separated into buildings, roads, agricultural farming and fruit gardening (West Pakistan Year Book 1964, 1964).
  12. Tail Indus farm was established in Layyah region in 1953 by the authority to work as a research centre for sugar mill Layyah. This farm provided basic training to the local farmers for the cultivation of sugar cane crops ([History File Layyah, 1974](#)).
  13. Thal Development Authority set up an agricultural farm at Rakh Ghulaman near Kallurkot in 1951. The total area of the farm is 9456 acres out of which the agricultural experts reserved 3953 acres of land for

rain-dependent cultivation, 443 acres for forest plantation and the remaining was cultivated through canal and tube well water (West Pakistan Year Book 1965, 1965).

14. The authority set up an agricultural farm near Bhakkar in the year 1953 to work as a research centre for Bhakkar textile mill. The total area of the farm was 8000 acres, and the whole farm was reserved for cotton cultivation of different varieties (West Pakistan Year Book 1968, 1968).

In farms and gardens, the authority allotted land to the newcomers on contract for a period of one year for their training. The contractors had to cultivate the allotted land under the guidance of agriculture experts of the authority. In this way, the new settlers not only had familiarized themselves with the weather conditions but also with sowing time of different crops and soil features. In controlled circumstances, the farmers had able to improve their per acre production (TDA Record File, 1969).



**Figure 3.** Increase in Production Per Acre

*Note: The graph describes the per acre increase of wheat, gram and cotton within three years from 1951 to 1954. Source of information is A Hand-Book of Thal Development Authority published by Public Relation Division at Joharabad in 1954, page no. 24.*

In agricultural research farms of cotton, the results of per acre production as compared to other parts of the state were very low very low due to severe hot conditions and sand storms. The experts of the authority worked hard, and after careful research and long struggle, the experts were able to increase per acre production. They suggested 387 and AC 134 cotton varieties for Thal desert. Per acre production of cotton were increased due to recommended varieties. On the other hand, the soil of the desert was fit for wheat cultivation, and better per acre production could be attained in the area. But agricultural experts were looking for maximum per acre production, so they tested sixteen different varieties of wheat. After careful study, they suggested 5660 C and 5661 C of wheat. The farms and gardens provided a chance to the newcomers to work under a controlled atmosphere of agricultural experts of TDA. After some time, the new settlers were able to increase their production and show the best results. We cannot compare per acre production of the Thal desert with the production of fertile lands of upper Punjab because of its soil characteristics, severe hot weather conditions prevailing in the region (West Pakistan Year Book 1968, 1968). The following table shows per acre production of different crops in maunds till 1969.



**Table 4.** Crops per Acre Production Increase from 1951 to 1969

S. No	Crop	1951	1955	1959	1963	1967	1969
1	Wheat	6.5	20.0	24.5	28.0	30.5	30.5
2	Gram	7.1	12	12	13	13.5	15
3	Cotton	2.8	10	15	17	22	24
4	Sugarcane	----	320	350	395	410	465

Note: Table highlights per acres production increase from 1951 to 1969 of the farmers worked under the supervision of TDA agricultural experts in farms and gardens. Adopted from TDA Statistics File, Record Housing Department Bhakkar page no. 43.

In order to assist the farmers of the area in marketing their crops, Thal Development Authority set up seven market towns within its jurisdictions called, “Mandi Towns”. The names of Mandi Towns are Liaqatabad, Layyah, Joharabad, Sar-e-Muhajir, Quaidabad, Ali Khel and Bhakkar. The authority provided all modern facilities of life such as electricity, telephone, water supply system, underground sewerage system, wide and straight roads, green belts, open space for games, parks, cinema, telegraph, shops, post offices and hospitals. Mandi towns have separated into two zones which are residential and commercial areas. Residential areas of Mandi towns were further divided into many blocks for easy and equal access of the people to public places and shops. Each block has its own playground, mosque and school and shops. Whereas the commercial areas comprise of grain market shops and general shops where the agricultural products arrived on trucks, camels and donkeys. Storage bins have been constructed for the storage of agricultural products (TDA Statistics File, 1969).

