



Influence of crop geometry, intercropping and topping practices on green cob yield and fodder quality of baby corn (*Zea mays* L.)

S. RATHIKA

Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA
(Email : rathikaselvaraj@gmail.com)

Abstract : A field experiments was conducted at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore with an objective to study the effect of crop geometry, intercropping and topping practices on green cob yield and fodder quality of baby corn. Two levels of crop geometry (60 x 20 cm and 75 x 16 cm), two intercrops (baby corn alone, baby corn + fenugreek (greens), baby corn + fodder cowpea) and four topping practices (detasseling alone, topping beyond 9th, 10th and 11th internode) were studied in split plot design. Results revealed that crop geometry at 75 x 16 cm produced higher green cob and fodder yield over 60 x 20 cm spacing. There was no significant variation in green cob and fodder yield of baby corn under the intercropping system. Among the topping treatments, topping beyond 10th internode registered higher green cob yield over others. However, the green fodder yield of baby corn was not varied significantly due to topping practices. Neither crop geometry nor intercropping systems did influence on fodder quality of baby corn. But topping beyond 10th internode recorded the highest fodder quality (crude protein, crude fibre and NFE) followed by topping beyond 9th internode.

Key Words : Baby corn, Crop geometry, Intercropping, Topping, Green cob yield, Fodder quality

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