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# Productivity and profitability as influenced by rice based cropping systems in Tunga Bhadra project area of Karnataka

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#### Abstract

A field experiment under All India Coordinated Research Project was conducted for four years (2015-16 to 2018-19) in irrigated condition at Agricultural Research Station, Siruguppa, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur, Karnataka, India, to study the productivity and profitability of cropping system as influenced by rice based cropping system in Tunga Bhadra Project area of Karnataka on deep black soil. The experiment consisted of ten cropping systems and laid out in completely randomized block design with three replications. The results showed that, growing of rice followed by ridge gourd (*Kharifsummer*) recorded significantly higher rice equivalent yield (11338 kg/ha), gross return (Rs.213355/ha), net return (Rs.142691/ha), BC ratio (3.08), system productivity (31.07 kg/ha/day) and system profitability (537.54 Rs/ha/day) compared to other cropping systems. Whereas rice followed by beans cropping system registered significantly lowest rice equivalent yield, gross returns, net returns, BC ratio, system productivity and system profitability when compared to other cropping systems tested under the study.

Keywords: Cropping system, rice equivalent yield, gross returns, net returns, BC ratio

#### Introduction

Rice followed by rice is the most predominant cropping system in the deep and shallow black soil of Tungabhadra Project Area of Karnataka, India. Continuous cultivation of rice for longer periods with low system productivity, and often with poor crop management practices, led to loss in soil fertility due to emergence of multiple nutrient deficiency (Dwivedi *et al.*, 2001) <sup>[2]</sup> and deterioration of soil physical properties, and decline in factor productivity and crop yields in high productivity areas (Yadav, 2002)<sup>[12]</sup>.

Diversification and intensification of rice-based system to increase productivity per unit resource is very pertinent. Crop diversification shows lot of promises in alleviating these problems besides, fulfilling basic needs for cereals, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables and, regulating farm income, withstanding weather aberrations, controlling price fluctuation, ensuring balanced food security, preservation of natural resources, minimise the chemical fertilizer and pesticide loads, ensuring environmental safety and creating employment opportunity (Gill and Ahlawat, 2006)<sup>[3]</sup>. Crop diversification has been recognized as an effective strategy for achieving the objectives of food security, nutrition security, income growth, poverty alleviation, creation of employment opportunities, and judicious use of land and water resources, sustainable agricultural development and environmental improvement (Hedge *et al.*, 2003)<sup>[5]</sup>. The crop diversification may enhance profitability, reduce pests, spread out labour more uniformly, reduce risks from aberrant weather by different planting and harvesting times and source of high value products from new crops (Reddy and Suresh, 2009)<sup>[8]</sup>. Rice being the staple food of people, hence, rice cannot be replaced with other crops during kharif season. The only option left is to identify suitable crops for rabi/summer seasons for non availability/scarcity of water due to less storage capacity in the reservoirs coupled with low water availability for the tail end farmers in the command area it is more so with TBP. Growing of crops such as vegetables, pulses and oilseeds during summer is an alternative approach for realizing higher productivity and profitability. Moreover, growing non paddy crops during summer has a special reference for efficient utilization of irrigation water, labour and other resources for higher productivity, profitability and food security.

Corresponding Author: Basavanneppa MA Agricultural Research Station, Siruguppa, Karnataka, India There is need to evaluate the possibilities of replacing summer rice with other suitable upland crops and include summer season crops for higher productivity. Similarly, there are opportunities to include grain legumes and vegetables during summer season.

The demand for vegetable crops has increased enormously leading to sharp increase in their prices and it has been the dominant factor for high inflationary pressure in Indian economy during recent years. Inclusion of crops like oilseeds, pulses, vegetables and fodder crops will improve the economic condition of small and marginal farmers owing to higher price and/or higher volume of their main and by-products (Sharma *et al.*, 2007)<sup>[9]</sup>. Hence, efforts are being made to promote diversification of rice - based cropping sequence in this area of country with vegetable crops for sustaining the productivity and to meet out demand for vegetables. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out to find out most productive, resource-use-efficient and remunerative cropping system for this region.

