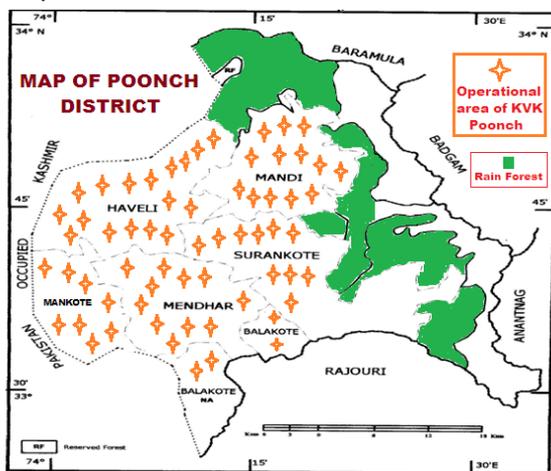


About the district

Poonch is located on the Southern slopes of Pir Panjal range and as such is rugged with spurs and valleys. It lies between 33° 25' to 34° 10' North latitude and 73° 58' to 74° 35' East longitude. It is bounded on the north by Baramulla and Budgam district of Kashmir valley, on its west and North-West lies Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). The district having population of 4.76 lacs consists of 6 tehsils, 11 blocks and 189 villages covering an area of 1674 sq. km. Rural population constitute 92% of the total population .



Climate

through western disturbances. Dry farming practices are prevalent due to lack of assured irrigation facilities.

Climate

District has three distinct types of agro climatic conditions for growing cereals, vegetables and fruit crops. The climate of the district is sub-tropical in the southern part and tends to be temperate on the northern part comprising hill tops. In the higher region, the climate remains cold through out the year.

Average minimum and maximum temperature in the district varies from 20° to 40°C. The temperature starts rising from third week of March and reaches maximum during the month of May. January is the coldest month.

Rainfall/precipitation

The average annual rainfall in the district is about 1225/1388.78mm (average of last 10 years) with 56 to 73 average rainy days, Higher reaches of Pir Panjal receives snow fall in winter months.

Rainfall

Year	Rainfall (mm)
2009-10	1324.5
2010-11	1665.5
2011-12	1816.5
2012-13	2117.0
2013-14	NA
2014-15	1757.0
2015-16	1790.0
2016-17	879.5
2017-18	821.95
2018-19	1025.7
Average	1388.78

The rainfall data over past 10 years show highest rainfall of 2117mm was recorded during the year 2012-13 whereas minimum rainfall during last 10 years was recorded in 2017-18 (821.5mm)

Tehsils: 6

Population-4.76 lakhs

Blocks: 11

Rural population-4.38 lakhs

Villages: 178

Total families:

Literacy-66.6 %

temperate zone, it receives most of its precipitation

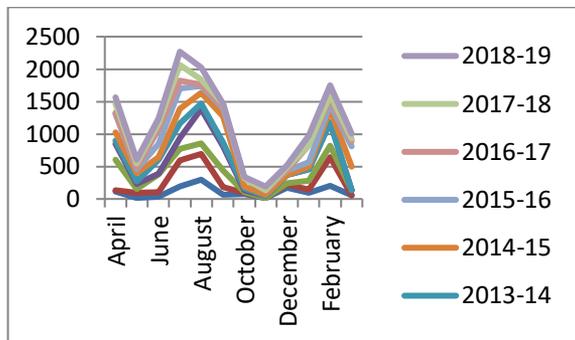


Fig. Trends of rainfall in Poonch district (2009-10 to 2018-19)

Trends of monthly rainfall reveal that maximum rainfall occurs between June to September whereas very little or deficient rains are received between October to December. Trends also reveal good rainfall during February and March months

Agriculture

Agriculture is the only source of livelihood and most of the farmers in this area are marginal and small. Maize (*Zea mays*) is the most important cereal crops of district Poonch. The crop is cultivated in an area of approximate 24 thousand hectares with production of 48.0 thousand tonnes with average productivity of 20.0 quintals per hectare. Paddy is grown in an area of 3621 hectares with annual production of 10.3 thousand tonnes. The paddy growing area witnessed a decrease from 4100 hectares due to erosion of soils and damage to the existing kuhls during flash floods in 2014.

Wheat is the main crop in Poonch district in rabi season grown and occupies an area of 15 thousand hectares (Anonymous 2014) with production of 22725 quintals per hectare. The average productivity in wheat in Poonch district is very low (1518 kg/ha).

