

Original Research Article

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## Estimation of Crop Water Requirement (CWR) of Major Vegetable Crops of Selected Agro-climatic Zones of Madhya Pradesh, India

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### ABSTRACT

Crop water Requirement (CWR) is the key to design a suitable irrigation system for a particular crop. In this paper CWR of major vegetable crops for six agro-climatic zones of Madhya Pradesh is estimated on the basis of Reference Evapotranspiration. The study is performed for major vegetable crops namely tomato, onion, pea, brinjal, potato and okra. The crop water requirement found to vary with stages of the crop growth and the reference evapotranspiration. For most of the crops, water requirement is found maximum during development and mid season stage and found minimum during initial and maturity stages of the crops. The mean annual sum of CWR of vegetable crops in all districts was found highest for Brinjal, in winter season it is maximum in Barwani (32.87 litre) during peak period and minimum in Alirajpur (5.59 litre) during lean period whereas in monsoon season maximum in Neemuch (23.68 litre) during peak period and minimum in Jhabua (5.43 litre) during lean period and lowest for pea, in winter season it is maximum in Ratlam (6.22 litre) during peak period

#### Keywords

Crop water requirement,  
Vegetable crops  
agro-climatic zone,  
Evapotranspiration

#### Article Info

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### Introduction

The term crop water requirement is defined as “amount of water required to the crop from its planting date to harvesting date”. It also refers to the amount of water required to compensate the evapo-transpiration loss from cropped field. It depends on crop type, stage of growth and evaporation demand. The rapidly

depleting water resources and agro-environmental health threaten the sustenance of existing levels of agricultural production, and call for efficient use of water over space and time (Kumari *et al.*, 2013). Hence estimation of CWR of various crops is necessary which will help in planning an accurate irrigation system to save best possible amount of available water. Accurate

quantification of crop water requirements of any crop is essentially required for irrigation scheduling and water management (yadav *et al.*, 2017).

It is "the depth of water needed to meet the water loss through evapotranspiration of a disease-free crop, growing in large fields under non-restricting soil conditions including soil water and fertility and achieving full production potential under the given growing environment. It is a function of crop characteristics, management, and environmental demands. Crop water requirement can be calculated from reference evapotranspiration using crop coefficient ( $K_c$ ).

The reference evapotranspiration ( $ET_0$ ) can be explained as the rate at which readily available soil water is evaporated from specified vegetated surfaces (Jensen *et al.*, 1990).  $ET$  is one of the most important variable in the hydrological cycle after rainfall which affects the spatial water requirement of the crops (Mohan and Arumugam, 1996). The FAO experts accepted the FAO Penman-Monteith method as a standard method for definition and computation of reference evapotranspiration ( $ET_0$ ) and crop water requirement. The FAO Penman-Monteith method provides consistent  $ET_0$  values in all regions and climates (Allen *et al.*, 1998).

The estimation of the water requirement of crops is one of the basic needs for crop planning of any irrigation project. A new technique for evaluation of Crop Water Requirement is introduced to standardize the fortnightly crop water requirement by introducing the concept of development of iso lines for crop water requirement for the Nagpur region. These iso lines will give directly crop water requirement at any location in region as well as it is useful for well irrigation (Hajare *et al.*, 2008). After that climate change impact was studied on crop

water requirement. Impacts of elevated temperatures of 1 to 4°C on crop water requirements of major crops of arid Rajasthan was studied by using PET and crop coefficient approach. (Rao and Poonia 2011). A study was made on Climate Change Impact on Crop Water Requirement in Ganga River Basin, West Bengal, India. In this study, potato was taken as the reference crop for its growing period and its high response to irrigation (Chatterjee *et al.*, 2012). Some models are also used to directly estimate the reference evapotranspiration and water requirement using weather, soil and crop parameters as input. Crop water requirements of crops in Appapuram Channel Command under Krishna Western Delta is computed with CROPWAT using the meteorological parameters (Raju *et al.*, 2016). A probability analysis of rainfall and crop water requirement is also conducted using CROPWAT model for crop planning in a canal command of upper Bhima Basin of Maharashtra (Sachan *et al.*, 2016).

