

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR

4.1 Introduction:

Agriculture is the back bone of the district and an overwhelming 68% of its population lived in rural areas and is engaged in agriculture. The major *kharif* crops are Paddy & Cotton and the important *rabi* crops are Wheat and Oil Seeds. The district has 2 blocks – Faridkot and Kotkapura. The district headquarters is situated at Model Agriculture Farm, Circular Road, Faridkot.

The District Agriculture Office is located at Faridkot and is headed by the Chief Agriculture Officer. The office is popularly known as Model Agriculture Farm. The district comprises of two blocks and each block has one Block Agriculture Officer as an incharge. The services in regard to the plant protection, seeds and extension are rendered by an Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) who is posted at Headquarters.

The Department of Agriculture carries forward the various Govt. schemes i.e., extension and researchable issues. It provides technical guidance to the farmers by conducting field demonstrations, adaptive trials and organizing training camps at district, block and village level. The department is responsible for streamlining the supply of quality inputs to the farmers and maintaining coordination with various input supply agencies to ensure timely flow of inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, etc. The required and relevant support is provided by the extension staff to the Research Scientists which helps in solving the problems of farmers.

ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

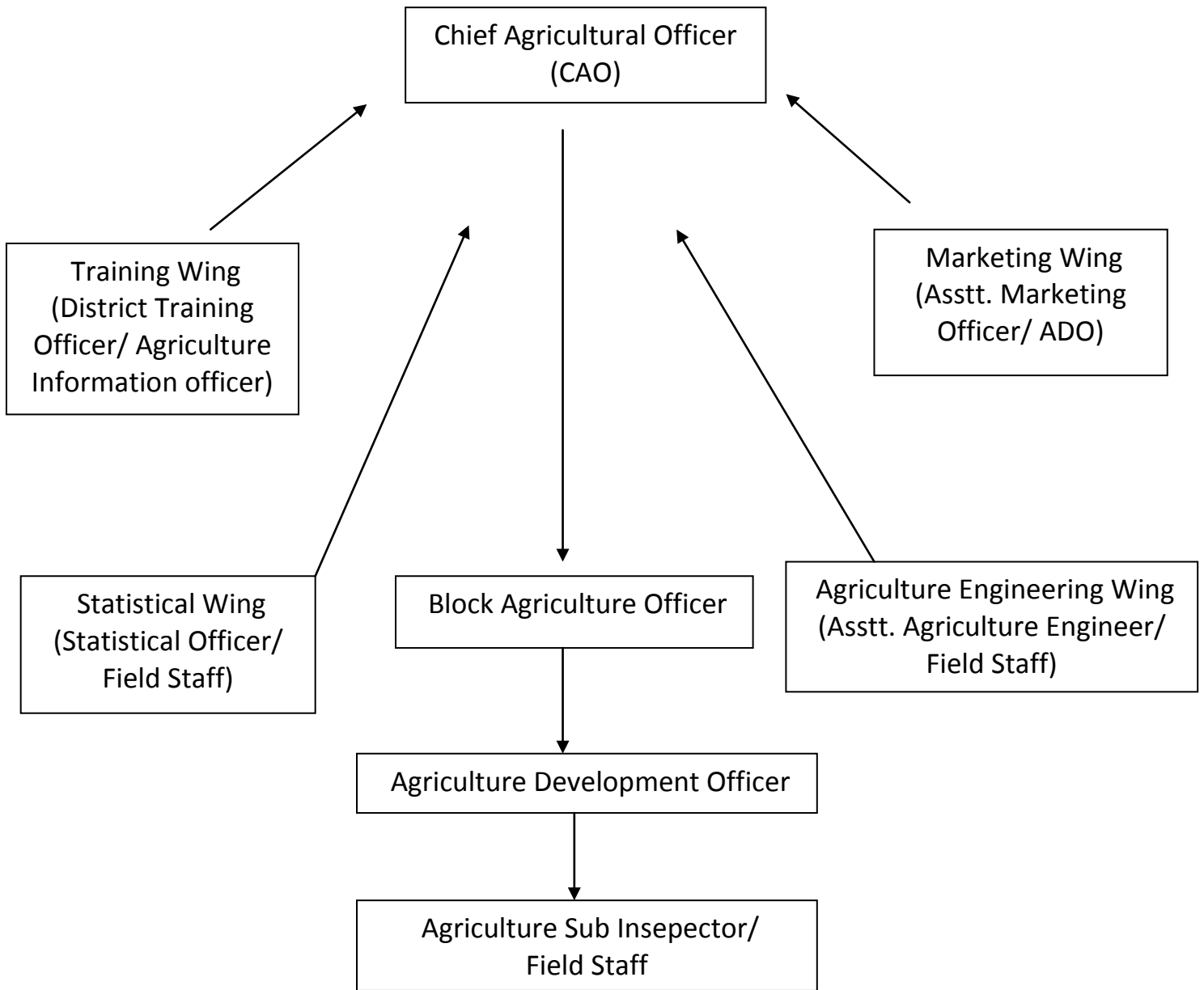


Fig 4.1 Administrative set up of District Faridkot

4.2 Land Use:

