

Original Research Article

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Study on Intercropping of Fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum graecum* L.) with Different Short Duration Vegetable Crops

Akansha Verma*, Kavita Aravindakshan, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Sharma,
Anil K. Gupta, Rahul Chopra and I. B. Maurya

Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalrapatan,
Jhalawar-326023, Rajasthan, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

A field experiment entitled “Study on intercropping of fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum graecum* L.) with different short duration vegetables” was conducted at the vegetable farm, Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalrapatan City, Jhalawar during *rabi* season 2019-20. The experiment comprised of four sole crops (fenugreek, carrot, cabbage and radish) and fenugreek intercropped with carrot, cabbage and radish with three ratios 1:1, 1:2 and 2:2 with a total of thirteen treatments each replicated thrice and laid out in randomized block design. The result shows that the sole crops viz., fenugreek, carrot, cabbage and radish had significant effect on growth, yield and quality over different intercropping system. Maximum plant height (72.73 cm), number of leaves (81.33), chlorophyll content in leaves (1.70 mg/100 g), number of pods per plant (52.75), length of pod (10.36 cm), number of seeds per pod (12.47), seed yield per plant (10.33 g), seed yield per plot (1.24 kg), estimated yield (34.55 q/ha) and per cent crude protein content of seed (21.86) of fenugreek was obtained in T₁ (fenugreek sole) over T₉ (fenugreek + cabbage 1:2). However, T₅ (fenugreek + carrot 1:1) treatment was found at par with T₁ in respect of number of leaves (78), chlorophyll content in leaves (1.60 mg/100 g), number of pods per plant (50.46), length of pod (9.68 cm), number of seeds per pod (11.68), seed yield per plant (9.83 g), estimated yield (32.83 q/ha) and per cent crude protein content (20.66) of fenugreek.

Keywords

Vegetables, density, planting date, resources, pests, diseases and weeds

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Introduction

Intercropping is a way to enhance diversity in an agricultural ecosystem. Intercropping as an example of sustainable agricultural systems following objectives such as: ecological

balance, more utilization of resources, increasing the quantity and quality and reduce yield damage to pests, diseases and weeds. Success of intercrops in comparison with a pure cropping can be determined by a series of agronomic operations that interactions

between the species will be affected by them. These operations are including ultimate density, planting date, resources availability and intercropping models (Mazaheri *et al.*, 2006; Gliessman, 1997; Hatfield and Karlen, 1993). Owing to the importance of intercropping of vegetables and doubling the farmers income as it is an urgent need for today's demand and fenugreek being the major crop of Rajasthan, a study on fenugreek based intercropping with vegetables is necessary to be taken up. Intercropping with legumes makes effective use of land and other resources and results in reduced cost of production. Increased agricultural production through intercropping with minimal cost is need of time to feed increasing population.

Vegetables are an important food crops playing a greater role in food trade in India. Fenugreek is treated as spice as well as legume crop. It is annual herbaceous and autogamous crop associated with family fabaceae and sub family papillionaceae. Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *capitata* F.) is an important cole crop, belonging to family cruciferae, is rich in phyto nutrients and antioxidants. An attempt was made to incorporate some short duration winter vegetables of different rooting depth with fenugreek for additional return with more cropping intensity. Due to different growth habit and rooting depth the intercrops did not compete for vertical and horizontal resources with the main crop i.e. Fenugreek. Radish (*Raphanus sativus* L.) is one of the most popular root crop of *Rabi* season and is widely acclaimed for its excellent nutritive and medicinal values. It belongs to family Cruciferae.

It is popular in both tropical and temperate countries. Radish is grown throughout the country and throughout the year. It is easily grown as a companion crop or intercrop between the rows of other vegetable.

Therefore, the present study entitled "Study on intercropping of fenugreek (*Trigonellafoenum graecum* L.) with different short duration vegetable crops" was carried out with an object to compare the growth, yield and quality of fenugreek under intercropping system with sole cropping system.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment on growth, yield and quality of fenugreek as influenced by different intercropping ratios was conducted at the vegetable farm, Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalrapatan City, Jhalawar during *rabi* season 2019-20. The experiment comprising of thirteen treatments viz., sole fenugreek, sole carrot, sole cabbage, sole radish, fenugreek + carrot (1:1), fenugreek + carrot (1:2), fenugreek + carrot (2:2), fenugreek + cabbage(1:1), fenugreek + cabbage (1:2), fenugreek + cabbage (2:2), fenugreek + radish (1:1), fenugreek + radish (1:2) and fenugreek + radish (2:2) was laid in randomized block design with three replications. Ajmer Fenugreek-3 was sown using 25 kg seeds at row to row spacing of 30 cm. The carrot (Pusa Yamdagini), cabbage (Pusa Mukta) and radish (Japanese White) were sown at row spacing of 30 cm. A uniform recommended doses of 30 Kg N and 20 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ and 20 kg K₂O for sole fenugreek, 90 kg N, 50 kg P₂O₅ and 40 kg K₂O for sole carrot, 100 kg N, 125 kg P₂O₅ and 25 kg K₂O for sole cabbage and 50 kg N, 100 kg P₂O₅ and 50 kg K₂O for sole radish was applied. In intercropping 100 % and 50 % of recommended RDF of intercrops were applied along with RDF of base crop. 1/3 N and full dose of P and K was applied as basal dose at the time of sowing and remaining 2/3 N was applied in two equal split at 30 and 60 DAS. The standard agronomic practices were followed for raising healthy crop of fenugreek as well as carrot, cabbage and radish. Irrigation was applied as per requirement of