## **Materials and Methods**

### **Study area**

The study was carried out for six major vegetable crops prevailing in 30 districts of six agro-climatic zones of Madhya Pradesh. The state has three predominant seasons: winter (November to February), summer (March to May), and the monsoon season (June to September). The area consists of 6 agro-climatic zones namely Chhattisgarh plains, Gird region, Jhabua hills, Malwa plateau, Nimar plains and Northern hill region of Chhattisgarh which covers 30 districts namely Balaghat, Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Guna, Ahoknagar, Jhabua, Alirajpur, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ratlam, Ujjain, Dewas, Indore, Shajapur, Rajgarh, Dhar, Agar Malwa, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Khargone, Barwani, Shahdol, Mandla, Dindori, Anuppur, Singrauli and Umariya.

## Data collection

Crop data were obtained from the NBSS & LUP (National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, 2010) in the form of area covered under different crops. From this data three vegetable crops were chosen in a district on the basis of maximum covered area. Information of time of sowing and harvesting, length of crop development stages and crop coefficient ( $K_c$ ) values for crops were collected from the report published by FAO, 1998 (Table 1).

Water requirement is the quantity of water, regardless of its source, required by a crop or diversified pattern of crops in a given period of time for its normal growth under field conditions at a place (Michael., 1998). There are various parameters which are required for computation of crop water requirement namely reference evapotranspiration, crop coefficient, percent wetted area, and uniformity coefficient.

Reference evapotranspiration can be estimated from the aquacrop model using necessary weather parameters and percent wetted area can be obtained from Table 2.

Water requirement can be estimated by following suggested formulas:

Water requirement for closely spaced row crops

$$WR = \frac{Sl \times Sd \times ET_0 \times Kc \times Wp}{Eu}$$

Where,

WR = Crop water requirement, lit/day

$ET_0$  = Reference evapotranspiration, mm/day

$K_c$  = Crop coefficient

Sl = Lateral spacing along the sub main, (m)

Sd = Dripper spacing along the lateral, (m)

Wp = Percentage wetted area, decimal

Eu = Emission uniformity of drip irrigation system, decimal

The  $K_{cini}$  and  $K_{cmid}$  values given in Table 3 were used as such for estimation of water requirement of initial and mid season stage but there are no pre set  $k_c$  values for crop development and late season stage. For calculation of CWR at development stage  $k_c$  value between  $k_{cini}$  and  $k_{cmid}$  was used and for late season between  $k_{cmid}$  and  $k_{cend}$ .

## Results and Discussion

The crop water requirement for vegetable crops like tomato, potato, okra, pea, brinjal and onion during different season estimated and analysed are discussed below graphically. The crop water requirement found to vary with stages of the crop and the reference evapotranspiration. For most of the crops, water requirement is found maximum during development and mid season stage and found minimum during initial and maturity stages of the crops.

Among all vegetable crops under consideration the CWR of tomato in winter season is maximum in Ratlam (19.24 litre) during peak period and minimum in Shahdol (4.64 litre) during lean period whereas in summer season maximum in Mandsaur (29.88 litre) during peak period and minimum in Indore (5.17 litre) during lean period.

The CWR of potato in winter season is maximum in Dhar (7.33 litre) during peak period and minimum in Anuppur (4.64 litre) during lean period whereas in summer season maximum in Morena (8.14 litre) during peak period and minimum in Anuppur (2.58 litre) during lean period.

The CWR of onion in winter season is maximum in Ratlam (9.94 litre) during peak period and minimum in Anuppur (0.97 litre) during lean period whereas in summer season maximum in Morena (13.14 litre) during peak period and minimum in Anuppur (2.12 litre) during lean period.

The CWR of Brinjal in winter season is maximum in Barwani (32.87 litre) during peak period and minimum in Alirajpur (5.59 litre) during lean period whereas in monsoon season maximum in Neemuch (23.68 litre) during peak period and minimum in Jhabua (5.43 litre) during lean period (Fig. 1–10).

