

Identification of Suitable Intercrops that suppresses the Insect pests of Maize (*Zea mays* Linn.)

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ABSTRACT

A field trial was conducted at farm of S. V. Agricultural College, Tirupati to find out suitable intercropping systems that suppresses insect pests population in maize, during *Kharif*, 2012. The intercropping systems studied were maize + black gram, maize + green gram, maize + cowpea, maize + groundnut, maize + cluster bean, maize + field bean. Pure maize crop was also maintained. Sucking pests like Shoot bug, Sugarcane leaf hopper and aphids were predominantly recorded during crop growth period. Shoot bug population was observed lowest in maize +field bean (0.92/Plant) and was succeeded by Maize + cluster bean (1.02/plant). Sugarcane leaf hopper density was observed lowest in maize + cluster bean system (0.61/plant), followed by maize + groundnut system (0.63/plant) and Maize + field bean (0.84/Plant). Aphid population was found in tasseling and cob formation stage. Lowest numbers were found in maize along with cluster bean intercropping system (19.39/plant) followed by maize + groundnut (20.47/plant).

Key words : Maize, shoot bug, sugarcane leaf hopper, aphids, intercropping, sole crop.