

Response of spacing and row proportion to growth, yield and economics of turmeric and okra intercropping system under North Eastern Ghat Zone of Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Farmers of Kandhamal district of Odisha are cultivating turmeric as sole crop where interspace are not properly utilised. Therefore, One experiment was conducted at RRTTS, G. Udayagiri, Kandhamal, Odisha to study the response of spacing and row proportions on growth and yield attributes of okra in turmeric + okra Intercropping System during 2022-23 *kharif*. T_1 - Sole turmeric at 30x 20 cm (Recommended), T_2 - Sole Oka 45x20 cm (Recommended), T_3 - Okra+Turmeric (1:1), T_4 - Okra+ turmeric (1:2), T_5 - Okra+ turmeric (1:3), T_6 - Okra+ turmeric (1:4), T_7 - Okra+ turmeric (2:1), T_8 - Okra+ turmeric (2:2), T_9 - Okra+ turmeric (2:3), T_{10} - Okra + turmeric (2:4). Sole crop of turmeric fresh rhizome (119.2 q ha⁻¹) and okra fresh fruit (72.8 q ha⁻¹) produced the highest yield when compared with other intercropping systems. Turmeric + Okra Intercropping system (1:4) spacing and row proportion in T_6 registered highest turmeric rhizome equivalent yield 149.9 q ha⁻¹ over other intercropping system and B: C ration of 2.17 whereas in sole crop of B: C ratio-1.43.

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Key Words: Intercropping, Turmeric, Equivalent yield.

Introduction

Turmeric is an important cash crop for thousands of tribal farmers in the Kandhamal district of Odisha. The southern district is generally clogged with hills and forests and is blessed with appropriate agro-climatic conditions for turmeric cultivation. People familiar with the crop and its economic importance report that around 50,000 farmers were

growing turmeric without applying chemical fertilizers or pesticides on approximately 25,000 hectares, and give a yield of more than 26,000 metric tonnes of dry turmeric per year (Mohanty, 2021). Turmeric of Kandhamal contains 2-3 per cent curcumin, 12.15 per cent oleoresin, and 5.3 per cent volatile oil (Project report KASAM), the highest among other varieties. It has a powerful aroma and higher medicinal value, making it popular in domestic and international markets. As per the report of the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) 2019, India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric (Pushp, 2019). Odisha accounts for about 21 per cent of India's turmeric area, and more than half of this is in Kandhamal. The 'Kandhamal Haldi' got Geographical Indication (GI) tag (Behera, 2019). The primary source of income for tribal farmers in Kandhamal is the turmeric crop. Tribal farmers are socio-economically and educationally backward compared to non-tribal farmers (Chetriet *et al.*, 2020). Turmeric is typically grown in uplands, hill slopes, and even hilltops where shifting cultivation (PODU) is practiced; however, some farmers continue to rely on traditional methods (Sharma, 2013). But farmers need to test and improve their Indigenous technical knowledge with modern technologies (Babu *et al.*, 2013) to increase the yield. Farmers have always been forced to sell the harvest at a minimum price. As a result, most district farmers sell turmeric at Rs. 30-35 per kg. This price is half of the market rate. The state government-run cooperative agency, Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM), promotes turmeric cultivation in the district, which offers Rs. 60 per kg. This price is the least assured price fixed by the district administration. However, KASAM is buying little, so all the farmers are not benefited. Global food demand is rising rapidly and so more in developing countries specially in South Asia where arable lands and resources barely produce adequate crops needed to meet demand for food (McLaughlin and Kinzelbach 2015). Sustainable crop intensification is crucial to feed the entire population through efficient mitigation of possible adverse impacts on soil and environment. In this context several innovative and efficient technologies need to be adopted for increasing food production by alleviating land use efficiency (Timmus *et al.*, 2017). It is a long duration crop and the initial growth of turmeric is rather slow and takes about 4-5 months to cover the interspace. Therefore, the available space between the rows of turmeric could be effectively utilized by growing short duration crops like, vegetables, cereals etc. Hence, it is worthwhile to explore the possibilities of growing compatible crops with turmeric. With this background, this research project was formulated to find out the best compatible intercrop with turmeric, to study the effect of intercrops on growth and yield of turmeric and to determine the economic feasibility of turmeric based intercropping. Intercropping could increase 25% yield as compared to monoculture, and ensure several additional services, such as enhance nutrient use efficiency and grain quality in food systems (Jensen *et al.* 2015; Bedoussac *et al.* 2015). Intercropping also ensures efficient utilization of their resources to maximize crop production and family income (Islam *et al.* 2012). Turmeric is a very popular tropical and subtropical rhizomatous species widely cultivated in Asia including Bangladesh (Islam *et al.* 2018). It is a long duration wide-spaced crop that remains under the field for about 270-300 days. However, the adoption of long-duration turmeric crop challenged farmers with short duration vegetable crop like okra in the region. Turmeric is a shade tolerant crop and grows well under partial shade (Haque and Hossain 1985; Joyachandran *et al.* 1991). It takes 60 to 70 days to 100% emergence after planting of rhizome (Islam *et al.* 2018). The relevant literature on turmeric + okra intercropping practice for crop intensification still scarce thus, this experiment has been undertaken to evaluate the turmeric + okra intercropping system for optimum crop density, yield advantage, and profitability using intercropping indices. So,

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farmers can easily grow another crop like okra as an intercrop with turmeric at the early growth stage (130 days).

