

# **Original Research Article**

## **Effect of sowing dates on yield attributes, yield and economics of linseed (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) varieties**

### **ABSTRACT**

A field experiment was conducted during the *rabi* season of 2020-2021 at Agronomy farm, College of Agriculture, Nagpur to study the effect of sowing dates on yield attributes, yield and economics of linseed varieties. The treatment comprised of four sowing dates, *i.e.*, 43<sup>rd</sup> meteorological week (22<sup>nd</sup> October - 28<sup>th</sup> October), 44<sup>th</sup> MW (29<sup>th</sup> October - 4<sup>th</sup> November), 45<sup>th</sup> MW (5<sup>th</sup> November - 11<sup>th</sup> November) and 46<sup>th</sup> MW (12<sup>th</sup> November - 18<sup>th</sup> November) in main plots and three varieties *i.e.*, PKV-NL-260, PKV-NL-97 and JLS-73 in sub-plots, replicated three times in a split plot design. Sowing dates as well as varieties significantly affect yield attributes, yield and economics of linseed. The result of the experiment showed significantly higher number of capsule plant<sup>-1</sup> (52.89), number of seed capsule<sup>-1</sup> (8.11), seed yield (9.13 quintal/hectare), biological yield (25.45 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) and harvest index (35.87%), gross monetary return (Rs. 44688 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and net monetary return (Rs. 23436 ha<sup>-1</sup>) with benefit cost ratio (2.10) were recorded when crop sown during 44<sup>th</sup> MW. The variety PKV-NL-260 recorded significantly higher number of capsule plant<sup>-1</sup> (48.08), number of seed capsule<sup>-1</sup> (8.25), seed yield (8.85 q ha<sup>-1</sup>), biological yield (24.92 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) and harvest index (35.52%), gross monetary return (Rs. 43478 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and net monetary return (Rs. 22226 ha<sup>-1</sup>) with benefit cost ratio (2.04). The sowing date on 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 was found significantly higher seed yield (9.95 q ha<sup>-1</sup>), gross monetary return (Rs. 48225 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and net monetary return (Rs. 26973 ha<sup>-1</sup>). Linseed crop sown during 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 performed better than variety PKV-NL-97 and JLS-73.

*Key words: Sowing dates, growth, linseed, variety, yield*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Linseed (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) is one of the oldest cultivated *rabi* oilseed and fiber crop locally known as *tisi*, *jawas* or *alsi*. It has been grown from ancient time for flax and seed purpose which is rich in oil. Linseed oil possesses high content of omega-3 fatty acid, alfa linoleic acid (ALA). It contains 35 to 45% oil with the (ALA) making up about 57% of the total fatty acids and 11 to 32% protein [1]. Every part of this plant is extensively used, either directly or after processing. Linseed has different industrial value and linseed oil is mainly used in paint industries as a medium for paints, varnishes, pad ink and printing ink.

Linseed is produced mostly in India, China, Canada, USA, Argentina and Russia. Linseed stands next to rapeseed-mustard in *rabi* oilseeds in area and production. It is grown under rainfed (63%), utera (20%)

and irrigated (17%) conditions [2]. In India, its cultivation is mostly confined to Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Nagaland and Assam. India contributes about 10.81% and 5.30% to world area and production respectively. In India linseed occupies an area of 1.88 lakh ha yielding 1.09 lakh tones with an average productivity of 5.81 q ha<sup>-1</sup> [3]. Madhya Pradesh premier position in India with respect to both area (1.16 lakh ha) and production (0.55 lakh tones) with 4.74 q ha<sup>-1</sup> productivity of linseed [4]. In Maharashtra state, the total area under linseed crop is 8.7 thousand ha with 2.6 thousand tones production. Average productivity of this crop in Maharashtra is 2.99 q ha<sup>-1</sup> [5].

