

## Original Research Article

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## Residual Soil Fertility and Yield in Pigeon Pea, Pearl Millet and Green Gram As Influenced by Intercropping Systems Under Western Haryana Condition

Niranjan Kumar Barod, Satish Kumar and Mohammad Irfan\*

Department of Agronomy, CCS HAU Hisar-125004, India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Pigeon pea, Pearl millet, Green gram, Intercropping systems.

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The investigation entitled “Response of nitrogen application in wheat succeeding pigeon pea intercropped with pearl millet and green gram” was carried out at Agronomy research farm of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar during *kharif* and *rabi* season 2011-12 and 2012-13. It comprised of 12 treatments were replicated thrice in randomized block design. Based on aforesaid investigation it was found that intercropping systems influenced the grain, straw and biological yield significantly were highest in sole crop *i.e.* pigeon pea (1983 and 2059, 2059 and 5947 and 7777 and 8006 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), pearl millet (2122 and 2218, 5999 and 6200 and 8121 and 8418 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and green gram (1319 and 1402, 3925 and 4175 and 5244 and 5576 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) respectively during 2011 and 2012 crop seasons. Highest N availability was recorded under green gram sole which did not differ significantly from various intercropping treatments except pearl millet sole. Significantly lowest N availability was recorded under pearl millet sole during 2011 and 2012 crop seasons.

### Introduction

Pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan* L.) also known as arhar, tur or red gram is one of the most important *kharif* pulse crop cultivated in India. It is next to only chickpea in area and production among all pulse crop grown in India. Pigeon pea grown as a sole crop is not economically viable because of its slow initial growth rate, low productivity and longer duration. Because of slow growth the crops face a lot of competition with weeds and the inter-row space was not utilized properly (Velaytham *et al.*, 2003). In order to have better utilization of the resources, growing a short duration intercrop like green gram and pearl millet between the pigeon pea rows helps in utilization of available resources without affecting its productivity, short

duration and short statured crops like pearl millets and green gram and would prove to be a viable intercropping system. Intercropping with short duration pulses like green gram and cereals like pearl millet in pigeon pea enhance total productivity (Sharma *et al.*, 1995). Green gram (*Vigna radiata* L.) is also an important *kharif* pulse crop of India. It is an excellent source of high quality protein. As short duration crop it fit well in various multiple and intercropping systems (Pujari and Sheelvantar, 2002). Pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.) is one of the most important rain fed crop of India. Its grains possess higher protein content with higher level of essential amino acids. The inclusion of pearl millet with pigeon pea will definitely ensure the

fulfillment of dietary requirement and enhanced productivity of crops per unit area per unit time (Anonymous, 2004).

Intercropping is an age-old practice being followed by subsistence farmers to achieve their domestic needs. The main advantage of the intercropping is that the component crops are able to use the growth resources more efficiently (Willey, 1979). Nitrogen needs of cereals intercropped with legumes are reported to be less than for sole cropping due to transfer of some of the fixed nitrogen by legumes to the associated cereals during the growing season (Willey, 1979). Intercropping of legumes with pearl millet has been reported to be more stable and dependable than sole cropping (Patel *et al.*, 1998). In intercropping systems, selection of compatible crops with different growth pattern and their suitable planting geometries are very important because, it helps to minimize inter and intra specific competitions for resources. A lot of work has been done on nutrient management in pigeon pea and wheat crop alone. However, very less information is available on the effect of pearl millet, green gram intercropping in pigeon pea. Therefore, in view of the above, the present investigation was planted.

## Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at the Agronomy Research Farm, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar during 2011 and 2012. It is situated at 29°10' N latitude, 75°46' E longitude and at an altitude of 215.2 meters above mean sea level, the experiment was laid out in randomized block design in *Kharif*. The *kharif* crops pigeon was as sole and in combination with pearl millet and green gram at different spacing and rows in the *kharif* season during 2011 and 2012 resulting in 12 treatments. In the pigeon pea (Manak), pearl millet (HHB-67 Improved) and green gram (Basanti) was sown on 17<sup>th</sup>

June during the year 2011 and 18<sup>th</sup> June during the year 2012. The soil of the experimental unit was sandy loam and the soil pH was 7.8 and 7.9, while the EC was 0.39 and 0.40 dSm<sup>-1</sup> during 2011 and 2012, respectively. The organic carbon of the soil was 0.41 and 0.40 per cent during both the years of study. The soils of the experiential field was sandy loam in texture, poor organic matter (0.41) and low in available nitrogen (162 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), medium in available phosphorus (25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and high in available potassium (305 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and slightly alkaline in reaction.

## Results and Discussion

### Yields of pigeon pea

The different intercropping systems produce significant variation in yield during both the years of study. Among the different intercropping systems, grain, straw and biological yield of pigeon pea varied significantly with the sole pigeon pea (Table 1). Pigeon pea planted as paired row (30:60 cm) produced statistically similar grain yield as compared to pigeon pea sole planted at 45 cm row spacing. Paired row sowing of pigeon pea produced 8.24 and 7.74 per cent higher grain yield as compared to pigeon pea at 45 cm row spacing during 2011 and 2012, respectively. Under different intercropping systems the higher grain yield of pigeon pea was recorded from pigeon pea (75 cm) + green gram (1:2) systems however; it was at par with the intercropping systems pigeon pea (75 cm) + green gram (1:1). It might be due to synergistic effect of component crop. Similar result was obtained by Kumar *et al.*, 2005, and Kumar *et al.*, 2012. The different intercropping systems failed to produce significant variation in harvest index of pigeon pea as compared to sole crop of pigeon pea.