fenugreek, which met the demand of intercrops also. The observation on growth, yield and quality parameters fenugreek was recorded. Harvesting of fenugreek was done in stages keeping in view the maturity of pods.

Results and Discussion

Growth parameters of fenugreek

The result of present investigation showed that intercropping of fenugreek with different short duration vegetables viz. carrot, cabbage and radish had significant effect on the plant height, number of leaves and chlorophyll content in leaves of fenugreek for sole crop over different intercropping systems. The sole crop had maximum growth parameters i.e. plant height (72.73 cm), number of leaves (81.33) and chlorophyll content in leaves (1.70 mg/100 g) and the minimum value of growth parameters i.e. plant height (51.11 cm), number of leaves (65.67) and chlorophyll content in leaves (1.35 mg/100 g) were recorded under treatment T₉ (fenugreek + cabbage 1:2). However, intercropping of fenugreek in 1:1 ratio with carrot i.e. treatment T₅ (fenugreek + carrot 1:1) was found at par with treatment T₁ (fenugreek sole). These results are conformity with the research of Kumar *et al.*, (2006) in fennel intercropping with cauliflower and radish, Mehta *et al.*, (2010) in coriander intercropping system, Verghese (2013) in cabbage intercropping system, Wasaya *et al.*, (2013) in wheat and fenugreek intercropping system and Mehta *et al.*, (2015) in fennel based intercropping system. Maximum values for most of the yield parameters in sole fenugreek may be attributed to efficient utilization of space and light interception along with nutrient uptake and availability of applied nutrients which ultimately increased the production of assimilates and the rate of biosynthesis of various metabolic activities leading to increased rate of growth and development,

which is expressed in higher yield (Choudhary and Jana, 2012).

Yield attributes and yields of fenugreek

Intercropping of fenugreek with different vegetables viz. carrot, cabbage and radish significantly influenced the sole crop as compared to different intercropping systems on the yield parameters of fenugreek like number of pods per plant, number of seed per pod, length of pod, seed yield per plant, seed yield per plot and estimated yield.

The sole crop of fenugreek had maximum value of yield attributes i.e. number of pods per plant (52.75), length of pod (10.36 cm), number of seeds per pod (12.47), seed yield per plant (10.33 g), seed yield per plot (1.24 kg), estimated yield (34.55 q/ha) of fenugreek and minimum value for yield attributes i.e. number of pods per plant (43.69), length of pod (6.29 cm), number of seed per pod (9.12), seed yield per plant (8.16 g), seed yield per plot (0.98 kg) and estimated yield (27.15 q/ha) were recorded under treatment T₉. However, treatment T₅ (fenugreek + carrot 1:1), T₇(fenugreek + carrot 2:2), T₁₁(fenugreek + radish 1:1), T₆ (fenugreek + carrot 1:2) and T₈(fenugreek + cabbage 1:1) were found at par with sole fenugreek i.e. treatment T₁.

These results are conformity with the research of Rana *et al.*, (1996) in intercropping of chickpea with mustard, Kumar *et al.*, (2006) in intercropping of fennel with potato, cauliflower and radish, Tripathi and Dwivedi (2009) in fennel + cauliflower intercropping system and Mehta *et al.*, (2015) in fennel intercropping system. In sole fenugreek the higher yield and yield attributes of fenugreek was obtained due to no competition for resources with any other crop except fenugreek leading to better absorption of nutrient and water by fenugreek.

