

HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. General Scenario and Current Trend: The total geographical area of the State is 55.67 lakh ha and Net Sown Area is 5.49 lakh ha. Cultivable waste land area is 1.22 lakh ha. Average holding size is 1.1 ha. Total 9.14 lakh holdings are cultivated by 8.63 lakh farmers out of which 85% are small and marginal farmers.

Average annual rainfall is 1150 mm and 18.8% of the area is irrigated.

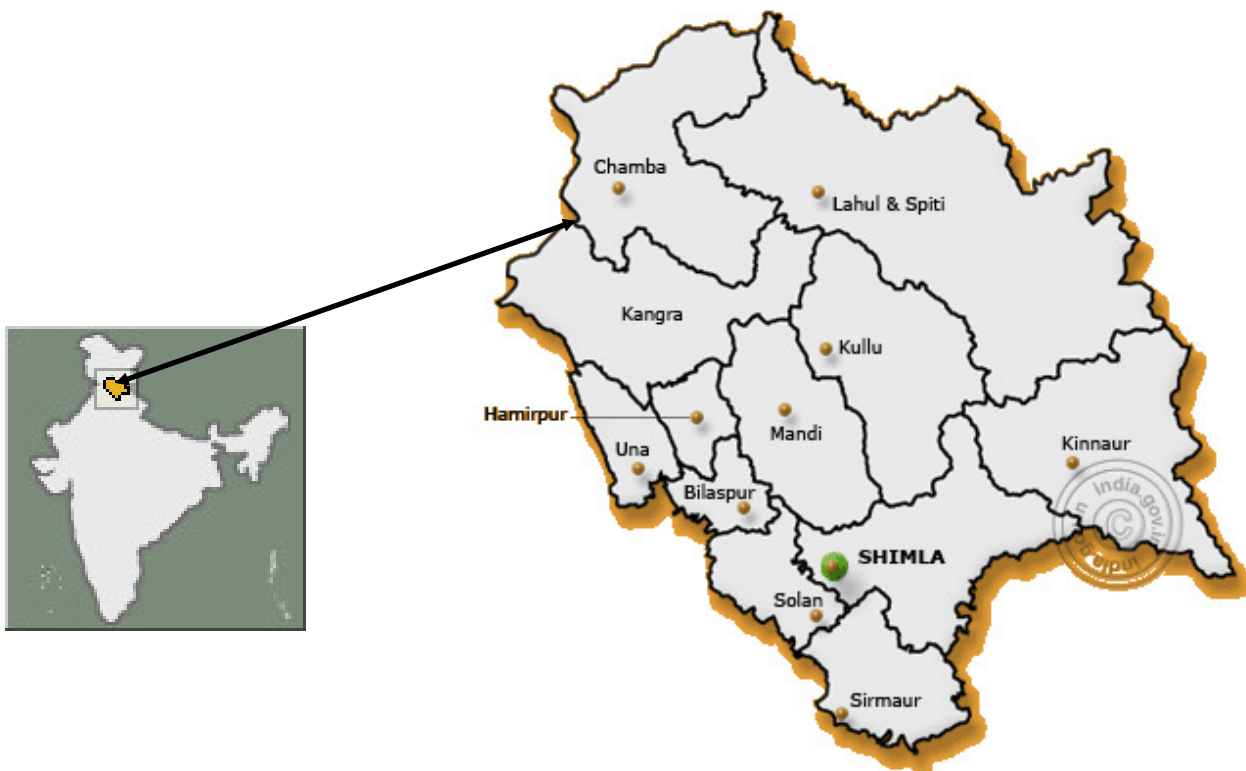
The soil are typical hill soil like fine loamy, coarse loamy, sandy skeletal, loamy skeletal and fragmental. Soil erosion, water erosion, stoniness and flooding are other factors affecting soil health.

The state has achieved SRR only in soyabean (Kharif). SMR in paddy, urd and soyabean and VRR in paddy, urd, moong, gram, wheat, mustard and linseeds are required to be achieved.

