

COMPETITION AND YIELD ADVANTAGES OF WHEAT-METHRA
(TRITICUM AESTIVUM- TRIGONELLA FOENUGRAECUM)
INTERCROPPING SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

The biological intercrop relationship of wheat-methra (Fenugreek) intercropping systems i.e. four rows of wheat+one row of methra, four rows of wheat + two rows of methra, four rows of wheat + three rows of methra and four rows of wheat + four rows methra, was studied against wheat alone and methra alone at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad in 1987-88. Intercropping of one, two, three and four rows of methra in four rows of wheat, decreased the wheat yield significantly by 4.43, 7.77, 8.49 and 7.88 qh^{-1} , respectively. However, at the cost of this much reduction in wheat yield an additional harvest of 2.21, 2.81, 3.00 and 2.4 gha^{-1} of methra seed was obtained by sowing one, two, three and four rows of methra in four rows of wheat, respectively which compensated much more than the losses in wheat production. Maximum yield disadvantage, Land equivalent ratio and relative crowding co-efficient value was obtained in four-three rows wheat-methra intercropping system. Whereas, four-one rows wheat-methra intercropping system exhibited higher competitive ratio. The aggressivity values for wheat and methra were positive and negative respectively, showing that wheat grown in association with methra utilized the resources more aggressively than methra.

INTRODUCTION

Intercropping is adopted by the farmers with small land holdings, for better utilization of available resources, yield stability and maximization of profit. Improvement of soil in respect of