



## Research Article

# DURATION AND GRAIN YIELD ASSESSMENT OF WHEAT (*Triticum aestivum*) IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN UNDER PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIOS

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**Abstract:** The impact of projected climate during 2030-2090 on the duration and yield of wheat in Southern part of Rajasthan has been analyzed using DSSAT model v 4.5. Data from field experiments conducted at Udaipur, with wheat variety Raj-4037 grown during *rabi* season of 2008-09 to 2010-11, was used for calibration and validation of model. The crop sown on 5<sup>th</sup> November showed projected decline in grain yield from 9.3 % in the year 2030 to 35.4 % in 2090. Delayed sowing (5<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> December) showed lower decline in the projected grain yield and duration for physiological maturity. Advance sowing resulted higher decline in grain yield and days to attain physiological maturity of wheat. Incremental unit of maximum and minimum temperatures (0.5 to 3.0°C) during the entire growth period showed that days required for maturity as well as grain yield under each sowing environment decreased as compared to normal durations and grain yield.

**Keywords:** Climate change, crop duration, crop yield, temperature, wheat

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## Introduction

Climate change and variability cause a wide range of direct and indirect impact on crop productivity. Studies on crop production are carried out by conducting field experiments, in which crop production functions are derived from statistical analysis without referring to biological processes. It is expected that the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would affect the climate; global mean surface temperature is projected to increase by 2.0 to 5.4°C for A2 scenario during 2090 to 2099 relative to 1980-1999[1]. In India major part of the population is engaged in agriculture or agriculture-based enterprises so, changing climate may impair India's food security by hampering agricultural production. To overcome the negative effect of climate change, a pre-assessment of the approaching situation can be quite helpful in managing the change for benefit. Dynamic crop growth models are widely used to project the effects of rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and associated climate change on crop yield. Simulation studies for wheat in India showed declined in yield from 3 to 38 percent in Patna and 3 to 28 percent in Ranchi for 2020, 2050 and 2080[2]. Wheat crop matured 10-20 days earlier and wheat production decline by more than 4 million tonnes in Indo-Gangatic plains when temperature increased by 3-6°C in March 2004 equivalent to average 1°C per day rise in the crop season [3]. Fifty one percent decrease in the most favorable and high yielding regions of India due to heat stress, likely to reduce wheat yield [4]. This study was under taken to assess the impact of climate change on the wheat yield grown in southern Rajasthan

## Materials and Methods

The CERES wheat model was calibrated and validated with data sets generated during *rabi* season of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 through field experiment laid out in split plot design with four replications on clay loam soil of the Instructional Farm of Agronomy, Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. The treatment comprised four dates of sowing (5<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> December).

The crop was fertilized with 120 kg N and 40kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/ha and received six irrigations. Udaipur is situated in the southern part of Rajasthan at 24°35' N latitude, 73° 42' E longitude and altitude 582.2m above mean sea level. CERES wheat model was used to simulate the yield of wheat variety Raj 4037 under hypothetical increase or decrease in both maximum and minimum temperatures throughout the crop period that may be arising due to climate change in future. The climate scenarios were simulated for temperature  $\pm 0.5$  to  $\pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ . The DSSAT (Decision Support System for Agro technology Transfer) v 4.5, comprehensive software developed by International Consortium for Agricultural Systems Applications (ICASA, Hawaii) was used for impact assessment studies. The IPCC's Special Report on Emission Scenario (SRES) describes future scenarios projecting greenhouse gas emissions. The set of scenarios consists of six scenario groups drawn from the four families: one group each in A2, B1, B2, and three groups within the A1 family, characterizing alternative developments of energy technologies: A1FI (fossil fuel intensive), A1B (balanced), and A1T (predominantly non-fossil fuel). A1B scenario assumes a balanced mix of technologies and supply sources, with technology improvements and resource assumptions such that no single source of energy is overly dominant [5]. The baseline weather data of Udaipur for the period from 1971-2000 was used to generate 2030, 2050, 2080 and 2090 climate scenarios and this data later used to simulate wheat duration and yield.

## Results and Discussion

Results on effect of maximum and minimum temperatures on simulated duration of maturity and grain yield of wheat under four dates of sowing are presented in [Table-1 and 2]. Simulated duration of maturity of wheat by using CERES wheat model under incremental unit of maximum and minimum temperatures (0.5 to 3.0°C) during the entire growth period showed that days required for maturity as well as grain yield under each sowing environment decreased as compared to normal durations and yield that observed in all sowing.