The geographical area of the district is 146875 hectares out of which 128198 ha is under cultivation (Table 4.2.1). The gross cropped area of the district during 2008-2009 was 255073 hectares and cropping intensity was 198%. The main source of irrigation an canals which is supplemented by tubewells. More than 99% area is irrigated by canals and tubewells.

Table 4.2.1 Land Utilization Statistics (2008-09) of District Faridkot.

Block	Geographical Area	Forest Area	Land Under Non agril. Use	Cultivable waste	Permanent Pastures	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves	Current Fallows	Other Fallows	Net sown area	Gross Cropped area	Cropping intensity (%)
Faridkot	71180	1804	9585	0	0	0	1283	0	59704	118909	198
Kotkapura	75695	200	7137	0	0	0	956	0	68494	136664	198
Total	146875	2004	16718	0	0	0	2239	0	128198	255573	198

(Area in Hectares)

4.3 Soil Health:

Soil type of Faridkot District is loamy sand & sandy loam. Soil health of the Faridkot district is not very good due to poor underground water used for irrigation. The under ground water in this distt have high residue sodium salt and electrical conductivity. Due to extensive use of land for cultivation of high yielding varieties of wheat-rice cotton and other crops, burning of crop residue has also affected the soil health. The farmers are not aware about the green manuring , farm-yard manuring and leguminous crops, which helps in better soil health. Most part of the distt has loamy sand area. There is much need of following the package and practices for FYM & green manuring for improving the soil health. Most of the farmers are illiterate, so they are not using balanced fertilizer for the crops. Unbalanced use of fertilizer also affects the soil health. So there is a need of training and awareness among the farmer to test their soil from soil testing lab and use the fertilizer according to the recommendation by the Soil Department. Poor quality underground water can be used effectively only by following the recommendations of the departments based on water testing reports.

