

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The total geographical area of district Muktsar is 2,63,393 hectares. Out of which 2,42,989 ha area is cultivable and irrigated area of the district is 2,20,690 hectares. Cropping intensity of the district is 175%. It touches Bathinda in the South, Faridkot in East and Ferozepur in North-West directions. It is connected with Kotkapura-Fazilka railway line.

The total number of blocks in the district are four namely Muktsar, Malout, Gidderbaha and Lambi having 236 Villages. Some area in blocks Lambi and Gidderbaha of the district is unirrigated but the farmers turned it to productive by efforts of their hard work. The Agricultural Department played a great role in this laborious cause. Block Gidderbaha moved to Agriculture diversification tracks by growing aromatic plants while block Muktsar and Malout produced a high quality cotton & paddy. Malout is also famous for developing modern/improved Agricultural implements.

About 95% area of district is irrigated through canal and rest of area through tubewells. The main crops grown in Kharif are Cotton, Paddy, Moong etc. and in Rabi are Wheat, Barley, Raya and Gram. There is orchard plantation of grape, Kinnow and Guava.

Block Muktsar is the largest block of the district while the block Lambi is the smallest. According to 2001 census, total population of district Muktsar is 7,76,702 which is about 3% of the state's population. Population of females is 3,64,981 where as males is 4,11,721 According to census 75% of population living in villages while other 25% in cities and towns.

Cattle is the main animal wealth of the district and have 2,88,964 total population of animals. There are 43 veterinary hospitals and 64 veterinary dispensaries and one polyclinic with diagnostic facilities at the block level in the district. It has 4 milk chilling centres. There are 4 regulated markets and 27 subyards for purchase of agricultural produce in the district.

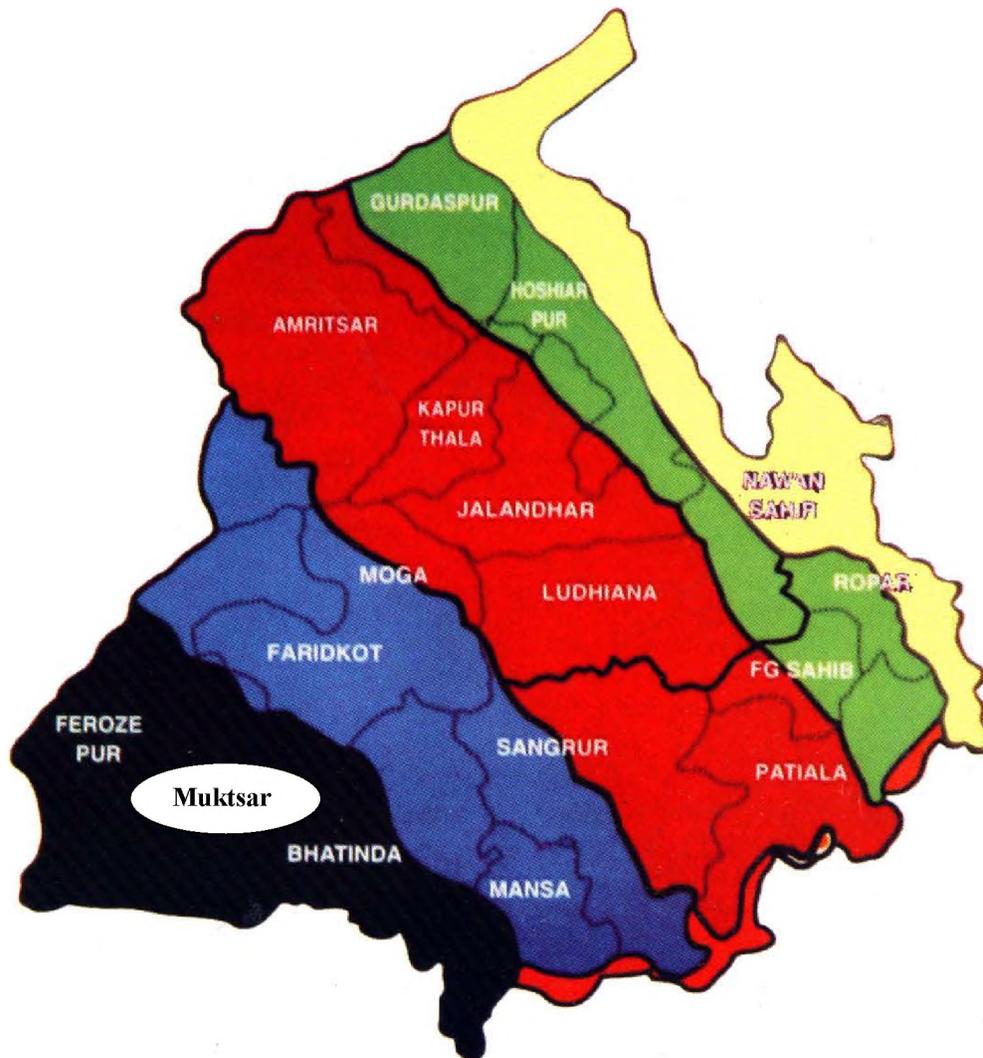
Punjab State Marketing Board has developed a yard on each and every focal point. The main purchasing (Agricultural Produce) agencies are FCI, Markfed, Punjab Agro, Food supply department and CCI in the district. In the district there are 88 bank branches out of which 59 are commercial banks. 70% of total population depends upon agriculture in the district. Owing to agriculture based district, there is a big scope of agro based processing industry.

