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## Effect of different environments and sowing methods on wheat productivity in *Tawa* command area of Madhya Pradesh

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### Abstract

A field experiment was conducted during the winter season of 2019-20 and 2020-21 to study the effect on wheat production and productivity under four thermal environments (E<sub>1</sub>:15<sup>th</sup> November, E<sub>2</sub>:30<sup>th</sup> November, E<sub>3</sub>:15<sup>th</sup> December, E<sub>4</sub>:30 December) and three sowing methods (M<sub>1</sub>: Broadcast, M<sub>2</sub>: Line sowing and M<sub>3</sub>: Bed planting) were evaluated in a three replication with Split Plot Design. (E<sub>1</sub>: thermal environment) recorded significantly plant height (92.78 and 91.44 cm) dry matter accumulation (1270 and 1253 g m<sup>-2</sup>), number of tillers (429 and 420) and leaf area index (4.71 and 4.75) number of tillers (436 and 422 m<sup>-2</sup>) spike length (9.78 and 9.5 cm), grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (59.33 and 53.89) and test weight (48.89 and 47.78 g) grain yield maximum (5262 and 4941 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) straw yield (7441 and 7594 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) harvest index (41.36 and 39.34). The crop sown on E<sub>1</sub> and method M<sub>3</sub> was maximum production and best treatment combination. The maximum number of tillers (430 and 421), spike length (9.54 and 9.13 cm), grain spike<sup>-1</sup> (52.25 and 49.33) and test weight (43.75 and 42.25 g), grain yield (5050 and 4761 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) straw yield (7557 and 7655 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) harvest index (39.90 and 38.16) in M<sub>3</sub>. The method M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over the rest of methods.

**Keywords:** dry matter accumulation, leaf area index, sowing environments, sowing methods temperature, wheat

### Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is the world's largest cultivated grain crop, which belongs to the family Poaceae and genus *Triticum*. Its highly productive crop with high adaptability to different agro-climatic and soil conditions, therefore, occupies more acreage. Wheat cultivation is also the symbol of the green revolution, self-sufficiency of food, and sustained production (Alam, 2013) [2]. India is one of the major wheat producers after China and contributes more than 30% to the globe. In the central zone, the optimum time for sowing is the second fortnight of November. The optimum temperature regime during the growing season of wheat crop range between 20-22 °C at sowing time, 16-22 °C at tillering stage to grain filling stage, and the slow temperature rises to 40 °C at harvesting time (Sharma *et al.*, 2000). A sudden increase in temperature for 4-5 days at any stage of growth can adversely affect the wheat yield (Spiertz *et al.*, 2006). The increase in temperature by 1-3 °C is likely to advance the optimum sowing time by 5-8 days per degree rise in temperature. Wheat is generally planted by line sowing method by most of the farmers of Madhya Pradesh and broadcasting is an old conventional method of sowing for wheat. The bed planting system of wheat sowing is relatively a new technology in India. This sowing system facilitates mechanical weed control, improves water-use efficiency, and reduces crop lodging and seeding rate. It has been reported that bed planting of wheat increases the yield by 10%, reduces the cost of production to about 20-30%, and irrigation water requirement up to 35% (Yadav *et al.*, 2002b). Wheat is being photo-thermosensitive crop, selected of suitable wheat variety for different sowing time with suitable sowing methods and other agronomic management will further get prime importance. Temperature influences the crop phenology and yield of the crop (Bishnoi *et al.*, 1995). Plants have an obvious temperature requirement before they attain certain phenological stages. Therefore, experimentation was conducted to determine the heat unit requirement for wheat under different thermal environments and sowing methods under the *Tawa* command area, Madhya Pradesh.

## Materials and Methods

The field experiment was carried out at Zonal Agricultural Research Station, Powarkheda, Hoshangabad (M.P.), located in the Central Zone of India has a tropical and sub-tropical climate. This Centre is situated on the bank of the holy river Narmada at 77.42° N Latitude, 22.40° E Longitude and 299 m above mean sea level Altitude. The area was rich in deep black vertisol soil, having a pH of 7. The experiment was laid out in a split-plot design with three replications and four different sowing environments as main plot (15<sup>th</sup> November, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 30 December) and three sowing methods (Broadcast, Line sowing, and Bed planting) as subplots. The crop was grown with all recommended packages of practices of the region. The crop was sown at recommended seed rate *i.e.* 125 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in broadcasting method and @100 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in line sowing and bed planting methods, and treated with Vitavax @ 2 gm kg<sup>-1</sup> seed. Sowing was done manually and thereafter furrows were covered. The bed planting method is leveling of field, a pre-condition for the success of this technology. The field preparation, bed formation by bed planter, placement of fertilizer, and sowing of seed was done manually. Furrows were used for irrigation as well as for drainage of excess water if there is heavy rain during the crop season. Generally, 3 rows of wheat can be planted on the top of each bed. The bed is 67 cm (center-to-center) wide beds were made; the height of beds was 15 cm. After preparing the layout and marking the individual plots, the furrows were manually opened with kudali for sowing at the spacing of 22.5 cm. during both seasons. The basal dose of fertilizers in the required quantity was applied as per treatments in the furrows and mixed in the soil. Sowing was done manually and thereafter furrows were covered.

The weekly maximum temperature varied from 24.5 °C to 44.3 °C in the crop season of 2019-2020 while minimum temperature varied from 4.0 °C to 22.0 °C. The maximum temperature was varied from 25.5 °C to 40.5 °C during the year 2020-21, while the minimum temperature varied from 5.5 °C to 22.5 °C. The maximum temperature was recorded higher during the crop season of 2019-20 than 2020-21. Overall, it was almost similar during both the years of the crop season. Relative humidity in the morning was similar in the first year and second year 96 % and lower 46 % and 49 % while the evening RH was higher during first year 59% lower 15 % and second year 57 % and lower 9% of the crop season. The rainfall was 27 mm and 11.5 mm received in 8 and 7 rainy days during the first and second year respectively. The crop was exposed to a total sunshine duration of 182.6 and 197.8 hours during the total life span of the crop in the first and second years respectively. All the weather conditions were favourable for the wheat crop.

