

Higher income through intercropping – Pineapple in Mango & Coconut

Pineapple is a rain fed crop requiring equal amount shade and temperature. It can be intercropped with coconut and rubber. In many places it is grown for soil conservation. The plant is taken care of only at planting and harvesting. Generally 7.8 suckers arise from a single crop but farmers usually remove the suckers when it is 3-4 as they believe that yield will be reduced beyond this. Production Pineapple is a one year crop and planting starts from May-June. Red soil, sand and silt together in right proportion is most suited. 5,000 to 10,000 suckers may be planted per acre, this may be increased to 20,000 in intensive cultivation. But in intercropping it should be limited to 5,000 spacing : 1 x 1 ft.

Plant 10 rows and leave 2 feet gap between the rows. while planting apply FYM in pits. Weeding should be done once in 3 months. Apply fertilizers two months after planting and once after flowering (100 kg complex fertilizers) care should be taken while applying fertilizers as the tips get burnt off if fertilizers are applied on them.

Mr. Henry uses only vermicompost. In some places fertilizers applied by placing plastic funnel in between the rows. By doing this, the fertilizer will dissolve and reach the root zone. This is done only in rainy seasons.

Pineapple is highly resistant to diseases. During rainy season, crown rot appears. This is not very dangerous, as it appears in 4 or 5 plants only. Rats and squirrels also attack the fruits but does not cause economic loss. The fruit ripens after 11 months. It can be harvested when the colour becomes uniform. Harvested produce is marketed at 'APTA', Vadacheri, Mathur thothipalayam markets. The income got per acre for 1 year is Rs.50,000/-.

Pineapple grows well in all parts of Tamil Nadu even in the dry tracks of Sivagangai.

Rajareeha

" I have cropped pineapple a intercrop in mango. coconut and vegetable garden. I got the suckers from Kerala. It requires shade hence inter cropping is the best option. Her garden is irrigated with drip irrigation. She applied FYM at planting. Panchagavya is applied after 3 months once. Vermicompost was applied twice a year. At fruit maturity Panchagavya was sprayed once. Fruits were big and tasty. She sells the fruits @ Rs,6 for small ones and Rs.10 for large ones. to Kerala and Kayakumari.

Economics

Planting Material	2,500.00
Planting cost	25,000.00

Returns

1st year	17,500.00
Total income in 4 years	50,000.00

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