Materials and Methods

One experiment was conducted at RRTTS, G. Udayagiri, Kandhamal, Odisha to study the performance of cropping system to find out suitable row proportions of turmeric and okra during 2022-23 kharif.

Experimental Design: RBD Replication : Three Treatments: 10. The experiment was conducted in medium land site. The soil is sandy loam in texture, pH 5.39, low available P_2O_5 , organic carbon-5.4 g/kg, and available K_2O is 160 kg ha^{-1} . Observations on growth and yield parameters were recorded in each replication and the mean obtained were used for statistical analysis (Panse and Sukhatme, 1985).

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Treatments:

- T₁. Sole turmeric at 30x20 cm (Recommended) T₂-
Sole Okra 45x20 cm (Recommended)
- T₃. Okra + turmeric (1:1), T₄- Okra + turmeric (1:2) T₅-
Okra + turmeric (1:3), T₆- Okra + turmeric (1:4) T₇-
Okra + turmeric (2:1), T₈- Okra + turmeric (2:2)

T₉- Okra + turmeric (2:3
, T₁₀- Okra + turmeric (2:4)

Recommended Ecosystem – Rainfed Upland

Results and Discussion

Growth and yield parameters and the pooled data are presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3. The morphological characters of turmeric were found significantly influenced by various intercrops. The turmeric as pure crop recorded significantly higher values for plant height (63.5 cm), number of , dry matter 30.5 g ha^{-1} , number of rhizome /plant-28.2, weight of mother rhizome (g/plant)-93.1, weight of primary rhizome/plant-72.3, weight of secondary rhizome /plant-405.1, and fresh rhizome yield of 119.2 g ha^{-1} . The okra as pure crop recorded plant height-41.12 cm, dry matter-27.0 g ha^{-1} , no. of branches/plant-1.4, no. of fruits/plant-11.16, size of

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okra fruit/plant-12.34cm, and weight of okra fruit/plant were 73.12g . The okra: turmeric(1:4) in T6 crop recorded significantly values for turmeric plant height(58.8 cm),, dry matter 26.6q ha⁻¹, number of rhizome /plant-26.4, weight of mother rhizome(g/plant)-92.6, weight of primary rhizome/plant-65.2, weight of secondary rhizome /plant-318.8, fresh rhizome yield of 114.2q ha⁻¹ and fresh rhizome equivalent yield is 149q ha⁻¹, whereas for okra plant height of-38.23cm, dry matter-16.8q ha⁻¹, number of branches/plant-2.1, no. of fruit /plant-8.58, size of okra fruit/plant-7.71cm, weight of okra fruit/plant-48.34g and B: ratio of 2.17. . Islam *et al.* (2016) indicated that higher biomass production and consequently more efficient use of land and available resources under intercropping than under sole cropping contributed to the higher turmeric yield.

Similar results were obtained by Balashanmugam *et al.* (1988) and Narayanpur and Sulikeri (1996) in turmeric and Kumar *et al.* (2018) in ginger. Parayee *et al.* (2014) reported that ginger equivalent yield and net return was higher in ginger (Raigarh local) + turmeric (Sudershana) in 1:1 row ratio intercropping system.

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In this experiment, the treatments containing both turmeric and intercrop were found to be economically feasible than the treatment with turmeric as pure crop. Among the different intercropping systems, T6 (turmeric+ okra) recorded maximum gross returns (Rs. 480050 ha⁻¹), net returns (Rs. 233050 ha⁻¹) and B:C ratio (2.17). Similar results were obtained by Kumar and Reddy (2000); Narayanpur and Sulikeri (1996); Singh and Randhawa (1988) , and Sivaraman and Palaniappan (1994), Biswajit *et al.* (2023) in turmeric.

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Table1. Response of spacing and row proportions on growth and yield attributes of okra in turmeric+okra Intercropping System ((Pooled over 2021-22 & 2022-23).