### Leaf area index

Leaf area was measured with leaf area meter (CI-203 model, CID Bio-Science, WA, USA). The green plants in 25 cm row length were uprooted and leaves were separated and their area was measured. The following equation was used for the calculation of the leaf area index (LAI) (Watson, 1952).

$$\text{LAI} = \frac{\text{Total green leaf area of the plants (cm}^2\text{)}}{\text{Total ground area (cm}^2\text{)}}$$

### Harvest Index

It refers to the ratio of economic yield (seed yield) in the biological yields (seed + straw) and it is expressed under a

particular treatment in percentage. It was worked for each plot by using the following formula (Nichiporovich, 1967),

$$\text{Harvest index (\%)} = \frac{\text{Economic yield (seed yield kg/ha)}}{\text{Biological yield (seed + straw yields kg/ha)}} \times 100$$

## Results and Discussion

Result of growth attributes in the revealed that the sundry growth parameters (Table 1 & 2) decremented significantly superior over rest treatments with each delay in sowing environments. Timely sowing environment (E<sub>1</sub>:15<sup>th</sup> November) recorded significantly higher plant height (92.78 and 91.44 cm) dry matter accumulation (1270 and 1253 g m<sup>-2</sup>), number of tillers (429 and 420 m<sup>-2</sup>) and leaf area index (4.71 and 4.75), and (bed planting) recorded significantly plant height (91 and 90.42 cm) dry matter accumulation (1261 and 1242 g m<sup>-2</sup>), number of tillers (430 and 421 m<sup>-2</sup>) and leaf area index (5.37 and 5.35). Growth attributes were decremented with deferral in sowing time because of less propitious weather conditions and shorter crop growing periods that resulted in poor net photosynthesis as compared to optimum sowing dates. Several authors have reported reduction in growth attributes with delay in sowing time from the optimum (Jat *et al.*, 2013; Tomar *et al.*, 2014 and Mumtaz *et al.*, 2015) [17, 24]. During the later stages plant height, total tillers, and dry matter accumulation in E<sub>2</sub>, E<sub>3</sub>, and E<sub>4</sub> were statistically paramount with each other. The late sown crop was subjected to low temperature during the early growth period, the longer vegetative phase led to the engendered of growth attributes. Findings were recorded by Ghadekar *et al.*, (1992) [11]. DMA decremented with deferral in sowing time because of less propitious weather conditions and shorter crop growing period, minimized plant height and, LAI. Alam *et al.*, 2013 [2]; Kumar *et al.*, 2013 and Deshmukh *et al.*, 2015 [7] additionally reported that DMA was higher in the early sown crop because of propitious cool climate accessible for a longer period as compared to late sown crop. Further, since this period coincide with a conducive period for crop growth truncating death of tiller and senescence of leaf, thus accumulating.

### Interaction effect

**Plant height:** The interaction effects between different environment and sowing methods on plant height was minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> found significantly superior over rest environment combination. The higher plant height was found E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> significantly superior over rest environment combination. Similar results found by Mukherjee (2012) [23] and Baloch *et al.* (2010)

**Dry weight:** The interaction effects between sowing environment and methods on minimum plant dry weight recorded in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> found significantly superior over rest environment combination. The higher plant weight was found E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> significantly superior over rest environment combination. These finding are in line with Singh (2016). Plant dry weight was influenced by different sowing methods which observed and minimum in M<sub>1</sub> However, maximum in M<sub>3</sub> and found significantly superior over M<sub>2</sub> & M<sub>1</sub>. The results are in line with those obtained by Gupta *et al.* (2017) [13] and Kumar *et al.* (2017).

**Leaf area index:** The interaction effects between sowing environment and methods on leaf area index was minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> found significantly lower rest of the treatment

combination. The higher leaf area index in E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over rest of sowing environments and it was found at par E<sub>3</sub>. Similar result was reported by Suleiman *et al.* (2014). Leaf area index was influenced by different sowing methods which was minimum (3.03) in M<sub>1</sub> However, maximum (4.90) was recorded in M<sub>3</sub> and found significantly superior over M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>1</sub>. Similar finding were observed by Chouhan *et al.* (2017) and Gupta *et al.* (2017)<sup>[13]</sup>.

### Yield and yield attributes

The data depicted in Table 1 & 2 revealed significantly higher yield attributes viz. number of tillers (429 and 420 m<sup>-2</sup>) spike length (9.78 and 9.5 cm), grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (59.33 and 53.89), and test weight (44.44 and 43.78 g) were recorded with E1:15th November environment. With each delay in sowing, there was a paramount minimization in the yield attributes. Yield attributes as influenced by different Sowing methods and found as a maximum number of tillers (430 and 421 m<sup>-2</sup>), spike length (9.54 and 9.13 cm), grain spike<sup>-1</sup>(52.25 and 49.33), and test weight (44.5 and 43.85 g) in M<sub>3</sub>. The bed planting method was found significantly superior to the rest method. The minimum yield attributes viz. number of tillers (407 and 393) spike length (7.39 and 7.39 cm), grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (37 and 33.67), and test weight (43.78 and 42.96 g) in 30<sup>th</sup> December environment. Yield attributes are minimum in viz. number of tillers (404 and 395 m<sup>-2</sup>), spike length (8.0 and 7.92cm), grain spike<sup>-1</sup>(42.5 and 36.75), and test weight (43.5 and 43.2 g) in the M<sub>1</sub> broadcast method. The total and effective tillers were higher in earlier sowing due to the higher number of total tillers at all the magnification stages together with propitious weather conditions throughout the growing season. Ramesh *et al.*, (2005) additionally reported abbreviation in the number of total and effective tillers with deferral in the sowing environment. Significantly higher grains spike<sup>-1</sup> and spike weight with D<sub>1</sub> as compared to all other sowing dates may be attributed to the unpropitious effect of late sowing on yield attributing characters like grains spike<sup>-1</sup> and spike weight can be attributed to sharp ascend in temperature accompanied by sultry winds adversely affecting the grain development and resulted in juvenile and shriveled grains in the late sown crop, which was in the milk stage during that period. 15th October sown crop, however, was at an advantage because after having consummated its vegetative magnification satisfactorily, it entered the reproductive phase when grain development and maturity was subjected to a steady ascend in temperature. Kindred findings were corroborated by Angadi and Janawade (2001)<sup>[4]</sup> and Singh and Pal (2003).