The average productivity of this crop is very low as compared to other oilseed crops. The productivity of linseed in Maharashtra is below the national productivity. There are many factors responsible for low productivity but sowing time and variety have prominent factors responsible for low productivity of linseed. Delay in sowing leads to an increase in environmental temperature during reproductive growth of crop resulting lower seed yield, seed quality and increased economical cost of cultivation. It is reported that high temperature above 32°C accompanied with drought during flowering reduced yield, oil content and the quality of crop. Linseed may be damaged or destroyed at a temperature between -8°C and 3°C at seedling stage [6]. Varieties play an important role in determining the yield of a crop, the potential yield of varieties within its genetic limit is set by its environment.

There is large scope for increasing the productivity of linseed crop for getting higher crop yield per unit area by adopting improved agronomic practices such as optimum planting date and suitable variety. Production potentiality of linseed can be fully exploited with suitable agronomic technique such as optimum sowing time and selection of high yielding varieties as it provides optimum growing conditions under varying climatic conditions. The present study was undertaken to find out the most optimum meteorological week for sowing of linseed and suitable variety and to work out economics.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A field experiment was conducted during *rabi* season of 2020-2021 at Agronomy farm, College of Agriculture, Nagpur. The experimental area was geographically positioned at 79° 7' East longitude and 21° 8' North latitude with an altitude of 321 meter above mean sea level. Soil of the experimental site was clayey in texture, low in available nitrogen, medium in phosphorous and rich in available potash. Organic carbon content was medium and soil reaction was slightly alkaline. The total rainfall during crop growth period *i.e.*, October, 2020 to March, 2021 was 101 mm received in 7 rainy days. The maximum temperature ranged from 27.3 to 41.5 °C, the minimum temperature ranged from 11.3 to 24.1°C, the morning relative humidity ranged from 26 to 85%, the evening relative humidity ranged from 16 to 69% and total evaporation was 101 mm. The experiment was laid out in split plot design with twelve treatment combinations and three replications consisting of four levels of meteorological weeks *i.e.*, 43<sup>rd</sup> MW, 44<sup>th</sup> MW, 45<sup>th</sup> MW, 46<sup>th</sup> MW and three varieties *i.e.*, PKV-NL-260, PKV-NL-97 and JLS-73. The gross and net plot size were 4.8 m x 3.6 m and 4.2 m x 3.0 m, respectively. A spacing of 30 cm x 5 cm was adopted by

using 30 kg seed per hectare. Three varieties of linseed were sown (drilling of seeds manually) in four different dates to evaluate the optimum sowing dates for linseed varieties. Physiological and economical parameters used in this experiment are given below.

## **2.1 Yield attributes**

### **2.1.1 Numbers of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup>**

The numbers of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> from the five observational plants were counted. Average number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> was worked out.

### **2.1.2 Numbers of seed capsules<sup>-1</sup>**

The numbers of seed capsules<sup>-1</sup> from the five observational plants were counted. Average number of numbers of seed capsules<sup>-1</sup> was worked out.

## **2.2 Yield of linseed**

### **2.2.1 Biological yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>)**

The plants from net plot were cut close to the ground and tied into bundles. The bundles were dried in the sun and their weight was recorded before threshing as per treatments. From this biological yield q ha<sup>-1</sup> was worked out.

### **2.2.2 Seed yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>)**

After harvesting, produce from every net plot was sun dried weighed and then threshed. After cleaning seed yield net plot<sup>-1</sup> was recorded and seed yield q ha<sup>-1</sup> was calculated.

### **2.2.3 Harvest index (%)**

Harvest index of linseed was obtained by dividing the economic yield with the biological yield and represented in percentage [7].

## **2.3 Economics**

### **2.3.1 Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)**

The total cost of cultivation was calculated considering the inputs used in each treatment with prevailing market rates.

### **2.3.2 Gross monetary return (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)**

The total production of crop including both seed and straw yield in terms of rupees is known as gross monetary return. It was estimated on per ha basis.

### **2.3.3 Net monetary return (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)**

The net production of crop after reducing the total cost of cultivation from gross monetary return in terms of rupees is known as net monetary return. It was estimated on ha<sup>-1</sup> basis.

### 2.3.4 Benefit cost ratio

The benefit cost ratio was worked out by dividing the gross monetary return with total cost of cultivation.

