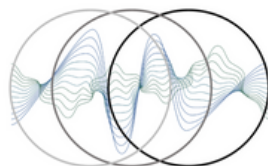


PRIMER

PUNJAB DRAFT

AGRICULTURAL POLICY 2023

2024-25

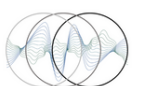


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SUMMARY

Punjab's 2023 agriculture policy draft aims to address the state's persistent agrarian challenges, building on the groundwork laid by earlier drafts from 2013 and 2018. The draft proposes several key initiatives, including a Punjab-specific crop insurance policy, the promotion of organic farming, the prohibition of paddy cultivation in areas facing critical groundwater depletion, and a legal guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops. It also emphasizes the need for structural reforms such as revising tenancy laws, digitizing land records, and enhancing R&D at institutions like Punjab Agricultural University. A significant focus is placed on environmental sustainability, urging a transition away from water-intensive crops to prevent further environmental degradation.

The policy also introduces next-generation technologies like AI, remote sensing, and crop simulation modeling to improve agricultural productivity. However, there are concerns about the financial feasibility of these initiatives and the level of funding required to ensure their success. While the draft lays a strong foundation for future agricultural reforms, its long-term effectiveness in addressing both agrarian distress and environmental issues will depend on sustained financial support and strengthened institutional frameworks.



Issue 1: Water and energy



Total water availability
52.85 BCM



Annual Water demand
66.12 BCM

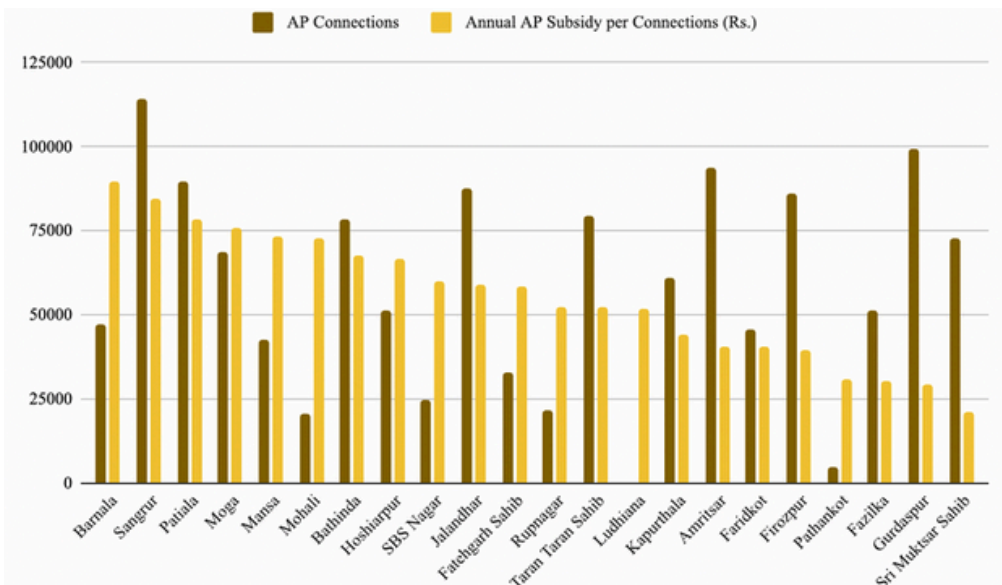


Agriculture Demand
62.58 BCM

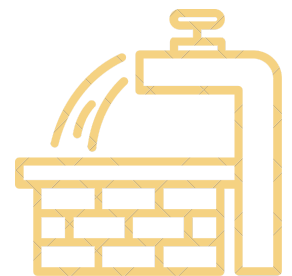
Ground water is expected to drop below 300 m by 2039. Policy aims to reduce water demand to 46 BCM by reducing annual water demand by 4.0 BCM for coming 5 years

Key policy recommendations

- Ban long duration Paddy varieties in Punjab.
- Prohibition of paddy cultivation in Highly Over-exploited blocks.
- Cotton-Wheat, Cotton-Mustard Cropping system in mission mode.



Graph shows the district wise AP connections and the power subsidy.



Power subsidy

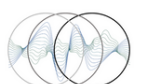
2021 **8,284 Cr**
2011 2,703 Cr

AP connections

2021 **13.91 Lakhs**
2011 11.43 Lakhs

Power subsidy increased by **206.47%** from 2011 to 2021. While AP connections increased by **21.70%**.

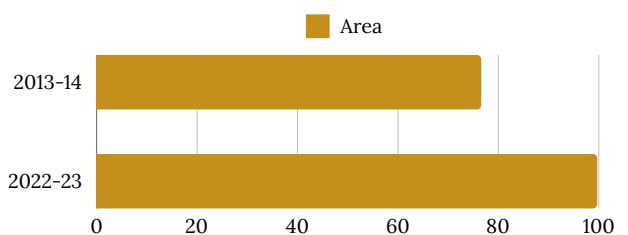
AP - Agricultural Pump*



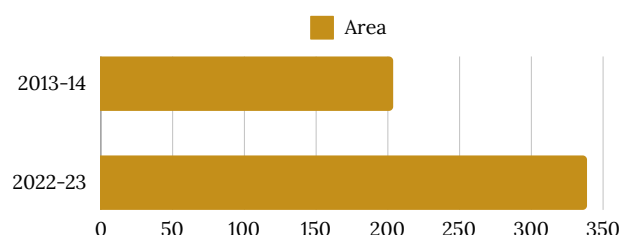
Issue 2: Agro processing, cold chains, and cooperatives

