

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Introduction:-

Total area of Hoshiarpur district is 339000 hectares, out of which forest area is 109000 hectares (32.15 per cent). Nearly 60 percent is the net sown area out of which 81 percent is irrigated and the cropping intensity is 170 percent, 18 percent points less than the state average. For 90 percent of irrigated area, source of irrigation is tubewells (electric operated) and wells. Topographically, the district can be divided into three broad regions on the basis of soil-crop-climate complex.

The first region is constituted by flood plains comprising Dasuya, Tanda and Mukerian blocks. This is the most fertile area of the district covering one-fourth of the geographical area. It has wide spread irrigational facilities. Paddy, wheat, maize and sugarcane are the main crops of this region.

Table 1. Block-wise Geographical Profile of District Hoshiarpur

Block Name	No. of Villages in Sub Mountain	Kandi Area	No. of villages in Plains	Non Kandi Area	Total Villages	Total Area	Percentage of Kandi area
Hajipur	95	16994	0	0	95	16994	100.0
Talwara	78	22738	0	0	78	22738	100.0
Bhunga	121	42783	79	13096	200	55879	76.6
Mahilpur	69	25229	88	17086	157	42315	59.6
Hoshiarpur-II	60	23525	67	19501	127	43026	54.7
Garhshankar	70	19956	75	18352	145	38308	52.1
Dasuya	93	17191	90	16547	183	33738	51.0
Mukerian	64	10403	77	12823	141	23226	44.8
Hoshiarpur-I	32	7063	168	28354	200	35417	19.9

Tanda	0	0	123	27644	123	27644	0.0
Total	682	185882	767	153403	1449	339285	54.8

The second region is Kandi area located at the foot of Shivalik Hills and covers the sub-mountainous undulating plain with a slope of 16 metres per kilometer which progressively decreases towards the west side of the district. This belt

Comprise of Hajipur, Talwara, Bhunga Hoshiarpur-11 Blocks and parts of some other blocks. There is acute shortage of water in this area and this area faces high incidence of soil erosion which is caused by the rivulets (shoos) passing through this region and are flooded during the rainy season. Soil of this region is poor and it constitutes about more than one-half of the total geographical area of the district of which two-third area is sown under rain fed conditions. Maize and wheat are the major crops of this region. A lot of soil and water conservation activities like rain water harvesting structures, harvesting of base flow and micro lift systems for irrigation, rain water recharging structures have been done and have shown very good results.

The third region comprises Hoshiarpur-I, Mahilpur and Garhshankar blocks located on the beds of lower Shivalik, these are undulating plains with relatively low slope decreasing up to 4 meters per kilometer. This belt also faces water shortage. This area is suitable for maize, Sugarcane and paddy crops. Of late, potato sunflower/maize cropping pattern has emerged in a vast area of this region.

The major horticulture crops in the district are Kinnow & other citrus fruits, Mango, Guava, Peach and Grapes etc. The predominant economic activities include agricultural farming, dairying, poultry farming, horticulture, mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, ban making and other village and cottage industries, handicrafts production and export thereof, transport, service activities and trade and business. There is increasing demand for new activities such as Vermiculture, beekeeping, Turmeric cultivation, Amla cultivation etc. The district is emerging as a honey bowl.

Overall 70 percent of the total area is irrigated. In the Kandi block the situation is bad as in Talwara as only one fourth of its area is irrigated and only 36 percent is area net sown. In Bhunga block the only 42 percent of the area is net sown, In many other blocks (Hoshiarpur-11, Hajipur, Garhshankar and Mahilpur) nearly 60 percent of the area is under cultivation.