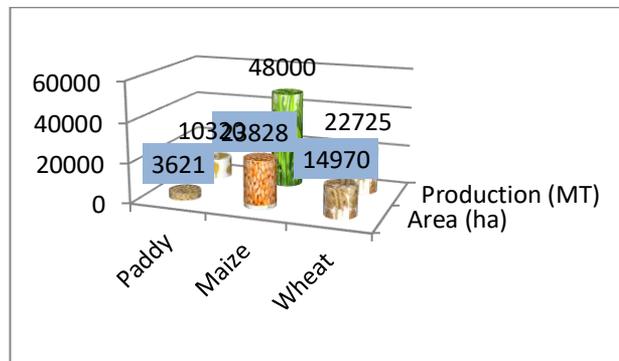


Fig. Area and production of major food crops

Soils

The high hill slopes of various gradients restrict the development of soil profiles, where as on gentle slopes of hills, mountainous soil are developed. Broadly two types of soils are present in the district with Sub-mountainous soil (high organic matter, absence of free lime and acidity of the soils) toward southern part and Meadow soil (shallow soils mostly with grassy vegetation) over northern part. Localized wedges of Alluvial soil (silt deposition laid down by river systems) are also present in the various valleys of the area.

Land use pattern

Land use pattern of the district	Area (000ha)
Geographical area	114.381
Cultivable area	51.212
Forest area	34.05
Land under non-agricultural use	8.48
Permanent pastures	18.56
Cultivable wasteland	7.26
Barren and uncultivable land	18.27
Current fallows	0.0010
Other fallows	0.118
Gross cropped area	51.212
Cropping intensity	166%

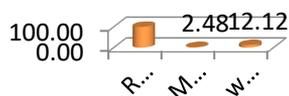
Irrigation

Irrigation is vital to agriculture. Agriculture in Poonch is mainly rainfed as only 11.38 % is irrigated. More than 88.6 % of the area in the district is rainfed. Among crops, rice occupies highest area under irrigation (2.8 thousand hectares) followed by wheat (1.8 thousand hectares). Rice is grown as irrigated crop only (100%) whereas only 2.54 % of the maize crop is sown irrigated. In rabi season, only 12% of wheat is sown irrigated.

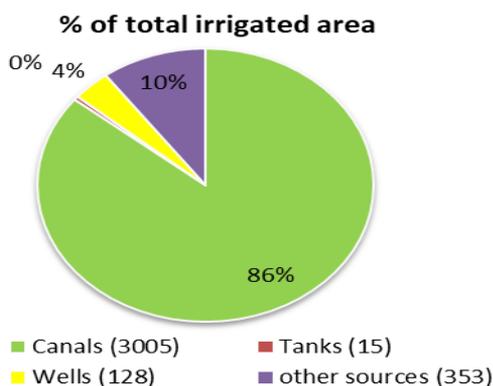
Gross cropped area	Gross cultivated area (ha)	Net cultivated area (ha)	Net irrigated area
44728	3501	27336	3501

crop	Total area (ha)	Irrigated area (ha)	% irrigated area
Rice	2859	2859	100.0
Maize	24201	599	2.48
wheat	14956	1813	12.12
Pulses	28	0	0
oilseeds	132	0	0
Fodder crops	1787	negligible	0

% irrigated area



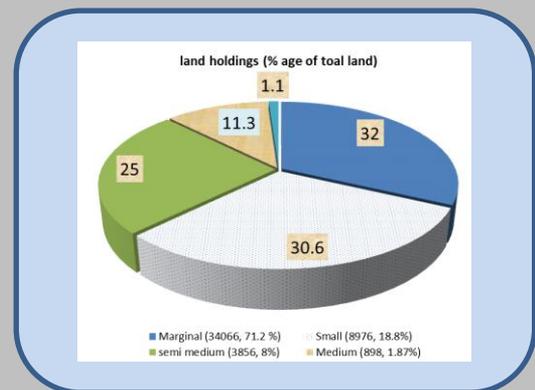
Canals are the major source of irrigation and 86 % of the irrigated area under all crops is irrigated by canals. 10 % area is irrigated by **other sources** including Tubewells and 4% area is irrigated by tanks.