### Interaction effect

**Effective tillers:** The interaction effects between different environments and sowing methods on minimum tillers recorded in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> was significantly lower treatment combination. The higher number of tillers in E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over rest of sowing environments and it was at par of E<sub>2</sub>, E<sub>3</sub> and E<sub>4</sub> at harvest during both the years of experiment. Same result was reported by Nizamuddin *et al.* (2014). The finding is in support to those of Chaudhary *et al.* (2016), Abbas *et al.* (2009)<sup>[11]</sup>, Soomro *et al.* (2009).

**Length of spike:** The interaction effects between different environments and sowing methods on length of spike of wheat was minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> was found significantly lower treatment combination. The length of spike in E<sub>1</sub> with

M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over the rest treatment combination. The results are supported by Baloch *et al.* (2010), reported that early sown crop produced maximum spike length than delayed sown crops.

**Number of grains:** The interaction effects between sowing environment and methods on number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup> of wheat was minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> was found significantly lower of the treatment combination. The number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup> of wheat in E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over rest of the treatment respectively. Methods of sowing also influenced significantly number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup> of wheat. The result was supported by Baloch *et al.* (2012) reported higher number of gains per spike with earlier sown crop. Among the methods of sowing M<sub>3</sub> showed maximum number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup> of wheat which was significantly superior over the rest treatment respectively. The results are in inverse with the finding of Carver (2005), Parihar and Singh (1995), Bakht *et al.* (2006).

### Grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)

Data concern to grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded at harvest and presented in Table 5 & 6, fig 5. Grain yield was minimum (3689 and 3333 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in E<sub>4</sub> However, maximum (5262 and 4941 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment that was found significantly superior over rest of the Sowing environment. Reduction of grain yield in E<sub>2</sub>, E<sub>3</sub> & E<sub>4</sub> Sowing environments recorded 4.9, 17.6, and 32.5% as compared to E<sub>1</sub> sowing environments respectively. Higher grain yield in 30<sup>th</sup> November sown crop may be attributed to better plant growth leading to significantly more yield attributes and better partitioning of photosynthates (Kumar *et al.* 2009). Significant increases in grain yield when sowing was delayed beyond 15<sup>th</sup> November. Delayed sowing hastened the crop phenological development, thereby causing a significant reduction in yield. Singh and Paul (2003); Amrawat *et al.* (2013) and Pandey *et al.* (2010) also reported similar findings. Every reduction in yields in late sown crop might be due to the detrimental effect of higher temperature at heading to milking and milking to dough phases of a crop causing poor grain filling (Jat *et al.* 2013)<sup>[17]</sup>. Grain yield was influenced by different sowing methods found maximum (5050 and 4761 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in M<sub>3</sub> it was found significantly superior over M<sub>2</sub> (4541 and 4252kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and M<sub>1</sub> (4096 and 3767kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Reduction of grain yield found in M<sub>2</sub> & M<sub>1</sub> which recorded 10.6 and 20.8% as compared to M<sub>3</sub> respectively. The straw yield was recorded minimum (6901 and 6826 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in E<sub>4</sub> However, maximum yield (7441 and 7594 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment and found at par with E<sub>2</sub>. Reduction of straw yield found in E<sub>2</sub>, E<sub>3</sub> & E<sub>4</sub> Sowing environments and recorded 1.7, 5.4, and 8.7% as compared to the E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment respectively. Straw yield influenced by different sowing methods and maximum (7557 and 7655 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in M<sub>3</sub> it was found significantly superior over M<sub>2</sub> (7201 and 7237 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) & M<sub>1</sub> (6858 and 6800kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Reduction of straw yield in M<sub>2</sub> & M<sub>1</sub> recorded 5.0 and 10.2% as compared to M<sub>3</sub> respectively. Biological yield recorded minimum (10590 and 10159 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in E<sub>4</sub> However, maximum (12703 and 12535 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment and was found at par to E<sub>2</sub> reduction of biological yield in E<sub>2</sub>, E<sub>3</sub> & E<sub>4</sub> sowing environments recorded 3.2, 10.3 and 17.7% as compared to E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment respectively. Biological yield influenced by different sowing method and as recorded maximum (12607 and 12416 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)



under M<sub>3</sub> it was found significantly superior over M<sub>2</sub> (11742 and 11489 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) & M<sub>1</sub> (10954 and 10567 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Reduction of biological yield in M<sub>2</sub> & M<sub>1</sub> recorded 7.1 and 13.9% as compared to M<sub>3</sub> respectively. Harvest index had seen minimum (34.78 and 32.75) in E<sub>4</sub> However, found maximum (41.36 and 39.34) in E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment and found significantly superior over the rest treatments E<sub>2</sub>. Reduction of harvest index in E<sub>2</sub>, E<sub>3</sub> & E<sub>4</sub> sowing environments recorded 2.1, 8.1, and 16.3% as compared to E<sub>1</sub> sowing environment respectively. Harvest index influenced by different sowing methods and found as maximum (39.90 and 38.16) in M<sub>3</sub> it was found significantly superior over M<sub>2</sub> (38.49 and 36.79) & M<sub>1</sub> (37.22 and 35.45). Reduction of harvest index in M<sub>2</sub> & M<sub>1</sub> recorded 3.5 and 6.9% as compared to M<sub>3</sub> respectively. The decline in grain yield with delay in sowing may be due to shortening of the duration of each developmental phase and forced maturity of late sown wheat, reduction in plant height, DMA, LAI, and tiller density. Moreover, the yield attributes like effective tillers, grains ear<sup>-1</sup>, and 1000-grain weight were reduced under delayed sowing which may be responsible for lesser grain yield. Similar results have been reported by Qasim *et al.*, (2008), Gao *et al.*, (2014), and Arzian *et al.*, (2015). Jakhar *et al.* (2005) reported that plant height was significantly higher in bed planted wheat (92.11 cm) in comparison to conventionally sown crops (83.23 cm). Abbas *et al.* (2009) <sup>[1]</sup> revealed that the better plant height was noted in drill Sowing with 30 and 22.5 cm rows. However, number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> and number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup> were statically similar in broadcasting and drilling at 22.5 cm apart rows. Kaur (2012) revealed that the Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) interception percentage, canopy temperature, leaf area index, and dry matter accumulation were also higher under bed planted crop as compared to flat planted crop. Gupta *et al.* (2017) <sup>[13]</sup> observed that the effects were noted under drill sowing at 18 and 20 cm and bed planting with 3 rows which were better in

terms of growth and yield. Dry matter accumulation, number of tillers m<sup>-2</sup>, leaf area index, and light interception were significantly higher with drill sowing at 18 cm row spacing. However, spike length was highest with bed planting (2 rows). The highest grain yield (50.94 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was obtained with 18 cm row spacing.

