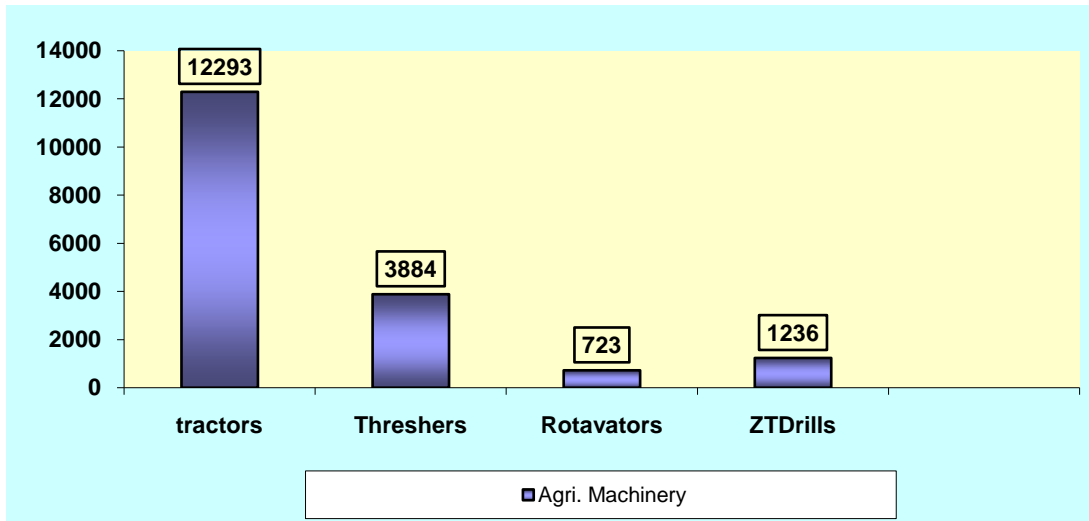


FARM MECHANIZATION

Agricultural mechanization like any other input is a critical input timely performance of various agricultural operations for increasing the production and productivity. Mechanization is viewed as package of technology to insure timely field operations for increasing productivity, reduce crop losses and to improve quality of agro produce, increase land and other inputs productivity, increase labor saving, drudgery reducing devices being cost effective & eco friendly. To ensure sustainability of agriculture by conservation of natural resources like water, soil health and environment, it is very much essential to popularize the new technological interventions like raised bed planter, zero till drill technology precision leveling of fields manipulation of crop residue into the soil. To promote these interventions it is necessary that farmers be provided some assistance in acquiring newly developed agricultural machinery to carry out these interventions. These agricultural machinery/equipment are generally cost intensive and it is not possible for individual farmer specially the small and marginal farmers to acquire without any financial assistance from the government .It is proposed to provide these machines with the co-op societies by subsidizing to @ 50 % of the cost so that all types of equipment needed can be provided in the co-op societies and member farmers can use these equipment by paying nominal fee necessary for up keep of these machines plus a little extra to promote the financial help of the co-op societies. This will ensure the greater annual use of the machine thereby reducing the cost of operation and will also eliminate the necessity of individual farmer owning the machine for a very limited annual use. The status of various types of machinery possessed by Rupnagar farmers in given in table annexed as Annexure VIII and the major farm power implements of the district are shown in

Figure 17: Status of Major Farm Power Machinery in District Rupnagar



There is dire need to create more awareness among the farmers in respect of proper use of farm machineries for high efficiency saving human and energy resources.