Area of operational holdings

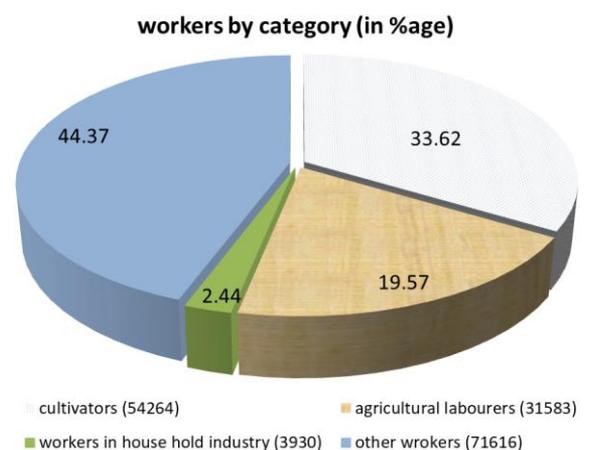
Area of operational holdings of hilly farmers is very small and is further decreasing with increase in population. Average land holding in the district is 0.88 ha (2005-06). Majority of the farmers in the district are marginal (71.2) and small (18.8 %) having land holdings of 1-2 hectares or less.

crop	number of holdings	%age of total land	%
marginal	34066	32.0	71.2
small	8976	30.6	18.8
semi medium	3856	25.0	8.0
medium	898	11.3	1.8
large	33	1.1	0.2



Agriculture workers

Agriculture is the main source of employment to the rural people in the district. Classification of workers by category in the district reveal that majority of the workers fall in the category of cultivators and agricultural labourers comprising approx. 78% of total workforce. 19.6 % belong to the category of other workers.



Horticulture

Horticulture is one of the dominant sectors of Jammu and Kashmir’s economy with a yearly turnover of Rs. 1200 crores. It provides direct and indirect employment to over 23 lakh people in state. The favourable agro climatic conditions in Poonch district are ideally suited for cultivation of variety of fruits and offer immense scope for development of horticulture in the district. Fruit crops contribute immensely towards rural economy in Poonch district and occupy

an area of 16351 thousand hectares with annual production of 27000 metric tonnes.

Walnut is most important crop in district followed by apple occupying 42.8 and 12.98 % of total area under fruit crops (Anonymous, 2015-16). Pear, Peach, Apricot and Plum are also grown on a large scale. Pecan nut is also an important and niche area crop of the district covering an area of 303 hectares. Walnut is the most important crop with respect to production (14,400 metric tonnes) followed by apple (2289 metric tonnes)

% area under fruit crops in Poonch district

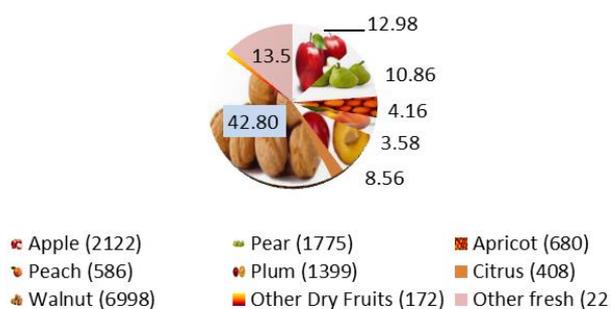


Fig. Area under fruit crops in Poonch district

production (metric tonnes) of fruit crops in Poonch district

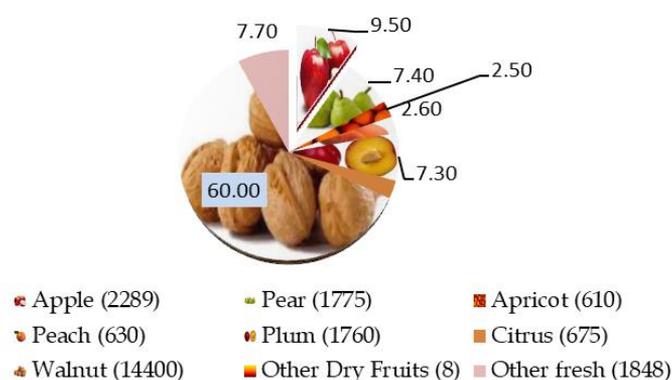


Fig. Production of fruit crops in Poonch district

Animal Husbandry

Animal Husbandry is a major enterprise and provides livelihood to nomadic and migratory families which constitute about 47.5% of the population of the district. Livestock activity has a contribution of about 11 % in the Gross Domestic product of state. It offers promising employment opportunities and handsome economic returns especially in the rural mountaneous areas of the state. Most of the farming families rear livestock (cattle and buffalo) to meet the needs of milk for the family. Dairy also provides cash income to these families who sell part of milk in the local market. According to 2007 livestock census (anonymous, 2016-17), livestock population of the district was recorded as 13.43 lakhs which included sheep (3.82 lakhs), Goats (1.54 lakhs),

cattle (2.10 lakhs) and buffalo (2.03 lakhs). Besides fowl population was recorded as 3.36 lakhs. There are 13,500 poultry farms in the district as per 2007 livestock census.