As per 3rd Advance Estimates of 2008-09, productivity of rice in the state is 1410 kg/ha, wheat 1653 kg/ha, bajra 524 kg/ha, maize 2023 kg/ha, gram 1096 kg/ha, total pulses 1105 kg/ha and total oilseed 515 kg/ha.

2.02 lakh ha is used for horticulture activities and fruit productivity is 3.5 MT/ha. 0.63 lakh ha land is under vegetable cultivation and vegetable productivity is 18.1 MT/ha. 1.9% of country's nut production comes from the state. 29.61% apple, 0.6% litchi and 7.9% peas of country's total production come from Himachal Pradesh.

69% of state workforce is dependent on agriculture and allied sector and the sector contributes approx 20% to the State GSDP.



2. Strength: 10 agro climatic zones, rich bio-diversity, good average rainfall, climatic zones suitable for variety of horticulture products, high maize productivity under rain fed condition.

3. Limitation: Hilly terrain, limited irrigation facility, 39% of geographical area is in dry temperate zone, low SRR and VRR, limitation of soil health.

4. Public Investment: H.P. is one of the few states which have continuously spent about 10% of the State Plan resources in agriculture and allied sector to increase production and productivity in the recent years. During 2005-06 out of Rs.1676.18 cr State Plan, agriculture and allied sector share was Rs.185.34 cr (11.06%), in 2006-07 it was Rs.199 cr (10.13%) out of Rs. 1963.60 cr State Plan, in 2007-08 it was Rs.213.75 cr (10.50%) out of Rs.2035.89 cr. Similarly, in 2008-09, Rs.276.97 cr (10.93%) out of Rs.2534.69 cr State Plan was the allocation for the sector.

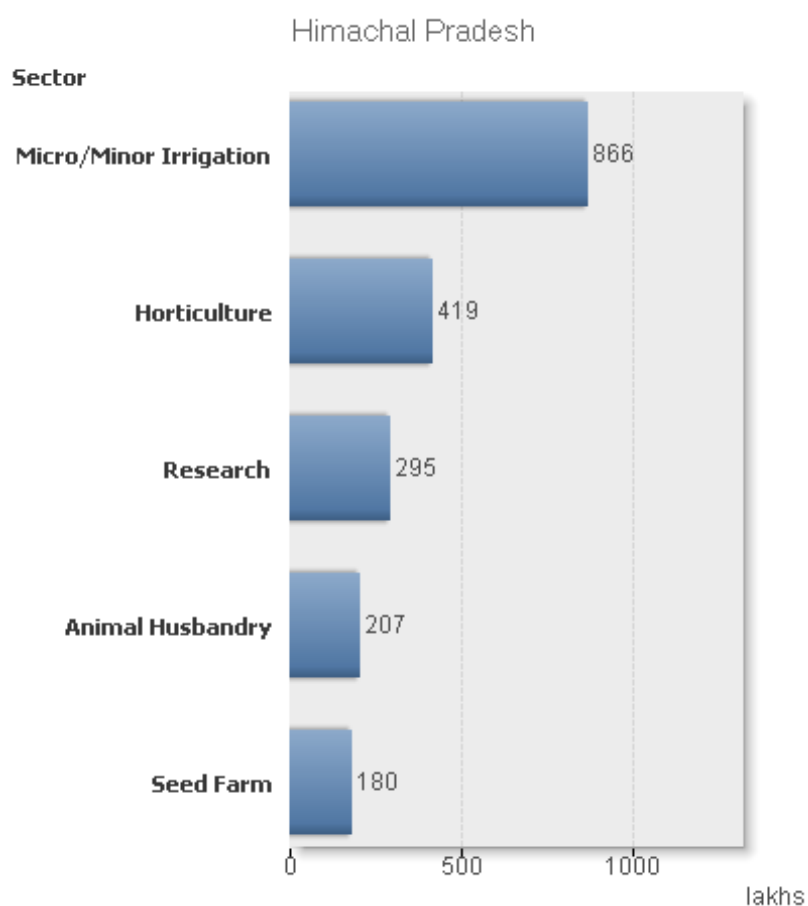
Through its major flagship programmes, Government of India provided Rs.24.00 cr under TMNE (Horticulture), Rs.22.14 cr under MMA, Rs.1.0 cr under ISOPOM, Rs.16.17 cr under RKVY and Rs.3.72 cr under ATMA, during 2007-08.