**Table.1** Selected major vegetable crops of study area

Agroclimatic Zones	District	Vegetable crops		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Chhattisgarh plains</b>	Balaghat	Tomato	Brinjal	Onion
<b>Gird region</b>	Gwalior	Pea	Potato	Tomato
	Morena	Potato	Tomato	Onion
	Bhind	Potato	Tomato	Onion
	Shivpuri	Tomato	Onion	Potato
	Sheopur	Potato	Tomato	Onion
	Guna	Tomato	Potato	Onion
	Ashoknagar	Potato	Tomato	-
<b>Jhabua hills</b>	Jhabua	Tomato	Onion	Brinjal
	Alirajpur	Tomato	Onion	Brinjal
<b>Malwa plateau</b>	Mandsaur	Pea	Tomato	Okra
	Neemuch	Okra	Tomato	Brinjal
	Ratlam	Tomato	Onion	Pea
	Ujjain	Onion	Potato	-
	Dewas	Potato	Onion	-
	Indore	Tomato	Onion	Potato
	Shajapur	Onion	Potato	Okra
	Rajgarh	Onion	Potato	Tomato
	Dhar	Potato	Tomato	Onion
	Agar malwa	Onion	Potato	Pea
<b>Nimar plains</b>	Khandwa	Onion	Potato	Brinjal
	burhanpur	Tomato	Potato	Onion
	Khargone	Onion	Tomato	Potato
	Barwani	Onion	Okra	Brinjal
	Shahdol	Potato	Tomato	Okra
<b>Northern hill region of Chhattisgarh</b>	Mandla	Pea	Tomato	Potato
	Dindori	Pea	Potato	Tomato
	Anuppur	Potato	Onion	Okra
	Singrauli	Potato	Onion	Tomato
	Umaria	Potato	Tomato	-

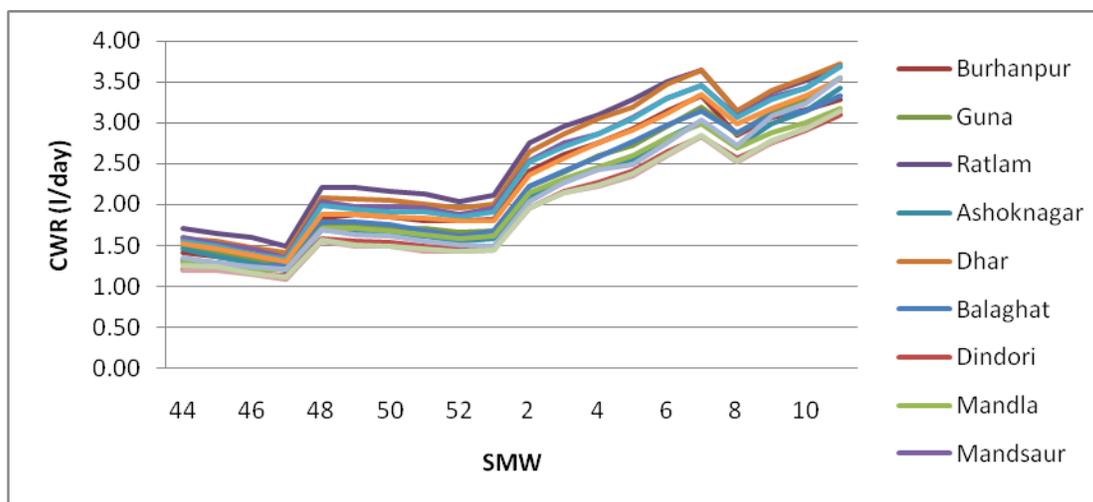
**Table.2** Percent wetted area of vegetable crops

Crop	% Wetted Area
Potato	75
Onion	70
Tomato	65
Okra	70
Brinjal	75
Cabbage	65
Cauliflower	65
Pea	70
Chilli	75

