CROP GROWTH AND YIELD PERFORMANCE OF FINGER MILLET (ELEUSINE CORACANA (L.) GAERTN) IN DIFFERENT TRADITIONAL CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES PRACTISED IN TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT
Different traditional land preparation techniques for finger millet (Eleusine coracana (L.) Gaertn) production are determinant to a great extent of the crop’s yield and growth performance in South Western Tanzania. Investigations have been made to study characteristics of crop growth and yield of finger millet under slash-and-burn, ntumba or mounds, nkule and ox-ploughing “cultivated fallow” techniques of land preparation, which are important methods of cultivating the crop in South Western Tanzania. It has been found that finger millet grows very well in nkule and uniform, complete burning slash-and-burn systems of cultivation, giving as high average yields as 5.0t/ha, respectively. This research gives evidence that in specific situations it is probably traditional techniques only that can be utilized most successfully to sustain production.

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