Meta Data of E-Content

AREA OF META DATA	CONTENT
THEME	Peasants, Zamindars and The State
SUBJECT	History
LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS(NAME)	Ain-I-Akbari and Land Revenue System of the Mughals
CLASS/LEVEL	XII Part II
OBJECTIVES	I. Elaborate the main features of Land Revenue system during the Mughal period II. Find out the merits Land Revenue system III. Examine the administration and functioning of Land Revenue system
DESCRIPTION	The Persian term used for land revenue during the Mughal period was mal and mal wajib. During the Mughal rule land revenue was a tax on the crop. Abul Fazl in Ain-i Akbari justifies the imposition of taxes by the state saying that these are the remuneration of sovereignty, paid in return for protection and justice. The process of land revenue collection had two stages: (a) Assessment (Jama) (b) Actual collection (Hasil). Assessment was made to fix the state demand. On the basis of this demand, actual collection was done separately for kharif and rabi crops. Methods of Land Revenue Assessment: During the Mughal period assessment was separately made for kharif and rabi crops. After the assessment, a written document called patta was issued in which the amount of the revenue demand was mentioned. The assessee was in return supposed to give 'qabuliyat' means acceptance of the obligation imposed upon him.

Following methods were used commonly used:

A. Ghalla Bakhshi (Crop-sharing): The Ain-i Akbri describes three types of crop-sharing:

i) Division of crop at the threshing floor after the grain was obtained was done in the presence of both the parties.

ii) Khet batai: The share was decided when the crop was still standing in the fields.

iii) Lang batai: The crop was cut and stacked in heaps without separating grain.

B. Kankut: The word kankut is derived from the words kan and kat. Kan denotes grain while kat means to estimate. In kankut, at first, the field was measured either by means of a rope or by pacing. After this, the per bigha productivity from good, middle and bad lands was estimated and the revenue demand was fixed accordingly.

C. Zabti: During the Mughal rule, it was the most important method of assessment. Provinces covered under zabti were Delhi, Allahabad, Awadh, Agra, Lahore and Multan.

The main features of the zabti system as it finally came into operation under Akbar were:
i) Measurement of land was essential.
ii) Fixed cash revenue rates known as dastur for each crop.
iii) All the collection was made in cash.
Merits of Zabti system:

i) Measurement could always be rechecked
ii) Due to fixed dasturs, local officials could not use their discretion.
iii) With fixing the permanent dasturs, the uncertainties and fluctuation in levying the land revenue demand were greatly reduced.

Mode of Payment:

In the Mughal period, the peasant under zabti system had to pay revenue in cash. However, under kankut and crop-sharing, payment of revenue was permitted at market prices.

Collection of Land Revenue:

Under ghalla bakhshi, the state's share was taken directly from the field. In other systems, the state collected its share at the

time of harvest. Abul Fazl writes that "Collection should begin for rabi from Holi and for kharif from Deshera.

Usually, the revenue was deposited in the treasury through the 'Amil' or revenue collector. Akbar encouraged the peasants to pay directly, Todar Mal recommended that the peasants of trusted villages, within the time limit, could deposit their revenue in the treasury themselves and could obtain receipt. The village Patwari made endorsement in his register to establish the amount paid.

Relief Measure:

Whatever be the method of revenue assessment, there was some provision for relief in the care of bad harvests. In ghallaa bakhshi and kankut, state's share would rise and fall depending upon the current harvest.

Taqavi loans were granted to enable the peasants to buy seeds and cattle. Abul Fazl writes that the Amalguzar should assist the empty handed peasants by advancing them loans. These loans were interest-free, normally to be repaid at the time of harvest. These were advanced through the chaudhris and muqaddams.

Land Revenue Administration:

At the rural level, there were many revenue officials:

i) Karori: He was incharge of both assessment and collection of the revenue. The karori was appointed by the diwan of the province. He was expected to look after the interests of the peasantry.

ii) Amin: Amin's main function was to assess the revenue. He too was appointed by the diwan. He was responsible jointly with the karori and faujdar for the safe transit of the collected revenue. The faujdar of the province kept a vigilant eye on the activities of amin and karori.

iii) Qanungo: He was the local revenue official of the pargana. It was a hereditary post, but an imperial order was essential for the nomination of each new person. The qanungo was paid 1% of the total revenue as remuneration but Akbar started paying them salary.

