



## Crop Contingency Plan for Kashmir

**Source:** [TH](#)

The **Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)** has devised a **Crop Contingency Plan** to tackle the **drought-like conditions** expected in Kashmir due to **an 80% rainfall deficit** in winter 2024.

▪ **Key Components of Crop Contingency Plan:**

- **Alternative Crop Promotion:** Instead of water-intensive rice, SKUAST promotes **drought-resistant maize hybrids (SMC-8, SMH-5) and pulses**, which require less water.
  - Recommends heat-tolerant crops like **cowpea**, which can withstand dry conditions.
- **Water Conservation Strategies:**
  - **Mulching:** Covering topsoil with organic materials to **retain moisture and improve soil health**.
  - **Micro-Irrigation:** Encourages [drip irrigation](#) and **mist sprayers** for optimal water use.
    - Recommends [micro-sprinkler systems](#) and **organic soil amendments** to sustain vegetable farming.
  - **Anti-Transpirant Agents:** Applying chemicals to **reduce water loss from plants** ([Transpiration](#)).
- **Resilient Farming Practices:** Recommends the use of **growth regulator sprays** to prevent early blooming and anti-transpirants in fruit crops to conserve moisture.
- **Pest Control:** Rising temperatures have made pests like **aphids and leaf miner blotch** more invasive. SKUAST is **issuing advisories on chemical pest control measures**.

Read more: [Climate Resilient Agriculture](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/crop-contingency-plan-for-kashmir>