

Effect of irrigation and mulching on establishment of ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) plantation in Jharkhand

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ABSTRACT : An experiment was conducted at Research Farm of Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums (IINRG), Namkum, Ranchi during 2007-09 on efficacy of irrigation and mulching on establishment of *ber* (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) plantation. The treatments comprised three levels of irrigation and two levels of mulching. Irrigation with mulching showed a pronounced effect on plant growth parameters. Pooled data for June month showed an increase of 42, 40 and 36% in basal girth, number of leaves and number of branches for *ber*, however, plant height did not show any significant difference. Irrigation alone, without mulching, also showed a substantial increase in case of number of leaves, however, there was none significant difference between basal girth and number of branches.

Key Words: Basal girth, *ber* (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), irrigation, mulching.