

Cropping pattern

Cropping pattern is the central element of agricultural land use. It helps to study the acreage under various crops in different crop seasons. The total cropped area in the district was 200 thousand hectares in 2005-06. Nearly half of the total cropped area is sown intensity more than once resulting into a intensity of cropping of 171 percent. However significant proportion of the area is affected by the problems of soil erosion especially the Kandi belt and 108 thousand hectares of the district are under forests. Wheat during winter and rice and maize during summer occupy more than 68% of the total cropped area. Besides these the district produces sugarcane, groundnut, seasm, mash, arhar, maser, grain, sunflower, rapeseed and mustard. These crops have a strong scope of expansion. In addition to this vegetables and fruits are also produced in the district.

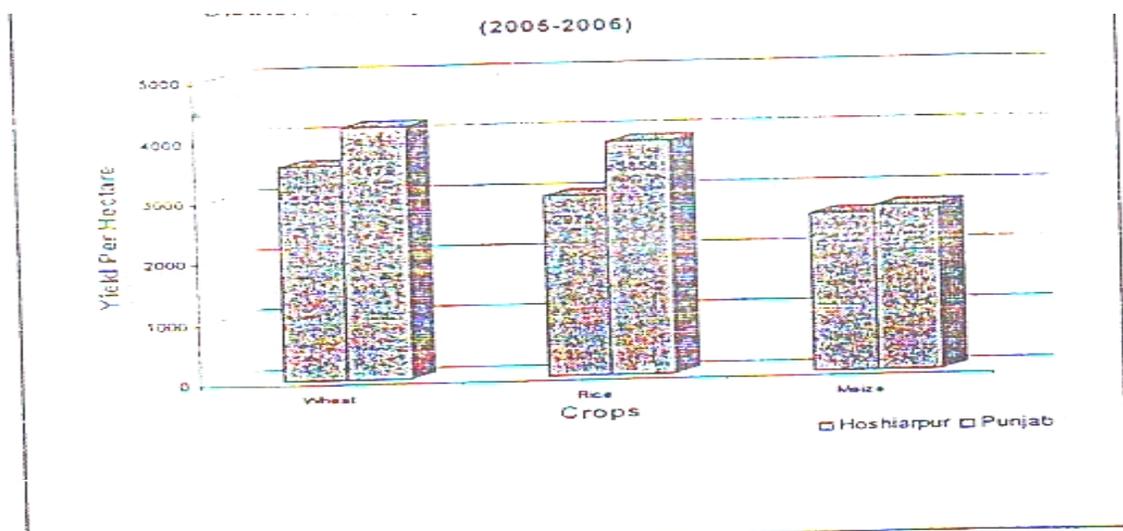


Figure -1

Productivities of Major Crops:-

Table 3 and Figure 1 shows the land productivity of Wheat, Rice and Maize. It was much lower than the state average at 3546 kgs. Per hectare in 2005-06 is still around 84 percent of state average of 4179 kgs per hectare. Changes in land productivity of wheat over the year's period suggest that period suggest although it has increased by 73 percent but still below the state average. In case of paddy, the land productivity has improved by 23 percent in the district where as in same period this increase was 41 percent at the state level. It has rather declined in 2005-06 (3975 Kgs. Per hectare) as compared to 2001-02 (3074 Kgs. per hectare). The land productivity in case of Maize which was grown on 66000 hectares of district (44 percent of state area under this crop) was 1541 Kgs. per hectare in 1980-81 and increased to 2612 Kgs. Per hectare in 2005-06 coming closer to state average of 2726 Kgs. per hectare. Among the other crops, area under sugarcane, 21000 hectares in 2004-05 land productivity is around 90 of the state average of 5783 kgs. per hectare. The only crop with higher productivity, than state average is groundnut, 880 kgs. per hectare compared with 871 kgs. per hectare at state level.

Table 2: Productivity of Major Crops of Hoshiarpur District for the peroid 1980-81 to 2005-06 (in Kgs. per hectare)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Maize
1980-81	2041	2416	1541

1985-86	2539	2468	1147
1990-91	2858	2869	1997
1995-96	3168	3010	1828
2000-01	3443	3047	2779
2005-06	3546	2975	2612

Source: Economic and Statistical Organization, Punjab

In a recent study, district level land and labour productivity in agriculture have been measured which provides more in a district. Land productivity in this study is measured as value output of the 45 major crops per hectare of the net sown area in the district. In the same way, Labour Productivity has been measured as value output per worker engaged in agriculture.

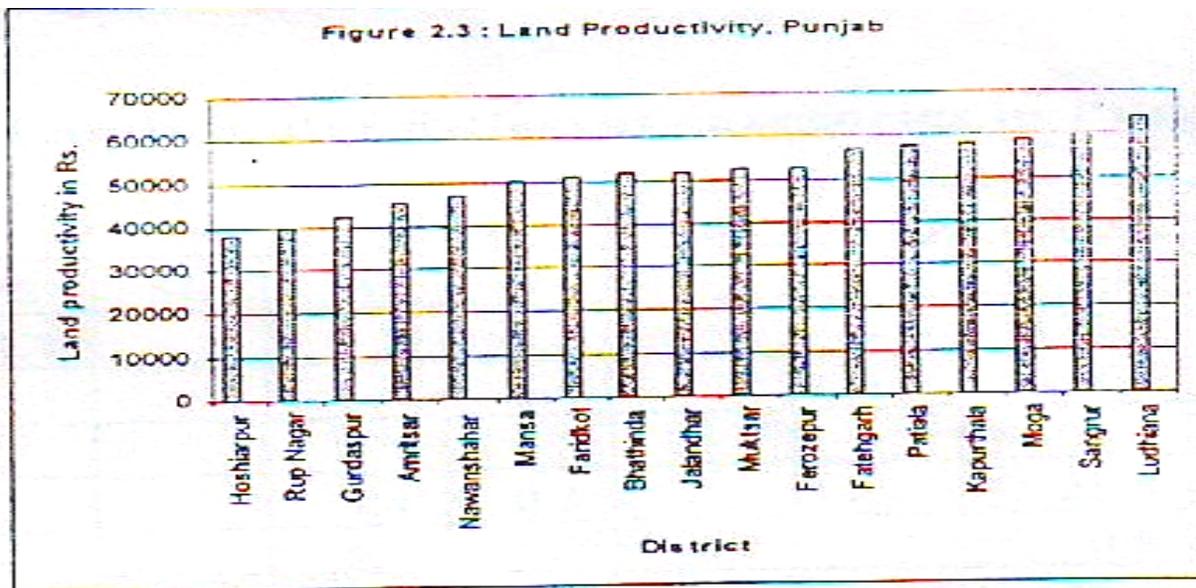


Table4 given below based on the information culled out from the study, gives data for the districts of Punjab State. The land productivity in Hoshiarpur is the lowest among all the districts of Punjab and the labour productivity at rank 16th (Rs. 37869) is just Rs. 100 more than that of Rup Nagar district. Thus on both the parameters the agricultural productivity is the lowest in Hoshiarpur. In Ludhiana. District, land productivity at Rs. 63963 per hectare of net sown area is 1.6 times higher than that of Hoshiarpur whereas labour productivity per worker of per hectare is 2.3 times is much higher in Ludhiana district. There are many reasons for low productivity in the district, like soil erosion, irrigation facilities and size of land holdings.