Table4.3.1 : Soil and Water Testing Laboratories in District

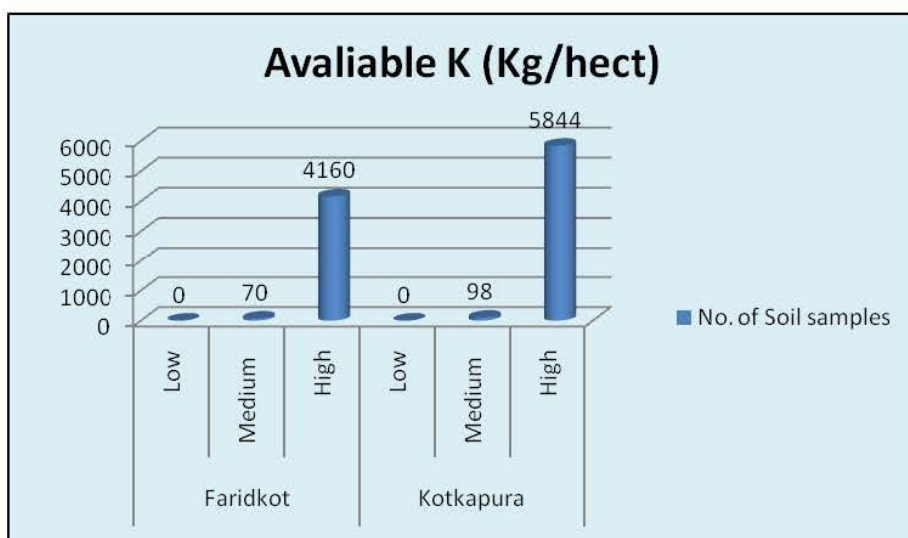
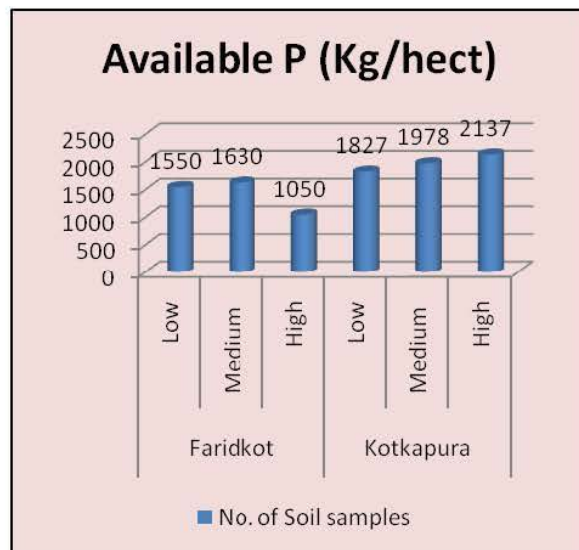
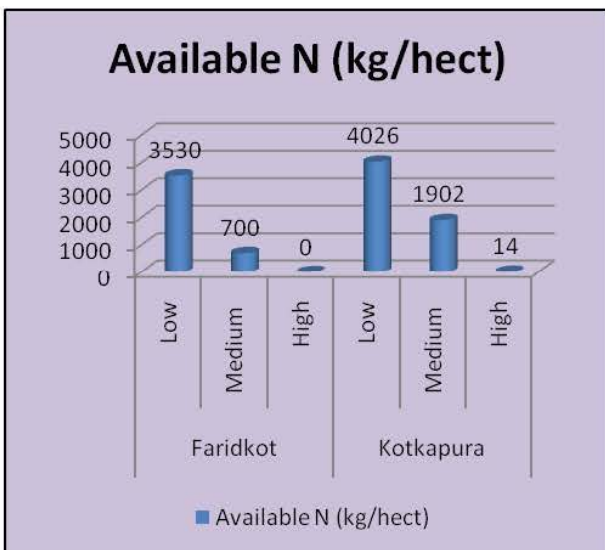
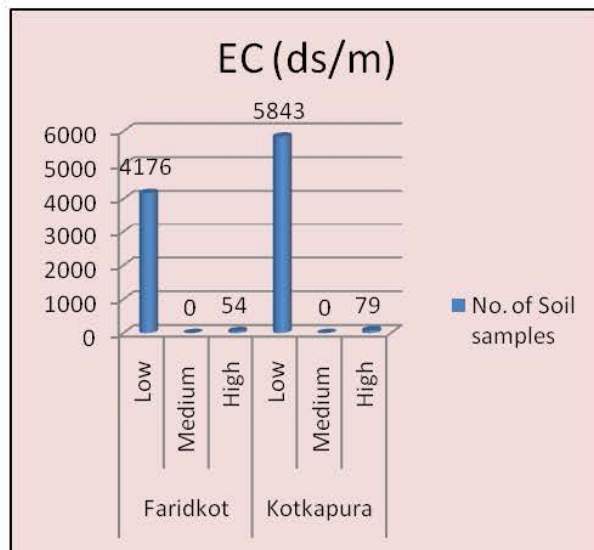
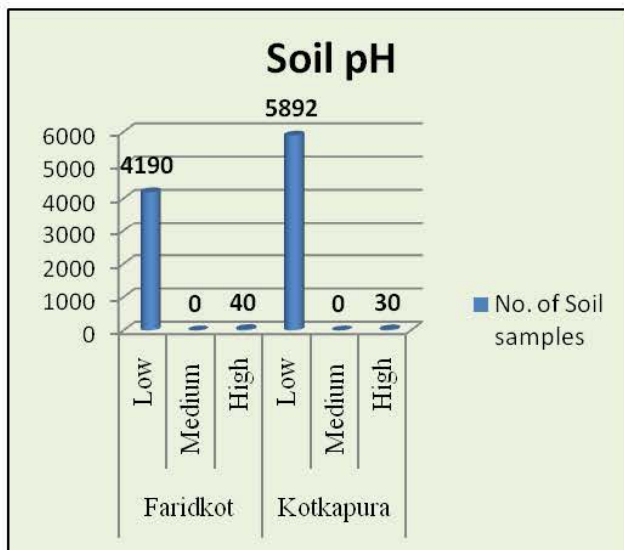
Soil & Water Testing Laboratories Under	No. of Soil & Water Testing Laboratories			Annual Analyzing Capacity	No. of Samples Analyzed (Soil+Water)
	Static	Mobile	Total		
Govt. Sector	1	0	1	10000	11572
Private Sector	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	10000	11572

