

## APPENDIX E

### EXPLANATION OF RESULTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

#### Land Utilization Trend in Bangladesh

Table E1

Land utilization statistics of Bangladesh (thousand acres)

Year	Net cropped area	Area sown more than once	Total cropped area
1984-85	21353	11143	32496
1985-86	21661	11798	33459
1986-87	21878	11097	32975
1987-88	20478	13670	34148
1988-89	20148	13739	33887
1989-90	20633	14117	34750
1990-91	20198	14482	34680
1991-92	19716	14405	34121
1992-93	19418	14438	33856
1993-94	19090	14225	33315
1994-95	19133	14280	33413
1995-96	19281	14110	33391
1996-97	19401	14688	34089
1997-98	19690	15210	34900
1998-99	19741	14752	34493
1999-00	20101	15166	35267

It can be noted from Table E1 that, use of land declined during the second sub-period considered in this study, i.e. during the period from 1989-90 to 1995-96. In fact, land utilization (in terms of 'total cropped area') declined constantly from 1989-90 to 1993-94. This may be due to decline in availability of arable land in the face of industrialization and housing boom as reported in Chowdhury et al. (2006).

Table E1 shows 'net cropped area', 'area sown more than once' and 'land utilization' for different years. Here, 'net cropped area' refers to the total area brought under cultivation at least once in the year, whereas 'area sown more than once' refers to the total area sown for the second time plus the total area sown for the third time. 'Land utilization' is the total of 'net cropped area' and 'area sown more than once'.

A closer look at the table will reveal the fact that, 'net cropped area' declined in the same period when the 'land utilization' declined. This decline in 'net cropped area' supports the view that, there was scarcity of land possibly due to industrialization and housing. The 'net cropped area' did not show high growth afterwards too.

But 'land utilization' started increasing after 1995-96 again. This may be due to more intense use of land during dry season. In fact, 'area sown more than once' kept an increasing trend in all sub-periods, resulting in an increase in the 'land utilization' after 1995-96 despite the comparatively lower growth in the 'net cropped area'. This supports the view of Hossain et al. (2003) that, scarcity of land may have made households look for options to increase income through more intensive use of land through the adoption of improved technologies like irrigation enabling them to use their land during the dry season too.