**Table.1** Effect of intercropping systems on yield of pigeon pea

Treatment	Yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )					
	Grain yield		Straw yield		Biological yield	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Pigeon pea sole (45 cm)	1832	1911	5373	5488	7105	7399
Pigeon pea – Paired row (30: 60 cm)	1983	2059	2059	5947	7777	8006
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:1)	1415	1593	4496	4711	5911	6304
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:2)	1384	1563	4449	4550	5833	6113
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Green gram (1:1)	1530	1600	4416	4571	5946	6171
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Green gram (1:2)	1611	1684	4625	4826	6236	6510
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:1)	1329	1473	4131	4280	5460	5753
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:2)	1296	1406	3959	4095	5255	5501
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Green gram (1:1)	1332	1503	4236	4335	5568	5838
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Green gram (1:2)	1369	1540	4523	4458	5892	5998
SEm±	73	66	92	102	107	126
L.S.D.(p=0.5)	<b>222</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>364</b>

**Table.2** Effect of intercropping systems on yield of pearl millet and green gram

Treatment	Pearlmillet (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )						Green gram (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )					
	Grain yield		Stover yield		Biological yield		Grain yield		Stover yield		Biological yield	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Pearl millet sole (45cm)	2122	2218	5999	6200	8121	8418						
Green gram sole (30 cm)							1319	1402	3925	4175	5244	5576
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:1)	1526	1618	4319	4560	5846	6178						
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:2)	1680	1776	4709	4903	6389	6679						
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Green gram (1:1)							692	789	2192	2502	2884	3291
Pigeon pea (75 cm) + Green gram (1:2)							853	946	2668	2957	3520	3903
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:1)	1413	1506	3933	4178	5346	5684						
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Pearlmillet (1:2)	1575	1667	4407	4662	5983	6329						
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Green gram (1:1)							622	714	1973	2264	2594	2977
Pigeon pea (90 cm) + Green gram (1:2)							774	867	2281	2560	3055	3427
SEm±	83	71	295	301	408	414	51	47	68	64	56	121
L.S.D.(p=0.5)	<b>277</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>357</b>

**Table.3** Effect of intercropping systems on soil fertility status after harvesting of kharif crops

Treatment	Available N (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Available P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Available K <sub>2</sub> O (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Pigeon pea sole (45cm)	186	187	18.04	19.45	301.95	302.59
Pearl millet (45cm)	172	171	14.28	15.10	296.60	298.40
Green gram sole (30cm)	190	192	19.10	20.25	304.54	305.44
Pigeon pea - paired row (30:60 cm)	186	188	17.29	18.19	301.71	301.67
Pigeon pea (75cm) + Pearl millet (1:1)	175	176	16.17	16.78	299.88	299.92
Pigeon pea (75cm) + Pearl millet (1:2)	173	175	16.06	16.72	299.22	299.85
Pigeon pea (75cm) + Green gram (1:1)	187	188	18.07	18.71	302.31	302.73
Pigeon pea (75cm) + Green gram (1:2)	188	189	18.44	19.13	303.40	303.35
Pigeon pea (90cm) + Pearl millet (1:1)	177	179	15.31	16.03	298.40	299.62
Pigeon pea (90cm) + Pearl millet (1:2)	176	178	15.27	15.97	297.70	298.41
Pigeon pea (90cm) + Green gram (1:1)	183	184	16.30	16.87	300.59	301.12
Pigeon pea (90cm) + Green gram (1:2)	185	187	16.84	17.13	301.71	301.49
SEm±	2.61	2.94	1.38	1.19	2.72	2.83
L.S.D.(p=0.5)	<b>7.71</b>	<b>8.69</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NS</b>

### **Yields of pearl millet**

Pearl millet sole crop produced significantly higher grains, straw and biological yield as compared to different intercropping systems. It was 26.31 and 34.73 per cent higher as compared to pigeon pea (75 cm) + pearl millet (1:2) and pigeon pea (90 cm) + pearl millet (1:2)

Irrespective of pigeon pea row spacing two rows of intercrop produced higher grain straw and biological yield as compared to single row though the difference were non-significant among them during both year (Table 2). The grain and straw yield was recorded to be significantly higher in sole system over intercropping systems which might be due to higher plant population of pearl millet in sole crop as compared to intercropping systems. Lower yield of pearl millet was recorded from other intercropping treatments because of less number of plants per hectare. Choudhary and Gautam, 2006 and Kuri *et al.*, 2012 also reported similar results.

### **Yields of green gram**

In case of green gram the grain, straw and biological yield was recorded maximum in sole crop, which was due to more number of plants and better yield attributes of the crop in one side and better interception of sunlight and more photosynthesis resulting into more production of photosynthates and translocation to the economic part on the other side Kumar *et al.*, 2005, and Sharma *et al.*, 2010 also reported similar result (Table 2). The higher yield of green gram in pigeon pea (75 cm) + green gram (1:2) systems was because of more number of rows of green gram and reduced competition between and within crop plants due to more availability of space (Bishnoi *et al.*, 1987).

### **Effect on available Nutrients (N, P and K) in soil after harvest of *kharif* crop**

After the harvest of the experimental crop in each year, available nitrogen in soil increased under various treatments involving sole, intercropping of grain legumes and pearl millet except pearl millet sole. Thus, improvement in available N was noted under various crop system involving grain legumes either in sole or intercropping systems. This might be ascribed to the fact that grain legume improve the available nitrogen content of the soil through the process of symbiotic nitrogen fixation (Heldt, 1987). Such effects were, however, not apparent in respect to P and K after the harvest of experimental crop in individual year (Table 3). Similar result was found by Kujur *et al.*, 2010.

Based on the two year (2011-12 and 2012-13) field experimentation the study can be concluded as: Among different intercropping systems tested during *kharif* season, pigeon pea 75 cm intercropped with two row of green gram was found most suitable.

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