iv) Chaudhari: In most cases he was the leading zamindar of the locality. He was mainly concerned with the collection. He distributed and stood surety for the repayment of the taqavi loans.
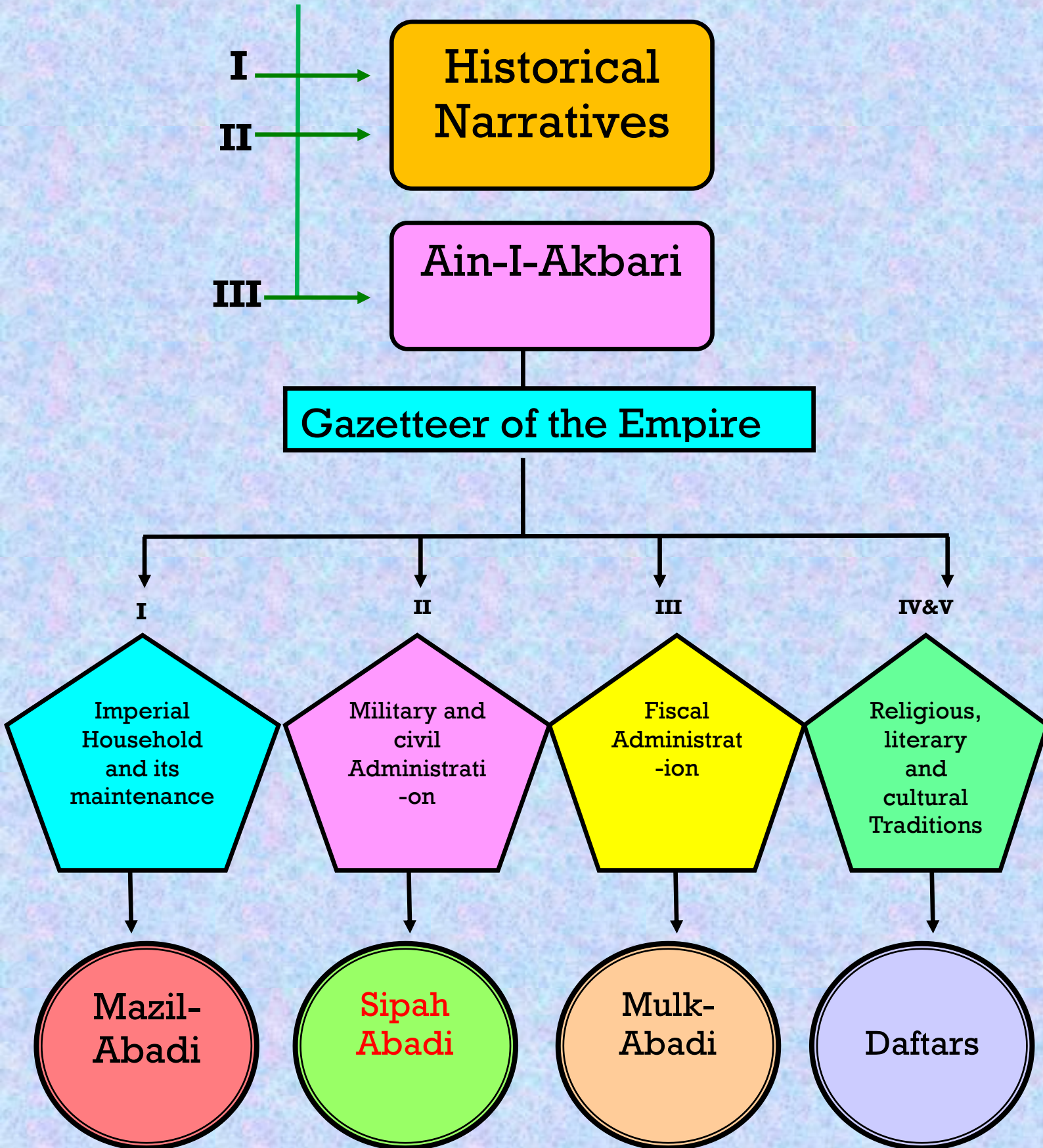
v) Shiqqdar: In Akbar's later period, he was a subordinate official under the karori . Abul Fazl mentions that in case of an emergency, the shiqqdar could give the necessary sanction for disbursement which was to be duly reported to the court. He was also responsible for thefts that occurred in his jurisdiction.

vi) Muqaddam and Patwari: The muqaddam and patwari were village level officials. The former was the village headman. In lieu of his services; he was allowed 2.5 percent of the total

revenue collected by him. The patwari maintained records of the village land, the holdings of the individual cultivators, variety of crops grown and details about fallow land.

Vii) Faujdar: In each pargana, Faujdar represented the military or policy power of the state. One of his main duties was to help the jagirdar or amil in collecting revenue from the landlords and peasants.

KEY WORDS	Ain-i Akbari , Mal, Mal Wajib, Jama, Hasil, Kharif and Rabi Crop, Patta, Qabuliyat, Ghalla Bakhshi , Khet batai, Lang batai, Kankut, Zabti, Karori, Amin, Qanungo, Chaudhari, Shiqqdar, Muqaddam , Patwari, Faujdar, Diwan
CONTENT DEVEOLPER	**Dr. Ajay Kumar Jha, Lecturer (History)** **Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Directorate of education, Govt. Of NCT of Delhi, Wazirpur Village, New Delhi.**
SUBJECT COORDINTOR	**Dr. Mily Roy Anand**
CIET COORDINATOR	

Abu'l Fazl

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Akbar Nama

I →
II →
III →

Historical Narratives

Ain-I-Akbari

Gazetteer of the Empire

I	II	III	IV&V
Imperial Household and its maintenance	Military and civil Administration	Fiscal Administration	Religious, literary and cultural Traditions
Mazil-Abadi	Sipah Abadi	Mulk-Abadi	Daftars