Source: Soil Testing Officer, Deptt Of Agriculture PB, Faridkot

(Latest data)

Soil Fertility Indices

The details of Soil pH, EC, available NPK on the basis of total soil samples tested by soil testing laboratories of department of Agriculture throughout the year covering all blocks is given in table (attached in Annexure Tables) where as an overall picture of the district regarding soil fertility indices is given below:

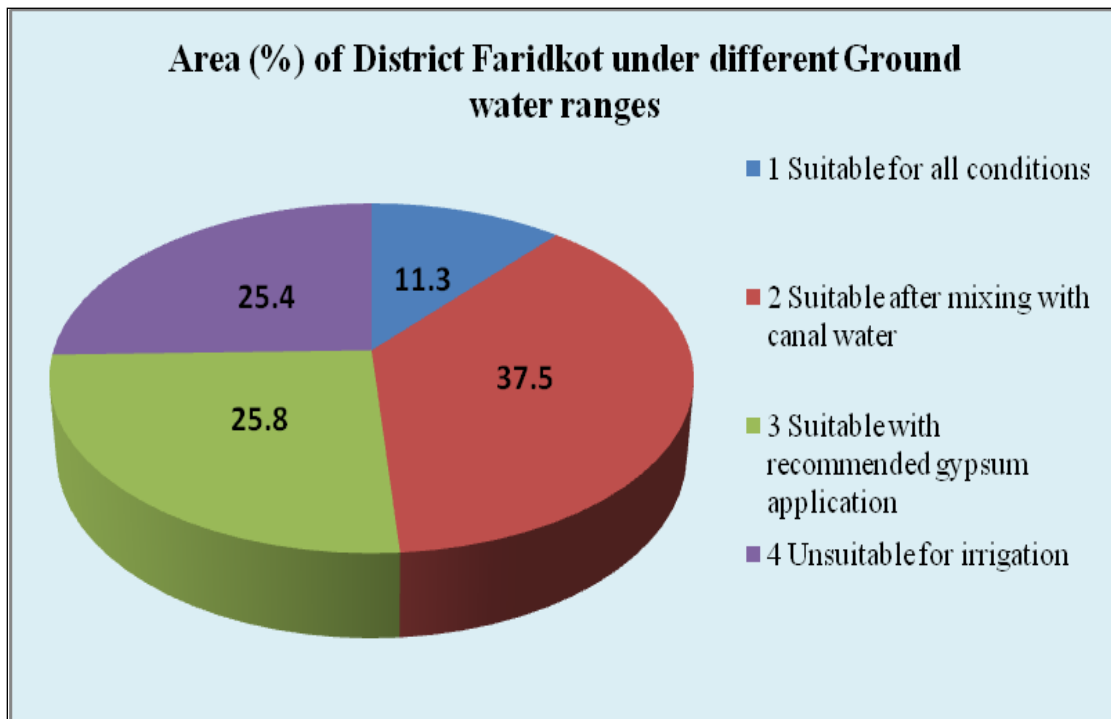


4.4 Water resource management:

Canals are the major source of irrigation in district Faridkot as major part of sub soil water is unfit for irrigation. This poor quality of underground water affects the soil productivity due to accumulation of salts in the upper layer turning the natural soil into saline and alkali soil. Canal cleaning should be done in the month of January. In Faridkot district there is the problem of the poor and inadequate supply of canal water which is also need to be attended to.

