

CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

In January 1962, the Dept. of Economics of the University of Malaya launched a research project with the object of studying the economics of padi farming in Tanjong Karang, one of the most important "rice bowls" of Malaya. (1) The method is to carry out farm surveys in Tanjong Karang padi area for a period of five years. By conducting a thorough investigation year by year for five years into the economics and social conditions of the farmers living in this area, it is hoped that enough material would be collected to form a picture of the farm economics, and the factors affecting structural changes in the socio-economic aspects of this farm community.

This report represents phase two of the five-year research project conducted in May 1963 and exclusively concerned with the analysis and study of four blocks, E, Q, S and W situated in Sawah Sempadan. This report may be regarded as an effort to present some quantitative data on the population of these four blocks, and the socio-economic characteristics of this population.

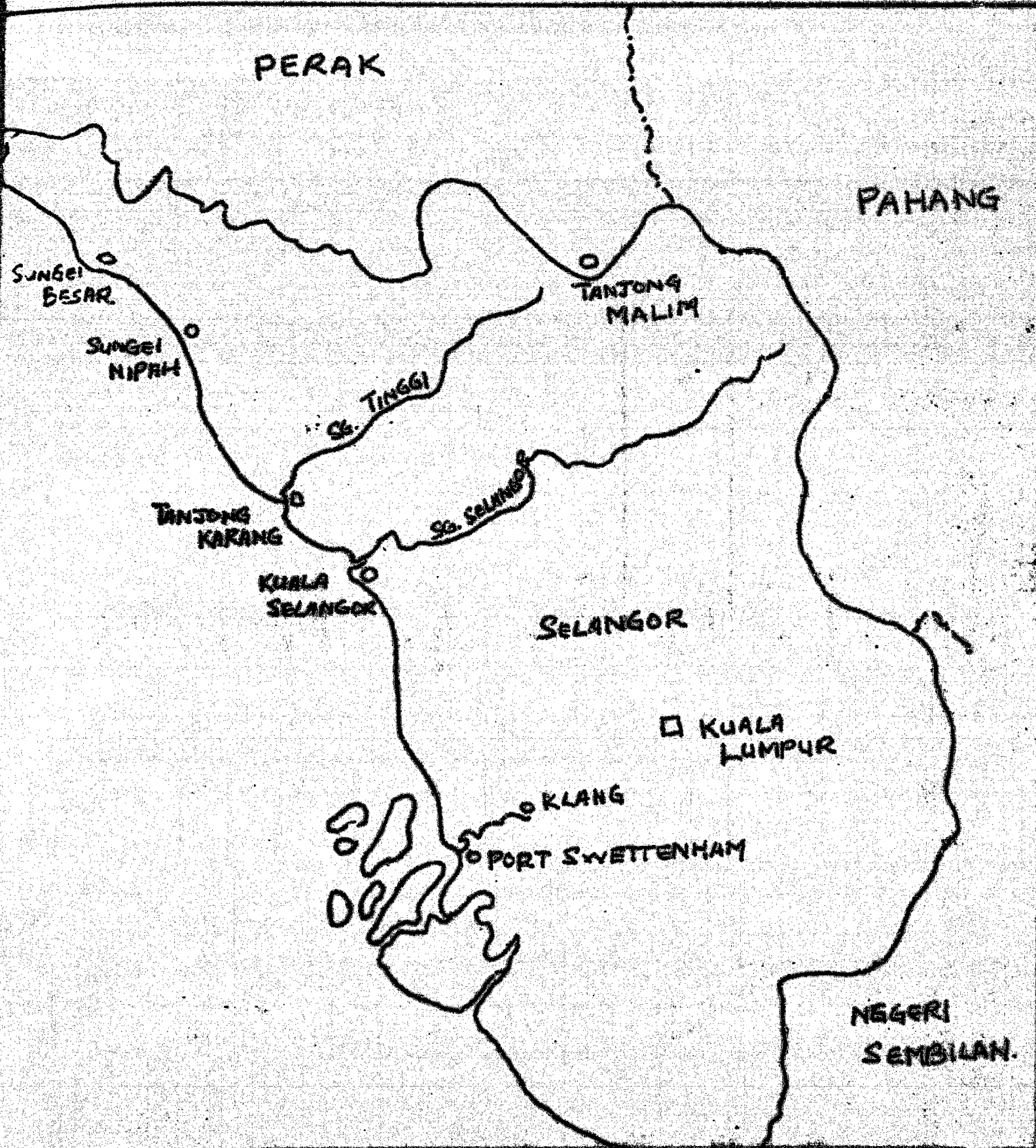
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (2)

The Tanjong Karang Padi scheme was started by the Drainage and Irrigation Dept., Federation of Malaya, in 1940. The effort of the scheme was one of converting some 50,000 acres of useless jungle swamp into productive padi land. Although the scheme was started as early as 1940, most of the work was lost in the Japanese occupation. However, after the liberation from the Japanese, the Drainage and Irrigation Dept. tackled the job afresh and launched an extensive programme of rehabilitation.

