

Cultivation and fallow land in the Ain

Four revenue land categories in Abu'l Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari based on continuity of cultivation

• Mughal Land Classification (Ain-i-Akbari)

◆ Polaj: continuous cultivation

Cultivated regularly for successive crops.

Not allowed to lie fallow in this classification.

The category describes cultivation continuity, not a guarantee of the best soil.

○ Parauti: temporary fallow

Left uncultivated temporarily to recover its strength.

Contrast its temporary break with Polaj's regular cultivation.

Ain's cited definition does not prescribe an exact one- or two-year interval.

◇ Chachar: three or four years

Land left fallow for three or four years.

A longer interruption than the temporary Parauti category.

Do not confuse fallow duration with a crop season.

□ Banjar: five years or more

Land uncultivated for five years or more.

The longest uncultivated interval among these four categories.

Source: Abu'l Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari, an account of Akbar's administration.

REMEMBER Remember cultivation continuity: Polaj → temporary Parauti → Chachar (3–4 years) → Banjar (5+ years).