Persian Term for Land Revenue

MAL

OR

MAL WAJIB

Rabi Crop Harvest

STAGES OF LAND REVENUE COLLECTION

JAMA

MEANS
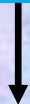
Assessment

HASIL

MEANS

Actual collection

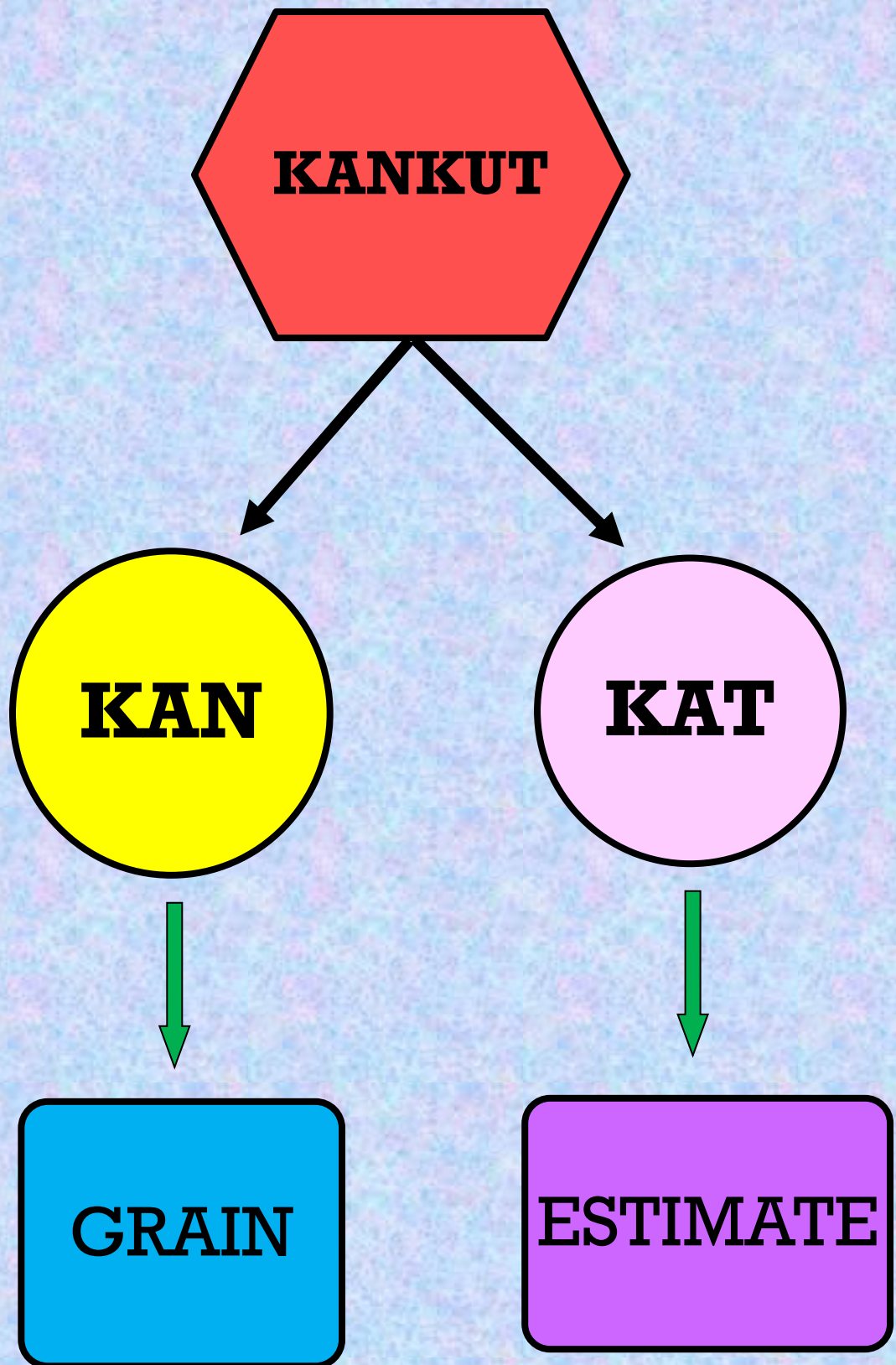# Methods of Land Revenue Assessment

Ghalla Bakshi

Kankut

Zabti System

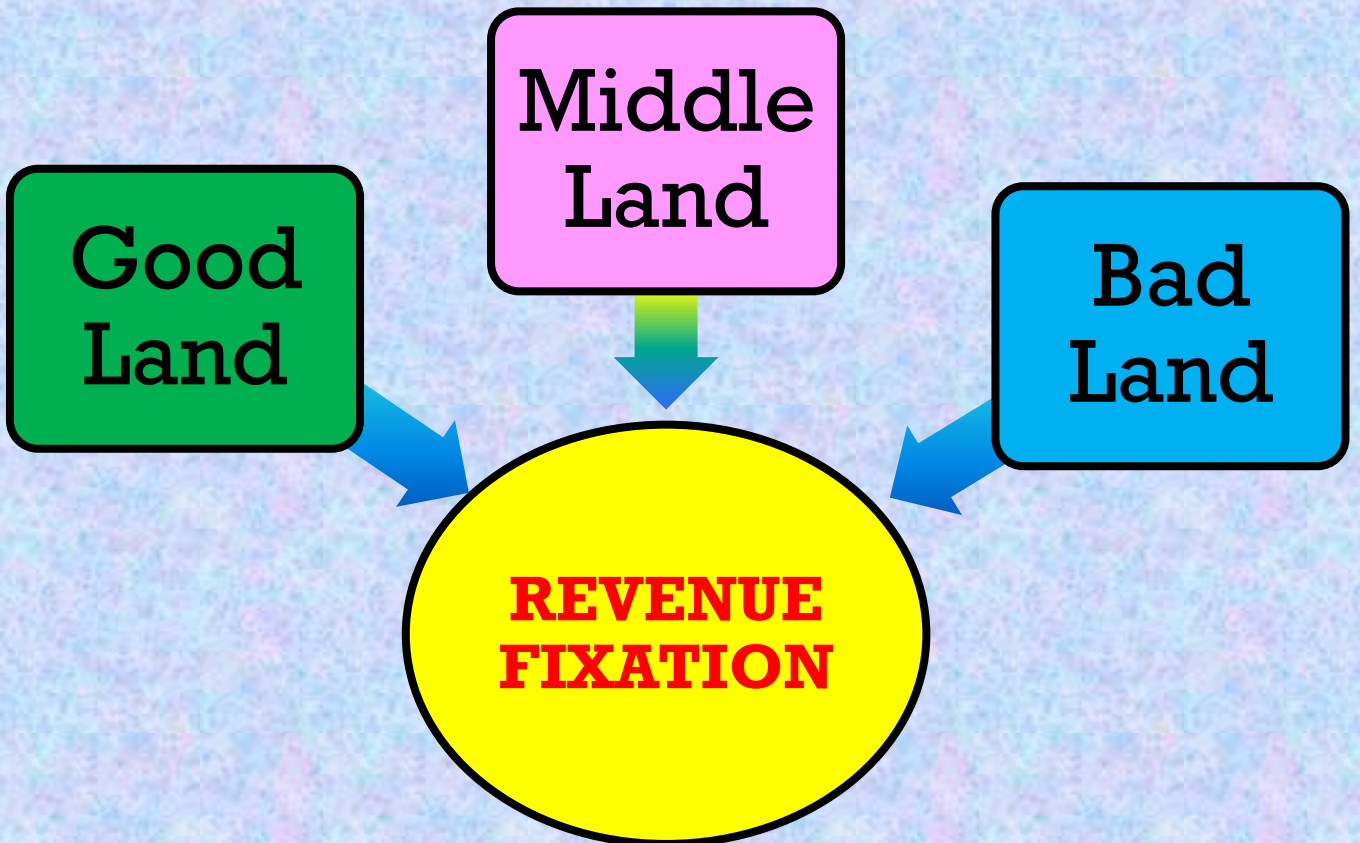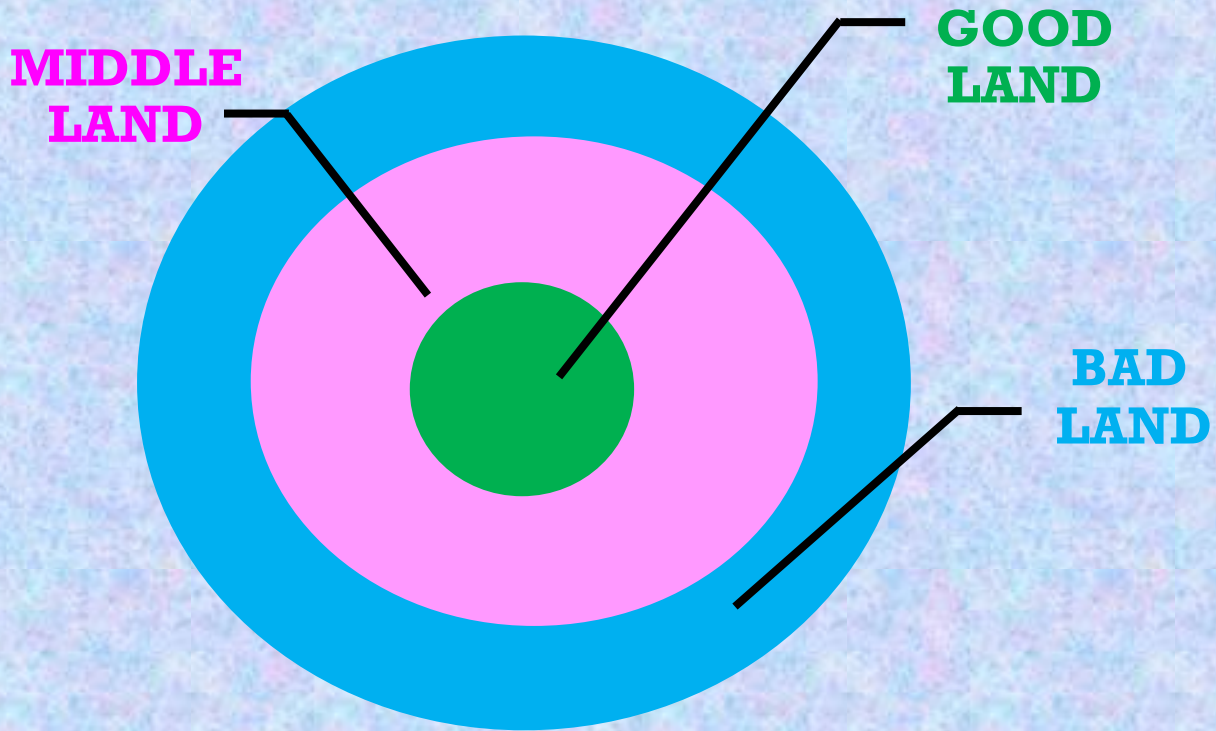# Ghalla Bakshi

