Performance of Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana .L*) Varieties under Different Crop Establishment Methods for North Coastal Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Field experiments were conducted for three consecutive *kharif* seasons of 2009, 2010 and 2011 at Agricultural Research Station, Seethampeta, Andhra Pradesh on sandy clay loam with an objective of identifying best method of crop establishment and promising varieties in Finger millet. Experiment consists of two main plots (M1-direct sowing, M2- transplanting) and twelve Subplots (12 improved cultures viz., VR (W)– 936, CTPL – 10, VR – 948,VR 762, VR – 943, VR – 929, VR – 900, PPR – 2885, PPR – 2886, VR – 952, VR – 958, and PR 1044 as control) laid out in a Split plot design with three replications. Direct sowing reduced the crop duration conspicuously. Higher number of productive tillers with lengthy panicles and more number of fingers, higher grain yield, better harvest index and more profits were recorded in transplanting compared to direct sowing. Among the improved cultures VR – 952 , VR-762 and PPR – 2886 proved effective irrespective of methods of crop establishment with superior yield attributes leading to with higher grain yield and returns.

Key words : Crop establishment, Finger millet, Improved cultures, Returns, Yield.