

413. **Rama Mohan Rao, M.S., Padmaiah, M., Reddy, K.K. and Patil, S.L. 1993.**  
Sunflower as an oilseed crop of the semi-arid tropics of Andhra Pradesh. *Farming Systems*, 9(1&2): 42-48.

The paper discusses the results of a field study conducted during 1989-1991 to evaluate the performance of sunflower crop as a replacement for groundnut under farmers' conditions at Chinnatekur watershed in Kurnool district in the semi-arid tropics of Andhra Pradesh. Yield of sunflower was higher than groundnut crop in all the three years, indicating the suitability of crop to fit into the agro-ecological conditions. Lower yield of groundnut can be ascribed to the non-availability of quality seed of improved genotypes and moisture stress during the flowering and pegging stages irrespective of sowing dates. Soil and water conservation practices improved the crop yields in the watershed compared to the outside areas where conservation practices were not followed. Lower cost of cultivation and higher yields were reflected in a 42% increase in net returns from sunflower compared with groundnut.