

B-42 Effect of groundnut cultivars on the competitive balance and productivity of maize/groundnut intercropping system

S Subasinghe¹, R Senaratne¹, M A Pemadasa²

¹Dept of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Mapalana, Kamburupelle
²Dept of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, Matara

Identification of more competitive legume genotypes in dual stand is important in improving the productivity of intercropping systems. Hence a field experiment was conducted to study the above aspects of maize (*Zea mays*), sorghum (*Sorghum vulgare*), groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) intercropping systems using two genotypes of groundnut, X-14 and Red Spanish. The experiment was arranged in a Randomized Block Design with 4 replicates. In this experiment, the same population pressure was maintained in sole crops and intercrops by replacing one cereal row by 3 rows of groundnut in intercropping treatments. The number of plants/ha from the component crops was different in sole crops and intercrops.

Results showed that yield (cob/grain, stover and total biomass) of intercropped maize and sorghum was suppressed by groundnut and yield suppression was greater in association with X-14 than with Red Spanish. However, intercropped maize/sorghum yield was greater than that 'expected' from its sown proportion (i.e. the sole crop). Yield (pod, stover and total biomass) of intercropped groundnut decreased compared to sole crop groundnut. X-14 gave higher yield compared to Red Spanish which was not affected by the intercropping system. Moreover both groundnut genotypes (X-14 and Red Spanish) gave higher yield when intercropped with maize than intercropped with sorghum. The combined biomass yield was significantly higher in maize/groundnut association compared to sorghum/groundnut association which was not affected by the groundnut genotype. When LERs were considered, maize/groundnut was found to be better than sorghum/groundnut and the groundnut genotype of X-14 was found to be better than Red Spanish.

Therefore maize/X-14 association is the most productive intercropping system compared to the other associations which were considered.