

Dos and Don'ts for Drought / Dry spell

Dos

- Listen to radio, watch TV and read newspapers for warnings, updates and instructions.
- 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.
- Put used domestic water to use by watering grasses and plants.
- Use a bucket instead of a shower for bathing.
- Use wet clothes to clean and scrub floors instead of using running water.
- Construct toilets that need less water for flushing.
- Regularly check tanks, taps, etc. to prevent leakage.
- Reuse water as much as possible.
- Adapt water conservation practices in lifestyle. Follow all state and local restrictions on water use, even if you have a private well (groundwater levels are affected by drought too).
- Encouragement of afforestation with subabul, seemaruba, casurina, and eucalyptus.
- Promotion of bio diesel plantations like jetropha and pongomia.

Don'ts

- Do not waste water at all.
- Do not cut trees and forests.
- Do not waste rainwater collected on rooftops, etc.
- Do not mess with traditional water sources such as ponds, annicuts, well, tanks, etc.
- Do not use the flowing water during brushing, shaving, washing utensils, clothes, etc.

- Avoid using handheld hose for any domestic chores.

Dos and Don'ts for Drought/Dry spell in Agriculture

Dos

- Undertake rainwater harvesting. Water harvesting practices like farm ponds, community tanks, watersheds and pools can prove a life saver.
- 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.
- Use sprinkler method/drip irrigation method for irrigation; irrigate crops during evenings.
- Undertake water conservation measures.
- Arrange for irrigation facilities from available water resources.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Encourage the farmers to have crop insurance irrespective of whether they are indebted or not.
- 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.
- *In situ* practices like field leveling, bunding, trenching, terracing and fallow ploughing to arrest runoff losses of water and top soil.

Don'ts

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