

Punjab's Agro-Climatic Zones

What is the issue?

Amid talk of MSP guarantee and Punjab's wheat-paddy cropping, experts feel that the state must follow cropping pattern as per its agro-climatic and soil conditions to protect the environment and increase farmers' income.

What are the Agro-climatic zones in Punjab?

- According to Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana, there are 6 agro-climatic zones in Punjab which include
 1. Sub-Mountain Undulating Region
 2. Undulating Plain Region (UPR)
 3. Central Plain Region (CPR)
 4. Western Plain Region (WPR)
 5. Western Region (WR)
 6. Flood Plain Region (FPR)
- These regions have rainfall variations from 165 mm to 2000 mm annually and climate from humid to cold-arid to arid and extreme arid.
- The variations in soil range from hill soils, tarai, brown hill, alluvial to desert.

Ghaggar rivers are included which are the flood-prone.

- The state has a flood plain region which is also called Bet area and it has homogenous climatic conditions.
- In these zones all agro-climatic conditions, rainfall pattern, distribution, soil texture are taken into account to have a suitable cropping pattern.

What is the plan ahead?

- The over usage of fertilisers and over exploitation of ground water for decades need for research and development work for modifying the cropping pattern.
- The government wants to divide the whole state into zones according to the soil fertility and the respective suitable produce and for that a vision document is being prepared which will be adopted in the state to bring good reforms in the agriculture sector of the state.

Reference

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/punjab-s-six-agro-climatic-zones-might-hold-key-to-its-diversification-conundrum-7655281/>

