

**EFFECT OF DIFFERENT PLANTING PATTERNS IN OKRA  
(*Abelmoschus esculentus*) COWPEA (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp)  
INTERCROPPING ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF BASE AND  
INTERCROP IN SANDY REGOSOL**

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## ABSTRACT

This experiment was carried out at the Crop Farm of Eastern University, Sri Lanka during the period from June 2018 to September 2018 to study the effect of different planting patterns in okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* L.) – cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp) intercropping on growth and yield of base and intercrop in sandy regosol, with the okra variety *Haritha* and cowpea variety *Waruni*. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with four replications. Treatments were okra as a sole crop with the spacing of 90 cm × 90 cm (T1), cowpea as a sole crop with the spacing of 30 cm × 15 cm (T2), alternative planting of okra and cowpea (T3), 60/150 cm paired row planting of okra with two rows and three rows of cowpea in between paired rows (T4 and T5) and 75/120 cm paired row planting of okra with two rows and three rows of cowpea in between paired rows (T6 and T7).

Plant height, root length, fresh and dry weights of plant, leaf area, leaf area index, canopy width, days for 50% and 100% flowering, number of fruits per plant and weight per fruit were higher in 60/150 cm paired row planting of okra with three rows of cowpea in between paired rows (T5) compared with tested treatments. Okra in T5 gave 17.1% higher yield than T1. Yield of cowpea was significantly different ( $P<0.05$ ) among tested treatments and higher yield was noted in T2 at 3<sup>rd</sup> picking and higher cumulative yield also was high in T2 followed by T3 and T5. A significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ) was observed in Land Equivalent Ratio and Area – Time Equivalent Ratio with the highest value of both offering to T5. Economic parameters such as gross return, net profit, cost: benefit ratio and per day return were significantly different ( $P<0.05$ ) among tested treatments and higher values were in T2 followed by T5.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

ABSTRACT.....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xvi
LIST OF EQUATIONS.....	xv
<b>CHAPTER 01</b>	
1.0 Introduction.....	01
1.1 Objectives.....	05
<b>CHAPTER 02</b>	
2.0 Literature of review.....	06
2.1 Intercropping concept.....	06
2.1.1 Advantages of intercropping.....	07
2.1.1.1 Increasing productivity.....	07
2.1.1.2 Increase land use efficiency.....	08
2.1.1.3 Reduction of pests, diseases and weeds damage.....	09
2.1.1.4 Greater use of environmental resources.....	10
2.1.1.5 Produce higher income.....	11
2.1.1.6 Stability and uniformity of Yield.....	12
2.1.1.7 Improve soil fertility and increase in nitrogen.....	13
2.1.1.8 Light interception and radiation use efficiency.....	14

2.1.2 Disadvantages of intercropping.....	15
2.2 Okra.....	15
2.2.1 Introduction.....	15
2.2.2 Production of okra in Sri Lanka.....	17
2.2.3 Variety Haritha.....	17
2.2.4 Importance of okra.....	17
2.2.5 Climatic requirements of okra.....	19
2.3 Cowpea.....	20
1.1.1 Introduction.....	20
1.1.2 Production of cowpea in Sri Lanka.....	21
1.1.3 Variety Waruni.....	21
1.1.4 Importance of cowpea.....	22
1.1.5 Climatic requirements of okra.....	23
2.4 Factors to be considered in intercropping.....	23

### CHAPTER 03

3.0 Materials and Methodology.....	25
3.1 Location.....	25
3.2 Soil.....	25
3.3 Experimental design.....	25
3.4 Treatments used in this treatment.....	25
3.4.1 Variety of crops.....	28
3.5 Agronomic practices.....	29
3.5.1 Land preparation.....	29
3.5.2 Planting of okra and cowpea.....	29
3.5.3 Fertilizer application.....	29

