

## **Present Status of Productivity and Potentials**

In Barnala district, Wheat, paddy and cotton occupy about 90%, 81% and 10% of the net sown area. the highest yield of wheat obtained in the district was 4583 kg/ha. in 2002-03. the wheat yield has declined since then and stagnated at around 4225 kg/ha.. The stagnation was broken by the introduction of National Food Security Mission in year 2007-08 to 4757kg/ha..

Rice is very high water consuming crop for which water use efficiency measures need to be implemented effectively. Conserving the grossly scarce water resources, improving the nutritional status and soil health in the district should be accorded top priority.

There is a scope to increase the area the area under Basmati Rice because it has a high export potential and needs less water than coarse rice varieties. By adopting Basmati rice income of the farmers can also increased.

Cotton productivity, which was significantly hit since mid 1990s has recently picked up with introduction of Bt cotton varieties. Thus there is a scope of diversifying some rice area to cotton. However the quality of seed distribution of Bt cotton needs to be meticulously attended to. The insect-pest problem in case of cotton would continued to be serious constraint but can effectively be checked by using integrated pest management (IPM) technologies.

There is a scope of pushing up the growth rate of fruits and vegetables in the district, which would demand heavy investments for efficiency using the water resources in the district through drip irrigation etc.

The contribution of livestock sector in the district in terms of promoting efficient dairy units with high yielding milk animals is also an important possibility.

The major strategies to push up the growth rate of agricultural economy of the district has to revolve around.

- Adaptation of basmati rice varieties.
- Adaptation of summer mung in between Wheat and Basmati.

- Technology intervention like seed replacement and seed treatment , improving soil health.
- IPM , Net houses , laser leveling , mechanization in paddy transplantation, etc.
- Strengthening Cooperative societies to run high cost operation in order to save the pressure on individual farmers especially the small and marginal ones.

The District is known for fertile soil and production of food crops, Milk production, vegetables and Flowers. To develop the agricultural sector, there is need to increase the area under pulses oil seeds, vegetable, floriculture and dairy farming. Thrust is also given to promote public private partnership, Organic cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

The major reasons for stagnation of agriculture in the district are monoculture of Wheat-Rice rotation resulting in slow down of growth rate, deteriorating of soil due to development of hardpan because of puddling for rice cultivation, decreasing organic carbon content effecting the soil health adversely, increasing incidences of Weeds, Pests and diseases, dwindling ground water resources, lack of Godown facilities and Agro processing units of entrepreneurial qualities and marketing etc.

The main strategy to rejuvenate agriculture sector in the district to adopt strategies for bridging gaps in the productivity of important crops. The strategies for increasing production of various crops like Paddy, Cereals, Pulses, Oil seeds needs to be delineated identifying the potential crops of the district and focusing on them. Agriculture sector largely depends on other allied sectors. All these sectors need to be integrated.