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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# EFFECT OF EXTENDED SOWING DATES ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF CHICKPEA

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### ABSTRACT

The field experiment was conducted in *rabi* season at Nashik. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (factorial) with three replications. There were thirty six treatment combinations formed due to four sowing dates *viz.* 45 MW, 46 MW, 47 MW, 48 MW and three chickpea varieties *viz.* Vijay, Vishal, Digvijay. The crop sown in 46<sup>th</sup> MW was recorded significantly higher plant height, number of branches, plant spread, number of pods per plant, dry matter per plant, weight of grain and straw per plant. Among the varieties plant height, dry matter per plant was the highest in 'Vishal' variety but the highest value of number of branches and plant spread was recorded in 'Vijay' variety followed by 'Digvijay' variety. The yield contributing characters *viz.* number of pods per plant, weight of pods per plant and weight of straw per plant were found significantly higher in the 'Digvijay' variety. While, test weight was found significantly higher in the 'Vishal' variety. The grain yield and straw yield were found significantly more in 'Digvijay' variety. The chickpea crop should be sown at 46 MW and the most suitable variety for extended sowing time (46 MW) is Digvijay or Vijay based on grain yield

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## INTRODUCTION

Chickpea is cool season crop. Its yield and quality is mostly depend on climatic parameters and time of sowing. It is a short durational crop and requires relatively low temperature for its optimum growth. In India, mid October to mid November is the ideal period for sowing chickpea. Any deviation from this period causes conspicuous reduction in yield (Dumbre and Deshmukh, 1983).

Due to global warming, temperature is increasing day by day, also the rainfall pattern is disturbed and the rainy season is extended up to first fortnight of November. As a result, duration of winter season is reduced. In such condition, there is a need to adjust the sowing date with suitable cultivars of chickpea for obtaining higher yields.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The field experiment was conducted in *rabi* season at Nashik Region. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (factorial) with three replications. There were thirty six treatment combinations formed due to four sowing dates *viz.* 45 MW, 46 MW, 47 MW, 48 MW and three chickpea varieties *viz.* Vijay, Vishal, Digvijay.

The soil of experimental field was clayey in texture, very low available nitrogen (175 kg/ha), slightly high available phosphorus (14.85 kg/ha) and high available potassium (560 kg/ha) and slightly acidic in reaction (pH 6.6). The gross and net plot size were 4.00 x 3.00 m<sup>2</sup> and 3.20 x 2.40 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. The chickpea crop was sown as per treatment by dibbling by one seed per hill at spacing of 30 x 10 cm<sup>2</sup>. The full dose of nitrogen and phosphorus was applied as basal dose. The optimum plant population was maintained by gap filling and the crop was irrigated as per requirements. Normal cultural operations and plant protection measures were carried out as and when required.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Growth and yield contributing characters

**Effect of sowing dates:** Significantly more plant height was observed in the crop sown in 45 MW over 48 MW treatments but it was at par with crop sown in 46 MW and 47 MW sowing dates. The similar result have been reported by Kabir *et al.* (2009) and Shamsi (2010). Significantly the highest mean plant spread was recorded in 46 MW crop sown over rest of the treatments but at 70 DAS it was at par with 47 MW treatments. Similar result have been reported by Ramteke *et al.* (1996) and Kabir *et al.* (2009).

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**Table 1** Effect of extended sowing dates and varieties on growth and yield contributing characters of chickpea during *rabi* 2012-13

