

Demonstration of Reduced Tillage Cultivation of Hybrid Maize at Barkhathal

Hybrid maize cultivation for green cob was demonstrated under conventional and reduced tillage system on 16 farmer's field covering an area about 3.5 ha at Barkhathal (Tripura west). The cultivation of maize was done in rice fallow after harvest of in summer season. The crop was sown in first week of February and harvested for market purpose in last week of April and first week of May 2013. The results revealed that the cultivation of maize for green cob produced 6.2 and 6.5 t cobs/ha (Table 2) under conventional and reduced tillage system respectively. However, reduced tillage produced more yield as compared to conventional tillage. Farmer of Barkhathal got a net income about Rs. 93425/ha and Rs. 76532/ha under reduced and conventional tillage system, respectively. Although reduced tillage gave more income and showed highest Benefit: Cost ratio as compared to conventional tillage. The cultivation of maize gave extra income to the farmers over those left there field fallow after harvest of rice. Besides, cultivation of maize diversified the rice based cropping system and increase the cropping intensity.



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Table 2 Effect of reduced and conventional tillage on productivity and economics of maize produced for green cob

Particulars	Reduced tillage	Conventional tillage
Green cob yield (t ha ⁻¹)	6.5	6.2
Green fodder yield (t ha ⁻¹)	30	28
<u>Cost of cultivation (Rs. ha⁻¹)</u>	22575	27468
<u>Return from green cob (Rs. ha⁻¹)</u>	116000	104000
<u>Return from green fodder (Rs. ha⁻¹)</u>	30000	28000
<u>Total return (Rs. ha⁻¹)*</u>	116000	104000
<u>Net return (Rs. ha⁻¹)</u>	93425	76532
B: C ratio	5.14	3.79

* Excluding the return from green fodder because farmers are not able to sell the fodder