A. Division of crop at the threshing floor

B. Division of crop standing in fields
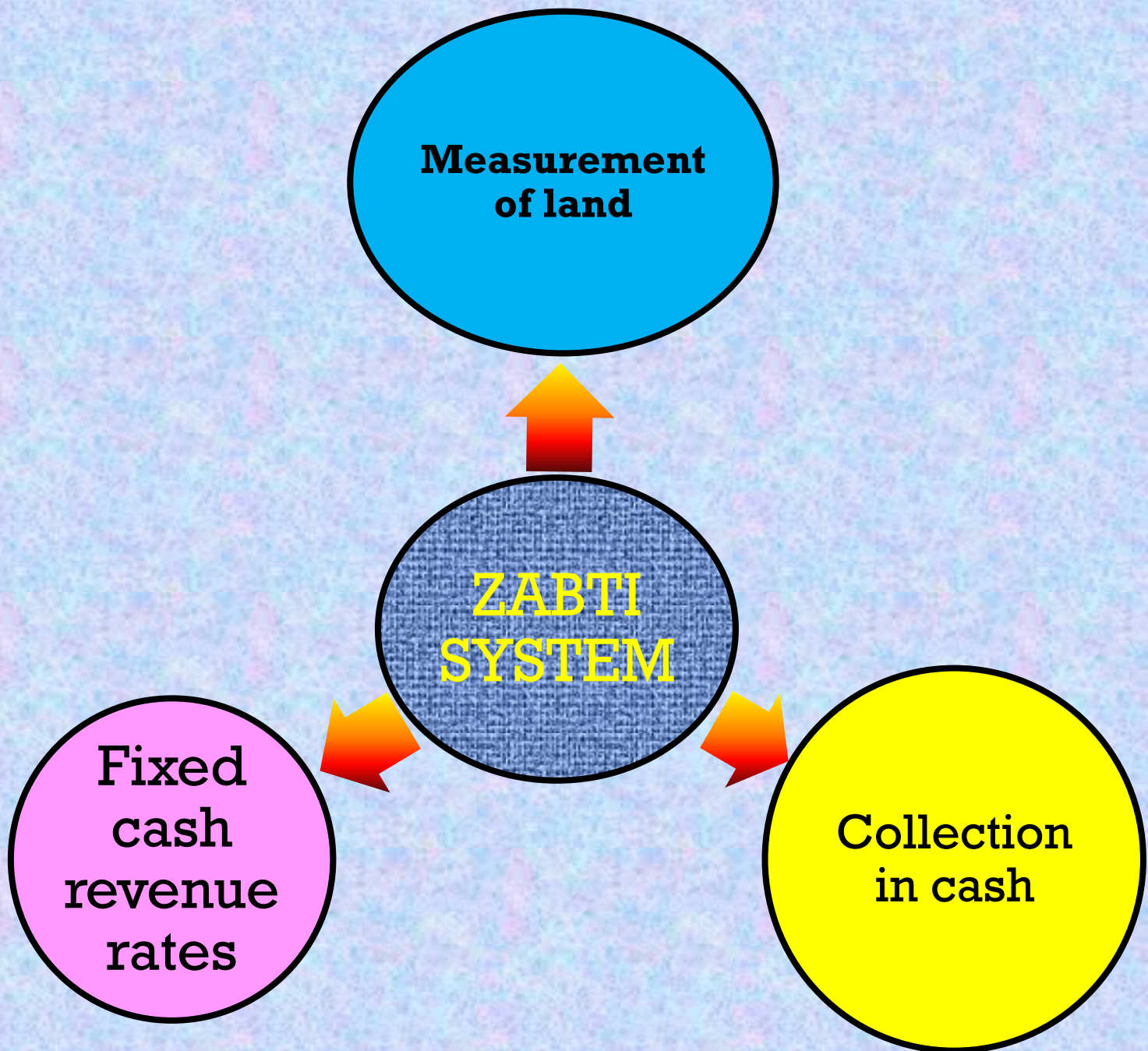
C. Division of crop after cutting and stacking

