

## Technology leaflet: Establishing cowpea rotation crop in millet cropping system

### From the Cinzana Research Station, Mali

<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Diminish the need for nitrogen fertilizer</li><li>- Improve chemical, physical and biological soil properties</li><li>- Increase grain and fodder production</li></ul>
<b>Features</b>	<p><i>Rotation</i> annual alternation of millet with cowpea</p> <p><i>Plant spacing</i> 0.75 x 0.50 m with one or two plants per hole (26,660 and 53,330 pl/ha respectively)</p> <p><i>Sowing date</i> Sowing before mid July, preferably end of June</p>
<b>Performance</b>	<p>Yield increase of 10-30% when sown at high density</p> <p>Yield increase of 25-40% when sown before mid July</p> <p>A cowpea rotation crop may apport 40 kg/ha nitrogen to the subsequent millet crop</p>
<b>Application</b>	Area with annual rainfall between 500 and 700 mm
<b>Restrictions</b>	<p>Growing legume crops requires the roaming cattle to be herded</p> <p>Costs of crop protection for cowpea</p> <p>Absence of land property rights may withhold farmers to invest in soil fertility management</p>
<b>Recommended practices</b>	<p><i>Seed treatment</i> 10 g Apron Plus for 2000 g seeds</p> <p><i>Manuring</i> application of 200 kg/ha PNT on millet preceding cowpea</p> <p><i>Crop protection</i> Application of insecticide Decis (1 l/ha) when flower buds appear, at flowering and at pod formation</p>