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Effects of Drought on Farming and Farmer's Income in Betul District of Madhya Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT This study aims to find out various impacts of drought on farm produce and farmers' income in central India. A range of methods, including scrutinising secondary data to questionnaire surveys of farmers, and focus group discussions were used for gathering information from rainfed and irrigated farmlands. Most of the farmers in the study area blamed poor rainfall and increase in temperature for frequent droughts. In both irrigated and rainfed areas, the majority of farmers (more than 85%) perceived soybean as the most adversely impacted crop in terms of crop yield, during the drought period. The farmer's income from soybean has declined by seventy to eighty percent in irrigated areas during drought period whereas it was more in rainfed areas. There was no significant correlation between the rainfall and crop yield however there was a moderate positive correlation between rainfall and yield of soybean and maize. The study depicts that impacts of drought on rainfed areas were high as compared to the irrigated areas, and therefore, to mitigate the adverse impacts of drought there is a need to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers.