

## **\*INTERCROPPING IN MEDICINAL CROPS- ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES\***

Simply inter cropping can be defined as growing two or more crops simultaneously in the same piece of land. We can observe Crop intensification in terms of both space and time dimensions under the inter-cropping system.

The major benefit of inter cropping is it increases the production per unit area compared to single cropping through the effective use of resources, nutrients including water, and solar energy. Inter-cropping is preferred over sole cropping as a result of superior yield due to the efficient utilization of available resources.

Caution should be ensured while selecting crops with different growth habits, duration, root growth, taxonomical families, etc.

- Grow tall-growing crops along with bushy crops.
- Select shallow-rooted crops as inter crop in the deep-rooted crop.
- Long duration crops should be intercropped with short duration crops.
- Grow slow-growing crops in vacant spaces of fast-growing crops.
- Selected main crops and inter crops should show a very negligible allelopathic effect.
- Need to intercrop non-legumes with intercrops.
- Crops selected should be of different families to avoid various pests and diseases

### **\*Advantages of Intercropping:\***

- Better utilization growth resources like nutrients, light, and moisture.
- Mitigate losses where the failure of any one of the component crops occurs.
- A farmer can get extra yield from the unit area.
- Better utilization of space available with the time dimensions.
- We can achieve better weed control by growing intercrops.
- Minimizes the chances of soil crust formation.
- Mitigate losses where the failure of any one of the component crops occurs.
- Inter crops will also soil fertility.
- Controls soil erosion.
- To some extent, control the pests and diseases of the main crop.

- Ecological stability.
- Cultivation practices for the major crop will also supplement the requirement of companion crops.
- It provides shading and physical support to some crops.
- It provides extra income to the farmers.
- It provides daily needs for the farmers.
- Intercropping will also generate extra employment for agrarian people.

### **\*Disadvantages of Intercropping:\***

- Sometimes intercrops work as alternate hosts for various pests and diseases.
- Differential maturity and sometimes harvesting may become a problem.
- It becomes difficult to control various pests and diseases.
- Inter cropping is a labor-intensive practice.
- Allelopathic effect.
- Possibility of problems in carrying out intercultural operations.
- Difficulty in mechanization.
- There might arise a competition among the component crops.

### **Some Examples of Intercropping in Medicinal crops**

1. Stevia + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree
2. Safed Musali + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree
3. Kali Haldi + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree
4. Aloe vera + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree
5. Lemongrass + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree
6. Tulsi + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree
7. Ashwagandha + Moringa + Amla Or any other perennial Tree

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