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# **Pink bollworm: Farmers in Punjab's Malwa await crop damage relief promised by CM Channi**

***Farmers in Punjab's Malwa region await crop damage relief promised by CM Charanjit Singh Channi. This year, cotton cultivation has been destroyed by Pink bollworm, locally known as Gulabi sundi.***

Punjab's otherwise prosperous Malwa region has been reeling from an agrarian crisis in the last few years. Farmers in Malwa's Bhatinda district cultivate wheat and rice; the third major crop is cotton, which pays them the most. But the crisis is so massive that many farmers are in debt traps.

This year, cotton cultivation was destroyed by Pink bollworm, locally known as Gulabi sundi. Farmers in the adjoining district of Sangrur are also [battling against this outbreak.](#)

In the open market, cotton cultivators get up to Rs 9,000 per quintal for their yield. In previous years, it was far less. Farmers in Sangrur say the government has hiked the rate this year because of large-scale crop damage.

Sangrur farmer Daljit Singh says, "There's so much hardship. We're unable to survive. Gulabi sundi has damaged the crop; there's nothing left in the farms."

Cotton plant flowers blossom three times in each season. Pink bollworm kills flower buds internally from the first blossom itself, turning white cotton into black dead shells. Farmer Daljit Singh says it's devastating to see the crop grown with hard work lying dead in the fields.

His son says they even tried bringing pesticides from the market but there is no government facility and private players do not provide authentic pesticides to deal with this crisis.