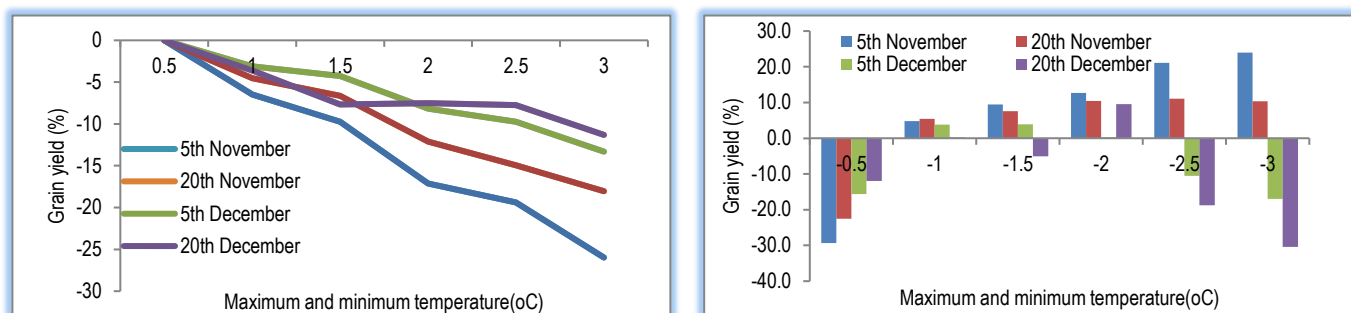


Fig-1 Grain yield of wheat as influenced by increase and decrease of maximum and minimum temperature during entire growing period

Table-1 Simulated days required to attain physiological maturity under change in temperature (maximum and minimum) during growth period of wheat variety

Change in temperature (°C)													
Date of sowing	Observed	0.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	-0.5	-1	-1.5	-2	-2.5	-3
5 <sup>th</sup> November	125	122	119	117	114	111	109	128	131	134	136	138	139
20 <sup>th</sup> November	123	121	119	116	114	112	110	126	127	128	129	130	131
5 <sup>th</sup> December	118	117	115	113	111	109	107	119	119	120	120	121	122
20 <sup>th</sup> December	112	112	110	108	106	105	102	111	111	110	110	111	113

Table-2 Simulated grain yield (kg/ha) under change in temperature (maximum and minimum) during growth period of wheat

Table 2. Simulated grain yield (kg/ha) under change in temperature (maximum and minimum) during growth period of wheat													
Date of sowing	Observed	Change in temperature (°C)											
		0.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	-0.5	-1	-1.5	-2	-2.5	-3
5 <sup>th</sup> November	6933	6933	6484	6259	5747	5589	5132	4902	7266	7590	7813	8397	8594
20 <sup>th</sup> November	6983	6983	6667	6520	6138	5939	5723	5409	7359	7511	7710	7756	7704
5 <sup>th</sup> December	6799	6799	6587	6509	6244	6136	5894	5734	7055	7065	6823	6081	5642
20 <sup>th</sup> December	5871	5871	5659	5420	5429	5417	5207	5169	5882	5573	5311	4768	4084

Table-3 Projected days required for physiological maturity of wheat under changing climate scenario at Udaipur

Date of sowing	Expected Grain yield (kg/ha)				
	Normal	2030	2050	2080	2090
5 <sup>th</sup> November	6933	6290	5186	4894	4482
20 <sup>th</sup> November	6983	6767	5476	4882	4692
5 <sup>th</sup> December	6799	6380	5748	5654	4999
20 <sup>th</sup> December	5871	5295	5032	5411	4153

Table-4 Projected wheat yield under changing climate scenario at Udaipur

Date of sowing	Expected Grain yield (kg/ha)				
	Normal	2030	2050	2080	2090
5 <sup>th</sup> November	6933	6290	5186	4894	4482
20 <sup>th</sup> November	6983	6767	5476	4882	4692
5 <sup>th</sup> December	6799	6380	5748	5654	4999
20 <sup>th</sup> December	5871	5295	5032	5411	4153

Table-5 Observed and DSSAT simulated values of wheat variety Raj-4037

Variable	Mean		Standard Deviation		R <sup>2</sup>	Mean Diff.	RMSE	d-Stat.
	Observed	Simulated	Observed	Simulated				
Emergence (days)	5	4	0.484	0.500	0.600	-2	1.904	0.360
Anthesis(days)	78	80	4.717	4.241	0.686	2	3.41	0.856
Grain Yield (kg/ha)	5751	6132	1189	1109	0.793	381	663.36	0.914
Biological yield(kg/ha)	15307	12712	2450.4	1723.6	0.573	-2595	3051.4	0.640
Harvest index	0.374	0.480	0.041	0.031	0.552	0.106	0.109	0.426
Physiological maturity (days)	116	111	8.985	5.883	0.671	-6	7.68	0.761

