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## **Growth performance of agriculture in Bhilwara District**

**Suman Meena,**

**Assistant Professor, Department of (Economics)**

**Govt. Collage Bhilwara (Raj.)**

### **Introduction**

Bhilwara district is located between 74°.03' to 75°.25' east longitude and 25°.00' to 27°.50' north latitude. Bhilwara district was named Bhilwara because a special art of textile called 'Beel' was found; hence it came to be known as Bhilwara. And generally Bhils, Gurjars, Rajputs, Jats, Dalits and Brahmins - Jains reside in this district.

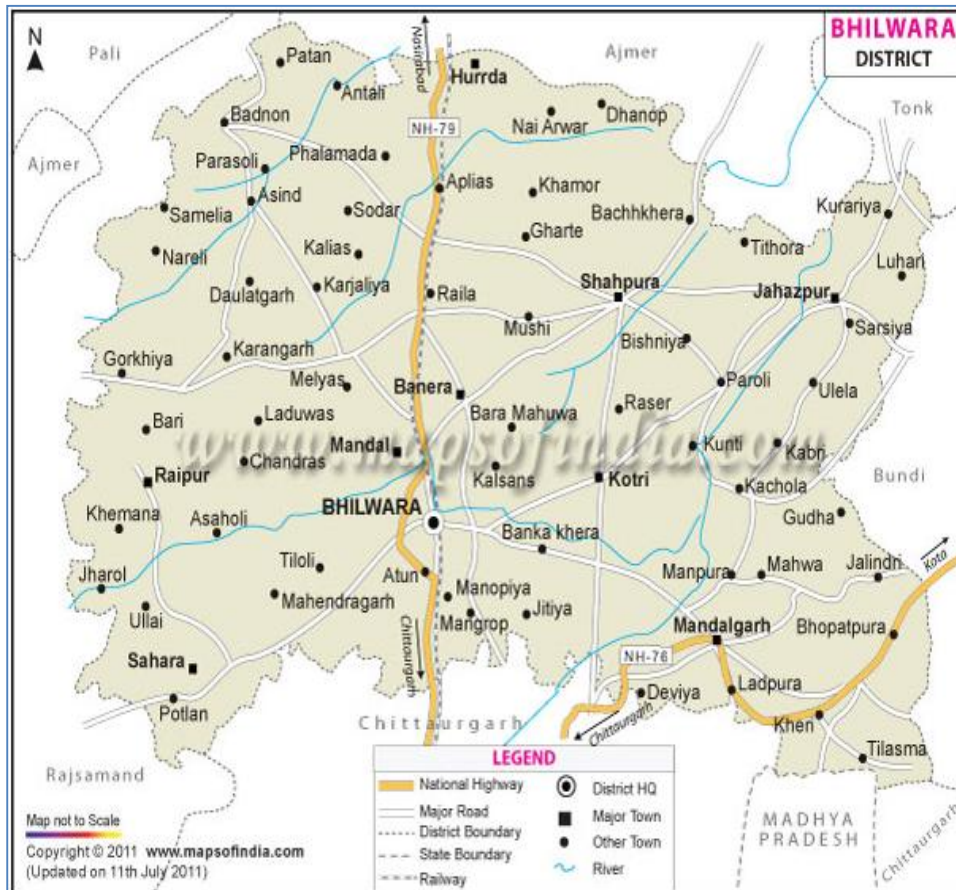
According to the 2011 census, the population of Bhilwara district is 2,410,459, which is equal to the European country and the American state of New Mexico. The population density of the district is 230 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate in the decade 2001–2011 was 19.7%. In which male and female population growth rate was equal, Bhilwara district has been divided into 12 tehsils which are as follows: Bhilwara, Banera, Mandal, Mandalgarh, Bijolia, Kotri, Hurda, Shahpura, Jahazpur, Sahada, Asind and Raipur. Bhilwara district is also called Textile City or Manchester of India. As of 2011 India census, Bhilwara has a population of 359,483. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. About 13% of the population is under 6 years of age. Hindus constitute the majority of the population with around 79.50% followers with Muslims (at 14.23%) and Jains (5.47%) occupying second and third respectively.