There are total 4152 small industrial units in the district with a total investment of Rs. 9947 lac, 19217 individuals are employed in these industrial units.

The soils in the area are sandy loam to loamy sand with sand dunes at some places of blocks lambi and Gidderbah having both salinity and alkalinity and water logging problems. The underground water is brackish 26% underground water is totally unfit and 48% is marginal fit. The poor quality underground water effects the soil due to accumulation of salts in the upper layer which turns the natural soil into saline and alkali soils.

The soil testing labs are in a bad shape. As Muktsar is a major cotton growing district in the state but the economic position of the farmers is general. Majority of the small farmers in the district are very poor.





LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. HILLY & SEMI HILLY AREA |  |
| 2. UNDULATING PLAININGS |  |
| 3. CENTRAL PLAIN AREA |  |
| 4. WESTERN AREA (PLAIN) |  |
| 5. WESTERN AREA |  |
| 6. FLOOD PRONE AREA |  |

DIFFERENT AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES OF PUNJAB

MUKTSAR (Punjab)



FARIDKOT

To Faridkot
(District Headquarter)

To Fazilka

Ferozepur



BATHINDA

To Bathinda
(District Headquarter)

To Abohar

RAJASTHAN

HARYANA

There has been a spectacular increase in food grain production in Punjab, especially after the initiation of green revolution. The cultivated irrigated area increased from 54 percent to 95 percent, while cropping intensity increased from 126 percent to 187 percent between 1960-61 and 1995-96 (Sharma, 2003). The introduction of extensive and enhanced system of canal irrigation system throughout the state could be attributed to as one of the major factors contributing to this phenomenal increase. However, due to lack of proper investigations taken up at the planning stage itself of canal introduction, without keeping in view of the regional/local topography, groundwater table, geomorphology, soil resources and cropping pattern of the area has resulted in large scale land degradation of land and soil resources due to water logging and subsequent salinization. In addition to this natural factors such as topographic depressions, absence of natural drainage and incessant rains have further compounded the water logging and salinity problems. Spate of newspaper articles in Punjab, on the water logging and salinity problem especially in south western districts, have been highlighting the problem from time to time. Total consumption of NPK in Punjab was 12.20 lakh tons nutrients in 1990-91 which rose to 15.53 lakh tons nutrient in 2004-05. Consumption of chemical fertilizers (NPK- per hectare of gross cropped area was 163 Kg. In 1990-91, which rose to 196 Kg per hectare in 2004-05. Individual consumption of nutrients (N) phosphors (P₂O₅) order to curb the increasing use of the chemical fertilizers in the state, bio-fertilizer are being made popular among farmers with the efforts of the state government

Due to the incessant rains during August 1997, water logging became an acute problem in the entire cotton producing belt (i.e. south-western districts) of the state. The menace of water logging assumed alarming proportion especially in and around Muktsar district. (Dhillon, 1997). The cotton fields were converted into big lakes due to incessant rains (Walia, 1997). In Muktsar district 12.29% of the total geographical area was estimated to be affected by surface and subsurface water logging during the year 1997 (Chopra et.al. 1998). During the year 1998 only Muktsar district suffered a loss of rupees two-hundred crores cotton crop due to water logging according to Department of Agriculture (Bhamrah, 1998).

Every year special girdawari (revenue) surveys are carried out by the district administration for the assessment of damaged crops and villages affected by water logging. Due to water logging and subsequent salinization, the fertile productive land is gradually becoming unproductive. And the owners of these lands are now being forced to work for petty amounts and low profile jobs (Chana, 2003). Keeping in view the above situation, an attempt has been made to delineate, map and quantify the spatial distribution of waterlogged area and salt-affected soils during 2001, using remotely sensed data and GIS techniques. And to find out the possible causes responsible for the problem and remedial measures to be taken.

In this district Paddy & Cotton are the main kharif crops where as Wheat, Barley, Gram & Serson are the crops which are mainly grown in the rabi season.

Cows, Buffaloes, Sheep & Goats, are the animals which are generally reared. There are 96042 cows, 147270 Buffaloes, 27370 Goats and 21803 Sheeps in the district according to the 2008 censuses.

A little occupation about fishery is also going in the district. In the year 2008-09 total production of fishery was 3030 tones. 75 lacs Seed have stocked of 50mm size.