Evaluation of Maize based Intercropping System for North Coastal A.P

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ABSTRACT

The field experiment was conducted on sandy loam soil of Agriculture College Farm, Naira during the *Rabi* season of 2021-22 to evolve the most suitable and profitable maize based intercropping systems. Maize with five intercrops *viz.*, Blackgram, Bhendi, Coriander, Watermelon and Marigold were tested. Plant height at tasseling, dry matter production and fresh cob yield of maize was higher with sole maize, found on par to all the inter intercrops on paired rows of maize and were conspicuously higher over various inter intercrops on skipped rows of maize. Among different intercrops, blackgram resulted to higher values of growth and fresh cob yield over bhendi and on par to coriander, watermelon and marigold on paired rows of maize. There were no measurable differences in fresh cob yield among different intercrops on skipped row of maize. The sole maize recorded 80.76% higher fresh cob yield over inter cropping bhendi on skipped rows of maize. On the other hand irrespective of inter crops, skipped row of maize recorded significantly higher values of yield structure of maize like number of cobs plant^{-1}, number of rows cob^{-1}, number of kernels row^{-1}, cob length and cob girth compared to paired rows of maize and the maximum values were obtained with intercropping blackgram on skipped row of maize followed by intercropping coriander on skipped row of maize.

Keywords: *Intercropping, Maize (Zea mays L.), Paired row Skipped row.*