Earlier, Bhil majority tribe resided in this district, with time some Bhils converted themselves into Meena tribe and some Bhils moved towards hilly areas and interior places of less importance. Surprisingly, very few Bhils now live in this area. In the last few years, it has emerged as the textile city of Rajasthan.

Bhilwara district has carved an important place in the manufacturing sector of the state. During the last decade the district has developed into one of the most important places in the textile industry in the country. Investment in clothing sector there are about 70 large and medium scale units doing this. Capital investment of about Rs 9039.91 corer has been made and employment has been provided to about 25000 people. Bhilwara district has achieved an important place in the textile sector of the country. A total of 15,000 control looms have been recognized as on 31 March 2010, with a synthetic

fabric manufacturing capacity of 7.10 crore meters and estimated at Rs. 692.19 corpa are providing employment to approximately 30000 persons. Bhilwara district is located between 25°.00' to 27°.50' north longitude and 74°.03' to 75°.25' east longitude. It is 251 meters above sea level. It is 250 km. Far from Jaipur. The northern border of the district touches Ajmer district, the north-west border touches Rajsamand district, the south and south-east border touches Chittorgarh district and the east and east-north border touches Bundi and Tonk districts. The total length of the district from west to east is 160 km. While the width from north to south is approximately 110 km.

Geographic Map of Bhilwara 2015



(Source: [www.mapsofindia.com/bhilwara.kvk2.in/district-profile.html](http://www.mapsofindia.com/bhilwara.kvk2.in/district-profile.html))

The oldest part of this city was established in the middle of the 12th century by building a Krishna Radha temple which still exists today and is known as Bada Mandir. This area is now known as Old Bhilwara. In mythology, there is also mention of Arjun fighting here during the Mahabharata period. [14]

Historical records show that a town named Mandal close to Bhilwara served as the military camp for the Mughals when they conquered Chittaurgarh. The ruins of their campsite can still be seen today. A watch tower that was built on a small mound in Mandal is now a Devi temple. Major rivers flowing through the district are Banas, Bedach, Kothari, Khari, Mansi, Menali, Chandrabhaga, and Nagdi

There is no natural lake in the district but there are number of ponds and dams so the district is the most irrigated in the state of Rajasthan. It has a small man-made pond Mansarovar Jheel (Pond) near Azad Nagar which is a famous attraction and gets crowded on weekends.

Bhilwara district has appropriate agro-climatic state of affairs for various food grain, pulse, oilseed and horticultural crops. There is also very good potential for the development of dairy agriculture in Bhilwara district. Similarly, in the Kharif season of agriculture, maize, jowar, groundnut and cotton are cultivated the most in Bhilwara district. Wheat, gram, mustard and barley are grown in the largest area during the Rabi season. Standard productivity of Kharif crops; Maize, sorghum, groundnut and cotton are 785, 390, 417 and 336 kg/hectare respectively. The average efficiency of wheat, gram, mustard and barley in Rabi season is 2125, 974, 801 and 1734 kg/hectare respectively.

The growth performance of agriculture in Bhilwara has fluctuated during the last three decades. The multifaceted annual growth rates of gross cropped area, total agricultural production and yield have displayed wide fluctuations during the plan period. The major challenges for the agriculture sector in Bhilwara are:

- (i) Temperature change and global warming;
- (ii) Deteriorating soil health including imbalanced use of fertilizers, micronutrient deficiency, lack of organic matter content, inadequate soil microbial flora and fauna etc.;
- (iii) Strengthening of comprehensive technology based developmental approach to promote dry land/ arid agriculture;
- (iv) Low productivity, unfavorable prices and practically very little value addition, distress sales, rising cost of cultivation;
- (v) Lack of efforts for stabilization of sand dunes and for greening the desert through agro-forestry programmes;
- (vi) Lack of up-scaling of farm-validated contemporary technologies and agricultural innovations;
- (vii) Gender mainstreaming in agriculture;
- (viii) Lack of integrated farming move toward;

There is a need to put in place proper institutional mechanisms and managerial and management reforms to remove the obstacles coming in the way of agricultural success in the district

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