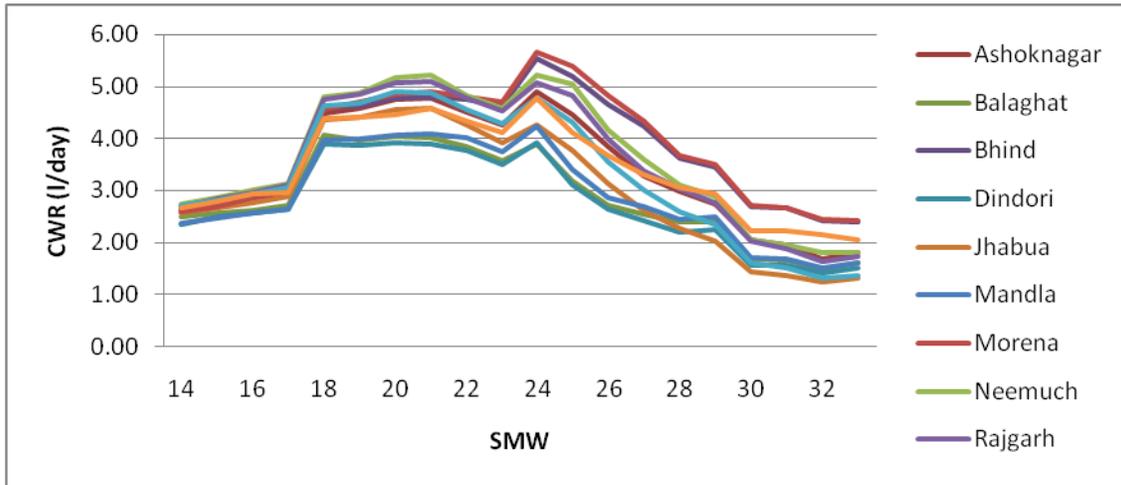
**Table.3** Crop coefficient ( $K_c$ ) values of selected vegetable crops  
(source: FAO – 56 Allen et al., 1998)

Crops	Initial stage ( $K_{cini}$ )	Mid-stage ( $K_{cmid}$ )	Late stage ( $K_{cend}$ )
<b>Vegetables</b>			
Potato	0.50	1.15	0.75
Onion	0.70	1.05	0.75
Tomato	0.60	1.15	0.70
Brinjal	0.60	1.05	0.90
Cabbage	0.70	1.05	0.95
Cauliflower	0.70	1.05	0.95
Pea	0.50	1.05	0.30
Chilli	0.30	1.18	0.53

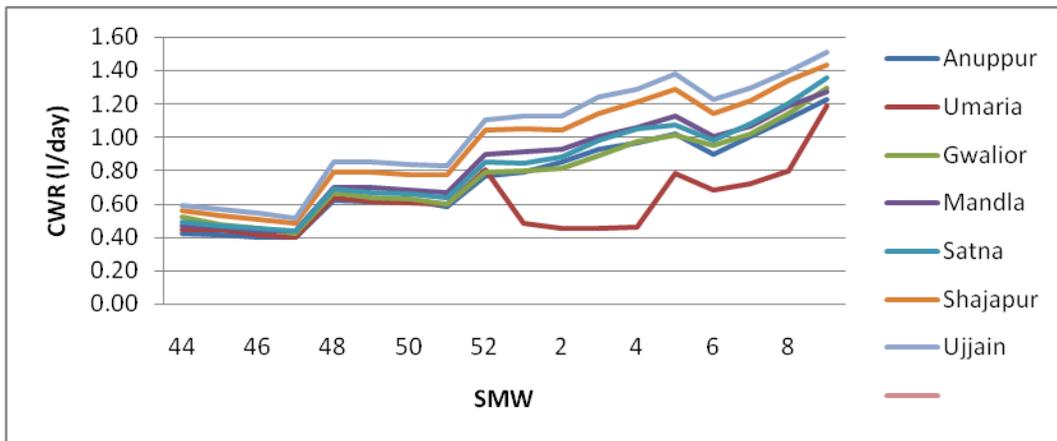
**Fig.1** Stage wise variation in CWR of tomato in winter season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



