

DISTRICT BARNALA

Barnala was declared district in Nov. 2006 by partitioning the erstwhile Sangrur district. The topography is plain at an elevation of 228.86 meter above mean sea level. Barnala is a small district both in terms of population and area. It is situated on rail line between Bhatinda and Dhuri on Bathinda-Ambala-Delhi section and also on Ludhiana-Bhatinda road. The district is surrounded by Ludhiana and Moga districts in North, Sangrur district in East, Mansa district in South and Bhatinda district in South-west. Barnala district has only one sub division namely Barnala. There are three blocks, 130 villages and 158 Gram Panchayats. All villages are connected by metalled roads.

The total geographical area is 141000 ha. Total population of district was 526931 amounting to 2.1% of Punjab state according to 2001 census. The number of women per thousand was 871. The rural population was about 392409, is 74% of total population. The literacy rate was 52%. Literacy rate of urban population was 60%, whereas literacy rate in rural population was 49%. The population density was 376 per square kilometer. As per data collected from villages there were 92014 households in this district. Out of which 27604(30%) were scheduled caste and 7361(8%) were of backward classes. The scheduled caste literacy rate was only 30% out of which 62% male and 38% are female.

All the families have housing facility. The housing condition varies with size land holdings. 29604(32%) houses have RCC roofs and 62410 (64%) have roofs made of brick tiles. The source of drinking water in villages are taps and submersible pumps. Every village has facility of drinking water. Regarding latrine facilities 27604 (30%) households are using flush type and 55208 (60%) are using bore-hole latrine within their houses. The remaining 9201(10%) households were using public latrines. 206 kilometer internal roads in the villages are made of bricks with uneven surface need to be made of concrete. 615 Km. approach roads also require repairs. In addition to this 255 Km. additional connecting roads are required to be made so that farmers can approach easily. All villages got electrified but supply of electricity is poor in kharif season due to higher demand for paddy crop. The supply remains 4-6 hours with lot of tripping and under voltage. There are 91 self help groups in the district. Most of the groups are non-

functioning. With the efforts of extension staff through ATMA scheme groups are being activated with motivation.

All most all the villages have primary/upper primary schools. Enrollment of boys 32331 is higher than girls 28641. The attendance of boys is 82% as compared to girls 91%. Among Scheduled caste students boys are 7135 and 6580 girls in upper primary/Senior. Secondary schools. Regarding the teaching staff in primary schools, out of 589 posts only 546(92%) posts were filled. In case of Secondary/senior Secondary schools against 1489 sanctioned posts 1126(75%) posts are filled. The data shows that 60% villages have facility of high schools. So the students of 40% village have to walk 3-4 km to attend the school. All the schools have facility of drinking water as well as the toilet for girls.

The net sown area was 125000 ha. the number of farming families in this district were 24539. out of which 1346 are marginal, 2776 are small, 8008 are semi medium, 9653 are medium and 2756 are large. The average farm operational holding is 5.06 ha. as compared to 4.03 in Punjab. The soils of this district are generally low in nitrogen phosphorus and sufficient in K. regarding the Nitrogen availability 91 % soils are low and 8.4% soils are medium. In case of phosphorus availability 14% soils are low and 76% soils are medium. Whole of the area is irrigated. The major source of irrigation is tube well. Area irrigated by tube well was 69753 (55%) and with canals is 54806 (45%). Water of 46% tubewells was fully fit for irrigation. Where as 50% tubewell water was marginal which needs some amendment like addition of Gypsum, mixing of canal water & addition of green manures. The remaining 4% has under ground water not fit for irrigation.

The major area is under agriculture crops i.e 92%, Horticulture, fodder, forest occupy 1%,6.19% and 0.9% respectively. The prominent cropping system is paddy-wheat followed by cotton-wheat. Wheat, paddy and cotton are major crops which occupy 90%,80% and 10% of net sown area. Where as Mung ,Barley and oilseeds are the minor crops. The cropping intensity is 200% in all Blocks. The district has good fertile soil. The under ground water is depleting at very fast rate. Due to over exploitation the district falls in dark zone. Among the agriculture crops, during kharif season Paddy is the major crop which occupy 102000 ha. area in this district. The next crop is cotton with an area of

12000 ha.. In rabi wheat is the major crop which occupies 114000 ha which is 3.2% area of the state under wheat. The average yield of rice varies 4615 Kg to 5019 Kg /ha. Maximum yield was obtained from Mehal-kalan Block. The reason is more good quality irrigation water. The average yield of wheat and cotton is 4777 Kg/ha. and 807 Kg/ha of lint respectively. It is more than average yield of sate by 12.65 and 11.7% respectively.

Horticulture and vegetable crops occupies 1% of area. Ber and Guava are the fruits grown in the district. Area under Ber is 46 ha. and Guava is 73 ha. Total production of Potato is 21407 MT from district. Total production of guava is 1402 MT and Ber is 794 MT from district orchards. Vegetables are grown on 1023 ha. area. Out of vegetable area winter vegetables occupy 972 ha. and summer vegetables 41 ha. among winter vegetables Potato occupy 90% area. The average yield of potato is 22.5 MT/ha. and chilly is 21.3 MT/ha. Dairying is second most preferred enterprise next to agriculture which contributes to additional income of farmers. The population of milch animals were 74754 buffalos and 11629 cows. The average milk yield of Murrah Buffalo is 1830 liters per lactation and that of crossbred cows was 2945 liters per lactation and local cows gave 915 litters per lactation. Per capita consumptions of milk in the district was 950 ml per day. The district has 42 milk co operative societies having 3639 members who sell 27600 liters milk per day. Milk sold to co operative societies in flush season is 20000 L/day and 7600 L/day in lean season. The availability of green fodder is less as per requirement of 40-50 Kg/ animal/ day.

In Barnala District there is one Milk Plant in Pvt.Sector with the name of Best Milk Products Pvt.Ltd Badbar, which has the milk handling capacity of 1.0-lakh liters per day and manufactures skim milk powder and ghee at present. There are two milk-chilling centers in co-operative sector at Mehal-kala and Sehna. At Badbar in Barnala block, BMC is fitted in co-operative society. All are under Sangrur cooperative milk plant and milk-chilling centers are in private sectors in the district. Nestle Moga procures milk from villages in Mehal-kalan and Sehna blocks, Reliance is also procuring milk in the district and has a chilling center at Dhanaula.

Barnala district has 220 ha water bodies, which are used for the production of fish. The average productivity of fish was 4980kg/ha with total production of 1096 ton annually. The maximum productivity 5500kg/ha was recorded in block Barnala and the

minimum 4500kg/ha in block Sehna and Mehal-Kalan. The average productivity of the district was 10 ton/ha lower than the potential productivity.

As the flora is present throughout the year which encouraged the farmers to rear honey Bees. Ninety bee keepers were rearing 2250 colonies of bees with total production of 25 MT honey per year.