3.5.4 Irrigation.....	29
3.5.5 Weeding.....	30
3.5.6 Pest and disease management.....	30
3.6 Parameters.....	30
3.6.1 Germination percentage.....	30
3.6.2 Growth parameters.....	30
3.6.3 Yield parameters.....	31
3.6.4 Biological and economic indices.....	31
3.6.4.1 Land Equivalent Ratio (LER).....	31
3.6.4.2 Area – Time Equivalent Ratio (ATER).....	32
3.6.4.3 Total cost.....	32
3.6.4.4 Gross return.....	32
3.6.4.5 Net profit.....	32
3.6.4.6 Cost-benefit ratio.....	33
3.6.4.7 Monetary Equivalent Ratio (MER).....	33
3.6.4.8 Per day return.....	33
3.7 Statistical analysis.....	33

## CHAPTER 04

4.0 Results and Discussion.....	34
4.1 Germination.....	34
4.2 Okra as a base crop.....	35
4.2.1 Plant height.....	35
4.2.2 Root length.....	36
4.2.3 Number of leaves per plant.....	37
4.2.4 Number of branches per plant.....	38

4.2.5 Leaf area.....	39
4.2.6 Leaf area index.....	40
4.2.7 Chlorophyll content.....	41
4.2.8 Canopy width.....	42
4.2.9 Fresh weight of total plant.....	43
4.2.10 Fresh weight of leaves.....	44
4.2.11 Fresh weight of stem.....	45
4.2.12 Fresh weight of root.....	46
4.2.13 Total dry weight.....	47
4.2.14 Leaf dry weight.....	49
4.2.15 Stem dry weight.....	50
4.2.16 Root dry weight.....	51
4.2.17 Days for 50% and 100% flowering.....	52
4.2.18 Number of flowers per plant.....	53
4.2.19 Number of fruits per plant.....	53
4.2.20 Fruit length.....	54
4.2.21 Fruit girth.....	55
4.2.22 Fresh weight per fruit.....	56
4.2.23 Dry weight per fruit.....	57
4.2.24 Number of seeds per fruit.....	58
4.2.25 Total yield.....	59
4.2.26 Cumulative yield.....	61
4.2.27 Sun dried weight of 100 seeds.....	61
 4.3 Cowpea as an intercrop	
4.3.1 Plant height.....	62

4.3.2 Root length.....	63
4.3.3 Number of leaves per plant.....	64
4.3.4 Number of branches per plant.....	65
4.3.5 Leaf area.....	66
4.3.6 Leaf area index.....	68
4.3.7 Chlorophyll content.....	69
4.3.8 Canopy width.....	70
4.3.9 Fresh weight of total plant.....	70
4.3.10 Leaf fresh weight.....	71
4.3.11 Stem fresh weight.....	72
4.3.12 Root fresh weight.....	73
4.3.13 Total dry weight.....	74
4.3.14 Leaf dry weight.....	76
4.3.15 Stem dry weight.....	77
4.3.16 Root dry weight.....	78
4.3.17 Number of total nodules per plant.....	79
4.3.18 Number of effective nodules per plant.....	80
4.3.19 Fresh weight of effective nodules.....	81
4.3.20 Dry weight of effective nodules.....	82
4.3.21 Days for 50% and 100% flowering.....	83
4.3.22 Number of flowers per plant.....	84
4.3.23 Number of pods per plant.....	84
4.3.24 Pod length.....	85
4.3.25 Dry weight.....	86
4.3.26 Number of seeds per pod.....	87

4.3.27	Total yield (t/ha).....	88
4.3.28	Cumulative yield (t/ha).....	89
4.3.29	Sun dried weight of 100 seeds.....	90
4.4	Biological and Economic indices.....	92
4.4.1	Biological indices.....	92
4.4.1.1	Land equivalent ratio.....	92
4.4.1.2	Area – time equivalent ratio.....	93
4.4.2	Economic indices.....	94
4.4.2.1	Total cost.....	94
4.4.2.2	Gross return.....	95
4.4.2.3	Net profit.....	96
4.4.2.4	Benefit - cost ratio.....	97
4.4.2.5	Monetary equivalent ratio.....	98
4.4.2.6	Per day return.....	99

## CHAPTER 05

5.0	Conclusion.....	101
6.0	References.....	102