#### Interaction effect

**Grain yield:** The interaction effects between sowing environment and methods on grain yield of wheat was minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> found significantly lower rest of the treatment combination. The grain yield of wheat E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over the rest treatments combination. The results are in the line to those of Pirzada *et al.* (2018), Gupta *et al.* (2017) <sup>[13]</sup>, Razaq *et al.* (2016) and Kumar *et al.* (2017).

**Straw yield:** The interaction effects between sowing environment and methods on straw yield of wheat achieved minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> found significantly lower rest of the treatment combination. The straw yield of wheat E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over the rest treatments combination, and it was found at par E<sub>2</sub>. Baloch *et al.* (2010) reported higher straw yield with early sown crop.

**Harvest Index:** The interaction effects between sowing environment and methods on harvest index of wheat was minimum in E<sub>4</sub> with M<sub>1</sub> found significantly lower rest of the treatment combination. The grain yield of wheat E<sub>1</sub> with M<sub>3</sub> was found significantly superior over the rest treatments combination. Different sowing methods influenced harvest index significantly. Similar results were obtained by Kaur *et al.* (2015), Razaq *et al.* (2016), Tadesse *et al.* (2017), El-Temsah (2017) and Pirzada (2018). Ahuja *et al.* (1996) and Raj *et al.* (1992) reported positive correlation of harvest index with grain yield.

**Table 1:** Growth and Yield attributes of wheat as influenced by different Sowing environments and methods

| Treatments                            | Plant height (cm) |         |      | dry weight (gm <sup>-2</sup> ) |         |      | Leaf area index |         |      | Number of tillers m <sup>-2</sup> |         |      | Length of spike (cm) |         |      | number of grains spike <sup>-1</sup> |         |      | Test weight (g) |         |      | Grain yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) |         |       | Straw yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) |         |       | Harvest Index |         |      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|------|--------------------------------|---------|------|-----------------|---------|------|-----------------------------------|---------|------|----------------------|---------|------|--------------------------------------|---------|------|-----------------|---------|------|------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|------|
|                                       | 2019-20           | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20                        | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20         | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20                           | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20              | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20                              | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20         | 2020-21 | Mean | 2019-20                            | 2020-21 | Mean  | 2019-20                            | 2020-21 | Mean  | 2019-20       | 2020-21 | Mean |
| <b>Sowing environments</b>            |                   |         |      |                                |         |      |                 |         |      |                                   |         |      |                      |         |      |                                      |         |      |                 |         |      |                                    |         |       |                                    |         |       |               |         |      |
| E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | 92.8              | 91.4    | 92.1 | 1270                           | 1253    | 1262 | 4.71            | 4.75    | 4.7  | 429                               | 420     | 425  | 9.78                 | 9.5     | 9.6  | 53.3                                 | 50.6    | 51.9 | 44.4            | 43.8    | 44.1 | 5262                               | 4941    | 4941  | 7441                               | 7594    | 7518  | 41.4          | 39.3    | 40.4 |
| E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | 89.8              | 88.1    | 88.9 | 1233                           | 1215    | 1224 | 4.38            | 4.42    | 4.4  | 422                               | 411     | 417  | 9.06                 | 9       | 9    | 50.2                                 | 44.6    | 47.4 | 44.2            | 43.7    | 44.0 | 4963                               | 4696    | 4696  | 7365                               | 7400    | 7383  | 40.2          | 38.8    | 39.5 |
| E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | 87.1              | 86.8    | 86.9 | 1145                           | 1117    | 1131 | 4.06            | 4.03    | 4    | 413                               | 402     | 407  | 8.67                 | 8.06    | 8.4  | 42.4                                 | 39.2    | 40.8 | 44.1            | 43.6    | 43.8 | 4336                               | 4069    | 4069  | 7114                               | 7103    | 7108  | 37.8          | 36.4    | 37.1 |
| E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | 85.2              | 84.3    | 84.8 | 1059                           | 1016    | 1037 | 3.82            | 3.87    | 3.8  | 407                               | 393     | 400  | 7.39                 | 7.39    | 7.4  | 37.0                                 | 35.0    | 36.0 | 43.8            | 43.0    | 43.4 | 3689                               | 3333    | 3333  | 6901                               | 6826    | 6864  | 34.8          | 32.8    | 33.8 |
| Mean                                  | 89                | 88      | 88   | 1177                           | 1150    | 1164 | 4               | 4       | 4    | 418                               | 407     | 412  | 9                    | 8       | 9    | 46                                   | 42      | 44   | 44              | 44      | 44   | 4562                               | 4260    | 4260  | 7205                               | 7231    | 7218  | 38.5          | 36.8    | 37.7 |
| SEm ±                                 | 0.65              | 0.81    | 0.37 | 12.98                          | 13.2    | 12.6 | 0.05            | 0.01    | 0    | 3.69                              | 2.68    | 2.35 | 0.09                 | 0.08    | 0.1  | 2.59                                 | 1.59    | 1.75 | 0.1             | 0.13    | 0.1  | 36.37                              | 35.2    | 35.2  | 95.52                              | 98.92   | 95.57 | 0.13          | 0.11    | 0.12 |
| CD at 5%                              | 2.26              | 2.8     | 1.28 | 44.91                          | 45.7    | 43.5 | 0.16            | 0.03    | 0.1  | 12.8                              | 9.27    | 8.12 | 0.32                 | 0.27    | 0.2  | 8.98                                 | 5.51    | 6.05 | 0.33            | 0.43    | 0.35 | 125.86                             | 121.8   | 121.8 | 330.5                              | 342.3   | 330.7 | 0.44          | 0.38    | 0.41 |
| <b>Sowing methods</b>                 |                   |         |      |                                |         |      |                 |         |      |                                   |         |      |                      |         |      |                                      |         |      |                 |         |      |                                    |         |       |                                    |         |       |               |         |      |
| M <sub>1</sub> : Broadcast            | 85.9              | 84.1    | 85.0 | 1095                           | 1057    | 1076 | 3.37            | 3.42    | 3.4  | 404                               | 395     | 399  | 8                    | 7.9     | 8.0  | 40.7                                 | 37.9    | 39.3 | 43.5            | 43.2    | 43.4 | 4096                               | 3767    | 3767  | 6858                               | 6800    | 6829  | 37.2          | 35.5    | 36.3 |
| M <sub>2</sub> : Line sowing          | 89.3              | 88.5    | 88.9 | 1174                           | 1153    | 1164 | 4.03            | 4.02    | 4    | 420                               | 404     | 412  | 8.63                 | 8.4     | 8.5  | 45.2                                 | 41.9    | 43.5 | 44.4            | 43.5    | 43.9 | 4541                               | 4252    | 4252  | 7201                               | 7237    | 7219  | 38.5          | 36.8    | 37.6 |
| M <sub>3</sub> : Bed planting         | 91.0              | 90.4    | 90.7 | 1261                           | 1242    | 1251 | 5.33            | 5.37    | 5.4  | 430                               | 421     | 425  | 9.54                 | 9.1     | 9.3  | 51.4                                 | 47.2    | 49.3 | 44.5            | 43.9    | 44.2 | 5050                               | 4761    | 4761  | 7557                               | 7655    | 7606  | 39.9          | 38.2    | 39.0 |
| Mean                                  | 88.7              | 87.7    | 88.2 | 1177                           | 1151    | 1164 | 4               | 4       | 4    | 418                               | 407     | 412  | 9                    | 8.0     | 9.0  | 46.0                                 | 42.0    | 44.0 | 44.0            | 44.0    | 44.0 | 4562                               | 4260    | 4260  | 7205                               | 7231    | 7218  | 38.5          | 36.8    | 37.7 |
| SEm ±                                 | 0.21              | 0.4     | 0.22 | 4.39                           | 6.5     | 4.66 | 0.07            | 0.05    | 0.1  | 1.78                              | 2.72    | 1.89 | 0.08                 | 0.1     | 0.1  | 0.85                                 | 1.03    | 0.74 | 0.16            | 0.16    | 0.12 | 11.21                              | 23.52   | 23.52 | 39.18                              | 38.96   | 34.83 | 0.12          | 0.1     | 0.11 |
| CD at 5%                              | 0.63              | 1.21    | 0.66 | 13.15                          | 19.5    | 14   | 0.21            | 0.16    | 0.2  | 5.35                              | 8.16    | 5.65 | 0.25                 | 0.3     | 0.2  | 2.56                                 | 3.09    | 2.23 | 0.49            | 0.47    | 0.37 | 33.62                              | 70.52   | 70.52 | 117.5                              | 116.8   | 104.4 | 0.37          | 0.29    | 0.33 |