Statistics

Fruit crops



Vegetable crops



Recommendations

1. Growing crops in their natural growing areas
2. Three Nodes: Multi purpose cooperative societies, Innovative agricultural marketing society, and Agriculture marketing research and intelligence institute
3. Single Window PAIC (Punjab Agro Industries Corp) for compliances

Issue 3: R&D in agriculture

49%

of the sanctioned posts of **1062 scientists** are filled in Punjab Agricultural University due to financial constraints

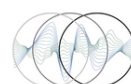
Gap in financial support in the FY 2024-24

PAU received Rs. 422 crore, **falling short of the required Rs. 547 crore**

GADVASU received Rs 81 crore, **falling short of required Rs 113 crore**

Key policy recommendations

1. Increase budgetary allocation for R&D in agriculture
2. Strengthen Policy Making Body of Punjab State Farmers' and Farm Workers' Commission
3. Strengthening Research Funding and Faculty
4. Use next generation technologies like AI, genomics, robotics, nano-tech.



Issue 4: Land

% of tenant holdings



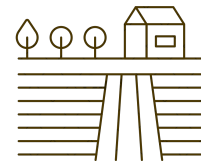
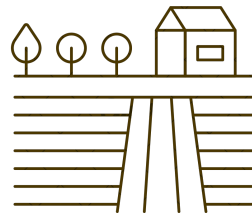
Punjab

21.1 %



National avg

17.3%



The average area (hectare) owned per household in Punjab has decreased over time and as per NSSO report currently stands at 0.53 hec

Key policy recommendations

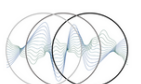
The Agriculture Policy of Punjab 2023, has also called for digitization of land records to ensure better transparency and linking land ownership passbook with Aadhaar Card, to create Systematic process.

The policy also calls for the reformation of the Punjab Land Revenue Act 1887 for speedy settlement and resolution of the pending land entitlement cases.

Issue 5: Organic farming

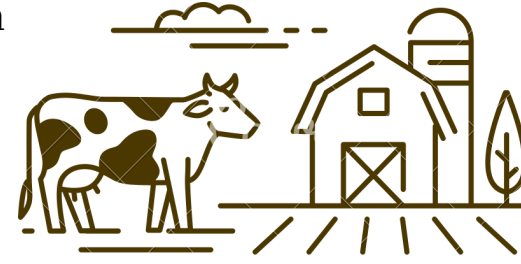
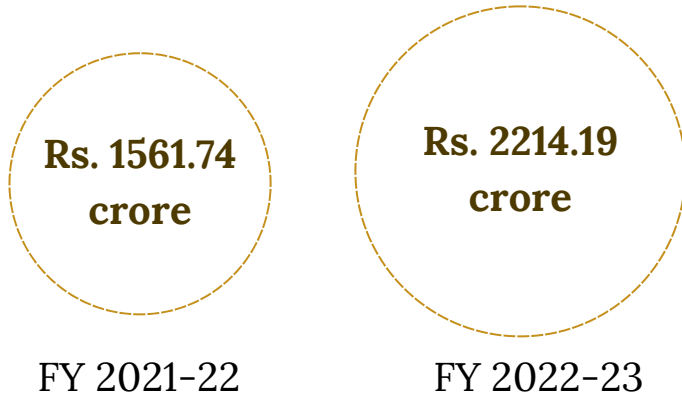
State	Individual farmers	Farmers under growers groups	Total farmers
Punjab	6	361	367
Haryana	35	3,339	3,374
Himachal Pradesh	15	16,641	16,656
All India	3,495	15,99,010	16,02,505

No funds were released to Punjab under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana for promoting organic farming in 2022-23



Issue 6: Livestock

Department of Animal Husbandry's budget has seen a 41.3% in 2 years



Yield rate of indigenous cattle (kg/day)

Punjab	Haryana	Rajasthan	Gujarat
8.86	6.26	5.62	4.56

Incentives are given on self propelled forage cutter, fodder harvester, automatic mixing & feeding unit (Total Mixed Ration Wagon), automatic milk dispensing units to encourage mechanisation of dairy farming. 50,000/- subsidy on Fodder Harvesters.

Issue 7: Credit, distress, and economic support

Highest average agricultural income

PRE 2015

Punjab

POST 2015

Meghalaya

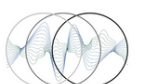
Farmer suicides in Punjab

257 (or 2.4%)

Absorption capacity of the farmers with respect to credit disbursed revealed that 52% of the farmers borrowed more than they could possibly use

Key policy recommendations

- Registration of moneylenders.
- Effective implementation of PB Settlement of Agricultural Indebtedness Act
- Robust implementation of pensions for farmers aged 60+ years.

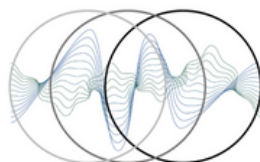




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