

Land Utilization and productivity status

The geographical area of district Ferozpur is 524928 ha. Out of total geographical area of the district, 87.8 percent area is under cultivation. Out of cultivable area of the district, 99.1 percent area is irrigated. Area of the district irrigated by tubewells is 167322, area irrigated by canals is 164012 and the area irrigated by tubewells as well as canals is 119624 ha. About 0.91 percent area of the district is under forest. Land use pattern of the district is as mentioned below:

S.No.	Particulars	Area (000 ha)
1.	Geographical Area	525
2.	Forest	5
3.	Barren and uncultivable land	-
4.	Land put to non-agricultural use	45
5.	Cultivable waste land	5
6.	Current fallow land	20
7.	Net area sown	450
8.	Area sown more than once	424
9.	Gross cropped area	874
10.	Net irrigated area	446
11.	Percentage of net area irrigated to net area sown	99.0
12.	Area under horticulture	16.0
13.	Cropping intensity(%)	194

According to the agricultural census 2000-01, the district has 75455 farming families out of which 1389 are scheduled caste farming families.

Percentage of Different Types of Agricultural Holdings

Census	Marginal (< 1 ha)	Small (1-2 ha)	Semi-medium (2-4 ha)	Medium (4-10 ha)	Large (10 ha or more)
1990-91	25.08	24.02	23.88	19.11	7.91
1995-96	10.81	12.32	28.54	35.44	12.89
2001-02	3.97	11.58	28.91	37.96	17.56

The paddy, wheat and cotton are the major crops of the district. Due to high dependence on paddy-wheat rotation of cropping pattern and excessive use of chemical fertilizers coupled with flood irrigation, the soil health has been adversely affected, calling for measures for improvement in soil health. The over-exploitation of soil by using high yielding varieties of food grain, high doses of chemical fertilizers has further aggravated the problem. Department of Agriculture is already guiding the farmers regarding the latest techniques and the field problems which are flourishing with the onset of new era of hybridization, mechanization and globalization by organizing training campus at different levels with the small resources at its disposal.

District Ferozepur ranks first in the average cotton production and quality kinnow production. Like the whole Punjab state, rice-wheat rotation is the main crop rotation of the district. District Ferozepur contributed 10.95 percent and 9.4 percent production to the pool of the state against 11.12 and 9.33 percent area under these crops in the district respectively. The average fertilizer consumption in the form of nutrients (N,P,K) in the district varied from 112 to 237 kg per ha.

Status of different crops in district Ferozepur :

Year	Paddy			Wheat			Cotton		
	A	Y	P	A	Y	P	A	Y	P
2000-01	248	36.2	898	378	45.1	170	114	5.1	341
2001-02	233	37.0	825	383	43.4	166	140	4.6	374
2002-03	234	37.2	824	369	39.8	147	121	4.1	293
2003-04	244	37.0	903	383	43.0	165	118	6.4	443
2004-05	238	39.5	941	386	41.4	160	133	7.0	548
2005-06	236	40.5	956	386	40.7	157	151	7.8	689

A- Area(000 ha), Y- Average Yield(Qtl/ha), P-Production(000 MT)

Information regarding supply of inputs in district Ferozepur :

Agencies	No.	Status	Area/ Production/ Service	
A) Seed Production of Agricultural Crops			Paddy (q)	Wheat (q)
• Basant Seeds, Peer Khan Sheikh	1	Pvt.	1000	2500
• Gulzar Seeds, Bazidpur	1	Pvt.	--	500
• Vee Gee Seeds, Jalalabad	1	Pvt.	750	3000
• (W)				
• Punjab Seed Processors, Banwala Hawanta	1	Pvt.	--	720

The existing productivity level of cotton, Paddy & wheat can be improved with the introduction of 100% seed treatment, & seed replacement. Introduction of short duration rice hybrids may be helpful for conserving natural resources as well as for improving soil health, waste land, weed management especially in cotton belt may attributed to increase productivity as well as quality of lint. There is a tremendous scope to increase fruit production in district especially in

Abohar, Khuian Server & Fazilka blocks. Kinnow waxing plants & fruit processing units are in place at Abohar & Fazilka.

The major strategies to push the growth rate of agricultural economy of the district are enlisted below:

- Improvement of Soil health
- Improvement of water use efficiency.
- Seed production & seed treatment.
- Establishment of Farm Machinery Centres.
- Adoption of IPM to improve cost benefit ratio.
- Technology dissemination through trainings, demons. & printed leaflets.