General Topography and Climate of Dharwad

Dharwad is one of the districts of Karnataka State and is situated between 14° 78' to 15° 50' North latitude and 74° 48' to 76° 00' East longitude. Spreading in an area of 13,749 Sq. Km, it has 82,295 hectares of rice growing area. Rice production is to the extent of 1,71,812 tons/year and the productivity is 2,198 Kg/hectare. Dharwad district is marked by a chain of hills of Sahyadri and Malaprabha, Tungabhadra, Kumada and Varada are the main rivers of this district.

The climate of the district on the whole is healthy and pleasant. Summer season commences from February, the monsoon from June which continues upto mid-November, and the winter season commences from December. About 80% of the rain is due to South-West monsoon during June and September, and the average annual rainfall of the district is 380 mm. The maximum and minimum temperatures are 38°C and 12°C respectively. The average relative humidity is 60 to 80 percent.

Western part of the district being adjacent to Malnad has lateritic soils. Laterite soils are usually formed under heavy rain fall and high temperature conditions. The laterites of Malnad areas are of recent origin. These are
deep to very deep yellowish red to dark red, reddish brown or brown, clay loam to gravelly sandy loam on the surface and clay loam to gravelly sandy clay in the subsurface horizon. They are acidic in reaction, low in cation exchange capacity, base saturation and water holding capacity. The clay complex is dominated by 1:1 lattice clays of Kaolinite. These are well drained to excessively drained with moderate to moderately rapid permeability. They have high organic matter but poor in lime and Magnesia and generally deficient in P$_2$O$_5$ and K$_2$O.