MEANING OF KANKUT

KANKUT

KAN

KAT

GRAIN

ESTIMATE

REVENUE FIXATION CRITARIA

MIDDLE LAND

GOOD LAND

BAD LAND

Good Land

Middle Land

Bad Land

REVENUE FIXATION

FEATUES OF ZABTI SYSTEM

Measurement of land

ZABTI SYSTEM

Fixed cash revenue rates

Collection in cash

MERITS OF ZABTI SYSTEM

Easy rechecking of measurement

Limited rights of local officials due to fixed revenue rates

Stability in revenue demand

AREA UNDER ZABTI SYSTEM

 DELHI

 ALLAHABAD

 AWADH

 AGRA

 LAHORE

 MULTAN

LAND REVENUE COLLECTION

REVENUE COLLECTION

Ghalla Bakshi

Other Systems

Direct from the field

At the time of harvest
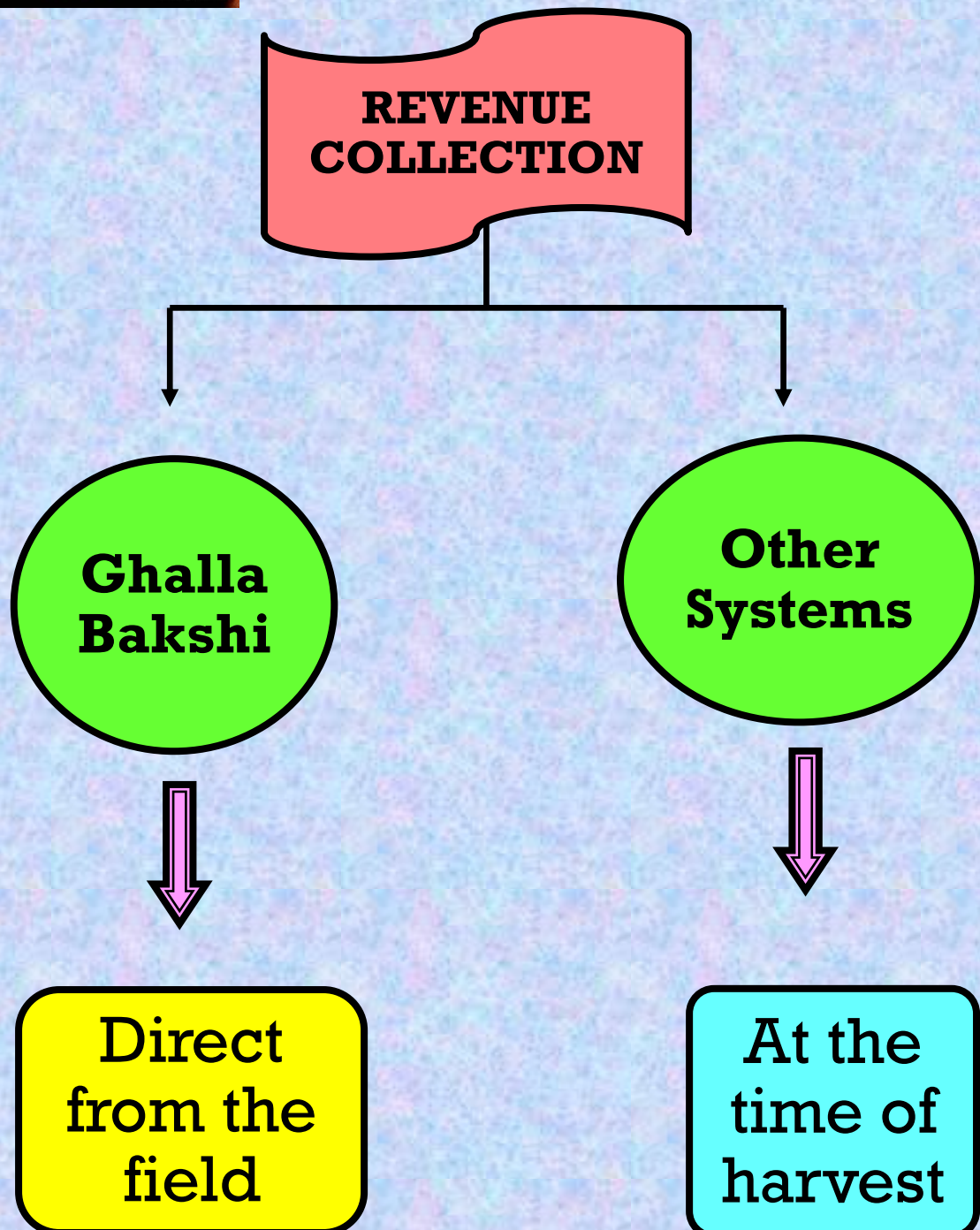
BEGINNING OF REVENUE COLLECTION

REVENUE COLLECTION

RABI CROP

KHARIF CROP

FROM HOLI

FROM DESHERA
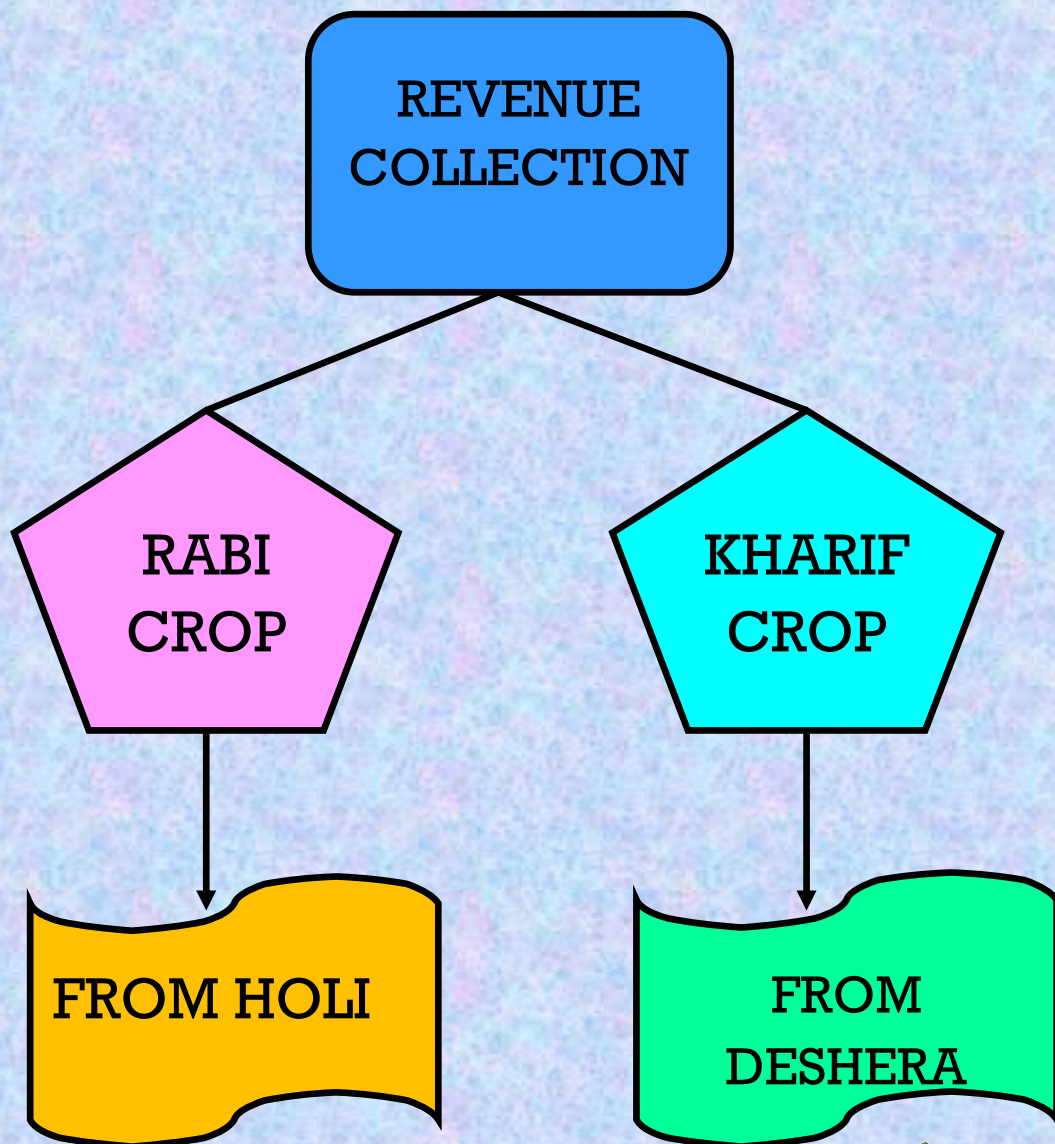
Relief Measure in Revenue Assessment