| Treatment                            | Plant height (cm) | Plant spread (cm) | Number of branches | Dry matter (g) | No. of pods/plant | Weight of pods /plant (g) | Weight of straw /plant(g) | Test weight(g) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>A. Sowing dates</b>               |                   |                   |                    |                |                   |                           |                           |                |
| S <sub>1</sub> : 45 <sup>th</sup> MW | 49.9              | 45.8              | 6.7                | 32.0           | 45.3              | 12.7                      | 16.9                      | 220.0          |
| S <sub>2</sub> : 46 <sup>th</sup> MW | 49.7              | 49.7              | 6.7                | 37.5           | 45.6              | 13.3                      | 14.3                      | 222.2          |
| S <sub>3</sub> : 47 <sup>th</sup> MW | 47.7              | 46.5              | 6.6                | 33.5           | 38.5              | 13.3                      | 13.6                      | 224.4          |
| S <sub>4</sub> : 48 <sup>th</sup> MW | 34.7              | 35.3              | 5.4                | 20.7           | 29.6              | 10.7                      | 9.6                       | 210.0          |
| S.E.±                                | 0.8               | 0.8               | 0.05               | 0.2            | 0.1               | 0.1                       | 0.9                       | 1.1            |
| C.D. at 5%                           | 2.2               | 2.4               | 0.1                | 0.6            | 0.4               | 0.4                       | 2.9                       | 3.2            |
| <b>B. Varieties</b>                  |                   |                   |                    |                |                   |                           |                           |                |
| V <sub>1</sub> : Vijay               | 41.5              | 49.4              | 6.7                | 28.6           | 38.7              | 11.9                      | 13.2                      | 181.6          |
| V <sub>2</sub> : Vishal              | 50.1              | 39.5              | 6.0                | 34.0           | 37.0              | 13.6                      | 14.6                      | 255.0          |
| V <sub>3</sub> : Digvijay            | 44.7              | 44.0              | 6.3                | 30.2           | 43.5              | 12.1                      | 13.0                      | 220.8          |
| S.E.±                                | 0.7               | 0.9               | 0.06               | 0.2            | 0.1               | 0.1                       | 0.8                       | 1.2            |
| C.D. at 5%                           | 2.2               | 2.8               | 0.18               | 0.6            | 0.4               | 0.5                       | N.S.                      | 3.7            |
| <b>C. Interaction (S X V)</b>        |                   |                   |                    |                |                   |                           |                           |                |
| S.E.±                                | 1.5               | 1.6               | 0.10               | 0.4            | 0.2               | 0.3                       | 1.7                       | 2.2            |
| C.D. at 5%                           | N.S.              | N.S.              | N.S.               | N.S.           | 0.8               | N.S.                      | N.S.                      | 6.5            |
| <b>General mean</b>                  | 45.4              | 44.3              | 6.3                | 10.3           | 39.7              | 12.5                      | 13.6                      | 219.1          |

**Table 2** Effect of extended sowing dates and varieties on yield contributing characters and yield of chickpea during *rabi* 2012-13

| Treatment                            | Grain yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> ) | Straw yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> ) | Harvest index (%) | Cost of cultivation (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> ) | Gross monetary return (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> ) | Net monetary return (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> ) | Benefit: cost ratio |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>A. Sowing dates</b>               |                                   |                                   |                   |  |  |  |                     |
| S <sub>1</sub> : 45 <sup>th</sup> MW | 27.3                              | 29.8                              | 47.8              | 35134                                      | 74441  | 39307                                      | 2.1                 |
| S <sub>2</sub> : 46 <sup>th</sup> MW | 28.6                              | 31.4                              | 47.6              | 35134                                      | 77962  | 42828                                      | 2.2                 |
| S <sub>3</sub> : 47 <sup>th</sup> MW | 27.8                              | 30.3                              | 47.9              | 35134                                      | 75756  | 40622                                      | 2.1                 |
| S <sub>4</sub> : 48 <sup>th</sup> MW | 21.7                              | 24.4                              | 47.1              | 35134                                      | 59296  | 24162                                      | 1.6                 |
| S.E.±                                | 0.08                              | 0.06                              | 0.06              |  | 179.6  | 179.6                                      |                     |
| C.D. at 5%                           | 0.23                              | 0.17                              | 0.18              |  | 525.9  | 525.9                                      |                     |
| <b>B. Varieties</b>                  |                                   |                                   |                   |  |  |  |                     |
| V <sub>1</sub> : Vijay               | 27.2                              | 29.8                              | 47.6              | 35134                                      | 74202  | 39068                                      | 2.1                 |
| V <sub>2</sub> : Vishal              | 24.4                              | 26.9                              | 47.5              | 35134                                      | 66530  | 31396                                      | 1.8                 |
| V <sub>3</sub> : Digvijay            | 27.5                              | 30.2                              | 47.6              | 35134                                      | 74859  | 39725                                      | 2.2                 |
| S.E.±                                | 0.07                              | 0.05                              | 0.07              |  | 207.4  | 207.4                                      |                     |
| C.D. at 5%                           | 0.20                              | 0.15                              | N.S.              |  | 607.2  | 607.2                                      |                     |
| <b>C. Interaction (S X V)</b>        |                                   |                                   |                   |  |  |  |                     |
| S.E.±                                | 0.14                              | 0.10                              | 0.12              |  | 359.3  | 359.3                                      |                     |
| C.D. at 5%                           | 0.40                              | 0.31                              | 0.36              |  | 1051.8                                       | 1051.8                                     |                     |
| <b>General mean</b>                  | 26.4                              | 29.0                              | 47.6              | 35134                                      | 71864  | 36730                                      | 1.9                 |