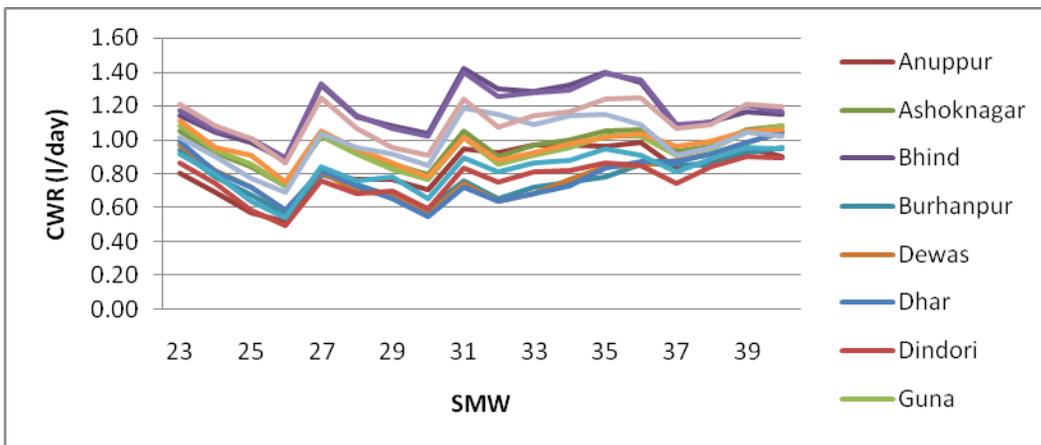
**Fig.2** Stage wise variation in CWR of tomato in summer season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



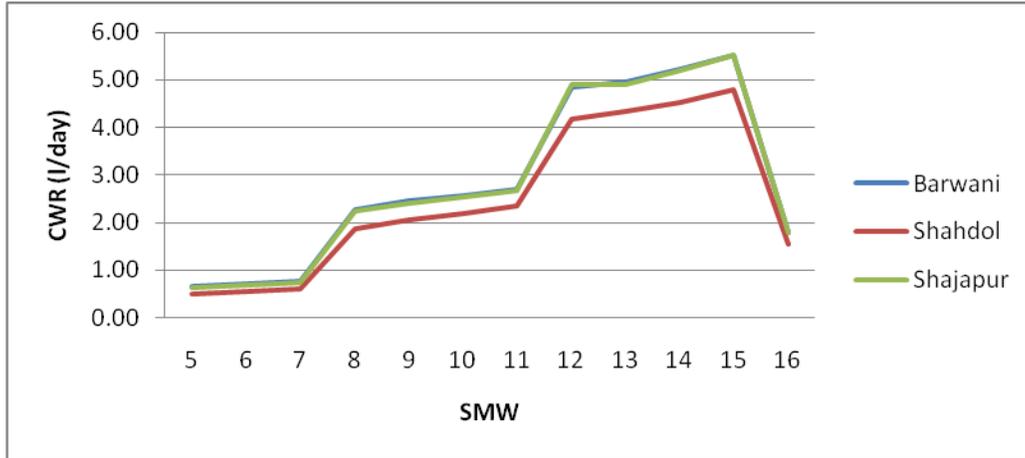
**Fig.3** Stage wise variation in CWR of potato in winter season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



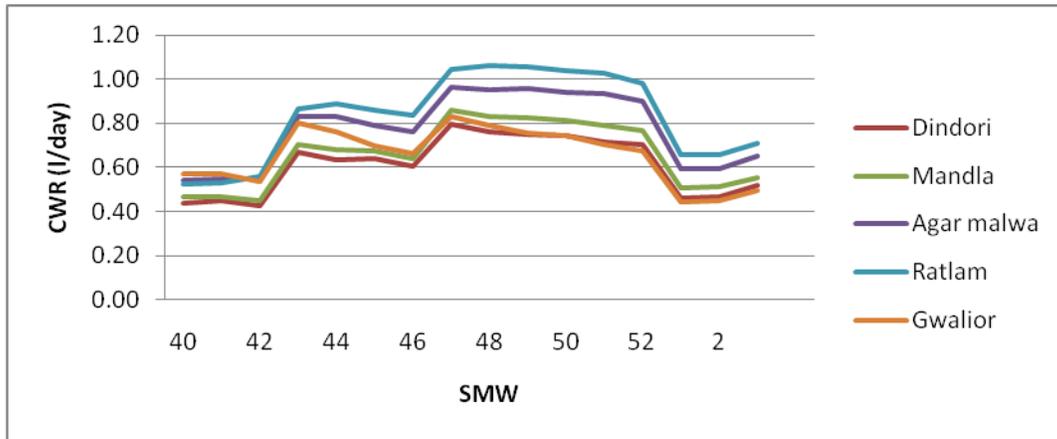
**Fig.4** Stage wise variation in CWR of potato in summer season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