During 2008-09, Rs.15.11 cr under RKVY, Rs.10 cr under ISOPOM, Rs.25.85 cr under MMA, Rs.3.36 cr under ATMA and Rs.21.00 cr under TMNE (Horticulture) was provided to the state.

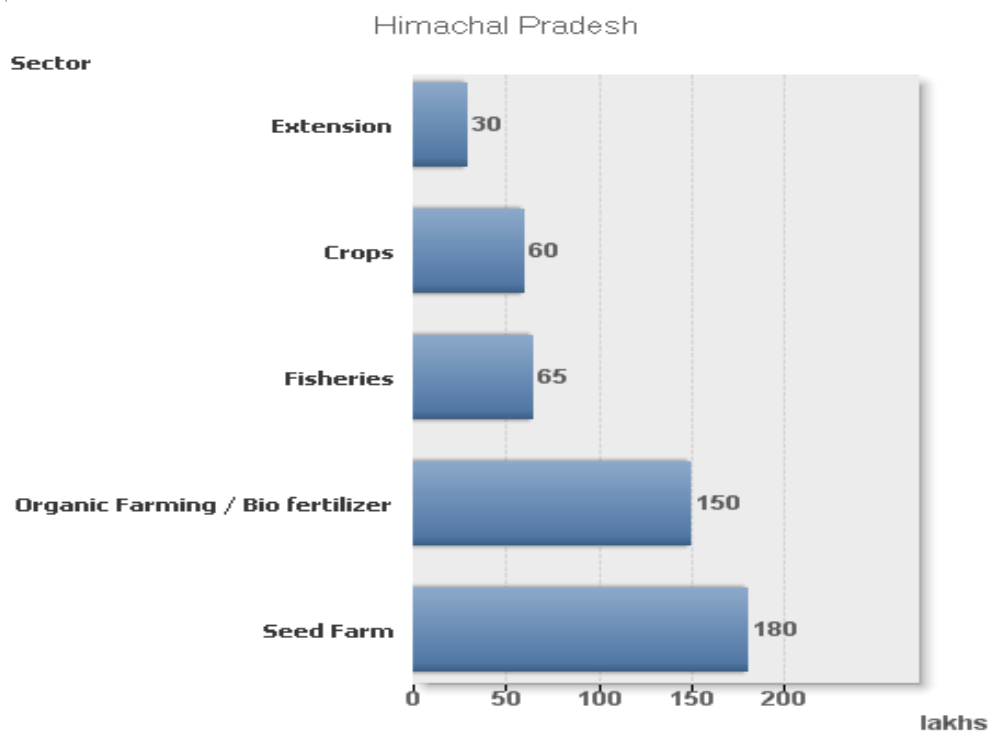
Thus, in first two years of the 11th Plan Period, through state resources Rs.490.72 cr was invested in agriculture and allied sector and GOI provided approx 140 cr for the sector.

State Priority under RKVY 2007-09

Top 5 priority sectors under RKVY



Bottom 5 priority sectors under RKVY



Future Strategy and Intervention as identified by the state:

- *Improvement in crop productivity*
- *Soil health management*
- *Conservation and management of natural resources*
- *Seed Development/seed chain*
- *Precision farming*
- *Crop protection*
- *Crop diversification/niche farming*
- *Extension and transfer of technology*
- *Insurance and credit*
- *Mechanization*

Recommendations:

- *Sustained Soil Health Management through soil testing and mapping*
- *Soil Health cards*
- *SRR and VRR to be achieved in all major crops*
- *Micro-irrigation and rain/water harvesting structures*
- *Strengthening of Extension network and demonstration of new technologies*
- *Farm mechanization*
- *Strengthening and popularizing farm credit and insurance on affordable interest rate*
- *KCC*