

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT BARNALA

Barnala District came into existence from Nov. 2006. It falls in the south eastern belt of the state. It has two tehsils , three blocks and 130 villages with the geographical area of about 1.41 lakh ha.. The agriculture related institutional network in the district includes one soil testing lab (Table 2.9). And five market committees and seventy village cooperative societies. The net area sown in district is 1.25 lakh ha. and gross cropped area is about 2.49 lakh hac (2008-2009).there are about 24539 operational holdings of whom about 16.8% are the ones with operational area of less than two ha. There are more than 13500 tractors in Barnala district.

Climate

The climate of Barnala district is characterized by its general dryness (except in the south west monsoon season), a hot summer and a bracing cold winter. The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from about middle of the November to February is the cold season. This is followed by the summer season from March to about the end of June. The south west monsoon season commences late in June and continues to about middle of September. The period from mid September to the middle of November constitutes the post monsoon or transition season. The temperature ranges from minimum of 4 degree Celsius in winter to 45 degree Celsius in summer May and June are generally hottest months and January and February are the coldest months. Relative humidity is high averaging about 70% during monsoon.(Table 2.0)

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)

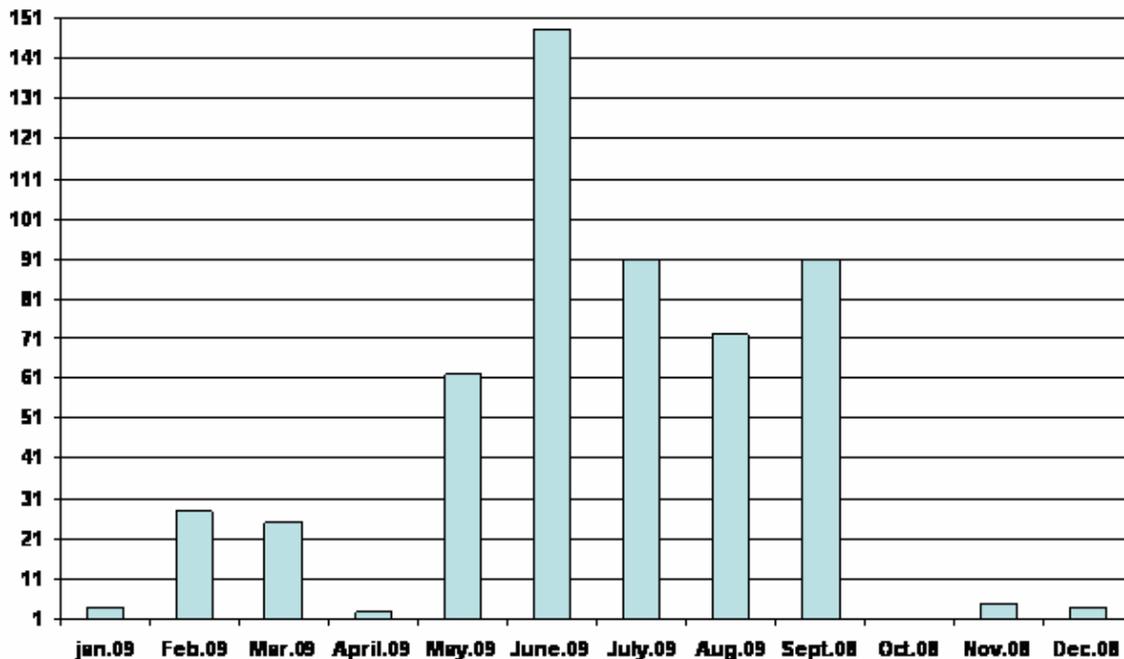


Figure 2.1 Monthly rainfall pattern in Barnala district

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.

General Information

Barnala district comprises of 125 inhabited villages and 150 Gram Panchyats are elected by democratic way. Rural population of the district is 3.92 lakh 82% literacy rate, out of this population 34% is schedule cast. No schedule tribe exists in the district.(Table2.2)

Total geographical area of the district is 1.41 lakh ha. Out of which 1.25 lakh ha., is net sown area. Cropping intensity of the is 200%. As cultivable waste land is only 36 ha. So no further increase in net sown area is possible. Farm forestry needs special attention as area is less only 32 ha.

Land of the district is good cultivable alkaline in nature and water quality is marginal. The geographical area of the district is 1.41 lakh hectare, out of which 88% is net cultivated, .2% is under forest, 11.5% is under non-agricultural use, .01% is waste land. (Table 2.3). Out of total holdings 17% are below 2 hectare and are owners of only 5% of land. 33% holdings are about 2 to 4 ha., having 19% of land. 39% holdings are 4-10 hectare having 45% of land. 11% holdings are more than 10 ha. ,having 31% of the total land.(Table2.5&2.6)

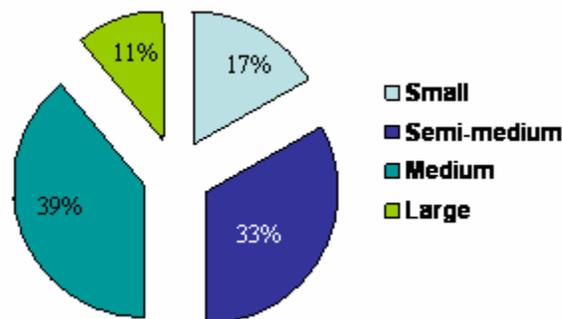


Figure 2.2 Land Holding Pattern In Barnala District