

Technology leaflet: Intercropping millet with cowpea

From the Cinzana Research Station, Mali

Objectives

- Reduce the risk of crop failure (drought, pests, diseases)
- Reduce Striga infestation in millet
- Better use of available soil nutrients

Features

Arrangement annual alternation of millet with cowpea *Manuring* Basal application of 4 t/ha manure
Shift lines of millet and cowpea each year or apply urea to millet at heading (25 kg/ha with annual rainfall 400-700 mm, 50 kg/ha with 700-800 mm) *Plant spacing* Millet: 1.5 x 0.4 m, cowpea: 1.5 x 0.25 m *Sowing date* Sowing both crops the same day

Performance

(information not available)

Application

Sandy soils in area with annual rainfall between 450 and 700 mm

Restrictions

Growing legume crops requires the roaming cattle to be herded
Costs of crop protection for cowpea

Recommended practices

Seed treatment Millet: 10 g Apron Plus for 750 g seeds

Cowpea: 10 g Apron Plus for 2000 g seeds *Manuring* when possible application of phosphate rock of Tilemsi (100 kg/ha annually or 300 kg/ha once in three years) *Crop protection* Application of insecticide Decis (1 l/ha) on cowpea when flower buds appear, at flowering and at pod formation