Further as discussed earlier the entire ground is not fully fit for irrigation. The mix of water quality in the district as shown in the figure 4.4.1.

Graph 4.4.1 Area under different ground water ranges in district Faridkot



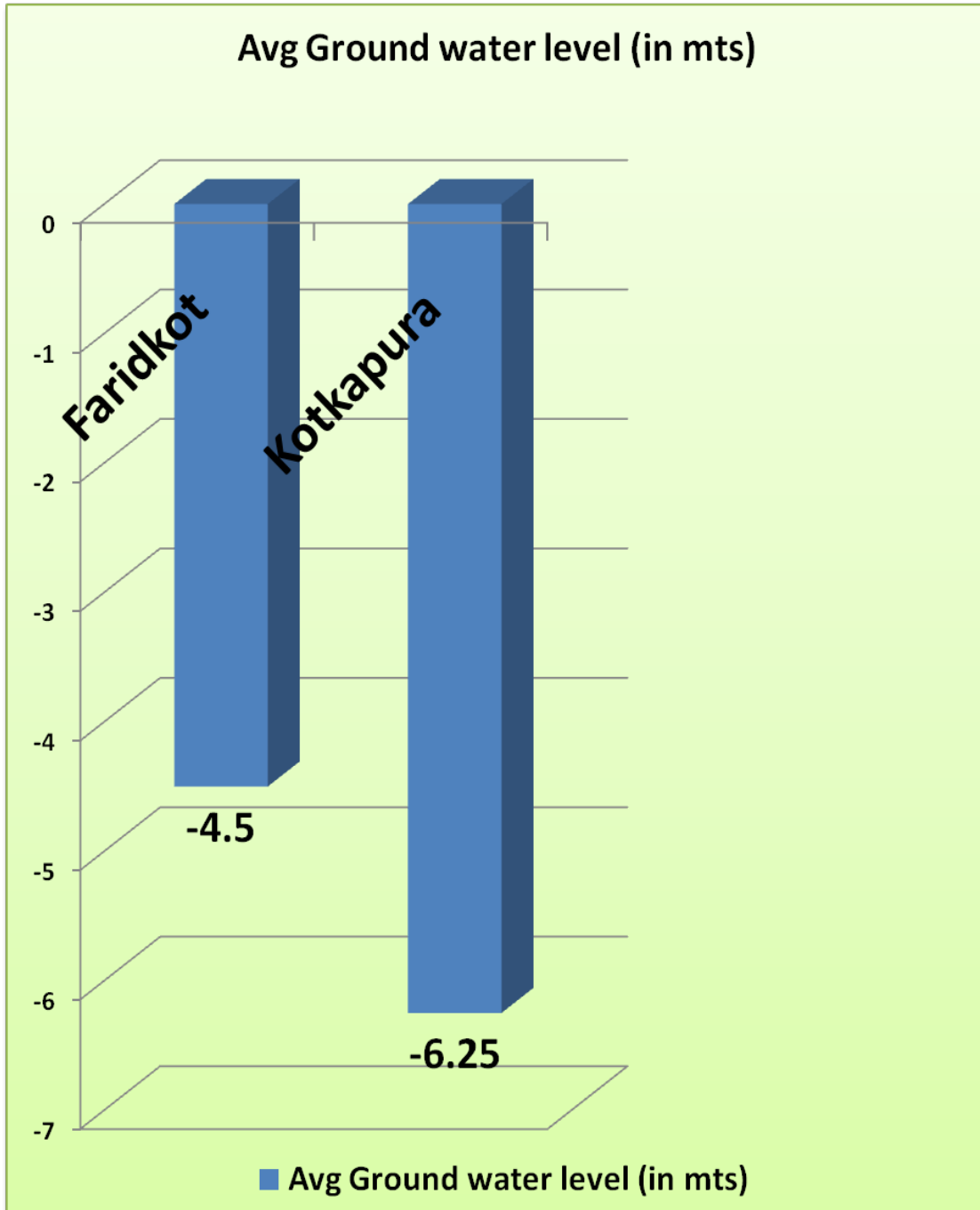
