



Drought



The condition under which crops fail to mature because of insufficient supply of water through rains.

or

The situation in which the amount of water required for transpiration and evaporation by crop plants in a defined area exceeds the amount of available moisture in the soil.

Classification of Drought

Droughts are broadly divided into 3 categories.

Types of agricultural droughts

- 1. Early season drought:** It generally occurs either due to delayed onset of monsoon or due to prolonged dry spell soon after the onset, resulting in seedling mortality, need for resowing or poor crop stand and seedling growth.
- 2. Mid-season drought:** It occurs due to inadequate soil moisture availability between two successive rainfall events during crop growth. Its impact depends on crop growth stage, duration and intensity of the drought spell.
- 3. Late season or terminal drought:** It occurs as a result of early cessation of monsoon, mainly during the years with late commencement or weak monsoon activity. Rainfed rice in dry sub-humid regions is often subjected to terminal droughts due to failure of September rains with 40 to 50% of dry spells of over 5 days during that month.
- 4. Chronic drought:** It is common in arid areas where rainfall and stored soil moisture are inadequate to meet crop water requirement during most of the years. Here, the assured growing period is hardly 6 to 7 weeks.
- 5. Apparent drought:** These are observed in low to medium rainfall regions due to mis-matching of the cropping pattern in relation to rainfall / moisture availability.