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Effect of closer spacing in Bt cotton hybrids under rainfed conditions in red chalka soils of Adilabad district of Telangana

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ABSTRACT : A field experiment was conducted both in black cotton and red chalka soils during *Kharif* 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons in Adilabad district of Telangana at three different locations through farmers participatory mode to find out the response of BG-II cotton hybrids under two different spacings in rainfed conditions. These experiments were carried out by the district Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Center, Adilabad in collaboration with ATMA project functioning at Adilabad. Three cotton hybrids *viz.*, Mallika BG-II, Rasi BG-II and Paras Brahma BG –II which are most popular among the farmers were sown under two different spacings in different soils. The data revealed that, hybrids did not differ significantly in plant height, number of sympodial branches/plant, number of bolls/plant, boll weight and kapas yield in both the years of testing and also in both the soils. But, spacings had significantly influenced number of bolls/plant, boll weight and kapas yield. However, interaction effect was significant only for plant height. Closer spacing of 60 x 60 cm in red chalka soils (2033 and 2253 kg ha^{-1}) gave significantly higher kapas yield than wider spacing of 90 x 90 cm (1500 and 1863 kg ha^{-1}) during both the years of investigation, respectively. Thus, it is concluded that Bt hybrids need to be planted with higher plant density to realize good yields.

KEY **W**ORDS : Closer spacing, Rainfed condition, Bt cotton hybrids

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