## 2.4 Statistical analysis

Standard method of analysis, known as Analysis of Variance was used for statistical analysis [8]. The Critical Difference was worked out at 5% level of significance and F value used to differentiate significant or non-significant effects. The treatment effects are presented by preparing tables of means with appropriate Standard Error of Means (SE(m)  $\pm$ ) and Critical Difference (CD) values, in respect of various aspects studied. Important effects are illustrated by graphs [9].

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Yield attributes

The data pertaining to yield attributes like number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of seed capsule<sup>-1</sup> as influenced significantly by different sowing dates and varieties are presented in Table 1.

#### 3.1.1 Number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup>

##### Effect of sowing dates

Sowing taken on 44<sup>th</sup> MW recorded higher number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> (52.89) which was significantly superior over sowing carried out on 43<sup>rd</sup> MW, 45<sup>th</sup> MW and 46<sup>th</sup> MW respectively. The higher number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> was due to timely sowing of seeds and exposure to favorable weather during the entire growth period. Similar results were reported by [10, 11, 12] who also observed decrease in number of capsule plant<sup>-1</sup> with successive delay in sowing time.

##### Effect of varieties

The variety PKV-NL-260 recorded significantly higher number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> (48.08) than variety PKV-NL-97 (45.08). The variety PKV-NL-97 was found at par with variety JLS-73 (43.83). It was found that the significant difference in number of seed per capsule might be due to number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> and genetic potentiality of variety. Similar findings were reported by [2, 13] who also observed significant difference in number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> may be due to genetic variation in variety for capsule formation

#### 3.1.2 Number of seed capsule<sup>-1</sup>

##### Effect of sowing dates

Sowing of linseed on 44<sup>th</sup> MW recorded significantly higher number of seed capsule<sup>-1</sup> (8.11) than rest of the sowing dates. However, it was found at par with sowing done during 43<sup>rd</sup> MW (7.78). The higher number of seeds per capsule might be due to prevalence of favorable climatic factors such as temperature and light energy, which provide the plant full chance to develop well canopy and biomass and its increased capacity to absorb enough water and nutrients during the entire growth period with

sowing on 44<sup>th</sup> MW. [10, 12, 14] have also supported the favorable effect of optimum sowing time for seed development.

**Table 1: Yield attributes and yield of linseed as influenced by sowing dates and varieties**

Treatments	Number of capsule plant <sup>-1</sup>	Number of Seed capsule <sup>-1</sup>	Seed yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Biological yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Harvest Index (%)
<b>Sowing dates</b>					
D <sub>1</sub> - 43 <sup>rd</sup> MW	48.11	7.78	8.71	24.32	35.81
D <sub>2</sub> - 44 <sup>th</sup> MW	52.89	8.11	9.13	25.45	35.87
D <sub>3</sub> - 45 <sup>th</sup> MW	43.00	7.33	8.07	23.07	34.98
D <sub>4</sub> - 46 <sup>th</sup> MW	38.67	7.22	7.43	21.93	33.98
SE(m)±	0.71	0.18	0.10	0.22	-
CD at 5%	2.45	0.62	0.37	0.77	-
<b>Varieties</b>					
V <sub>1</sub> - PKV-NL-260	48.08	8.25	8.85	24.92	35.52
V <sub>2</sub> - PKV-NL-97	45.08	7.42	8.44	23.84	35.41
V <sub>3</sub> - JLS-73	43.83	7.17	7.71	22.32	34.55
SE(m)±	0.53	0.28	0.09	0.14	-
CD at 5%	1.61	0.86	0.29	0.42	-
<b>Interaction</b>					
SE(m)±	1.07	0.57	0.19	0.28	-
CD at 5%	NS	NS	0.58	NS	-
GM	45.67	7.61	8.33	23.69	35.16

### Effect of varieties

The variety PKV-NL-260 recorded significantly higher number of seed capsules<sup>-1</sup> (8.25) which was found at par with variety PKV-NL-97 (7.42). Lowest number of seeds capsule<sup>-1</sup> was recorded by variety JLS-73 (7.17). It was found that the significant difference in number of capsules plant<sup>-1</sup> was might be due to genetically makeup of these varieties were different for seed settling and seed development in capsule.