## **Material and Methods**

An AICRP experiment was conducted for four years (2015-16 to 2018-19) under irrigated condition during 2016-17 to find out alternative cropping system for existing rice – rice system in TBP area at Agricultural Research Station, Siruguppa. The experiment consists of 10 treatments with rice grown in the *kharif* followed by different crops in the *rabi* and treatments were replicated thrice in the randomized complete block design. The experimental soil was deep black having slightly alkaline in pH (8.18) and low in soluble salt concentration (0.38 dS/m), medium in soil organic carbon content (0.65%) and available phosphorus (11.3 kg/ha), low in available nitrogen (177 kg/ha) and rich in available Potassium (348 kg/ha). The treatments details, fertilizer dosage and varieties used in the experiment were given in Table 1 and 2. The fertilizers were applied in the form of urea, Diammonium

phosphate (DAP) and muriate potash as per the recommended package of practice for each crop tested during both the seasons. The data on the yield parameters were recorded at harvest. The cost of inputs prevailing in the market at the time of their use was considered for calculation of the economics of different treatments. Net return per hectare was calculated by deducting the cost of cultivation from gross returns per hectare, gross returns was calculated by using the total income obtained from grain and straw yields and the benefit cost ratio was worked out as follows. Benefit cost ratio = Gross returns/Cost of cultivation. The rice equivalent yield was calculated by using the following formula (Verma and Mudgal, 1983)<sup>[11]</sup>,

$$\frac{\text{YRC } (\text{kg/ha}) \times \text{MPCC}(\text{Rs./kg}) + \text{Yield of main } \text{crop}(\text{kg/ha})}{\text{REY } (\text{kg/ha}) = \frac{1}{2}}$$

Whereas, YRC= Yield of rabi crop (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), MPRC=Market price of rabi crop (Rs. kg<sup>-1</sup>). The System Productivity (SP) for the cropping system was calculated as dividing the REY by number of days in a year and expressed in kg/ha/day and System profitability was calculated by dividing the Net Returns by number of days in a year i.e. 365 days. The plant samples were collected and subjected to chemical analysis. The grain and stover samples were analyzed for N by digesting sample with concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the acid digested was distilled for NH<sub>3</sub> by using 40% NaOH and was estimated by titration against standard acid and phosphorus and potassium in the plant sample extracted by diacid were determined by vanodomolybidic yellow colour and flame photometry method, respectively (Jaiswal, 2004). MSTAT was used for statistical analysis of data and means were separated using critical difference (CD) at p=0.05 (Gomez and Gomez, 1984)<sup>[4]</sup>.

Treatments	Kharif	Rabi	Summer	Pre-monsoon	
1	Rice (BPT-5204)	-	Rice	Existing system	
2	Rice (SIRI-1253)	-	Ridge gourd (ZT and DS)	-	
3	Rice (SIRI-1253) + Sesbania (Incorporation after 55 days)	-	Mustard	Green gram (Residue incorporation)	
4	Rice (SIRI-1253)	-	Beans	Sesbania incorporation	
5	Rice (SIRI-1253)	-	Siyazeera	Sesbania incorporation	
6	Rice (SIRI-1253)	-	Coriander	-	
7	Rice (GNV 10-89)	Spinach	Black gram (Residue incorporation)	-	
8	Rice (GNV 10-89)	Methi	Green gram (Residue incorporation)	-	
9	Rice (GNV 10-89)	-	Rice (RASI)	Sesbania incorporation	
10	Rice (GNV 10-89)	Sesbania incorporation	Rice (RASI)	-	