Taqavi Loans

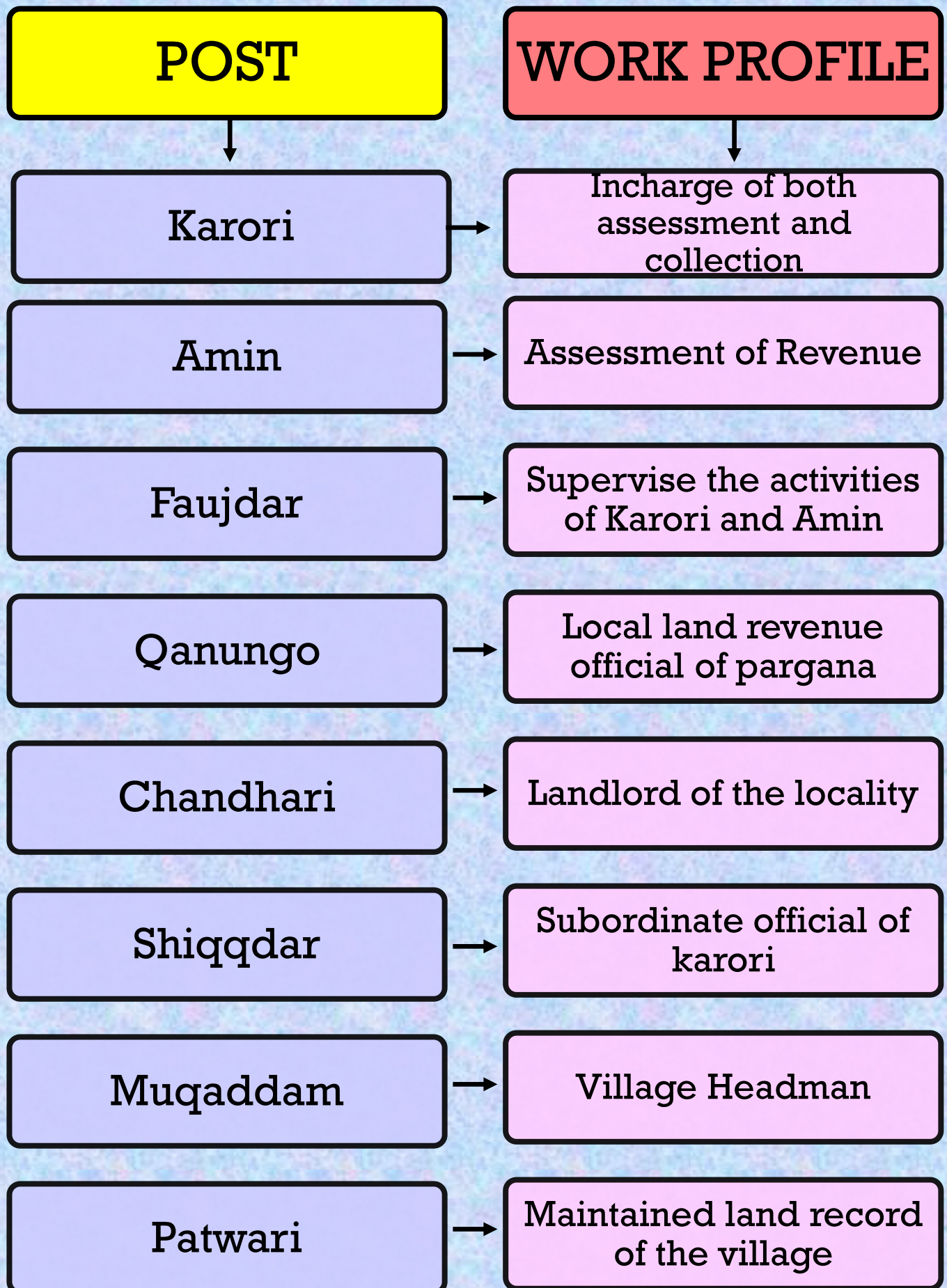- To buy seeds
- Cattle

Ghalla Bakshi & Kankut

- State's share rose or fell as per current harvest

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

POST	WORK PROFILE
Karori	Incharge of both assessment and collection
Amin	Assessment of Revenue
Faujdar	Supervise the activities of Karori and Amin
Qanungo	Local land revenue official of pargana
Chandhari	Landlord of the locality
Shiqqdar	Subordinate official of karori
Muqaddam	Village Headman
Patwari	Maintained land record of the village

