

## STRATEGIES OF POPULATION CENSUS AND HABITAT RELATIONS OF WILD BOAR IN DISTRICT FAISALABAD.

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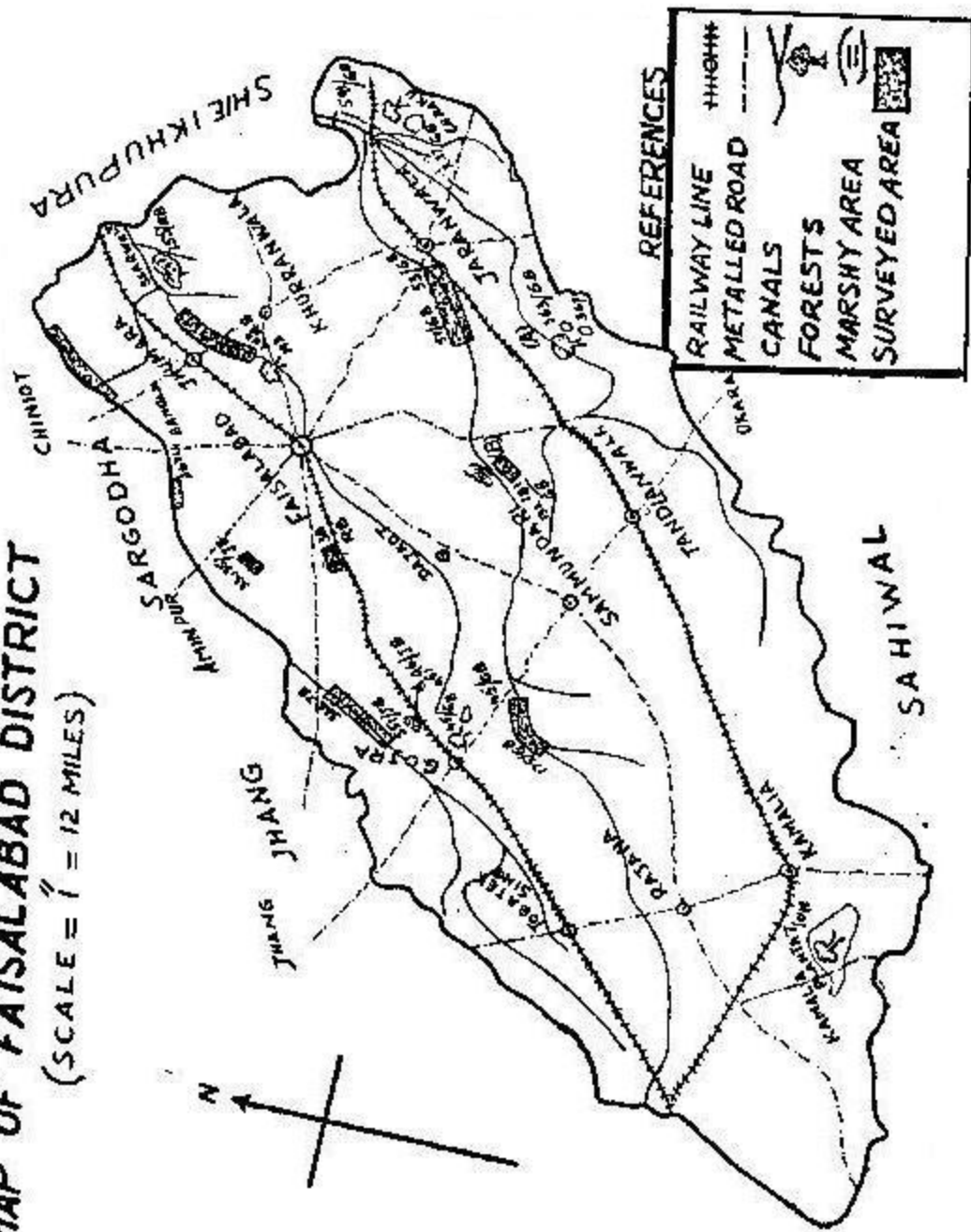
The census of population of the wild boar, Sus scrofa L. was conducted by visual observations in strips and blocks. A total of 57 strips were observed along canal side. The number of animals observed in the entire area were 478 making the average number of animals per strip as 8.38. The 16 blocks measuring 26.32 x 26.32 hectares were examined in total. The number of wild boars observed were 209 in these 16 blocks, with an average of 13.6 per block in district Faisalabad.

### INTRODUCTION:

Wild boar, Sus scrofa L., is highly destructive to crops. The boars not only consume the mature crop but also trample a vast area in their foraging run. The wild boar requires a heavy cover, abundant food and water. Therefore, irrigated plantations, riverain forests and marsh-lands constitute the best habitat for the wild boar. The wild boars seriously damage the cropped area, and the terrain lying adjacent to these areas. The information about a more precise population census and abundance of this serious mammalian pest is scanty. Adam (1932) and Khan (1980) observed that the wild boar left their hiding places in search of food on specific routes just after the sunset and retreated through the same routes very early in the morning and thus could be counted when they were going out at dusk and coming back in the original habitat at dawn. Forbes (1956) has given a number of methods for taking wild life census in the field.

# MAP OF FAISALABAD DISTRICT

(SCALE = 1" = 12 MILES)



The present studies were conducted to take observations about the population census in the habitats along the canal side plantations and afforested areas of district Faisalabad (See Map).

Wild boars come out of their abodes in April-May season at the time of wheat-harvest, when they get aggregated in the thickets along water channels, in marshy areas and in the irrigated forest plantations. Observations about the population census were taken for two months viz., from the 15th May to the July, 1982 only in the habitats along with canal side plantations and afforested areas.

