

Multi-Crop production system Intercropping Strategies for Banana and Plantain

Improved system production for better yield



Banana with common bean understory (Credit: B. Dheed'a)

Intercropping, growing bananas or plantains alongside other plants, offers farmers numerous benefits but also poses challenges like nutrient competition, disease spread, and careful handling during planting and harvesting to avoid root damage.

This technology is **TAAT1 validated**.
 5*7
 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 5/9; level of use 7/9

Gender assessment 4

Climate impact 7

Problem

- Competition for nutrients and water
- Weed proliferation
- Soil degradation and erosion
- Vulnerability to pests and diseases
- Dependency on external inputs
- Susceptibility to extreme weather
- Loss of biodiversity

Solution

- Allows for early yields before banana crops, while suppressing weeds.
- Canopies and roots protect against soil erosion.
- Legume intercrops provide nitrogen through biological fixation.
- Biomass from intercrops serves as mulch and organic nutrients.
- Intercropping diversifies farmers' income sources.
- Reduces disease spread, Enhances soil health.
- Strengthens food systems' resilience....

IP
 Open source / open access

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Godfrey Taulya

Technology originally documented by
ProPAS

Commodities
Banana/Plantain

Sustainable Development Goals

Categories
Production, Practices, Weed management, Soil fertility

Best used with

- [Biofortified Beans for Improved Nutrition >](#)
- [Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato \(High provitamin A\) >](#)
- [Disease resistant cassava varieties >](#)
- [New rice for Africa varieties >](#)

Tested/adopted in

■ Tested & adopted
■ Adopted
■ Tested

Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.