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- (1) R.K. Mamajiwala - "Projects in Progress in the Dept. of Economics, University of Malaya."  
ECONOMI - Journal of Economic Society University of Malaya.
- (2) From pamphlet, "The Story of Tanjong Karang" published by Dept. of Information in collaboration with Drainage and Irrigation Dept. (1951).

DIAGRAM 1

SKETCH MAP OF STATE OF SELANGOR



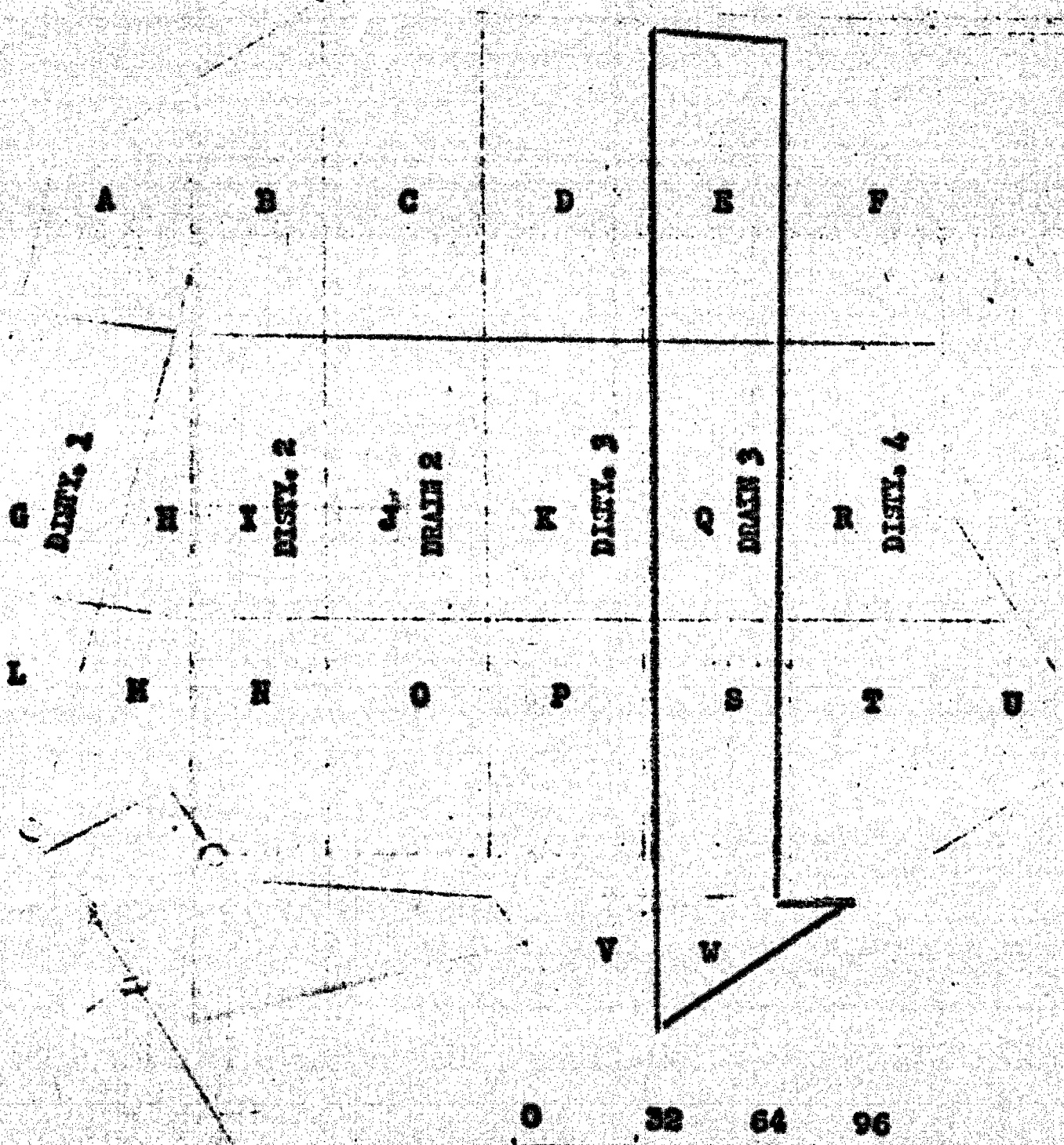
**DIAGRAM 2**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