Table.1 Effect of intercropping system of growth parameters of fenugreek

Treatment notation	Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Number of leaves	Total Chlorophyll content (mg/100 g)
T ₁	Fenugreek	72.73	81.33	1.70
T ₂	Carrot	-	-	-
T ₃	Cabbage	-	-	-
T ₄	Radish	-	-	-
T ₅	Fenugreek + Carrot (1:1)	66.83	78.00	1.60
T ₆	Fenugreek + Carrot (1:2)	64.67	74.33	1.54
T ₇	Fenugreek + Carrot (2:2)	65.07	75.00	1.59
T ₈	Fenugreek + Cabbage (1:1)	59.76	68.67	1.45
T ₉	Fenugreek + Cabbage (1:2)	51.11	65.67	1.35
T ₁₀	Fenugreek + Cabbage (2:2)	56.80	66.00	1.41
T ₁₁	Fenugreek + Radish (1:1)	63.96	73.67	1.56
T ₁₂	Fenugreek + Radish (1:2)	59.36	69.67	1.44
T ₁₃	Fenugreek + Radish (2:2)	62.57	73.00	1.46
S.Em±		1.77	1.93	0.05
CD 5%		5.20	5.67	0.14

Table.2 Effect of intercropping system of yield parameters of fenugreek

Treatment notation	Treatments	Number of pods per plant	Length of pod (cm)	Number of seeds per pod
T ₁	Fenugreek	52.75	10.36	12.47
T ₂	Carrot	-	-	-
T ₃	Cabbage	-	-	-
T ₄	Radish	-	-	-
T ₅	Fenugreek + Carrot (1:1)	50.46	9.68	11.68
T ₆	Fenugreek + Carrot (1:2)	46.66	8.15	10.86
T ₇	Fenugreek + Carrot (2:2)	49.85	8.79	11.57
T ₈	Fenugreek + Cabbage (1:1)	45.28	6.77	9.87
T ₉	Fenugreek + Cabbage (1:2)	43.69	6.29	9.12
T ₁₀	Fenugreek + Cabbage (2:2)	44.78	6.38	9.35
T ₁₁	Fenugreek + Radish (1:1)	47.57	7.78	11.12
T ₁₂	Fenugreek + Radish (1:2)	45.64	6.89	10.22
T ₁₃	Fenugreek + Radish (2:2)	46.83	7.65	10.58
S.Em±		1.56	0.52	0.30
CD 5%		4.59	1.52	0.88

Table.3 Effect of intercropping system of yield of fenugreek

Treatment notation	Treatments	Seed yield per plant (g)	Seed yield per plot (kg)	Estimated yield (q/ha)
T ₁	Fenugreek	10.33	1.24	34.55
T ₂	Carrot	-	-	-
T ₃	Cabbage	-	-	-
T ₄	Radish	-	-	-
T ₅	Fenugreek + Carrot (1:1)	9.83	1.18	32.83
T ₆	Fenugreek + Carrot (1:2)	8.83	1.06	29.50
T ₇	Fenugreek + Carrot (2:2)	9.50	1.14	31.56
T ₈	Fenugreek + Cabbage (1:1)	9.20	1.11	30.92
T ₉	Fenugreek + Cabbage (1:2)	8.16	0.98	27.15
T ₁₀	Fenugreek + Cabbage (2:2)	8.91	1.07	29.78
T ₁₁	Fenugreek + Radish (1:1)	9.33	1.12	31.22
T ₁₂	Fenugreek + Radish (1:2)	8.33	1.00	27.90
T ₁₃	Fenugreek + Radish (2:2)	9.17	1.10	30.83
S.Em±		0.29	0.02	1.27
CD 5%		0.84	0.05	3.72

The higher yield attributes and yield of fenugreek in 1:1 ratio with all intercrops might be due to less competition for space, sunlight, water and nutrients between fenugreek and component crops which gave higher growth parameters resulting in higher translocation of photosynthates from source to sink resulting in higher yield and yield attributes of fenugreek (Kumar *et al.*, 2018).

Quality attributes of fenugreek

The result of present investigation showed that fenugreek based intercropping with different short duration vegetables viz. carrot cabbage and radish significantly affected the sole crop over other intercropping systems on the quality parameters like per cent crude protein content of fenugreek. The sole crop of fenugreek had maximum value for quality attributes i.e. per cent crude protein content of seed (21.86) and the minimum value for quality parameters i.e. per cent crude protein content of seed (17.87) was recorded under treatment T₉ (fenugreek + cabbage 1:2).

However, the treatment T₅ (fenugreek + carrot 1:1) and T₇(fenugreek + carrot 2:2) were found at par with treatment T₁. The similar results were found by Choudhuri and Jana (2015) in intercropping of potato. In sole fenugreek the higher quality attributes was obtained due to increased availability of nutrients in the soil that might lead to synthesis and accumulation of more photosynthates (Sharma *et al.*, 2009).

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