On the contrary, under -0.5 to -3.0°C of maximum and minimum temperatures during the entire growth period showed increase in duration required to attain physiological maturity and grain yield with successive decrease of temperature except some cases [Fig-1]. The grain yield was not affected with the increase in temperature by 0.5°C under all sowing environments. The extent of reduction in grain yield of wheat is highest under 5<sup>th</sup> November sown crop in each category of temperature increase. The magnitude of reduction in grain yield with the increase in temperature (Maximum and minimum) by 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0°C was in the order of 6.5, 9.7, 17.1, 19.4 and 26.0 % under 5<sup>th</sup> November sowing, 4.5, 6.6, 12.1, 15.0 and 18.0 % under 20<sup>th</sup> November sowing, 3.1, 4.3, 8.2, 9.8, and 13.3 % under 5<sup>th</sup> December sowing and 3.6, 7.7, 7.5, 7.7 and 11.3 % under 20<sup>th</sup> December sowing. Similarly, in case of gradual decrease in both maximum and

minimum temperatures during the entire growth period of wheat in the range of 1.0 to -3.0°C, increase in duration of maturity and yield of wheat were observed [Fig-1].

#### Assessment of duration and grain yield of wheat under A1B climate change scenario

The current variety (Raj-4037), cultivation and management practices, the impact of temperatures regimes in future scenario on wheat duration and grain yield under A1B climate scenario by using DSSAT v4.5 CERES-wheat model are explored at Udaipur for four dates of sowing viz., 5<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> December. Results are drawn by comparing the simulated duration and yield between future (2030, 2050, 2080 and 2090) and baseline (Normal).

Under 5<sup>th</sup> November sown crop, the expected duration of physiological maturity decreased by 10, 19, 24 and 25 days as compared to normal value (125 days) in future years *i.e.*, 2030, 250, 2080 and 2090 respectively. Under 20<sup>th</sup> November sown crop, the expected duration of physiological maturity reduced by 11, 15, 19 and 22 days in future years 2030, 2050, 2080 and 2090, respectively as compared to base line duration (123 days). It is interesting to note that the extent of reduction in duration of physiological maturity was less under late sown wheat *i.e.*, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> November sown crops. It was ranged from 5 to 19 days under 5<sup>th</sup> December and 4 to 15 days under 20<sup>th</sup> December sown crop [Table-3]. Results further showed that maximum yield reduction (26.5 to 35.4 %) was expected by the year 2090 followed by 16.8 to 30.1 % reduction by the year 2080, 14.3 to 25.2 % by the year 2050 and 3.1 to 9.8 %. With respect to grain yield under 5<sup>th</sup> November sown crop, the reduction from baseline yield ranged from 9.3 to 35.4 percent as compared to normal yield (6933 kg/ha). The reduction in grain yield was increased when move in future scenario from 2030 to 2090 under each sowing dates. Under 2030, the maximum expected grain yield reduction was observed under 20<sup>th</sup> November sown crop (9.8 %) followed by 5<sup>th</sup> November (9.3%), 5<sup>th</sup> December (6.2%) and 20<sup>th</sup> November (3.1%). However, the expected reduction in grain yield in the year 2050, 2080 and 2090 was highest under 5<sup>th</sup> November sown crop [Table-4]. When simulation done for delayed sowing (5<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> December), grain yield reduction is lesser as compared to other two dates of sowing (5<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> November). Abdul, *et al.*, [1,6] also reported that projected wheat and potato yield decline in the future scenario of 2020, 2050 and 2080.

#### Validation and calibration of CERES wheat model

Anthesis, maturity days, yield attributes and yields of wheat var. Raj -4037 were simulated using DSSAT v4.5 model. The simulated values [Table-5] showed that days taken for anthesis were predicted closely but model under estimated days taken for physiological maturity. However, grain yield was over estimated by 6.6 percent while harvest index was also over estimated by 28.3 percent.

#### Conclusion

CERES wheat model predicted that incremental unit of maximum and minimum temperatures (0.5 to 3.0°C) during the entire growth period shows that gradual decrease in days as well as grain yield under each sowing environment as compared to normal durations and yield.

**Application of research:** Model predicted days taken to anthesis were more closely but model under estimated days taken to physiological maturity. However, grain yield was over estimated by 6.6 percent.

**Research Category:** Agrometeorology

#### Abbreviations

CERES: Crop Estimation through Resource and Environment Synthesis  
SRES: Special Report on Emission Scenario

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