ACTIVITY

FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE SUTABLE ANSWERS FROM THE GIVEN OPTIONS IN THE FOLLOWING BOX:

Qanungo	1.
2.	Jama and Hasil
3.	Direct from the field
Stages of land revenue system	4.
5.	Assessment of Revenue
6.	To buy seeds and cattles
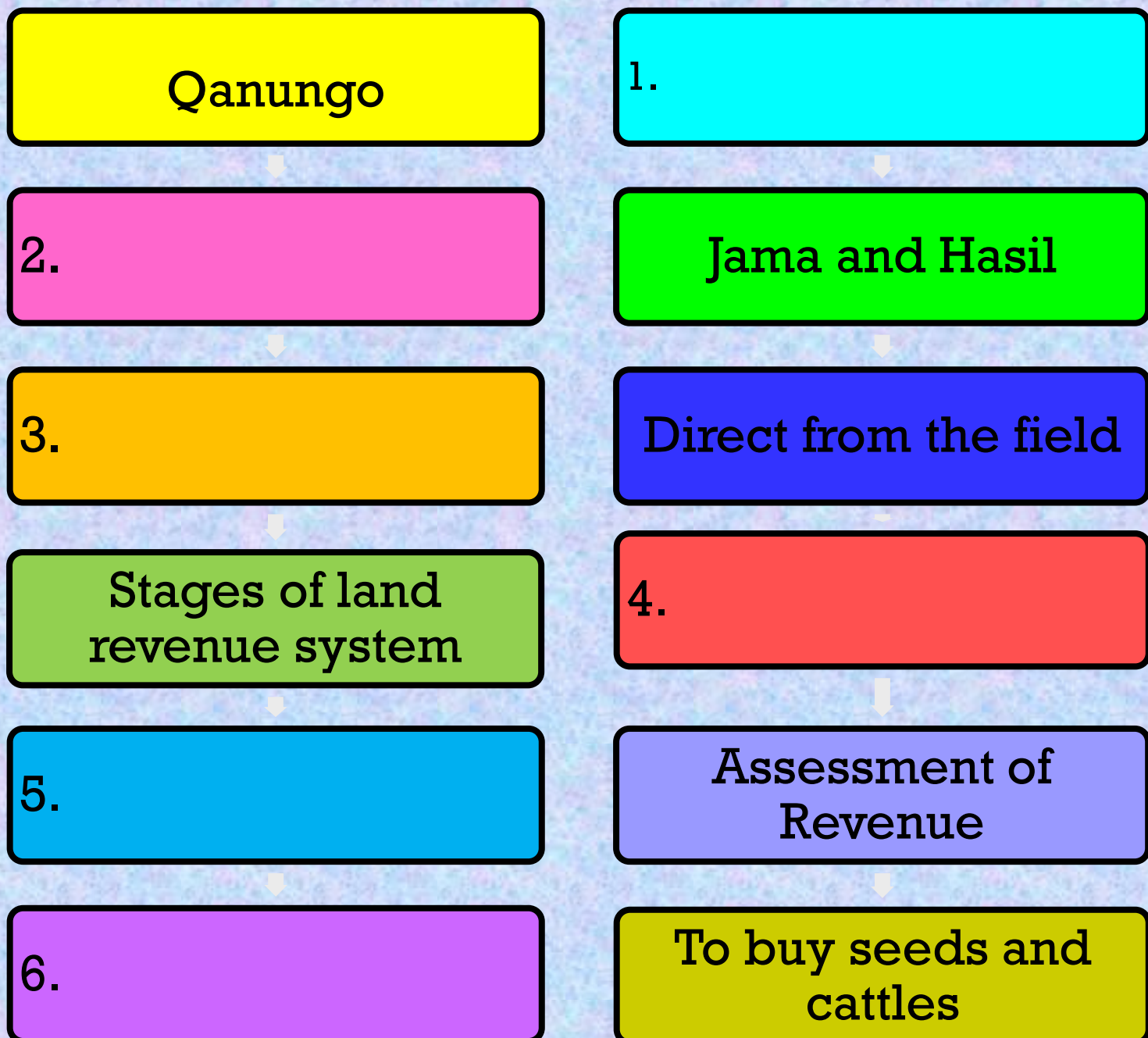
FIND OUT THE CORRECT PAIR AND PLACE IN FRONT OF ITS CORRECT MATCH:

- Fixed cash revenue rates

- Jama and Hasil

- Amin

- Galla Bakshi

- Taqavi Loans

- Local land revenue official of pargana

ANSWERS:

1-Fixed cash revenue rate

2-Amin

3-Galla Bakshi

4-Jama and Hasil

5-Local and revenue official of pargana

6-Taqavi Loans

NOTE FOR CIET:

1. Students should be able to drag and drop the columns with its correct pair and place.
2. If the student places the correct columns with its correct pair the column should get placed with the correct pair.
3. If the student places column incorrectly with its pair it should remain unlabelled and the column picked should drop back to its previous place.
4. After placing all the pairs correctly the screen should display "WELL DONE