

Cropping Seasons

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Concept

The season of the year when a particular crop is normally grown is the season of that crop. It indicates the distribution of crops in a year on the basis of climatic requirement as different seasons are characterized by different climatic characters that normally affects crop germination, growth, flowering and finally yield.

Types of cropping season

In general, there are three types of cropping season prevailing in Bangladesh:

1. **Kharif-1:** Mid March to mid July.
Major crops: Jute, Aus rice, summer vegetables, Cotton, Sesame, Pigeonpea etc.
2. **Kharif-2:** Mid July to mid November.
Major crops: T. aman, B. aman, Soybean, Groundnut, Late summer vegetables etc.
3. **Rabi:** Mid November to mid March.
Major crops: Wheat, potato, mustard, boro rice, winter vegetables, lentil, tobacco, soybean, cabbage etc.

All seasons: Groundnut, BR 3, Maize, Sesame etc.

Characteristics of cropping seasons

Kharif-I

- Initially attacked by drought
- Disease, insect and weed incidence high due to high temperature and humidity
- Photosynthetic activity low due to cloudy sky
- Respiration rate is high compared to photosynthesis that enhance growth process life span becomes faster
- Latter stage affected by natural disaster e.g. flood, storms etc.
- Life span of the crop is short compared to other season
- Lodging effect due to storm.

Kharif-II

- Temperature comparatively low than Kharif-I
- Respiration rate is lower than Kharif-I
- Photosynthetic rate higher than Kharif-I
- Disease, insects and weed attack is less
- Less cloudy sky than Kharif-I
- Life span of the crop is higher than Kharif-I

Rabi

- Net photosynthesis is higher than other seasons due to low temperature & shiny sky
- Respiration rate is lower than others due to low temperature
- Less weed infestation
- No lodging effect

Influence of cropping season on crop yield

As different cropping seasons are characteristically different from each other so they significantly influence crops yield, although same crop variety grown. For example – If BR 3 rice variety grown in different seasons, yield trend will be Rabi > Kharif-II > Kharif-I.

