

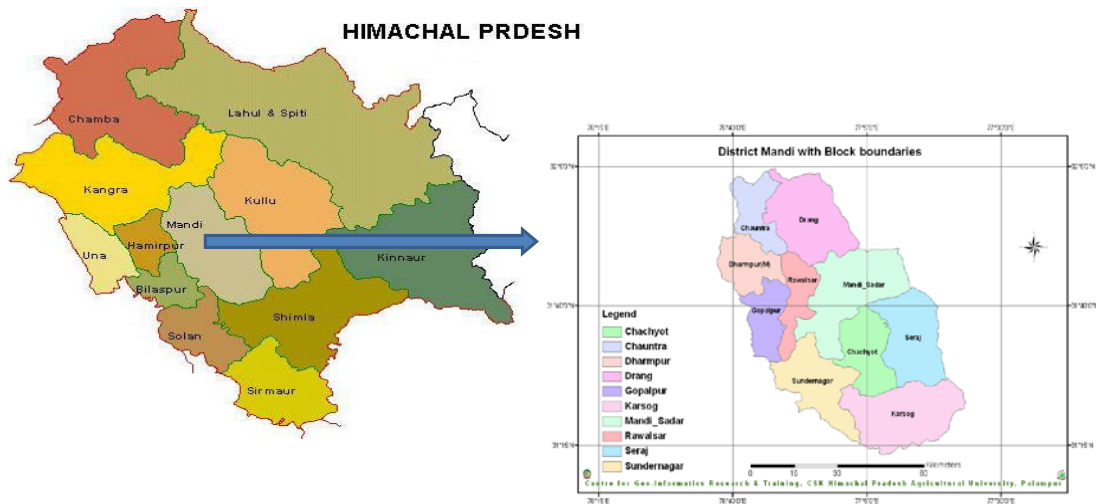
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

I. General Features of the District

1. Location

Mandi, district of Himachal Pradesh is situated in Western Himalayas between 31°-13' -20" to 32°-04'-30" latitude north and 76°-37'-20" to 77°-23'-15" East longitude. The present district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh was formed with the merger of two princely states Mandi and Suket on 15th April, 1948, when the state came into existence. It is bounded by six districts and is almost in the center of the state. In North-west side Kangra and in the west Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts are located. Solan and Shimla districts are on the Southern and Kullu district on the Eastern side.

Administratively, the district is divided into six sub-divisions viz. Sunder Nagar, Mandi, Chachiot, Karsog, Joginder Nagar and Sarkaghat, nine tehsils viz. Sunder Nagar, Mandi Sadar, Chachiot, Karsog, Joginder Nagar, Sarkaghat, Padhar, Thunag and Lad-Bharol and seven sub-tehsils namely, Baldwara, Balichowki, Dharampur, Sandhol, Kotli, Aut and Nihri. From development point of view, the district is divided into ten blocks viz. Sadar, Sunder Nagar, Karsog, Seraj, Gohar, Drang, Chauntra, Gopalpur, Dharampur and Balh.



2. Geography

The district has total geographical area of 3950 square kilometers and constitutes 7.095 per cent of the total geographical area of the state. The district is entirely hilly except Balh area in Sundernagar/Sadar blocks and Chauntra area in Chauntra block which are fertile valleys. In general, there is increase in elevation from south to north. Topographically, the district can be divided into two main categories. a) Shivalik (Outer Himalaya) region; the Balh valley, Baldwara and Joginder nagar area of Mandi district ranging from 651 to 1500m amsl fall in this region. Deep to shallow stone embedded and loam to clay soils are found in this zone. The paddy, maize, ginger, wheat, potato and citrus fruits are cultivated in this area. b) Mid mountain (Inner Himalaya) region: Areas of Chachiot, Karsog, and Seraj and part of Drang blocks (1500-4500m amsl) fall in this region. The series of parallel ranges are divided by longitudinal valleys. There is

continuous increase in the height from valley to hills. There are many hill ranges in the district occupying distinctive place in the geographical features of Mandi. Following are the main hill ranges in the district.

1) Dahauladhar: This high elevation range covers considerable part of the Suket area. It runs with eastern boundary of the district from north to south. In this range 'Nagru' is the highest peak, with an elevation of about 4,000 meters. The range joins the Kullu district in the north-east.

2) Ghogar Dhar: Ghogar dhar has the rock salt mines of Gumma and Drang and is fully covered with forests. It enters the district at Harabagh in Drang block.

3) Sikandra Dhar: This range runs from north-west boundary of Suket and Bilaspur and divided into sub-ranges i.e. Kamlah and Lindi dhar.

4) Dhar Bairkot: This range starts from Rewalsar and extends towards Suket. Some of its branches join Hamirpur with Sikandra dhar. Other hill ranges in the district are Shikari, Kamrunag, Parashar, Bundli, etc.

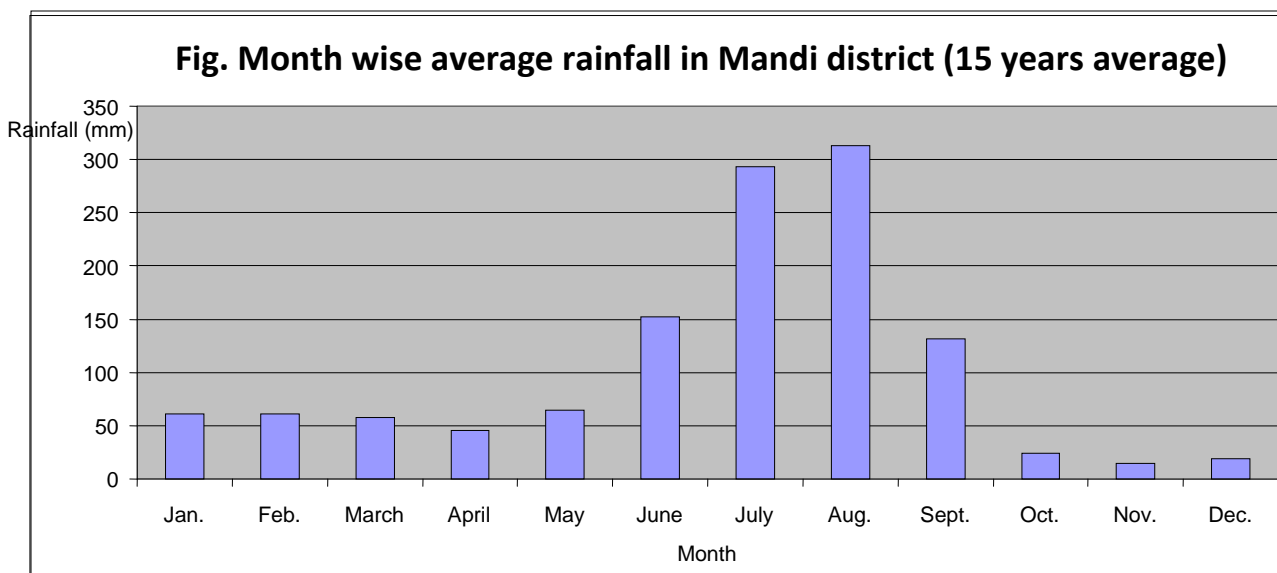
3. Rivers

There are two main rivers, Beas and Sutlej flowing through the district. Sutlej enters in the district near 'Firnu' village in Chawarsigarh and forms the boundary of the district in the east and south. The main tributaries of this river are Khaled, Bhagwati, Bantehr, Siwan Behna, Kattu, Bagra, Bahlu and Siun. The Beas enters Mandi from the eastern side at village near Larji where its tributaries Sainj and Tirthan join the river. At Pandoh, the water of Beas has been diverted through a tunnel and a

channel to join the Sutlej and electricity is being generated at Dehar. Larji Project is also under construction on this river for electricity production. The important rivulets (Khads) of the Beas on the north bank are Uhl, Luni and Rina and from south bank are Suketi, Jiuni, Bakhli, Sone, Ramoli, and Bakkar khad. The water of Uhl is being also used to generate the electricity at Joginder Nagar (Shanan and Bassi Project).

4. Climate

Mandi falls in the mid-hills-sub-humid zone and high hills temperate wet agro climatic zone of Himachal Pradesh. The district receives the highest rainfall in the state and the annual average rainfall over the 15 years is 1239.98 mm. The rainfall varies in between 1000 to 2376 mm in the district. Maximum rainfall occurs in the month of June to September followed by January to March whereas least rainfall occurs in the month of November followed by December, October and April (Fig). About 63 per cent rainfall occurs in monsoon season i.e. from June to September and rest of the precipitation occurs due to western disturbances. Lower areas of the district experience hot summer (up to 40° C temp.) and cold winter with frost and fog. Hilly area experiences mild summer and cold winter with low to high snowfall and mist in rainy season. The area of Badar, Chohar, Seraj and Sonar usually has sufficient snowfall every year from January to March.

