ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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Major **Agronomy**

TITLE: IMPACT OF SOWING DATES ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF WHEAT VARIETIES

The study was carried out to evaluate the impact of sowing dates on the growth and yield of wheat varieties at experimental field of Agronomy Section, ARI, Tandojam during the year 2010-11. The experiment was laid out in three replicated randomized complete block design (factorial) having net plot size of 15.75 m^2. The treatments included three sowing dates (15th November, 1st December and 15th December) and three wheat varieties (Imdad-2005, Anmol-91 and Moomal-2002). The observations were recorded on important growth and yield contributing characters viz: plant height (cm), tillers plant^{-1}, spike length (cm), grain weight plant^{-1}, biological yield (kg ha^{-1}), seed index (100 grains weight, g) and grain yield (kg ha^{-1}).

The results revealed that varieties as well as sowing dates had significant influence on most of the growth and yield contributing characters except tillers capacity, where as non-significant effects were observed for varieties as well as for sowing dates. Wheat variety Moomal-2002, followed by Imdad-2005 proved to be more promising as compared to Anmol-91; with a plant height of 104.31 and 96.28cm and 90.04, tillers plant^{-1}, 6.11, 5.24 and 4.64, spike length, 12.64 and 11.46cm, grain weight plant^{-1} 14.61g and 14.60 g, biological yield 11498.89, 10934.44 and 10299.56 kg ha^{-1}, grain yield 5743.89, 54.67.22 and 5149.78 kg ha^{-1} and seed index value 5.31, 5.02 and 4.94 respectively. On the other hand, 15th November followed by 15th December sowing produced significantly better results for the growth contributing characters of wheat varieties. It was found that variety Moomal-2002 was superior in all the growth and yield contributing characters, followed by Imdad-2005 and Anmol-91; while among sowing dates, 15th November and 1st December remained appropriately best sowing time for producing higher grain yield in all varieties.