FEASIBILITY OF GROWING VEGETABLES WITH SWEET POTATO

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Sweet potato is commonly grown as a monocrop on ridges and it covers the land in about 2½ months time. During this period there is a possibility of accommodating another crop to intensify available resources and to improve the total productivity of land. Therefore, a cropping system study was carried out during Yala 1987 and Maha 1987/88 at Central Agricultural Research Institute, Gannoruwa to find out the feasibility of growing vegetables simultaneously with sweet potato. Two plant types of sweet potato C-26 (bush type) and CARI-242 (moderate-vine) were used in combination with bushitao, tomato and a non-vegetable treatment in this study.

Results in both seasons revealed that the tuber yield of sweet potato was not affected by vegetable intercrops as there were no significant differences among vegetable sweet potato combinations and non-vegetable treatment. With respect to the vegetable yield, tomato intercropped with sweet potato gave significantly higher fruit yields compared to bushitao, irrespective of plant type of sweet potato. Hence, the combinations of sweet potato with tomato recorded higher yields, and higher monetary returns indicating the higher potentiality of growing vegetables with sweet potato.