



Intercropping between pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) with banana (*Musa acuminata*)

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ABSTRACT

The study makes an attempt to assess the overall profile intercropping between pineapple with banana, particularly in terms of income and cost. The results indicate that through intercropping farmers can earn more income. It is evident from the study that farmers can increase their income nearly 40-45% or 200% if they cultivate pineapple with banana. Farmers who sell their products in Agartala city are able to earn more than others. Thus, the paper suggests that intercropping helps for solving both nutrition and deforestation problems in rural areas.

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Pineapple is the common name for a tropical plant and its edible fruit which are coalesced berries. Pineapples are the only bromeliad fruit in widespread cultivation. It can be grown as an ornamental, especially from the leafy tops.¹ Banana is native to tropical Southeast Asia, and is likely to have been first domesticated in Papua New Guinea. Today, they are cultivated throughout the tropics. They are grown in at least 107 countries primarily for their fruit, and to a lesser extent to make fiber, banana wine and as ornamental plants.²

Intercropping is the practice of growing two or more crops in close proximity. The most common goal of intercropping is to produce a greater yield on a given piece of land by making use of resources that would otherwise not be utilized by a single crop. Careful planning is required, taking into account the soil, climate, crops, and varieties.³

The basic objectives of this paper are to identify various benefits of intercropping between pineapple and banana.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Mohanpur R.D. Block of Sadar sub-division in Tripura. The Mohanpur block was selected purposely since horticulture is more popular in this block where maximum people are tribal and large amount of hilly land present. Large portion of Mohanpur block falls under Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District Council, shortly known as TTADC.

In Mohanpur block there are sixteen Panchayat, out of them twelve were selected where banana and pineapple are cultivated by the local people. Fifteen gardens were then selected from twelve panchayat by using purposive sampling. Out of fifteen gardens, five gardens had only pineapples, five had only banana and remaining, *i.e.* in five gardens had intercropping. In case of the size of the garden, it was nearly one hector. Data were collected by the investigator with the help of a well prepared, structured interview schedule employing personal contract. Thereafter, data were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in the light of the objective of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pineapple and banana are well popular among the tribals in this area. They are basically producing both for earning additional income. Their livelihoods depends on the production of pineapple and banana.

Table 1 shows that intercropping between banana and pineapple was more profitable than others.

Table 2 shows that farmers who cultivate pineapple with banana were more satisfied in earning than the others.

Table 3 indicate that those farmers who were cultivating banana and pineapples were more benefited because they donot spend for purchasing.

Farmers generally cultivate pineapple and banana for earning additional income. Farmers who are cultivating