SEPTEMBER 1962

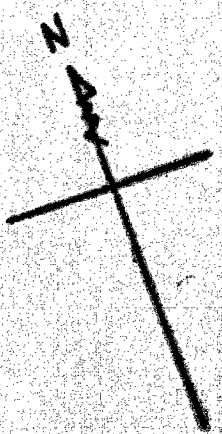
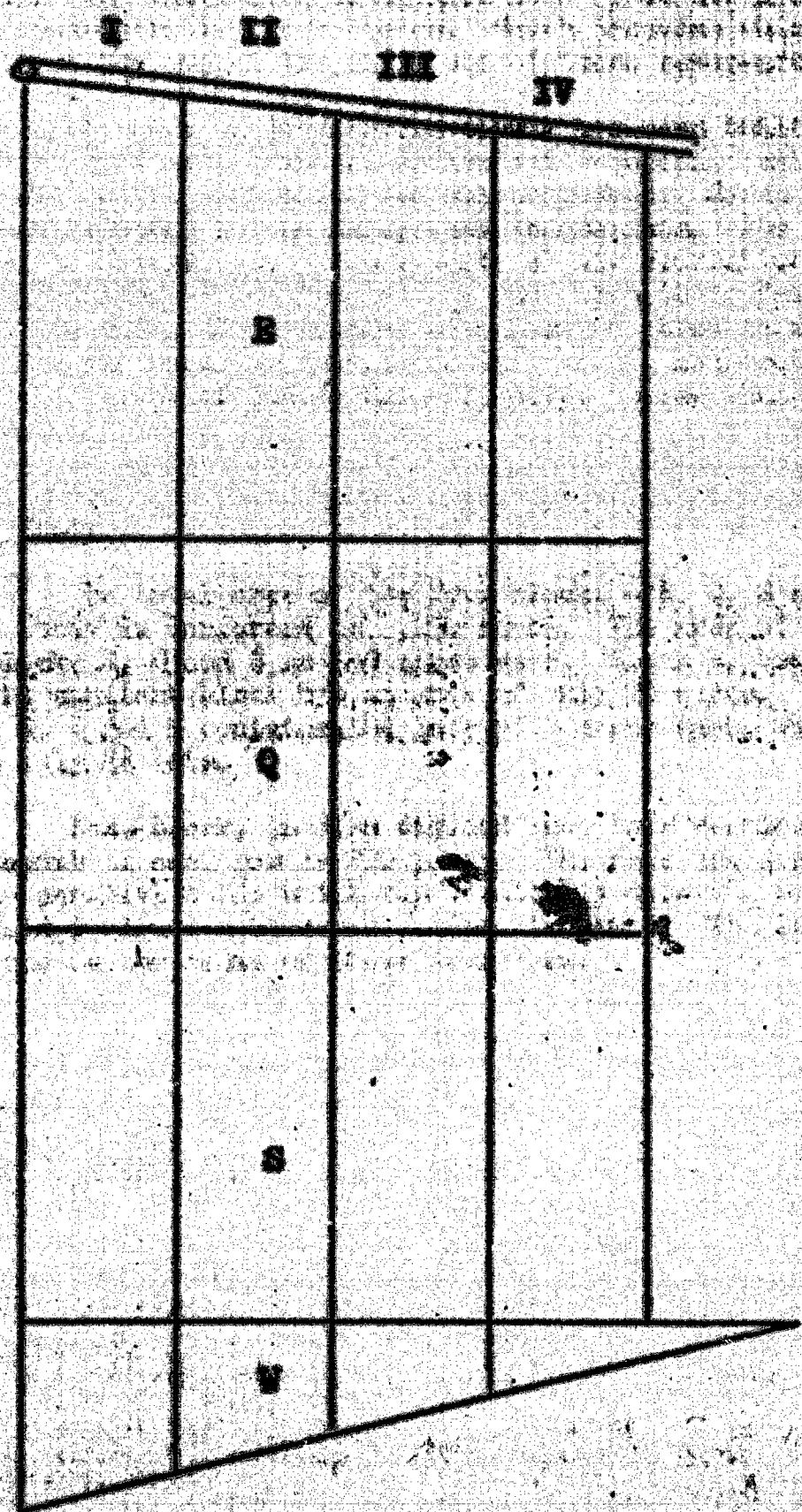
**SAMAH BERPADAN**

**(6,100 ACRES)**



**DIAGRAM 3**

**DIAGRAM OF BLOCKS A, C, S, E (TOP TO SCALE)**



The total area of Tanjung Karang scheme is about 50,000 acres. The whole area is divided into seven sub-areas for reasons of administrative convenience. Sengkang Sempadan which lies to the south of the Sungai Tinggi is one of these seven-areas.

The whole Tanjung Karang scheme has been built by the united efforts of Malay, Chinese, Indian and Indonesian settlers who worked with Govt. assistance and encouragement. Sengkang Sempadan area has been allotted to the Malays and Indonesians. The pioneer settlers, - the Malays from various parts of the Federation, and some of the Javanese direct from Java - came with their families to work in this area. Each settler was allotted three acres of padi land, and one acre for domestic cultivation. Each settler also received a grant of \$150/- from the Govt. to see them to their first harvest.

### Area under Study

The total area of the four blocks - E, Q, S and W - which this study is concerned is 1,030 acres. The area of each of the main blocks E, Q and S is 320 acres each. Block W, however, which is the smallest block has an area of only 70 acres. Each of the blocks E, Q and S contains 104 lots of 3 acres each, while block W contains only 23 lots.

Each block, is also divided into four vertical rows, and the breadth of each row is 220 yards. The rows are distinguished by the four parallel bunds which run vertically down the four blocks from the main direction headwork. (See Diagram 3) The inter-row study is done on the basis of these four rows.