

The average annual rainfall in district is 534 mm. About 70 percent of the annual rainfall is received during the period from June and September. In normal years it ranges from 273 to 676 mm but in some years like 2002 as less as 273 mm. In kharif 2009 rainfall is less and people experienced drought like situation in July and August. Some times pests also attack the crops as in case of cotton . Crops fail due to the attack of pests. June and July monsoon months receive 373 mm rain in normal years on average basis but this year (2009) received only 163 mm (44%) of rain.(Table:2.1)

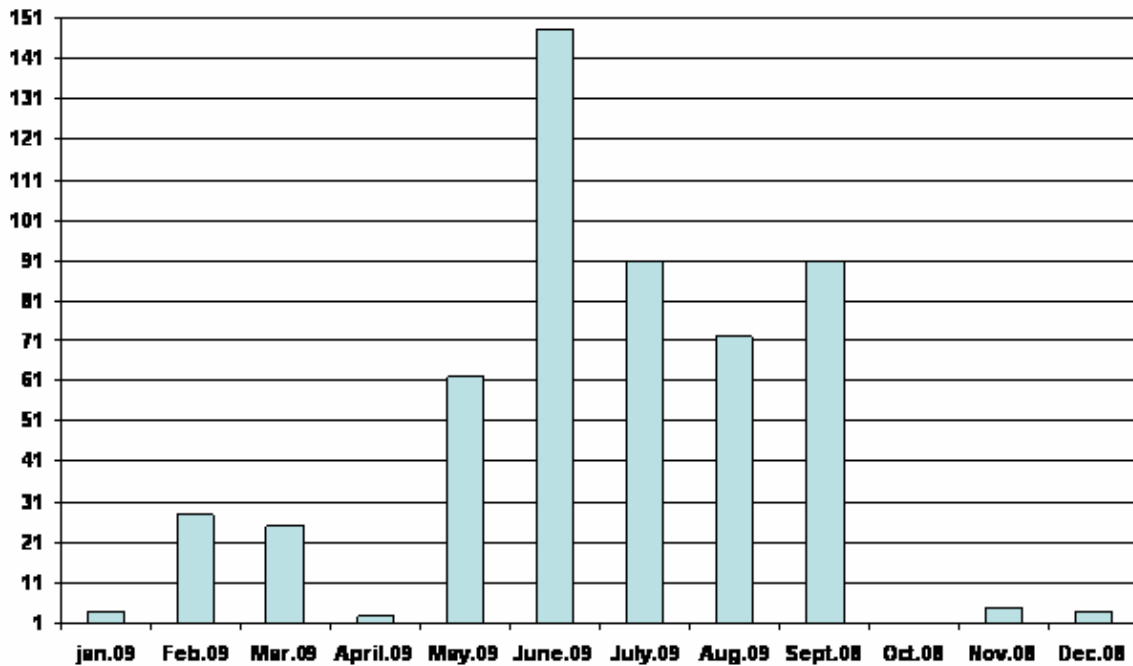


Figure 2.1 Monthly rainfall pattern in Barnala district

Barnala district comprises of Barnala, Mehal-kalan, Sehna blocks of the district. Almost all area is irrigated by tube wells supplemented by canals. Soil texture of these blocks vary from loam and sandy loam. Part of the area under this situation is salt affected in patches.4% under ground water is totally unfit and 36% is marginally fit. The poor quality underground water affects the soil due to accumulation of salts in upper layer turning the neutral soil into saline/alkali soils. The rainfall is normal, in normal years it ranges from 273 to 676 mm but in some years like 2002 as low as 273 mm has

been recorded. rice, Wheat, Patato, Chilli, Desi-cotton, American-cotton ,Tomato , Ber, Guava and Fodder are important crops grown in these blocks. Buffaloes and cows are reared for milk production.

Wheat and Rice are two main crops of the district, Wheat occupies about 45% and Rice occupies 41% of the total gross cropped area of the district. Rice crop has come up during the last 30 years mainly due to the failure of cotton crop with the attack of American bollworm, mealy bug, white-fly on cotton crop. The area under cotton is 4.8% of the total gross cropped area of the district. The area under pulses and oilseed ineligible and the area under fruits and vegetables constituted about 0.45 of the total gross cropped area of the district.

Barnala is the major Rice growing and District and produces about 6.51% of the total rice production of the state. The district has three Ginning factories and one textile unit in the district. Which is an employment oriented Agro based industry.

To increase the productivity of various crops in the district and to achieve the growth @ of 4 % per annum in the agriculture sector. The major problems of the district is depletion of ground water at an alarming rate.