**Table 3** Effect of extended sowing dates and varieties on meteorological parameters of chickpea during *rabi* 2012-13

| Treatment                            | Growing degree days | Hydrothermal unit | Photothermal unit | Albedo | PAR (mol m <sup>-2</sup> ) | Canopy temperature (°c) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>A. Sowing dates</b>               |                     |                   |                   |        |                            |                         |
| S <sub>1</sub> : 45 <sup>th</sup> MW | 882                 | 49795             | 21508             | 0.37   | 462                        | 30.1                    |
| S <sub>2</sub> : 46 <sup>th</sup> MW | 851                 | 45103             | 20671             | 0.39   | 437                        | 31.4                    |
| S <sub>3</sub> : 47 <sup>th</sup> MW | 832                 | 44512             | 20986             | 0.38   | 463                        | 31.4                    |
| S <sub>4</sub> : 48 <sup>th</sup> MW | 682                 | 43989             | 18758             | 0.37   | 463                        | 31.5                    |
| S.E.±                                | 0.4                 | 24.6              | 32.3              | 0.0023 | 0.6                        | 0.03                    |
| C.D. at 5%                           | 1.3                 | 72.0              | 94.6              | 0.0069 | 1.8                        | N.S.                    |
| <b>B. Varieties</b>                  |                     |                   |                   |        |                            |                         |
| V <sub>1</sub> : Vijay               | 812                 | 44270             | 20452             | 0.38   | 456                        | 31.0                    |
| V <sub>2</sub> : Vishal              | 812                 | 44276             | 20520             | 0.38   | 456                        | 31.1                    |
| V <sub>3</sub> : Digvijay            | 812                 | 44348             | 20470             | 0.38   | 456                        | 31.1                    |
| S.E.±                                | 0.5                 | 28.4              | 37.3              | 0.0027 | 0.7                        | 0.04                    |
| C.D. at 5%                           | N.S.                | N.S.              | N.S.              | N.S.   | N.S.                       | N.S.                    |
| <b>C. Interaction (S X V)</b>        |                     |                   |                   |        |                            |                         |
| S.E.±                                | 0.9                 | 49.2              | 64.6              | 0.0047 | 1.2                        | 0.07                    |
| C.D. at 5%                           | N.S.                | N.S.              | N.S.              | N.S.   | N.S.                       | N.S.                    |
| <b>General mean</b>                  | 812                 | 44298             | 20481             | 0.38   | 456                        | 31.3                    |

At 45MW and 46MW recorded higher number of branches per plant which was on par with 47 MW and significantly superior over 48 MW. The significantly higher mean total dry matter per plant was recorded in 46MW treatment at rest of the treatments. The lowest value of mean dry matter per plant was recorded in 48 MW treatments. Similar results have been reported by Saini and Faroda (1997) and Anwar et al. (2003).

Significantly the highest mean number of pods per plant (45.6) at harvest was recorded in crop sown at 46MW followed by 45MW sowing date and both treatments are at par with each other. The late sown crop i.e. 48<sup>th</sup> MW found significantly lower number of pods per plant (29.6) followed by 47 MW sowing date. The highest mean weight of pods per plant (13.3g) was recorded from both 46MW and 47MW sowing dates over

rest of the treatments. The lowest weight of pods per plant (10.7 g) was recorded in 48MW sowing date. Significantly the higher mean weight of straw per plant (16.9 g) was recorded in 45MW sowing date over rest of the treatments. The more weight of straw is due to favorable climatic conditions for vegetative growth. The 46 MW sowing date was next best treatment and was at par with 45 MW sowing date. The investigation showed that each delay in sowing time decreased the 1000 seeds weight. The high temperature particularly during pod formation and pod development stages interfere with normal development of grain cause shriveling of grain. Thus, reduction in test weight was caused due to smaller size of grains. Similar result has been reported by [Saini and Faroda \(1997\)](#),

**Effect of varieties:** The differences in the mean plant height were statistically significant due to varieties. The variety Vishal was significantly recorded the highest plant height over other varieties tried in the experiment during all the growth stages. Significantly the highest value of mean plant spread was recorded by Vijay variety than rest of the varieties. The mean number of branches was significantly varied with different varietal treatments. Variety Vijay produced significantly more number of branches per plant over rest of the varieties, but was followed by variety Digvijay. Variety Vishal having significantly less number of branches per plant. The significant difference was found in mean total dry matter (g) due to different varieties. The highest mean total dry matter was recorded by Vishal variety at rest of the varieties and followed by Digvijay variety.

At harvest, significantly the highest mean number of pods per plant (43.5) was recorded in Digvijay variety followed by Vijay and Vishal variety. It showed that Digvijay variety produced more number of pods under extended or late sowing conditions. Significantly the highest mean weight of pods per plant (13.6 g) was recorded in Vishal variety over rest of the varieties. The lowest mean weight of pods per plant was recorded in Vijay variety. There was no significant effect of varieties on weight of straw per plant under extended sowing dates. Significantly maximum mean 1000 seeds weight (255.0 g) was recorded in Vishal variety over rest of the varieties, but was followed by Digvijay variety. The lowest 1000 seeds weight was recorded by Vijay variety (181.6).

**Interaction effect :** The interaction effect between sowing dates and varieties were found to be non significant at all the growth and yield contributing characters except in number of pods per plant and thousand seed weight it was significant.

