

Chapter 6

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

Important highlights from the results revealed that:

1. with available resources, rice was not competitive if simultaneous sowing was practiced; in late bean sowing, rice became competitive; rice bean was a strong competitor when sown at the same time or even when sown two weeks after rice;

2. sowing the bean one month after sowing rice could be expected to be equally or more productive, biologically, economically, or nutritionally, than the corresponding monocultures;

3. enhancement of N_2 fixation in rice bean in intercrop treatments is more than monocrop treatments;

4. intercropping could improve the productivity of upland rice cropping system in the upland areas; and,

5. biological nitrogen fixation in rice bean, in this case, can enrich the soil with nitrogen to the potential benefits of crops grown after it.

6.2 Recommendations

The following points are highly recommended for future research: the reduction of rice bean population in the intercrop mixture and delaying further its time of introduction into rice to lessen its competitiveness; long-term studies be conducted, that is, the duration of the cropping system be at least 3 to 4 years to further evaluate the effectiveness of rice bean residuals; on-farm trials will be necessary to evaluate actual results from farmers' fields; furthermore, more research on rice bean should be conducted to validate its potential as green manure crop and its effectiveness as cover crop in the upland areas.

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