

Effect of Time of Sowing, Spacing and Seed Rate on Seed production Potential and Economics of Fodder Cowpea Under Rainfed Condition

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ABSTRACT

A Field experiment was conducted during *kharif* 2005 on medium deep black clay soil under rainfed condition at Main Agricultural Research Station, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, to study the effect of time of sowing, spacing and seed rate on seed production potentiality of fodder cowpea. Sowing in June 2nd fortnight recorded significantly higher seed yield (925 kg ha⁻¹), haulm yield (4442 kg ha⁻¹) and harvest index (0.20) compared to July 1st fortnight (675 kg ha⁻¹, 4028 kg ha⁻¹ and 0.16, respectively) and July 2nd fortnight (519 kg ha⁻¹, 3701 kg ha⁻¹ and 0.16, respectively) sowing. The row spacing of 30 cm recorded significantly favourable growth and yield attributes, seed yield (743 kg ha⁻¹) and haulm yield (4198 kg ha⁻¹) compared to 45 cm. Seed rate had no significant influence on growth and yield of fodder cowpea. The combination of June 2nd fortnight sowing with 30 cm row spacing at 30 kg ha⁻¹ seed rate recorded higher seed yield (1056 kg ha⁻¹), haulm yield 94970 kg ha⁻¹) and significantly higher net income (Rs. 28282 ha⁻¹) and benefit cost ratio (4.71).

Key words : Fodder cowpea, Seed rate, Seed yield, Sowing time, Spacing.