#### **Yield and economics**

**Effect of sowing dates:** The significantly maximum seed yield (28.6 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in crop sown at 46MW over rest of the sowing dates and it was followed by 47 MW sowing date. The significantly lower grain yield (21.7 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in 48MW sowing date. The reduction in grain yield caused due to sowing dates was primarily because of difference in temperature. Crop sown at 46 MW was favorable to high grain production because post anthesis period coincide with relative low temperature. However, late sowing was unfavorable to

grain yield. Similar result has been reported by [Arvadia and Patel \(1986\)](#), [Dhingra et al. \(1986\)](#), and [Kabir et al. \(2009\)](#).

There was significant variation in mean straw yield due to sowing dates. The highest mean straw yield was recorded by crop sown at 46MW treatment over rest of the sowing dates due to pronounced plant growth. The lowest value of straw yield (24.4 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in 48MW treatment. Similar results have been reported by [Badani et al. \(2010\)](#) and [Shamsi \(2010\)](#). There was significant variation in mean harvest index due to sowing dates treatments. The highest mean harvest index was recorded in 47MW treatment followed by 45 MW and it was at par with each other. The lowest value of harvest index (47.1%) was recorded in 48MW sowing date.

The total cost of cultivation was same for all treatments. It was Rs 35134/ha. The gross monetary returns were significantly influenced by different sowing dates. Significantly higher gross monetary return (Rs 77962/ha) was obtained by crop sown at 46 MW over rest of the sowing dates. The lowest value of gross monetary return (Rs 59296/ha) was obtained in 48 MW sowing treatment. The net monetary return was significantly influenced with sowing dates. The highest net monetary return (Rs 42823/ha) was recorded in 46 MW sowing date at rest of the sowing dates. The highest benefit: cost ratio (2.2) was recorded in 46 MW sowing date. The lowest value was recorded in 48 MW sowing treatment.

**Effect of varieties:** There was statistically significant variation in seed yield due to varieties. Digvijay variety of chickpea recorded significantly higher seed yield (27.5 q/ha) over rest of the varieties but was followed by Vijay. The lowest yield (24.4 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded by Vishal cultivar. The highest straw yield was recorded by Digvijay variety than rest of the varieties; it was followed by Vijay variety. Data pertaining to mean harvest index revealed that there was no statistically significant variation due to varieties. Digvijay variety recorded 47.6 % harvest index.

The cost of cultivation for all varieties, was Rs. 35134/ha. Significantly higher gross monetary return (Rs 74859/ha) was obtained from Digvijay variety as compared to remaining varieties. The highest net monetary return (Rs 39725/ha) was recorded by Digvijay variety over rest of the varieties. The highest benefit: cost ratio (2.2) was recorded in Digvijay variety at rest of the varieties. The lowest value of benefit: cost ratio (1.8) was recorded in Vishal variety of chickpea.

**Interaction effect:** The interaction effect between sowing dates and varieties were found to be significant in grain yield, straw yield, harvesting index, gross monetary and net monetary returns.

#### **Meteorological Parameters**

**Effect of sowing dates:** The value of GDD increased with the growth stages of crop. The highest value of GDD was recorded in the 45 MW sowing treatment over rest of the sowing dates. The lowest value of GDD was recorded in 48 MW sowing. The result of experiment showed that accumulation of GDD greatly varied with sowing time. Delayed sowing enhances maturity

due to high sunlight and temperature. Similar result has been reported by Agrawal *et al.* (2002) and Chand *et al.* (2010). Significantly the highest value of cumulative hydrothermal and photothermal unit was recorded in 45 MW sowing treatment over rest of the treatments. Significantly superior value of cumulative albedo was recorded in 46 MW sowing treatment at rest of the treatments. Significantly the highest value of cumulative PAR was recorded in 47 MW sowing treatment at rest of the sowing dates. Significantly the highest value of ambient temperature was recorded in 45 MW sowing treatment at rest of the treatments.

**Effect of varieties:** There is no significant difference in different chickpea varieties for accumulation of GDD. There is significant difference in hydrothermal unit on different chickpea varieties. Significantly maximum hydrothermal unit was recorded by Vishal variety followed by Digvijay variety. Significantly the highest value of photo thermal unit was recorded in Vishal variety at rest of the varieties. There was no significant difference in cumulative albedo amongst different chickpea varieties at critical growth stages. There was no significant difference in cumulative PAR amongst different chickpea varieties. There is no significant difference in canopy temperature for different chickpea varieties.

**Interaction effect:** For all the meteorological characters the interaction effect between sowing dates and varieties was found to be non-significant.

The chickpea crop should be sown at 46 MW and the most suitable variety for extended sowing time (46 MW) is Digvijay or Vijay based on grain yield

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