

167. **Bhushan, L.S. and Ghosh, Sandip. 1982.** Effect of tillage and surface mulching on moisture conservation and yield of rainfed crops. *Indian J. Soil Conserv.* 10(2&3): 97-100.

In Doon Valley, about 80% of the total precipitation (1672 mm) is received during mid June to mid September. Rainfall during the months of October to December is practically nil at 80% chance making the task of sowing and obtaining optimum plant population of *rabi* crop challenging. Thus, during the main monsoon season, the agriculture faces the problem of weed control and safe disposal of excess water from the root zone whereas in *rabi* season moisture stress in seed bed creates problem of establishment and growth of crop. From the results obtained, it appears that for the cropping system of maize-wheat under rainfed condition, deep ploughing should be given to the maize and surface mulching provided at fag end of monsoon i.e. first week of September which enables to harvest about 7 tonnes grain/ha/annum on sustained basis.