



## A REVIEW

# Performance of *Kharif* crops as influenced by time of sowing in rainfed alfisols

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## INTRODUCTION

The productivity of crops in rainfed conditions varies to a great deal from year to year, in response to the variability of climate and particularly the rainfall. One of the major challenges that confront is to minimise the fluctuations in crops yield due to aberrant weather conditions and to stabilise production at an acceptable level. Though the south west monsoon is a regular cyclic process over the Indian subcontinent, its behaviour is often erratic and also become extreme in the arid and semi-arid regions. Any deviation from normal in the seasonal behaviour of rainfall, viz., delay in the onset of monsoon, prolonged dryspells, excessive rains will have an adverse effect on crop growth and yield, finally the prospects of farmers. It is necessary to use the knowledge of climate variability to tailor the cropping pattern and the management practices for each of the agroclimatic zones.

Choice of right crops to suit the onset of monsoon is one of the most important crop production strategies

that determine the success of cropping. Selecting the right crop along with the right time of sowing not only alleviates the adverse effects of moisture stress on crops, but also results in realizing profitable yields with lesser cost of production. The critical stages of the crop life cycle should coincide with the congenial conditions to produce its potential economic yield. Among various agronomic practices, sowing time plays a pivotal role, which intricates crop weather relationships. The spectacular variations observed in the optimum sowing time warrant the inquest for the pros and cons at different sowing dates for different crops, specific to the agro ecological situations.

In Andhra Pradesh rainfed groundnut is sown on varied times of sowing during *Kharif* season, depending on the time of the onset of monsoon, extending from middle of July to middle of August. Delayed sowing of groundnut beyond August invariably results in considerable reduction in yield even upto an extent of 70 per cent. This situation warrants to identify alternate remunerative crops to rainfed groundnut in alfisols.

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