 Table 1: Treatment details

Table 2: Varieties and fertilizer used during experimentation

Treatments	Crops	Varieties	Fertilizer doses (N, P, K kg/ha)			
1.	1. Paddy BPT-5204, Siri-1253 and GNV 10-89		150:75:75			
2.	Ridge gourd	Jaipur long	50:50:00			
3.	Mustard	Varuna	100:60:40			
4.	Beans	Local	60:20:20			
5.	Siyazeera	Local	50:20:20			
6.	Coriander	Local	75:30:30			
7.	Blackgram	Т9	12.5:25:00			
8.	Green gram	Chinamung	12.5:25:00			
9.	Spinach	Local	25:00:00			
10.	Methi	Local	100:00:00			

## **Results and Discussion Grain and straw yield**

The pooled data over four years on grain yield were presented in Table 3. The grain yield of different crops during kharif/summer were significantly influenced by different cropping systems. Among the three rice varieties tested, SIRI-1253 recorded higher yield (6188 kg/ha) followed by GNV 10-89 (5960 kg/ha). Similar results were also reported by Bastia *et al* (2008). However, BPT 5204 recorded least grain yield (5122 kg/ha). During summer season the pooled data on yield indicated that ridge guard has recorded significantly higher pooled yield (5244 kg/ha) compared to rest of the summer crops. In case of summer crops tested under study revealed that among the different crops Siyazeera (420 kg/ha) recorded significantly lower grain yield compared to rest of the crops.

## **Rice equivalent yield**

The pooled rice equivalent yield was worked out to identify the best cropping system among the different cropping systems evaluated and are presented in Table 4. The

significantly higher rice equivalent yield (11338 kg/ha) was noticed in rice followed by ridge gourd cropping system compared to other cropping systems. The higher rice equivalent in rice followed by ridge gourd was attributed to higher ridge gourd yield and higher price might be the reason to record the higher REY. The next best cropping system after rice - ridge gourd system was existing/traditional cropping system of rice followed by rice in Thunga Bhadra Project (TBP) area. Among the rice varieties tested, the higher REY (9694 kg/ha) was observed in T<sub>10</sub> (Rice -rice variety GNV 10-89) and it was significantly superior to  $T_1$  which includes traditional and fine quality variety of BPT 5204. The higher yield in GNV 10-89 than BPT 5204 might be due to higher yield. After these cropping systems, next best alternative rice cropping system is rice followed by beans (7799kg/ha) and rice followed by siyazeera (7701 kg/ha) and these are significantly superior to T3 (6358 kg/ha) and T5 (6706 kg/ha). The low REY in these systems might have low yield potential. However, in the water scarcity situation in tail end user may be practiced these cropping systems. These results are conformity with the findings of Hegde et al. (2003)<sup>[5]</sup>.

Table 3: Pooled grain yield (kg/ha) of crops as influenced by rice based Cropping system

Treatmonta	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		Pooled	
Treatments	Kharif	Summer	Kharif	Summer	Kharif	Summer	Kharif	Summer	Kharif	Summer
$T_1$	5176	3670	5109	3818	5208	3948	4993	4099	5122	3884
$T_2$	5594	5788*	5886	5606	6035	4945	5415	4638	5732	5244
T3	6141	536	5473	495	5291	494	5374	471	5570	499
$T_4$	6501	1546	5952	1483	5026	1393	5291	1400	5692	1455
T <sub>5</sub>	5652	485	6299	395	5671	390	5415	410	5759	420
$T_6$	5112	746	7159	755	6531	680	5952	744	6188	731
$T_7$	4867	1052	6200	1070	6696	955	6275	1056	6010	1033
$T_8$	4726	744	6961	852	6035	807	6118	805	5960	802
T9	4469	3799	5374	3923	6035	4134	5787	4237	5416	4023
T10	4643	3901	5704	4048	6283	4070	5704	4232	5583	4063
SEm±	172	87	185	86	256	53	231	76	211	69
CD (0.05)	509	258	550	256	760	157	326	159	595	195

\*- Fresh weight

Table 4: Pooled rice equivalent, SP, GR, NR, B:C and S. Prof. as influenced by rice based cropping system

