

1019. Grewal, S.S. 1985. Tackling drought made easy. *Farmers' Journal*, 5(2):28-29.

Droughts are very familiar to the farmers living in the foothills of the Shiwalik ranges where neither canal nor tubewell irrigation is possible. The year 1984-85 brought one of the severest droughts of the recent past when the monsoon rainfall was almost 30% of normal and winter rains completely failed. Large number of farmers in the region could not sow crops and those who did had nothing to harvest. Though the mean annual rainfall of the region is 1100 mm, the denuded hills waste 50 to 60% of same as runoff. The

collection and storage of excess monsoon rainwater from small hilly catchments by constructing earthen dams and utilization of the stored water to stabilise rainfed agriculture has made it possible to tackle droughts. Paper describes as to how some of the severe droughts could not create serious impact on Sukhomajri farmers where such models were developed and tested.