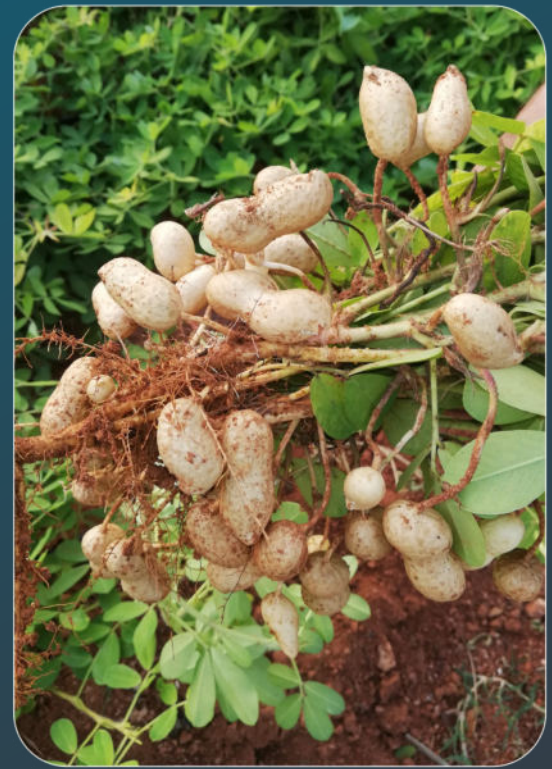


Olive Tree & Peanut

Why Peanut?

- The peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*), is a globally cultivated and economically important crop. Peanut, also referred to as groundnut, is a significant agricultural crop primarily grown for their edible seeds. The selection of peanut as an inter-crop for olive trees is based on their unique traits that enhance the olive tree ecosystem. To start with, peanut is widely recognized for their capacity to fix nitrogen. The enhanced nitrogen availability confers advantages to both the peanut plants and the neighboring olive trees. The process of natural nitrogen fixation serves to decrease reliance on synthetic fertilizers, thereby fostering soil well-being and mitigating environmental consequences.
- Additionally, peanut exhibit a substantial root system that contributes to the enhancement of soil structure and the augmentation of water-holding capacity. This phenomenon holds significant importance in areas characterized by limited water resources, as it enhances the ability of crops to withstand and adapt to arid conditions. Furthermore, the thick vegetation of peanut plants serves as an organic mulch, effectively diminishing the presence of weeds and preserving the moisture content of the soil.



Where and How to Plant?

The successful implementation of intercropping olive trees with peanut can be observed across various climatic conditions. However, it is important to note that peanut exhibit optimal growth in regions characterized by warm and sunny climates, coupled with well-drained soil. Farmers have the option to cultivate peanut either in alternating rows alongside the olive trees or in specified patches surrounding the tree trunks. The peanut plants can be grown with olive tree in intercropping system under Mediterranean climate conditions. The inter-tree spacing should be minimum as 5 m. Because a sufficient spacing needs to maintain between the rows to allow optimum exposure to sunlight and promote adequate air circulation, creating favorable conditions for the healthy development of plants. Plant should be grown at a spacing of 70 cm between rows and 20 cm between plants in a row. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the intercropping system involving olive trees and peanut, careful preparation and effective management practices are highly important. Due to this reason, careful soil preparation should be undertaken, covering essential tasks such as ploughing, harrowing, and levelling, with the aim of establishing an ideal planting setting. Late April is considered the optimal period for seed sowing in the Mediterranean regions.

Advantages

1

The practice of intercropping olive trees with peanut leads to the generation of a wide array of valuable agricultural commodities. The primary purpose of cultivating olive trees is to obtain their fruits, which can be harvested and subsequently processed into olive oil, a highly valued product. Furthermore, olives possess the potential to be gathered and marketed as consumable fruits, or alternatively, they can undergo a range of processing methods, such as curing and brining, in order to accommodate a wide array of culinary tastes and preferences.

2

Peanut are cultivated for their highly nutritious seeds, which are widely employed in diverse culinary preparations and serve as an essential ingredient in the production of peanut butter. Peanut possess a notable nutritional profile, characterized by their high protein content, abundance of healthy fats, and inclusion of essential vitamins.

3

The simultaneous cultivation of olive trees and peanut in an intercropping system provides farmers with a diversified range of income sources. The diversification of crops on the farm leads to a decrease in dependence on a single crop, thereby improving the economic stability of the farm and reducing financial risks associated with market price fluctuations or climate-related difficulties.

4

The practice of intercropping olive trees with peanut offers several advantages, such as the improvement of soil health due to the nitrogen-fixing capability of peanuts. Furthermore, this agricultural practice provides farmers with a variety of income streams, as they can generate revenue from both olive products and peanut throughout the year.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the practice of intercropping olive trees with peanut exhibits considerable potential as a sustainable agricultural approach, offering a multitude of benefits.

For more information


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