### 3.2 Yield of linseed

The data related to seed yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>), straw yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>), biological yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>) and harvest index (%) as significantly influenced by sowing dates and varieties are presented in Table 1.

### 3.2.1 Seed yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>)

#### Effect of sowing dates

Sowing taken on 44<sup>th</sup> MW had recorded significantly higher seed yield (9.13 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was significantly superior over rest of the sowing dates. Lowest seed yield (7.43 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded under 46<sup>th</sup> MW. This might be due to timely sown crop received favorable weather conditions for longer duration and recorded better growth and yield attributes and resulted in greater seed production. This results are in accordance with the findings reported by [2, 12, 15] who also reported that higher seed yield may be due to fact that optimum temperature prevailed during flowering, which resulted in lower flower drop and more seed setting.

#### Effect of varieties

The variety PKV-NL-260 produced higher seed yield (8.85 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was significantly superior over variety PKV-NL-97 (8.44 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) and JLS-73 (7.71 q ha<sup>-1</sup>). This might be due to genetical variance in variety which resulted in more number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> which helped in increased seed yield per hectare. Increase in yield due to differences in growth and yield attributing characters of linseed varieties resulted in enhancement of overall seed production [16, 17].

#### Interaction effect

The interaction effect between sowing dates and varieties were found significant for seed yield per hectare at harvest in Table 2. The sowing date 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 found to be significantly higher seed yield (9.95 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was found at par with treatment combination of 43<sup>rd</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 and 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-97. However, it was found significantly superior over rest of the combination. The results showed timely sowing of linseed varieties, could able to assimilate the more biomass and resulted in increased seed yield of linseed.

**Table 2: Seed yield of linseed as influenced by interaction of sowing dates and varieties**

Sowing dates \ Varieties	Seed yield (q ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
	V <sub>1</sub> -PKV-NL-260	V <sub>2</sub> -PKV-NL-97	V <sub>3</sub> -JLS-73
D <sub>1</sub> - 43 <sup>rd</sup> MW	9.39	8.78	7.94
D <sub>2</sub> - 44 <sup>th</sup> MW	9.95	9.38	8.04
D <sub>3</sub> - 45 <sup>th</sup> MW	8.39	8.15	7.65
D <sub>4</sub> - 46 <sup>th</sup> MW	7.65	7.44	7.18
SE(m) ±	0.19		
CD at 5%	0.58		

### 3.2.2 Biological yield (q ha<sup>-1</sup>)

#### Effect of sowing dates

The crop sown at 44<sup>th</sup> MW recorded significantly higher biological yield (25.45 q ha<sup>-1</sup>). However, it was significantly superior over sowing taken on 43<sup>rd</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> MW. Lowest biological yield was recorded under 46<sup>th</sup> MW (21.93 q ha<sup>-1</sup>). Sowing on 44<sup>th</sup> MW has accumulated higher photosynthates which helped in higher accumulation of dry matter which resulted in higher biological yield.

#### Effect of varieties

The variety PKV-NL-260 produced significantly higher biological yield (24.92 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) than the variety PKV-NL-97 (23.84 q ha<sup>-1</sup>) and JLS-73 (22.32 q ha<sup>-1</sup>). This might be due to genetic makeup of variety PKV-NL-260.

### 3.2.3 Harvest index (%)

#### Effect of sowing dates

The data represented in Table 1 revealed that sowing on 44<sup>th</sup> MW recorded comparatively higher harvest index (35.87%) as compare to all other sowing dates.

#### Effect of varieties

The harvest index was comparatively higher in linseed variety PKV-NL-260 (35.52 %) than variety PKV-NL-97 (35.41%) and JLS-73 (34.55 %). This might be due to genetic makeup of variety PKV-NL-260.

### 3.3 Economic studies

The data related to cost of production, gross monetary return, net monetary return and benefit cost ratio as significantly influenced by sowing dates and varieties are presented in Table 3.

#### 3.3.1 Gross monetary return (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)

##### Effect of sowing dates

Sowing done during 44<sup>th</sup> MW recorded highest gross monetary return (Rs. 44688 ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was found at par with 43<sup>rd</sup> MW (Rs. 42705 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and was significantly superior over sowing carried out on 45<sup>th</sup> MW (Rs. 39768 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and 46<sup>th</sup> MW (Rs. 36974 ha<sup>-1</sup>). Increase in gross monetary return is due to significant increase in seed and straw yield of linseed.

