

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the degree of Master of Science (M. Sc) in Agronomy

Effect of millet (*Panicum miliaceum L.*) and cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata L.*) intercropping on grain yield and weed control.

Supervisors:

Dr. A. Ghanbari Dr. M. Asgharipour

Advisor:

Dr. A. Sirousmehr

By:

M. Nasirpour

June 2010

Effect of millet (*Panicum miliaceum L.*) and cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata L.*) intercropping on grain yield and weed control Abstract

In order to study intercropping of millet and cowpea under the effect of different ratio of cropping in mixture and to evaluate its effect on the function of these two plants and also to weed control, Experiment design was R, C.B. D. with 6 treatmeant and 3 replication at research farm of college of agriculture, university of zabol, zahak. In 1388 cropping. Experiment treatmeants were contain of 6 different ratio of cropping in which additive design have been used: B_1 : sole cropping of millet B_2 : sole cropping of cowpea B_3 : 100 % cowpea + 75 % millet B_4 : 100 % cowpea + 50 % millet B_5 : 100 % cowpea + 50 % millet B_6 : 100 % cowpea + 100 % millet. The characteristics which were investigated in this search were: Morphological features and yield components for both millet and cowpea kind, number of panicle, number of grain in panicle, and weight of thousand grain, height of plant, number of active and inactive tillers, length to corymb, number of leaves of millet and cowpea, number of pod in bush, number of grain in each pod, weight of hundred grain, height of plant, number of leaves in bush, HI and evaluation of intercroppings profits by the use of index of land equivalent ratio and also effect of intercropping on weeds control and also, the amounts of absorption of photosyntitically active radiation have been. The obtained results showed that different ratio of cropping was effective in the yield of cowpea and millet and also in the weight of grain these two kinds, and also the weight of both. The highest yield of grain of both millet and cowpea achieved from their sole cropping. The amount of LER in all mixed treatmeants was higher than one, that shows the superiority of intercropping in contrast with the solecropping. The highest PAR also obtained from 100% cowpea + 100% millet. In regarding to the control and management of weeds, different farms of intercropping showed their superiority to the solecropping of two plants. The lowest temperature and containing of soils moisture was achieved from the treatment of from 100% cowpea + 100% millet.

Keywords: Advantage of Intercropping, Millet, Cowpea, Weeds, LER, PAR