A Review

Sunnhemp as green manure

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ABSTRACT
Green manuring with sunnhemp is an age-old practice. But with the advent of green revolution, intensive cultivation and use of chemical fertilizer (NPK), rice-wheat-cropping system become the dominant practice both in developed and developing countries. As a result agroecosystem is being affected very badly, which is the burning concern of agriculture scientist all over the world. Sustainable Agriculture is the slogan of these days where sunnhemp can play a pivotal role as green manure in maintaining soil health and agroecosystem. Moreover, with increasing price of fertilizer farmers again realized the importance of sunnhemp. In addition to increasing organic matter, reducing soil Ph and increasing water-holding capacity, the direct and residual response of sunnhemp green manuring is quite encouraging in rice, wheat and sugarcane. Reports on amount of nitrogen addition through green manure varied considerably. But on an average 50-60 kg nitrogen /ha is being added in soil. Moreover due to succulent nature of its foliage it decompose very quickly which makes easy fit in the cropping system. Sunnhemp can be grown as dual purpose also i.e. green manure as well as fibre crop because after harvesting of fibre crop, the top portion (30 cm from top) can be incorporated in to the soil, which substantially increase the yield of succeeding crop.

Key words : Sunnhemp, Green Manure, Agro-ecosystem.