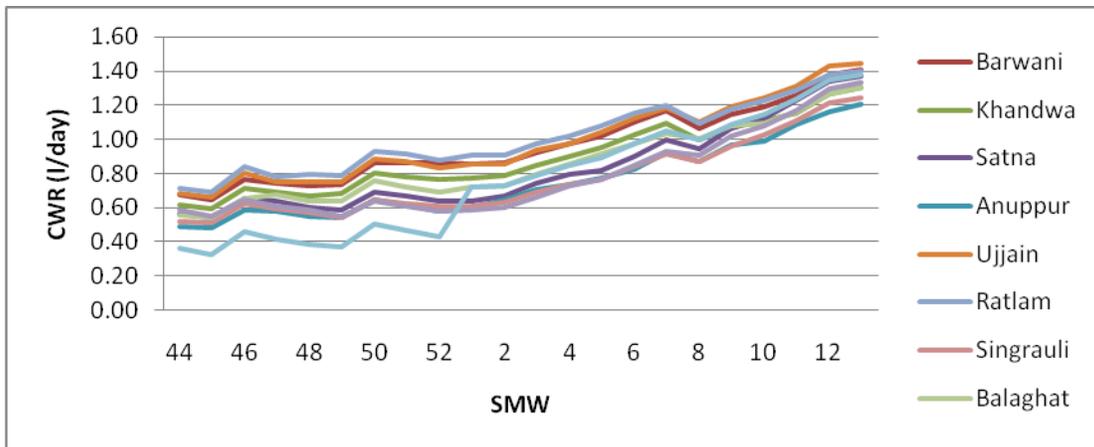
**Fig.5** Stage wise variation in CWR of okra at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



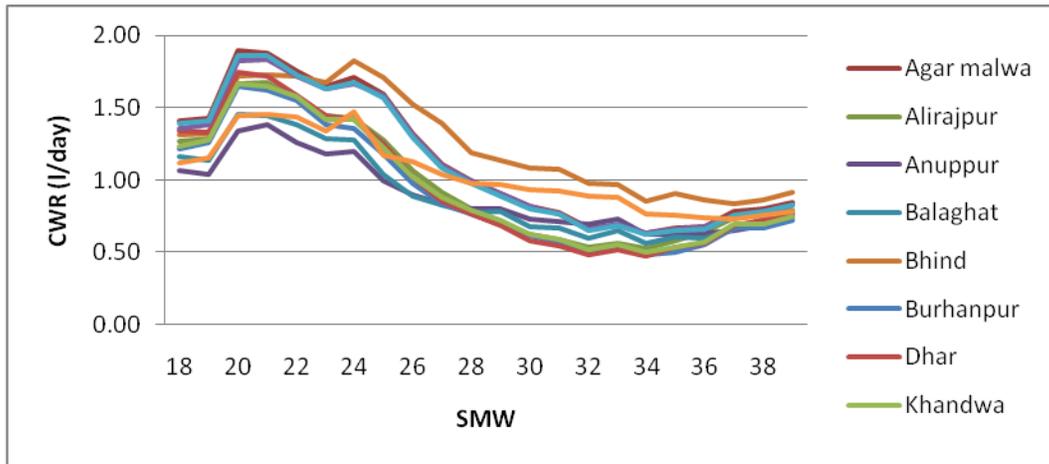
**Fig.6** Stage wise variation in CWR of pea at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



