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# Evaluation of turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) cultivars for growth and yield in southern dry zone of Karnataka

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**ABSTRACT**:Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.), a zingiberaceous perennial herb is an important major spice and medicinal crop native to South East Asia. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric contributing 78 per cent of the world production and 45 per cent of world trade. Turmeric is an ancient spice crop, most valued and sacred spice of India. The underground rhizome of processed turmeric is used as spice and condiment, dye stuff, in drugs and cosmetic industries. Therefore, it is essential to standardize production techniques for its growth and yield for high productivity. An experiment was conducted to evaluate the performance of growth and yield parameters of sixteen cultivars of turmeric for commercial production in southern dry zone of Karnataka. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design with three replications at the College of Horticulture, Mysore. Cultivar Salem recorded highest plant height (37.07 cm) and number of tillers (3.80), cultivar CLT-325 recorded highest number of leaves (17.67), the cultivar Cuddapah recorded highest leaf area (55.83 dm<sup>2</sup>) and leaf area index (7.40) at 180 days after planting. Maximum yield components were recorded in Salem, Rajapuri, Prathibha, CLT-325 and Cuddapah. Maximum fresh rhizome yield of 33.67 t ha<sup>-1</sup> was observed in Salem followed by Rajapuri (32.67 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), Prathibha (32.56 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and CLT-325 (32.49 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Cultivar Salem, Rajapuri, CLT-325 and Prathibha were significantly better cultivars in terms of growth and yield parameters, they should be grown for commercial production of turmeric in southern dry zone of Karnataka.

**Key Words** : Evaluation, Turmeric, Growth, Yield, Dry zone

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