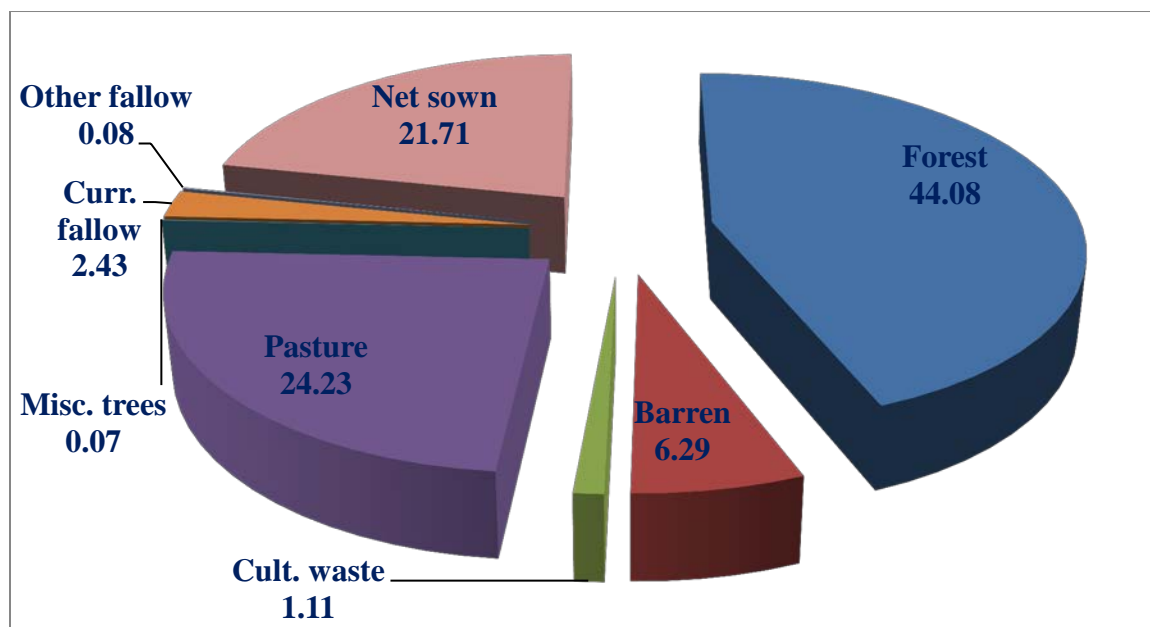


5. Roads & connectivity: The district is although well connected by three National highways, state highways and numerous link roads, even then, there are enormous far flung areas where road facilities are meager and remote.

District Profile

Geographical area	395000 ha
Population	901344
Blocks	10
Panchayats	473
Net cultivated area	95390 ha
Gross cultivated area	160419 ha
Net irrigated area	17291 ha

Land Use Pattern



Patterns of Land Holding

Particulars of holdings	No. of Families	Percentage	Holding size (ha)
Marginal	90855	67.19	0.43
Small	28752	21.26	1.40
Medium	15535	11.49	2.65
Large	84	0.06	5.59
Landless	221	-	-

Area, Production and Yield of Food Grains

Crop	Area (ha)	Production (MT)	Yield (q/ha)
Wheat	66373	121193	18.26
Maize	48681	137282	28.20
Paddy	20942	26344	12.58
Barley	3839	7002	18.24
Pulses	3280	1489	4.54
Food Grains	144798	293309	20.23

Area, Production and Yield of Vegetables

Crop	Area (ha)	Production (t)	Yield (q/ha)
Peas	1720	20541	119
Tomato	1058	31090	293
Beans	288	2240	77
Onion, Garlic	482	4512	93
Cabbage	370	10778	291
Cauliflower	310	9920	320
Root Crops	240	4320	180
Cucurbits	316	6800	215
Capsicum	198	2835	143
Total	5762	105895	183
Potato	2419	34484	143

Yield of Different Livestock Products

Livestock	No.	Production (mt)	Yield
Milk (Crossbred)	370276	1922	5.19*
Milk (indigenous)	221016	382	1.73*
Buffaloes	70165	319	4.54*
Goat	262721	123	0.47*
Wool Sheep	167920	148	0.882**
Wool Rabbitary	10000	1	0.095**
* l/day ** (kg/year)			

Agro Ecological Situations

