

1218. Arya, S.L., Agnihotri, Y. and Mittal, S.P. 1989. Drought mitigation through watershed management- A case study of Shiwalik foothill villages. *Indian J. Soil Conserv.*, 17(1):63-64.

Severe drought was witnessed in 1987 in most parts of India including Shiwalik foothills of Haryana where the annual rainfall was just 586 mm as against the average rainfall of 1117 mm. In order to study how the watershed management programme taken up on the lines of "Sukhomajri model" in Shiwalik foothills by the Govt. of Haryana helped in mitigating the effect of drought on crop yield and other agricultural economics, a case study was taken up in villages Govindpura, Mundappa and Thoda of district Ambala (Haryana). While the former two villages are covered under the watershed management programme (adopted villages), the latter is a control village situated at a distance of about 5 km from the other two villages. The study revealed that area under various crops in both *rabi* and *kharif* seasons declined in the adopted villages to the extent of only 10 to 20 percent, whereas the decline in area varied from 16 to 70 percent in case of the control village. The reduction in yield in the control village over that in the adopted villages was 77% in case of pulses and 45% in case of fodder crops. In the adopted villages, the farmers could feed their animals with the surplus fodder stocked during the previous year. The shortage of fodder was felt more severely in the control village. Consequently, the average milk production per cattle per day declined more in the control village.