

.Agromet Advisories for drought prone areas

- Practice rainwater harvesting.
- Repair and rejuvenate local water bodies before the rainy season.
- Excavate deep pits to help increase groundwater table. • Participate in water conservation programmes. •
- Encouragement of afforestation with subabul, seemaruba, casurina, and eucalyptus.
- Promotion of bio diesel plantations like jetropha and pongomia. • Do not cut trees and forests.
- Repair and rejuvenate local water bodies before the rainy season.
- Use drought-resistant / low water requiring crop varieties / plants.
- Plant drought-tolerant grasses, shrubs, trees to protect soil moisture.
- Undertake water conservation measures.
- Arrange for irrigation facilities from available water resources.

Prepare contingency plan in case of late onset of monsoon / dry spells during the season with appropriate cropping pattern.

- Crops with short duration and requiring relatively little water need to be encouraged in drought-prone areas; arrange availability of seeds with short duration varieties. • Arrange stocking of quality seeds, well in advance for immediate distribution.

Agromet Advisories for drought affected areas

- Farmers can opt practices like mulching, weed control, intercultural operations etc. • Encourage afforestation with Subabul, Seemaruba, Casurina and Eucalyptus.

Ensure availability of quality fodder and cattle camps. • Take care of controlling of sucking pests; control/minimize the insect and pest incidence with IPM.. • Foliar spray of nitrogen fertilizers and micronutrients during the dry spell protects and improves the endurance of crop to the drought conditions.

- Adopt skip row irrigation in wide row crops like cotton. • Reduce plant population to minimize transpiration loss of moisture from soil.
- Spray of antitranspirants like Kaolin (6%), Cycocel (0.03%), Phenyl Mercuric Acid (PMA) wherever required. • Doses of fertilizer may be reduced or its application may be delayed.
- Insitu practices like field leveling, bunding, trenching, terracing and fallow ploughing to arrest runoff losses of water and top soil.

Do not use high water requiring seeds / crops; don't irrigate crops during morning hours.

- Use sprinkler method/drip irrigation method for irrigation; irrigate crops during evenings.
- Remove the weeds from fields. Those weeds can be used for mulching to avoid water loss. Take up hoeing or intercultural operations to make soil dust mulch to conserve soil moisture, remove weeds and break soil surface crust.