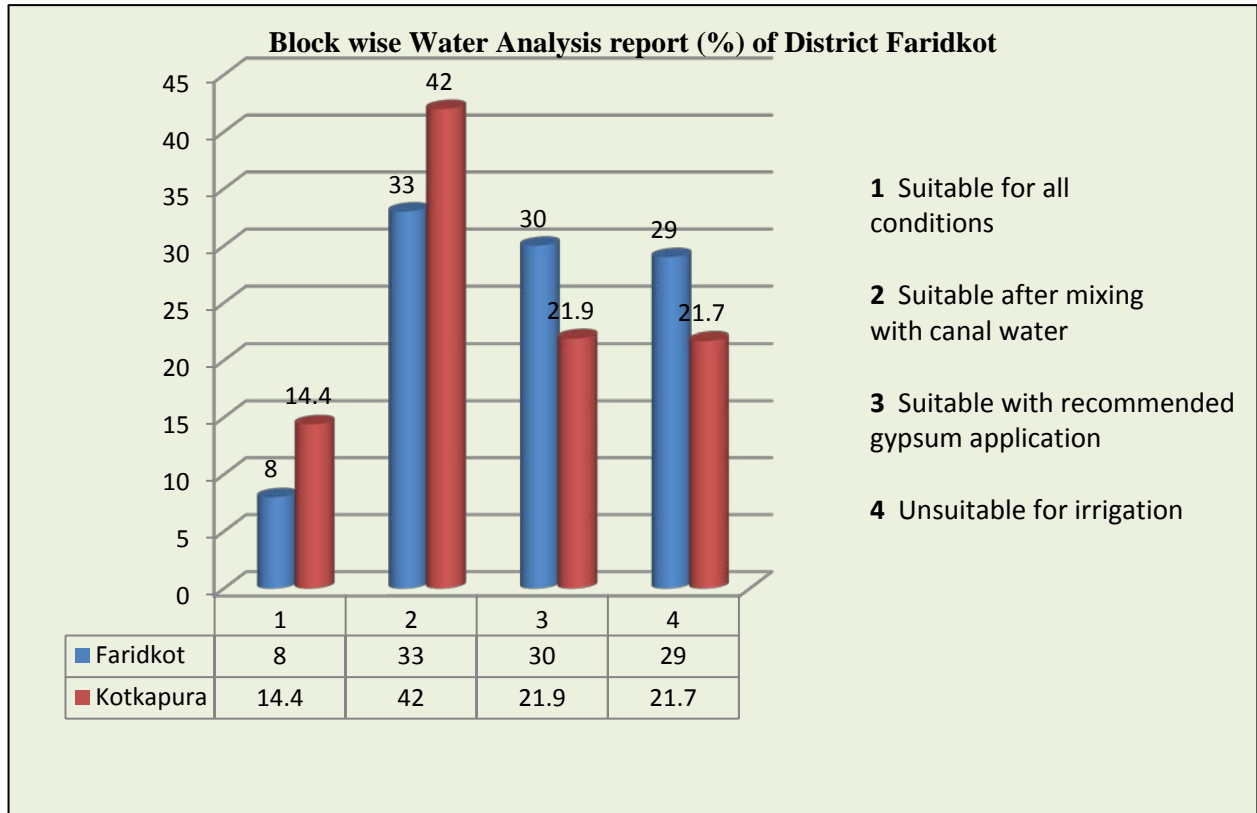


Figure 4.4.2 Average ground water level (in metres) of district Faridkot

Graph 4.4.3 Block wise water analysis report of district Faridkot



Percentage based on number of water samples (1420)
 Source- Soil testing lab, Deptt of Agriculture, Faridkot.