**Table 2:** Interaction effect of growth and yield attributes of wheat as influenced by different Sowing environments and methods (mean of two years)

| Treatments                    | Plant height at harvest (cm)          |                                       |                                       |                                       |       | dry weight (gm <sup>-2</sup> )        |                                       |                                       |                                       |      | Leaf area index                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      | Effective tillers m <sup>-2</sup>     |                                       |                                       |                                       |       | Length of spike (cm)                  |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
|                               | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean  | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean  | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean |
| M <sub>1</sub> : Broadcast    | 90.6                                  | 87.7                                  | 84.5                                  | 79.5                                  | 85.6  | 1161                                  | 1140                                  | 1049                                  | 954                                   | 1076 | 3.3                                   | 3.1                                   | 3.0                                   | 2.7                                   | 3.03 | 415                                   | 412                                   | 389                                   | 382                                   | 399   | 9.25                                  | 8.5                                   | 7.6                                   | 6.5                                   | 8.0  |
| M <sub>2</sub> : Line sowing  | 93.4                                  | 90.5                                  | 87.8                                  | 86.4                                  | 89.5  | 1279                                  | 1239                                  | 1115                                  | 1021                                  | 1164 | 4.1                                   | 4.0                                   | 3.4                                   | 3.2                                   | 3.66 | 421                                   | 412                                   | 416                                   | 398                                   | 412   | 9.33                                  | 9.0                                   | 8.3                                   | 7.5                                   | 8.5  |
| M <sub>3</sub> : Bed Planting | 93.9                                  | 91.8                                  | 90.8                                  | 88.4                                  | 91.2  | 1346                                  | 1293                                  | 1229                                  | 1137                                  | 1251 | 5.7                                   | 4.9                                   | 4.6                                   | 4.5                                   | 4.9  | 438                                   | 426                                   | 417                                   | 420                                   | 425   | 10.3                                  | 9.6                                   | 9.3                                   | 8.2                                   | 9.3  |
| Mean                          | 92.6                                  | 90.0                                  | 87.7                                  | 84.8                                  |       | 1262                                  | 1224                                  | 1131                                  | 1037                                  |      | 4.4                                   | 4.0                                   | 3.7                                   | 3.5                                   |      | 425                                   | 417                                   | 407                                   | 400                                   |       | 9.64                                  | 9.0                                   | 8.4                                   | 7.4                                   |      |
|                               | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |       | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |      | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |      | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |       | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |      |
| SEm ±                         | 0.4                                   | 0.21                                  | 0.41                                  | 0.5                                   |       | 12.56                                 | 4.66                                  | 9.32                                  | 14.18                                 |      | 0.03                                  | 0.06                                  | 0.11                                  | 0.09                                  |      | 2.35                                  | 1.89                                  | 3.77                                  | 3.55                                  |       | 0.05                                  | 0.06                                  | 0.13                                  | 0.1                                   |      |
| CD at 5%                      | 1.38                                  | 0.62                                  | 1.24                                  | 1.11                                  |       | 43.45                                 | 13.97                                 | 27.94                                 | 32.63                                 |      | 0.11                                  | 0.17                                  | 0.34                                  | 0.18                                  |      | 8.12                                  | 5.65                                  | 11.3                                  | 7.64                                  |       | 0.17                                  | 0.19                                  | 0.38                                  | 0.21                                  |      |
| Treatments                    | Number of grains spike <sup>-1</sup>  |                                       |                                       |                                       |       | Grain yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )    |                                       |                                       |                                       |      | Straw yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )    |                                       |                                       |                                       |      | Harvest Index                         |                                       |                                       |                                       |       |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
|                               | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean  | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean | E <sub>1</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>2</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. | E <sub>3</sub> :15 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | E <sub>4</sub> :30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. | Mean  |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
| M <sub>1</sub> : Broadcast    | 50                                    | 42.83                                 | 35                                    | 30.67                                 | 39.63 | 4311                                  | 4222                                  | 3585                                  | 2948                                  | 3767 | 7084                                  | 7047                                  | 6772                                  | 6413                                  | 6829 | 38.96                                 | 38.19                                 | 35.44                                 | 32.74                                 | 36.33 |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
| M <sub>2</sub> : Line sowing  | 53.5                                  | 45.5                                  | 44.5                                  | 33.67                                 | 44.29 | 5007                                  | 4667                                  | 4044                                  | 3289                                  | 4252 | 7647                                  | 7506                                  | 6976                                  | 6748                                  | 7219 | 40.2                                  | 39                                    | 37.45                                 | 33.91                                 | 37.64 |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
| M <sub>3</sub> : Bed Planting | 66.33                                 | 54                                    | 41.17                                 | 41.67                                 | 50.79 | 5504                                  | 5200                                  | 4578                                  | 3763                                  | 4761 | 7822                                  | 7595                                  | 7578                                  | 7429                                  | 7606 | 41.89                                 | 41.25                                 | 38.33                                 | 34.64                                 | 39.03 |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
| Mean                          | 56.61                                 | 47.44                                 | 40.22                                 | 35.33                                 |       | 4941                                  | 4696                                  | 4069                                  | 3333                                  |      | 7518                                  | 7383                                  | 7108                                  | 6864                                  |      | 40.35                                 | 39.48                                 | 37.07                                 | 33.77                                 |       |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
|                               | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |       | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |      | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |      | E                                     | M                                     | E x M                                 | M x E                                 |       |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
| SEm ±                         | 1.73                                  | 0.86                                  | 1.73                                  | 2.12                                  |       | 35.2                                  | 23.52                                 | 47.04                                 | 48.43                                 |      | 95.57                                 | 34.83                                 | 69.67                                 | 107.52                                |      | 0.12                                  | 0.11                                  | 0.22                                  | 0.19                                  |       |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |
| CD at 5%                      | 5.98                                  | 2.59                                  | 5.17                                  | 4.74                                  |       | 121.81                                | 70.52                                 | 141.03                                | 105.78                                |      | 330.71                                | 104.43                                | 208.87                                | 247.79                                |      | 0.41                                  | 0.33                                  | 0.65                                  | 0.41                                  |       |                                       |                                       |                                       |                                       |      |