Treatments	REY (kg/ha)	SP (kg/ha/day)	GR (Rs./ha)	NR (Rs./ha)	B:C	S. Prod. (kg/ha/day)
$T_1$	8999	24.66	167881	90712	2.19	406.12
T <sub>2</sub>	11338	31.07	213355	142691	3.08	537.54
T <sub>3</sub>	6358	17.42	120483	62130	2.08	289.72
$T_4$	7655	20.97	150469	86806	2.39	368.29
T5	6706	18.37	132938	71028	2.17	321.08
T6	7799	21.37	159064	97851	2.60	393.33
T7	7701	21.10	146605	87772	2.50	361.05
T8	7178	19.67	132980	73803	2.26	323.70
T9	9487	25.99	163674	89408	2.21	397.12
T10	9694	26.56	166998	92996	2.26	406.22
SEm±	201	0.55	3541	3541	0.09	9.79
CD (0.05)	566	1.55	9965	9965	0.26	27.99

## System productivity and profitability

The pooled data on system productivity and profitability was presented in Table 4. Results indicated that, the system profitability and system productivity were significantly influenced by different cropping systems. Significantly higher system productivity (31.07 kg/ha/year) followed by  $T_{10}$  (26.56 kg/ha/year) and  $T_9$  (25.99 kg/ha/year) and lowest being was observed in  $T_3$  (17.42 kg/ha/year). Further, the significantly higher system profitability (537.54 Rs/ha/day) was observed in  $T_2$  followed by  $T_{10}$  (406.22 Rs/ha/day) and T1(406.12 Rs/ha/day). Whereas, least system profitability was recorded in  $T_3$  (289.72 Rs/ha/day). These results corroborates the

findings of Singh *et al.* (2007) <sup>[10]</sup> who reported rice-pea-okra followed by rice-pea-onion as the most productive cropping sequence for eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. Mishra *et al.* (2007) <sup>[7]</sup> also reported higher productivity and profitability through inclusion of vegetables and pulses in rice-based cropping system. Walia *et al.* (2014) <sup>[14]</sup> who reported that productivity in terms of REY and system productivity was highest for ricegreen pea-summer moongbean as compared to rice-wheat and all other crop sequences. In another study conducted at Australia reported that the choice of cropping systems had a significant impact on total grain production over a 3-year cropping cycle (i.e., grains produced by Year-1 plus Year-2 plus Year-3 crops). Under dry conditions, the wheat-pulsedurum system produced 36.7% more grain yield and 61% more protein yield per 3-year cycle than the wheat-summer fallow-durum system (Yantai Gan *et al.*, 2015)<sup>[13]</sup>.

## **Economics of different systems**

Significantly higher pooled gross returns (Rs. 213355/ha), net returns (Rs. 142691 /ha) and B:C ratio (3.08) were observed in T<sub>2</sub> (rice followed by ridge gourd) compared to other cropping systems. The higher gross returns, net returns and B:C ratio were owing to higher yields in the  $T_2$ . It was followed by T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>9</sub>. Although rice followed by BPT 5204 rice  $(T_1)$  was not superior to rice followed by ridgeguard in terms of REY (Table 4), however, it recorded significantly higher GR, NR and B:C ratio of Rs. 167881/ha, Rs. 90712/ha and 2.19, respectively over all the three treatments of rice followed by other cropping systems with different rice varieties ( $T_9$  and  $T_{10}$ ) and other treatment also. This was might be due to higher yield rice and market price. The significantly lower GR, NR and BC ratio was observed in T<sub>3.</sub> Kumar Alok et al. (2008)<sup>[6]</sup> also reported that inclusion of vegetable crops in rice- based crop sequences improved the net returns.

#### Conclusion

The results indicated that, farmers can grow rice during kharif followed by ridge gourd or beans during rabi/summer to get higher productivity and income in Tunga Bhadra Command Area of Karnataka.

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