**Table 5.** Mandi Towns Established by TDA in Thal Region

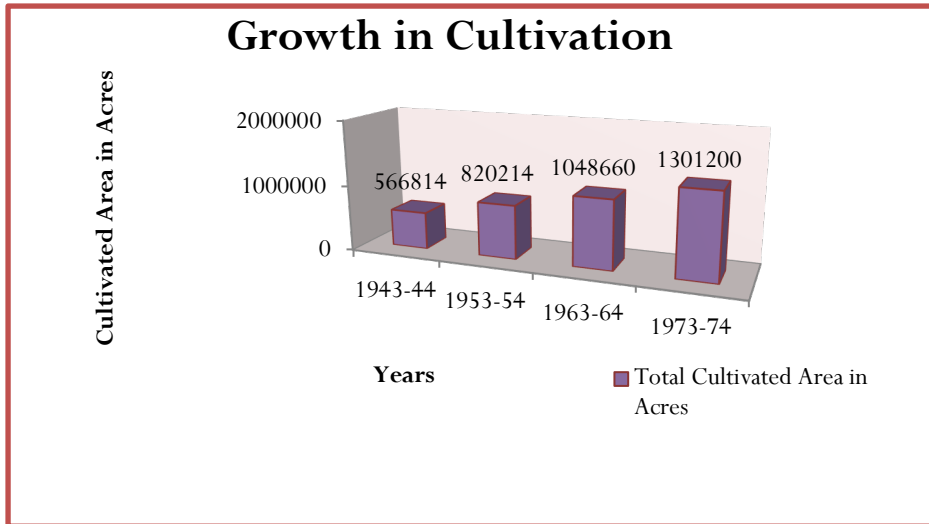
S. No	Name of Mandi Town	Area in Acres	No. of Quarters and Bungalows
1	Layyah	1825	202
2	Joharabad	1740	436
3	Bhakkar	1603	512
4	Quaidabad	1344	341
5	Liaqatabad	496	637
6	Sar-e-Muhajir	121	35
7	Ali Khel	18	14

Note: Table shows the list of Mandi towns established by TDA in the Thal desert. Source of information is TDA statistics file, housing department Bhakkar page no 80.

But with the passage of the time, it was realized that establishment of heavy industries for equal development of the area is indispensable and it was planned by the authority that at least each Mandi Town had one heavy industry. Heavy industry was set up, keeping in view the recommendation of the agricultural experts and agricultural production. The facility of electricity, railway, and metaled roads was also provided by the authority. Thal Development Authority established eleven heavy industries within its jurisdiction. Heavy industries are two sugar mills, two textile mills, one cement factory, one dairy factory, one juice factory, one woollen mill and three cotton and ginning factories (TDA Statistics File, 1969).

Keeping in view the conditions of desert, specific cropping scheme could not be approved for the entire region. The cropping methods could be adopted after careful study of water resources, soil characteristics, distance from the market etc. The Thal desert is best for orchards, watermelons and vegetables whereas cotton during summer and gram and wheat during winter grew well. Sugar cane improved varieties cultivated in autumn also gave hopeful production. TDA planted forest and shelterbelts to control erosion and thunderstorms ([A Handbook of Thal Development Authority, 1954](#)). The cultivated area of Thal was increased from 56681 acres in 1934 to 1301200 acres in 1974, which is three times increased. The expansion of the canal irrigation system and settlement of refugees is the reason for the increase in the cultivated area. The following chart shows an increase in the cultivated area after agricultural development carried out by TDA:





**Figure 4:** Cultivated Area Increase after Agricultural Development of TDA

*Note: Figure highlights the increase of cultivated area from 1943-44 to 1973-74. The data is taken from TDA statistics file, housing department Bhakkar page no. 146.*

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that the Thal Development Project proved itself a very efficient scheme for the progress of the region. TDA within its jurisdiction not only changed the deserted land of Thal to lush green fields but also ensured the equal development of the area. Extension of the irrigation system, forestation, land development, settlement of refugees, the establishment of new villages, guidance through farms and gardens, the establishment of industries and Mandi towns are entirely indebted to TDA. The agricultural development of the desert is a historical event in the history of a newly established country of Pakistan. Now, the people of the Thal region are happy, prosperous and more confident about their future.

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