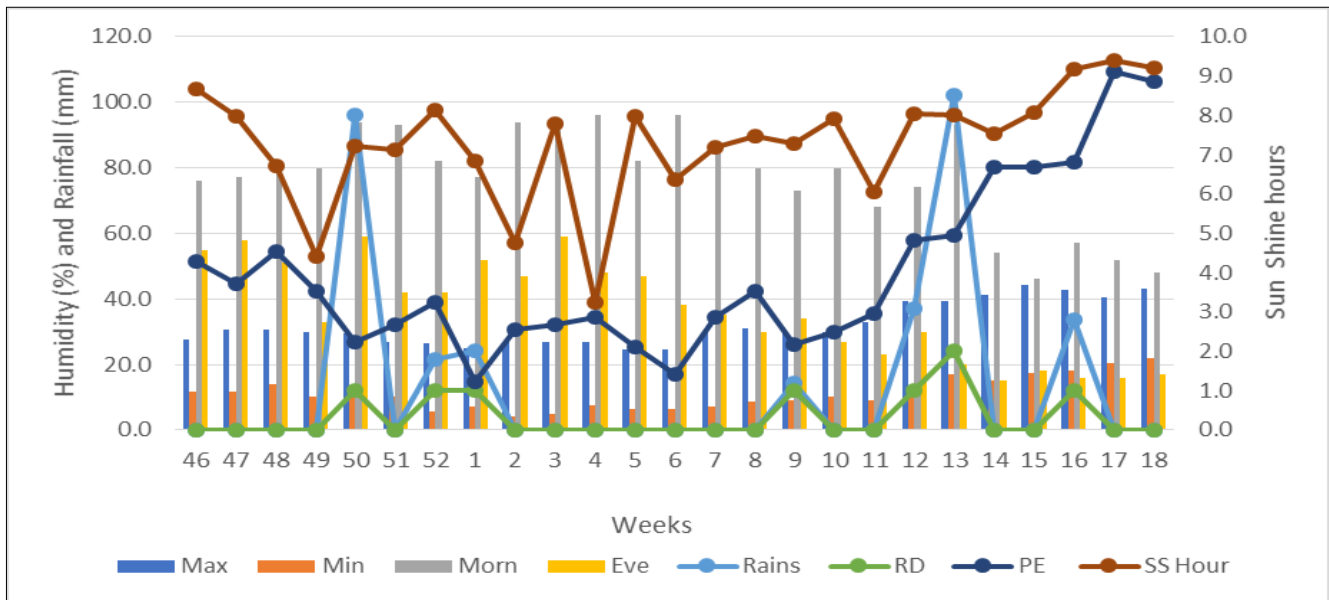


Fig 1: Different weather elements during crop season 2019-20

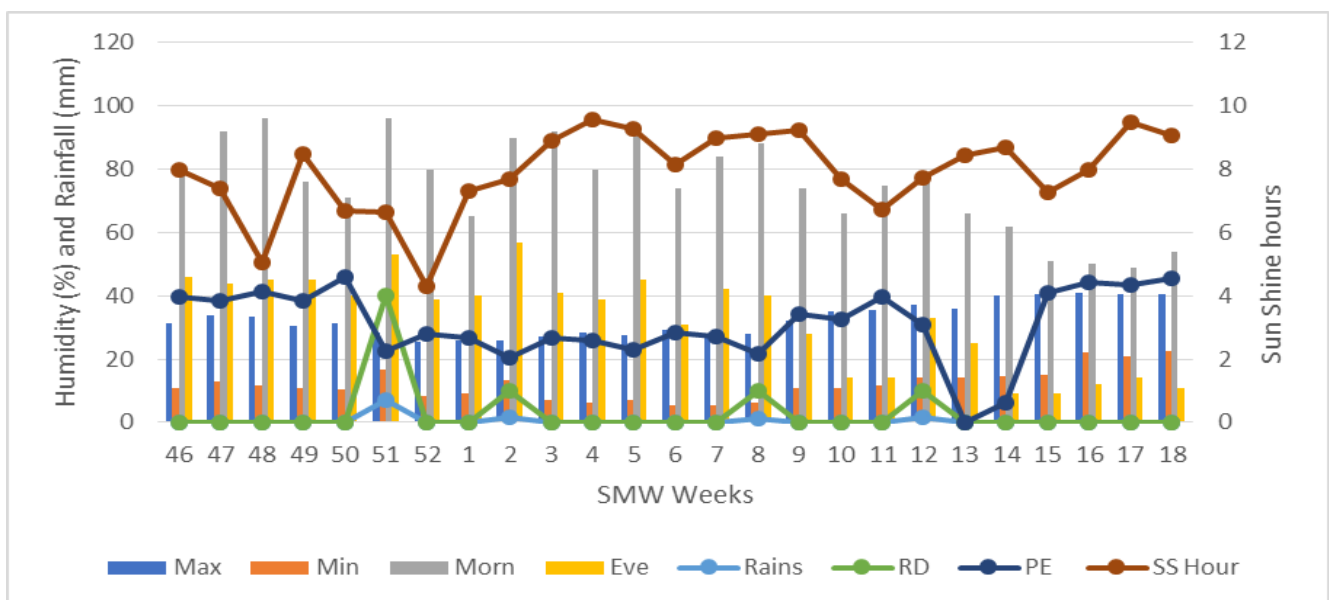