##### Effect of varieties

Variety PKV-NL-260 recorded highest gross monetary return (Rs. 43478 ha<sup>-1</sup>) resulted significantly superior over variety PKV-NL-97 (Rs. 41483 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and JLS-73 (Rs. 38140 ha<sup>-1</sup>). Increase in gross monetary return is due to significant increase in seed and straw yield of linseed variety.

### Interaction effect

The interaction effects of sowing dates and linseed varieties were found significant for gross monetary return in Table 4. The sowing date on 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 was found to be significantly higher gross monetary return (Rs. 48225 ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was found at par with treatment combination of sowing on 43<sup>rd</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 (Rs. 46983 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and sowing on 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-97 (Rs. 45816 ha<sup>-1</sup>). However, it was found significantly superior over rest of the combination.

**Table 3: Cost of cultivation, gross monetary return, net monetary return and benefit cost ratio of linseed as influenced by sowing dates and varieties**

Treatments	Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross monetary return (Rs.ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net monetary return (Rs.ha <sup>-1</sup> )	B:C ratio
<b>Sowing dates</b>				
D <sub>1</sub> - 43 <sup>rd</sup> MW	21252	42705	21453	2.00
D <sub>2</sub> - 44 <sup>th</sup> MW	21252	44688	23436	2.10
D <sub>3</sub> - 45 <sup>th</sup> MW	21252	39768	18516	1.87
D <sub>4</sub> - 46 <sup>th</sup> MW	21252	36974	15722	1.73
SE(m)±	-	457.86	457.86	-
CD at5%	-	1584.23	1584.23	-
<b>Varieties</b>				
V <sub>1</sub> - PKV-NL-260	21252	43478	22226	2.04
V <sub>2</sub> - PKV-NL-97	21252	41483	20231	1.95
V <sub>3</sub> - JLS-73	21252	38140	16888	1.79
SE(m)±	-	399.34	399.34	-
CD at5%	-	1197.09	1197.09	-
<b>Interaction</b>				
SE(m)±	-	798.68	798.68	-
CD at5%	-	2394.18	2394.18	-
GM	21252	41033	19781	1.93

### 3.3.2 Net monetary return (Rs. ha<sup>-1</sup>)

#### Effect of sowing dates

Sowing taken on 44<sup>th</sup> MW was recorded highest net monetary return (Rs. 23436 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and was significantly superior over sowing carried out on 43<sup>rd</sup> MW (Rs. 21453 ha<sup>-1</sup>), 45<sup>th</sup> MW (Rs. 18516 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and 46<sup>th</sup> MW (Rs. 15722 ha<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table 4: Gross monetary return as influenced by interaction of sowing dates and varieties**

Sowing dates \ Varieties	Gross monetary return (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
	V <sub>1</sub> -PKV-NL-260	V <sub>2</sub> -PKV-NL-97	V <sub>3</sub> -JLS-73
D <sub>1</sub> - 43 <sup>rd</sup> MW	45983	42776	39355
D <sub>2</sub> - 44 <sup>th</sup> MW	48225	45816	40023
D <sub>3</sub> - 45 <sup>th</sup> MW	41523	40098	37683
D <sub>4</sub> - 46 <sup>th</sup> MW	38181	37243	35498
SE(m) ±	798.68		
CD at 5%	2394.18		

#### Effect of varieties

The variety PKV-NL-260 was recorded highest net monetary return (Rs. 22226 ha<sup>-1</sup>) resulted significantly superior over variety PKV-NL-97 (Rs. 20231 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and JLS-73 (Rs.16888 ha<sup>-1</sup>).

#### Interaction effect

The interaction effects of sowing dates and linseed varieties were found significant for net monetary return in [Table 5](#). The sowing date on 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 was found to be significantly higher net monetary return (Rs. 26973 ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was found at par with combination of sowing on 43<sup>rd</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 (Rs. 24731 ha<sup>-1</sup>) and sowing on 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-97 (Rs. 24564 ha<sup>-1</sup>). However, it was found significantly superior over rest of the combination.

