

Weather Health Indices for Ranges of Rainfall in ITKs Through Murthy's Concepts

V R K Murthy, P Venkata Rao, B Jyothi Basu and S Kiran Kumar

Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College, Bapatla 522 101, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted for 30 years from 1983 to 2013 to convert the farmers usage of qualitative terms into quantitative terms with respect to rainfall in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The qualitative terms which depict the ranges of rainfall in traditional knowledge like “ No, Low, Moderate and Heavy “ were scientifically and technically quantified as “ 0, 0-16, 16-24 and 24-40 mm “ respectively. Also, farmers qualitative terms in ITWKs such as “Normal drought, moderate drought and severe drought” are quantified as “ < 25%, 25-50% and >50%” respectively of the normal rainfall of Andhra Pradesh. The quantitative terms are precisely defined as “Constants”, after the introduction of the terms “Weather health” and “Weather health indices” since 2012. A huge 81 per cent of the 2200 farmers/ teachers/ students who were interviewed / surveyed expressed that the weather health indices, thumb rules and agro-almanac helped them to overcome the daily weather related risks and uncertainties, more so during cyclones in their farms. In addition, the “Weather health indices” observed through Murthy's Daily Weather and Agriculture (MDWA) were found suitable as “Service” through the “Weather health indices”.

Key words : Health indices, Weather.