Fig 2: Different weather elements during crop season 2020-21

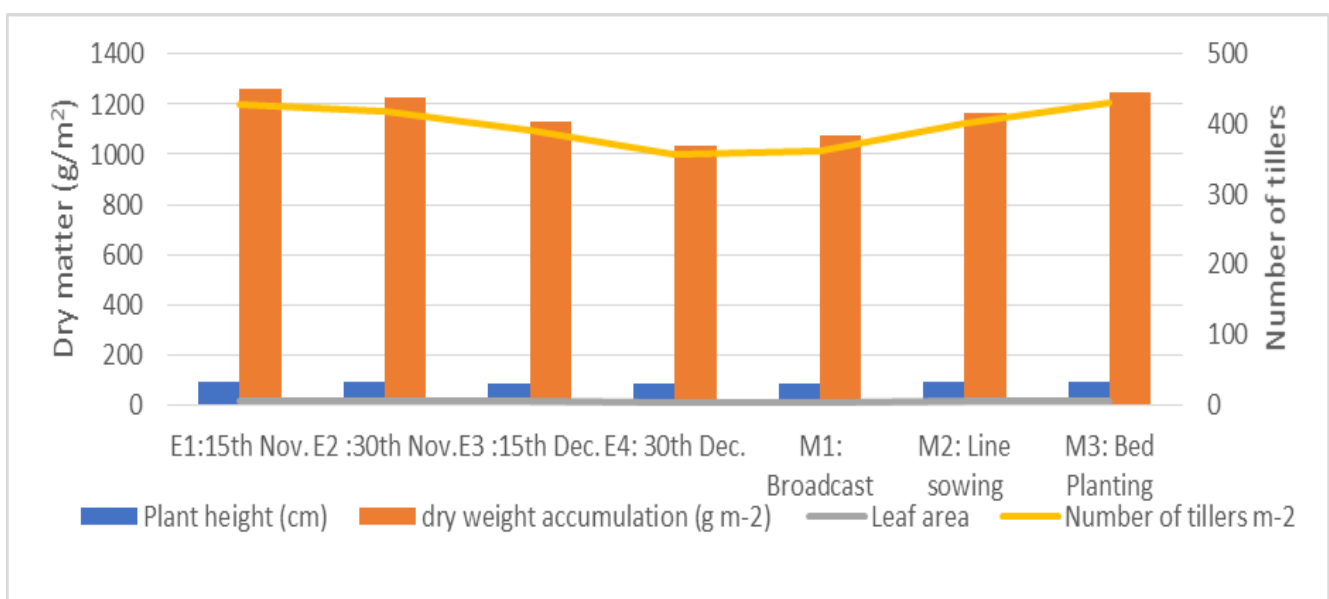
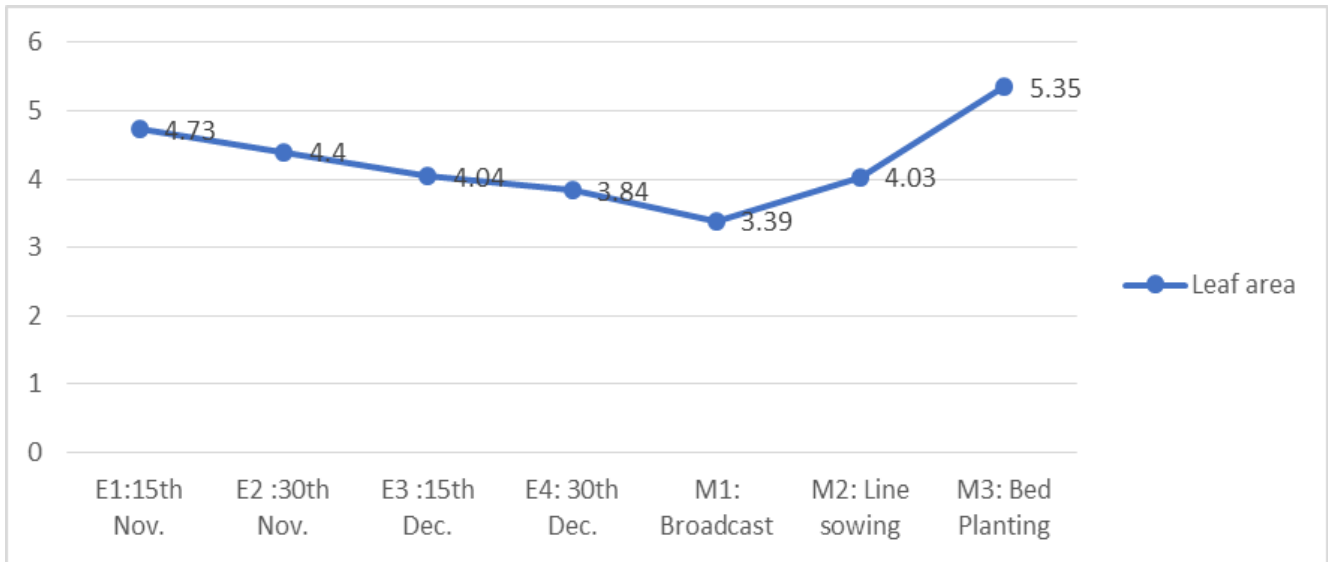
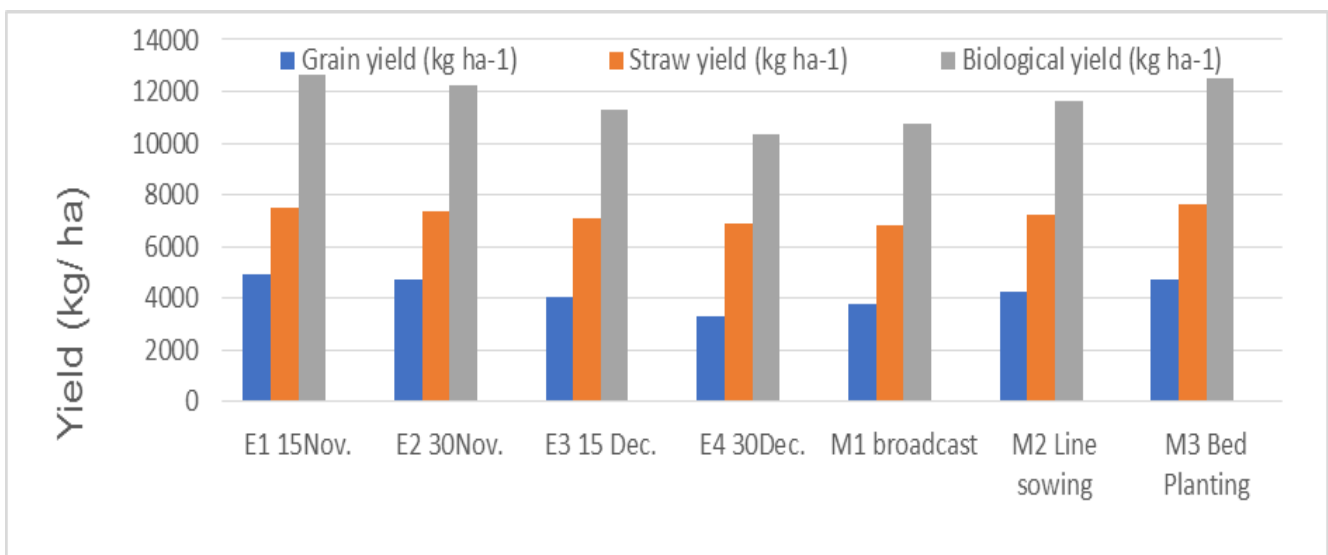


