

Do's and Don'ts for Drought/Dry spell in Agriculture

Do's:

- Undertake rainwater harvesting.
- Repair and rejuvenate local water bodies before the rainy season.
- Use drought-resistant / low water intensity crop varieties / plants.
- Plant drought-tolerant grasses, shrubs, trees to protect soil moisture.
- Use sprinkler method/drip irrigation method for irrigation; irrigate crops during evenings.
- Undertake water conservation measures.
- Prepare and use crop contingency and complementary plans.
- Arrange for irrigation facilities from available water resources.
- Remove the weeds from fields. Those weeds can be used for mulching to avoid water loss.
- Preparation of a 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; arranging availability of seeds with short duration varieties.
- Stocking of quality seeds, well in advance for immediate distribution.
- Farmers can opt practices like mulching, weed control, inter-cultural operations etc.
- Encouragement of afforestation with Subabul, Seemaruba, Casurina and Eucalyptus.
- Ensuring availability of quality fodder and cattle camps.
- Take care of controlling of sucking pests; and encourage the farmers to have crop insurance irrespective of whether they are indebted or not.

Don'ts:

- Do not use high water intensity seeds / crops; don't irrigate crops during morning hours.
- Avoid spraying of fertilisers.