### 3.3.3 B: C ratio

#### Effect of sowing dates

Highest benefit cost ratio (2.10) was recorded with sowing on 44<sup>th</sup> MW as compare to other sowing dates. Lowest benefit cost ratio was observed under 46<sup>th</sup> MW (1.73). Increase in benefit cost ratio was due to significant increase in gross monetary return under sowing taken on 44<sup>th</sup> MW.

## Effect of varieties

Comparatively higher benefit cost ratio (2.04) is recorded with variety PKV-NL-260 over variety PKV-NL-97 (1.95) and JLS-73 (1.79). Increase in benefit cost ratio was due to significant increase in gross monetary return by variety PKV-NL-260.

**Table 5: Net monetary return as influenced by interaction of sowing dates and varieties**

Sowing dates \ Varieties	Net monetary return (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )		
	V <sub>1</sub> -PKV-NL-260	V <sub>2</sub> -PKV-NL-97	V <sub>3</sub> -JLS-73
D <sub>1</sub> - 43 <sup>rd</sup> MW	24731	21524	18103
D <sub>2</sub> - 44 <sup>th</sup> MW	26973	24564	18771
D <sub>3</sub> - 45 <sup>th</sup> MW	20271	18846	16431
D <sub>4</sub> - 46 <sup>th</sup> MW	16929	15991	14246
SE(m) ±	798.68		
CD at 5%	2394.18		

To make linseed cultivation sustainable, it is essential to combine technologies, management techniques and adjust the management of the agricultural system. The opportune selection of the planting date is essential to obtain high yields, which does not generate an extra expense in the production cost of the crop. A delay in the sowing date generates negative effects on the formation and development of the capsules, as well as on the number and weight of the grain [18].

In warm weather, various plant species of great interest can be planted, both in summer and winter, the latter being irrigated. Thus, during the year, linseed, like other crops, is subject to changes in solar radiation [19], temperature [20] and evaporative air demand measured through crop evapotranspiration (ETc) [21], which influence its growth and yield.

As confirmed by a study in the northern hemisphere (April), early planting of the linseed crop gives the highest yields [22]. Similar results were reached by [18]. Always in the northern hemisphere and in autumn sowings, sowing during the first fortnight of November was the one that provided the highest yields. In the southern hemisphere, particularly in Argentina, the optimal planting date for Gallardo [23] corresponded to the first half of June, likewise other trials indicated that of four planting dates (April 12, May 3 and 24, and June 14, 2012), the highest yields were recorded in the first two planting dates.

Various studies [24, 25, 26] indicated that, although the growth of a crop is affected by a complex group of environmental factors, those with the greatest impact are: rainfall [27, 28, 29], radiation and seasonal

temperature [30, 31]. The relationship between these factors and the growth and yield of the crop will depend on the climate in which it is developed [32, 33]. Of these three factors, water can be considered the first in importance and is the most decisive for agricultural production. One evidence of this is the linear relationship between water supply and crop yield.

Finally, it is considered appropriate to mention that the seed yield of linseed per surface unit in the studies reviewed fluctuated between one and two tones per hectare. Based on the above, it is postulated that sowing during 44<sup>th</sup> MW along with variety PKV-NL-260 performed better than variety PKV-NL-97 and JLS-73.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Sowing time and variety has immense effect on yield attributes, yield and economic of linseed. Results revealed that yield reduction was clearly observed with successive delay in sowing during 45<sup>th</sup> MW and 46<sup>th</sup> MW. Timely sown crop during 44<sup>th</sup> MW received favorable weather conditions such as temperature and light energy for longer duration and recorded better yield and yield attributes and resulted in greater productivity. Among varieties PKV-NL-260 was found superior for yield attributes and yield due to genetical makeup of variety. Finally, it is inferred from this studies that sowing of linseed during 44<sup>th</sup> MW (29<sup>th</sup> October - 4<sup>th</sup> November) along with variety PKV-NL-260 was found suitable for getting higher profitable production in terms of yield and economics.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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