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Dry matter (q/ha)	Number of Branches/Plant	Number of Fruits/Plant	Size of Okra Fruits/Plant	Weight of okra fruits/plant (g)
T ₁	-	-	-	-	-	
T ₂	41.12	27.0	1.4	11.16	12.34	73.12
T ₃	48.12	32.4	2.1	12.13	13.23	75.64
T ₄	44.10	22.4	1.8	10.45	11.98	69.19
T ₅	39.34	18.2	2.3	8.82	8.01	52.22
T ₆	38.23	16.8	2.1	8.58	7.71	48.34
T ₇	49.23	34.0	2.3	14.21	14.67	79.12
T ₈	46.45	30.4	1.9	11.34	12.87	72.54
T ₉	42.17	20.4	1.6	9.78	9.67	59.23
T ₁₀	40.16	19.1	1.5	9.21	8.52	56.65
SEm (±)	NS	2.12	0.14	1.0	0.62	4.02
CD(0.05)	NS	4.42	0.30	2.08	1.3	8.4
T₁ Sole turmeric at 30x 20 cm (Recommended), T₂-Sole Oka 45x20 cm (Recommended), T₃-Okra+Turmeric(1:1), T₄-Okra+turmeric(1:2), T₅-Okra+turmeric(1:3), T₆-Okra+ turmeric(1:4), T₇-Okra+ turmeric(2:1), T₈-Okra+ turmeric(2:2), T₉-Okra +turmeric(2:3), T₁₀-Okra+turmeric(2:4)						

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Table 2. Response of spacing and row proportions on growth and yield attributes of turmeric in Turmeric + Okra Intercropping system

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Dry matter (g/ha)	Number of Rhizome /Plant	Weight of Mother Rhizome (g/plant)	Weight of Primary Rhizome (g/plant)	Weight of Secondary Rhizome (g/plant)
T ₁	63.5	30.5	28.2	93.1	72.3	405.1
T ₂	-	-	-	-	-	-
T ₃	50.5	12.4	21.3	63.5	38.8	209.2
T ₄	53.4	22.2	22.6	82.6	40.8	245.7
T ₅	56.2	24.3	24.5	89.4	51.6	322.7
T ₆	58.8	26.6	26.4	92.6	65.2	381.8
T ₇	49.5	10.9	20.4	43.3	35.2	191.6
T ₈	41.3	17.8	21.8	73.1	38.8	216.4
T ₉	44.6	23.7	23.7	87.4	44.3	272.7
T ₁₀	42.1	20.6	22.1	77.6	39.5	225.7
SEm(±)	1.2	1.3	1.05	9.5	26.1	23.1
CD(0.05)	2.6	2.8	2.2	19.81	54.1	48.2

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T₁ -Sole turmeric at 30x 20 cm (Recommended), T₂-Sole Okra 45x20 cm(Recommended),T₃-Okra+Turmeric (1:1),
 T₄- Okra+ turmeric (1:2),T₅- Okra+ turmeric (1:3),T₆- Okra+ turmeric (1:4),T₇-Okra+ turmeric (2:1),
 T₈-Okra+turmeric (2:2),T₉-Okra+turmeric(2:3), T₁₀-Okra+turmeric (2:4)

Table3.Response of spacing and row proportions on economics in Turmeric+Okra Inter cropping system under North Eastern Ghat Zone of Odisha

Treatments	Turmeric Fresh Rhizome yield (q/ha)	Fresh Fruit Okra yield (q/ha)	Turmeric(Fresh Rhizome) Equivalent Yield (q/ha)	Gross Return (Rs/ha)	Net return(Rs/ha)	B:CRatio
T ₁	119.2			401200	126200	1.43
T ₂		72.8		145600	83600	1.36
T ₃	84.8	60.0	135.7	416800	172050	1.87
T ₄	94.5	52.4	138.0	435550	188550	1.91

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T ₅	102.8	42.7	142.2	445200	198200	1.97
T ₆	114.3	40.0	149.9	480050	233050	2.17
T ₇	81.6	63..6	144.6	412800	165800	1.68
T ₈	87.5	56.4	139.1	419050	169340	1.78
T ₉	96.3	49.2	140.9	435450	188450	1.97
T ₁₀	91.6	44.7	130.8	410000	163000	1.51
SEm(±)	1.04	2.54	2.46	7345	3549	0.04
CD(0.05)	2.16	5.29	5.13	15321	7403	0.08

Conclusion

Response of spacing and row proportion to growth, yield and economics of turmeric + okra intercropping system has been studied under North Eastern Ghat Zone of Odisha.

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Adoption of okra and turmeric (1:4) spacing and row proportion to okra and turmeric intercropping system was found to be the most stable, productive and remunerative planting geometry for the okra and turmeric intercropping system.

Sole crop of turmeric fresh rhizome (114.3 q/ha) and okra fresh fruit (40.0 q/ha) produced the highest yield when compared with other intercropping systems. Turmeric + Okra Intercropping system (1:4) spacing and row proportion in T₆ registered highest turmeric rhizome equivalent yield over other intercropping system.

Profitability–

Turmeric + Okra Intercropping system (1:4) spacing and row proportion registered highest net return and benefit:cost ratio over other intercropping system which indicated that this proportion performed better in terms of investment.

Sustainability– Sustainable technology as beneficial over monocropping system

Future research– MLT can be taken and popularisation of the technology by conducting OFT and FLDs through KVK and Govt. Line Department.

Comment [16]: Should be revised

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Comment [17]: Should be as per guideline