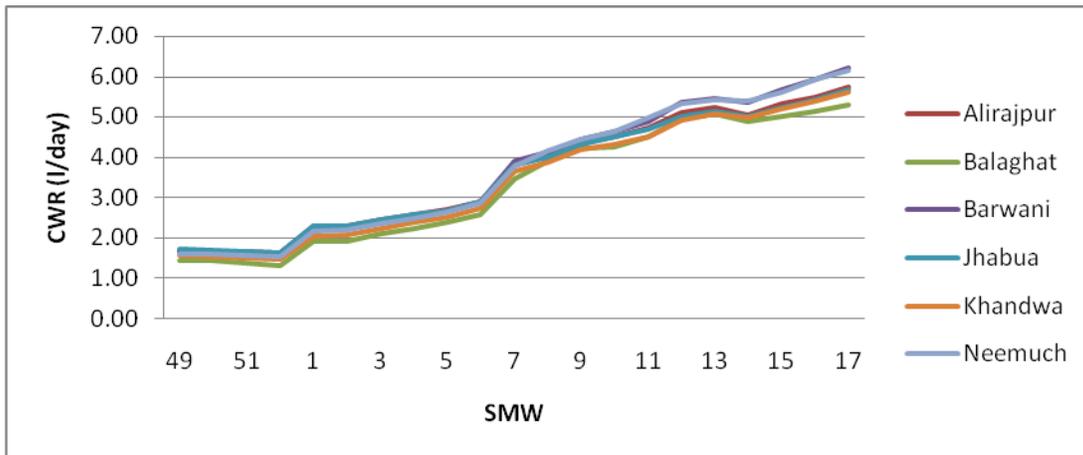
**Fig.7** Stage wise variation in CWR of onion in winter season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



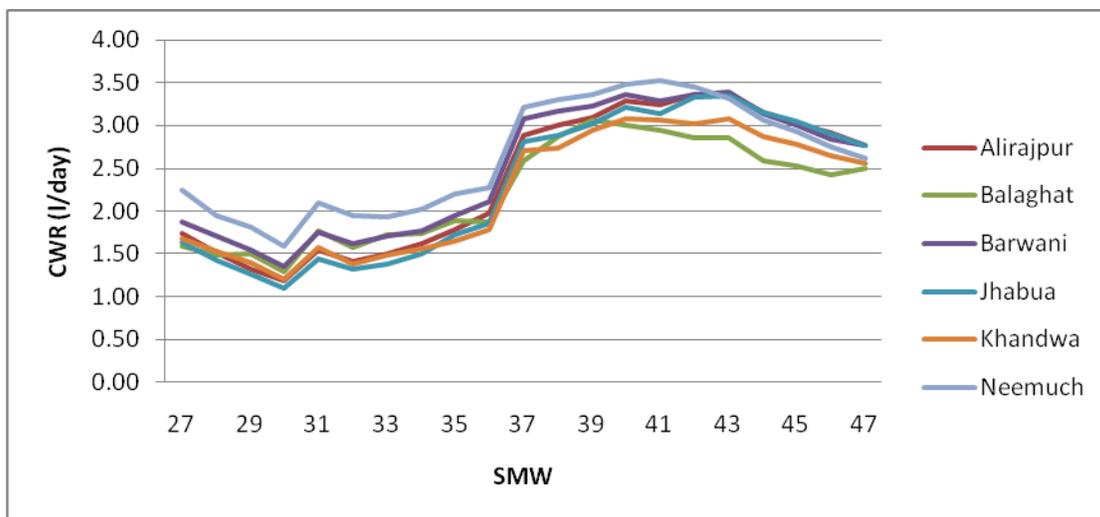
**Fig.8** Stage wise variation in CWR of onion in summer season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



**Fig.9** Stage wise variation in CWR of brinjal in winter season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



**Fig.10** Stage wise variation in CWR of brinjal in mansoon season at various districts of Madhya Pradesh



The CWR of pea in winter season is maximum in Ratlam (6.22 litre) during peak period and minimum in Dindori (1.31 litre) during lean period. The CWR of okra in summer season maximum in Mandsaur (20.59 litre) during peak period and minimum in Anuppur (1.48 litre) during lean period.

From the analysis of the result it was found that CWR of vegetable crops shows temporal and spatial variation because of the varying evapotranspiration.

It is revealed that summer season vegetable crops required maximum amount of water during mid stage and minimum during initial and late stage, winter and monsoon season crops required maximum water during mid stage and minimum during initial stage.

In short it can be concluded that a particular crop grown in different districts will require different amount of water due to varying evapotranspiration of these districts and that crop also shows variation in CWR in different growth stages because of variation in crop coefficient.

The CWR was found highest for Brinjal followed by tomato and lowest for pea followed by Potato. It means brinjal is most susceptible to water shortage whereas pea is least. From the analysis it was observed that in a particular district selection of crop should be made on the basis of its CWR and the  $ET_0$  of the district.

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