Two of the methods (following Forbes, 1956) for taking the population census were tried:

#### A : Strip Count Method:

Eighty per cent area of the habitats was screened for population census of wild boars through Strip Count Method. A strip of 1585.56 meters (One mile) in length and 396.40 meter (2 acres) broad was checked alongwith six pointer-dogs (hounds trained for the purpose) and seven shooters in wild boar frequenting habitats around Faisalabad.

#### B: Track or Route Count Method:

The rest of the two spots (192-200/R.B. & 46/G.B) of one sq. mile each, were selected for route or track count method. Ten men, five on each side of a square mile were posted to observe the animals moving out of their abodes in routine trails in search of food (or foraging) at dawn and dusk. This represents about 20% of the total habitat area surveyed.

The census of population of the wild boar was conducted by visual observations in Strip and Blocks. A total of 57 Strips were observed along canal side habitats. The study area was split into strips measuring 2 x 1.6 km each. The details about distribution of strips with respect of localities may be gathered from Table 1, (also Map). The general vegetation in the area of strips comprised of Sarkanda (Saccharum bengalensis Retz.) Mesquite: Prosopis juliflora

DC, Shisham : Dalbergia sisso Roxb. in rows. Consequently the vegetation was also inter-spersed with Dib : Typha angustifolia, and Frash(Tamarix aphylla) shrubs'. The total number of animals observed in the entire area of 57 strips 478 making the average number of animals per strip (3.2 km ) as 8.38.

In addition to the strips method mentioned above, the census of wild boar population was also conducted by visual observations in blocks, each measuring about 65 x 65 = 4225 acres (26.32 x 26.32 hectares). A total of sixteen such blocks were examined. Vegetation in these blocks was much more compact, and comprised, in addition to Sarkanda, Mesquite and Shisham trees, of Poplar: (Populus euroamiricana) Simbal, : (Salmalia malabonica), mulberry: (Broussonatia papyrifera) Ipil-ipil: (Leucaena evcocesphala) and Kikar (Acacia milotica) trees, etc. These blocks represented the typical scrub and forest vegetation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

A. The vegetation mentioned under materials and methods presented a more cohesive unit, and thus provided many more chances of concealment and protection to the animals. The number of wild boars observed were 209 from these 16 blocks, making per block population as of 13.6 individuals (Table 2).

The Salarwala forest plantation (Chak No.155) represented the only typical pocket of aggregation of the wild boars. Here, the area was flanked on both sides by water channels. The vegetation was of typical scrub type viz., Mesquite, 'Sarkanda' interspersed with tall shady Shisham trees. This pocket did not seem to be molested by man. The nearest dwellings lay about 400 yards beyond the jungle. In such a pocket as many as 375 - 400 boars were observed to be accommodated, which were seen to come out of this place in groups of: 5-15 individuals for feedings, only during post-dusk and pre-dawn hours. The details of the wandering boars for purposes of foraging can be see from Table I & II.

Table 1: Population census along canal side plantations

Locality		Total area	No. of Strips	Boars caught from 16 strips	Average boars/ strip	P. Veg of Strips
From	To					

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A. Jhang Branch Canal Side Plantation:

1.	Chak No. 1/J.B.	Chak No. 45/J.B. Pull Degru. Baran-wala Bangla	356.32	16	66	4.12	Sarkanda Mesquite, Aksin ( <u>Withania somnifera</u> ) Khubbal-grass ( <u>Cynodon dactylon</u> ) Nara Shisham.
ii.	Chak No. 26/J.B.	Chak No. 49/J.B. Nevin Bangla	86.38	4	45	11.25	Mesquite Shisham Sarkanda
iii.	Chak No. 336/J.B. Khairwala Bangla.	Chak No. 350/J.B. Tavan Bangla.	151.16	7	113	16.14	Shisham Sarkanda Mesquite

B. Gegera Branch Canal Side Plantation:

1.	Chak No. 591/G.B. Buchiana Bangla.	Chak No. 237/G.B.	151.16	7	119	17.00	Mesquite Shisham Sarkanda Kikar
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ii. Chak No.	Chak No.	172.76	8	58	7.25	Sarkanada
53/G.B.	57/G.B.	Hac.				Shisham
near	toward					Mesquite
Jaranwala	Jassuana					Aira
	Bangla.					Nara
						Frash
						Mulberry
						Jand
						(Prosopis
						spicegera)
iii. Chak No.	Chak No.	129.57	6	54	9.00	Mesquite
45/G.B.	175/G.B.	Hac.				Shisham
	Mongi					Sarkanda
	Bangla.					

*C. Rakh Branch Canal Side Plantation:*

i. Chak No.	Chak No.	194.35	9	69	7.66	Messquite
192/R.B	154/R.B.	Hac.				Shisham
Gatwala.	Slarwala.					Sarkanda
						Aira
						Aksin

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Table II: *Population census in various plantations*

No	Locatlity	Total No. of area Blocks		Total No. of boars Caught	Ave. Boars/ Block	Types of Vegetation in Blocks	Remarks
	Gatewala Forest plantation Chak Nos. 192-200/R.B.	247 (acres) 100 Hac.	4	75	18.75	Mesquite Shisham Poplar Sambal Mulberry Paper- Mulberry Sarkanda	Moderately thick to very dense vegetation interspersed with shady trees in lines
	Tarkhana Jungle Chak No.46/ G.B.	645 (acres) 261.13 Hac.	12	134	11.16	Shisham Mesquite Sarkanda Frash Vann (Salra- dora oleoides)	Thick patchy vegetation with occa- sional marshy marshy places. The area is also surr- ounded by cultivated fields.

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