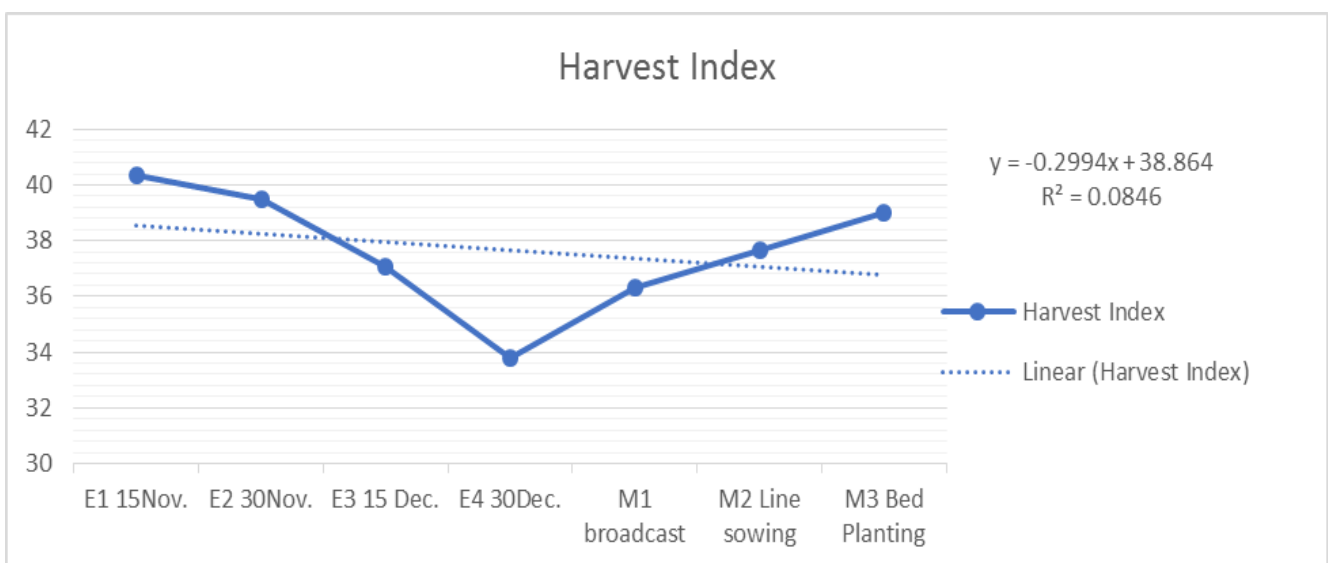
Fig 3: Dry matter and number of tillers of wheat as influenced by Sowing environments & methods



**Fig 4:** Growth characters & LAI of wheat as influenced by Sowing environments & methods



**Fig 5:** Grain, straw, biological yield of wheat as influenced by Sowing environments and methods



**Fig 6:** Harvest Index of wheat as influenced by sowing environments and methods

**Conclusion**

Hence, it may be concluded that to achieve the optimum production harvest index LAI, and growth parameters are

significantly superior of E<sub>1</sub> 15<sup>th</sup> November environment and bed planting method was proved to be the most and effective techniques of wheat production in Tawa command area of

Madhya Pradesh. Wheat is being photo-thermosensitive crop, selected of suitable wheat variety for different sowing time with suitable Sowing methods and other agronomic management will further get prime importance.

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