

The Role of Rice-Based Crop Rotation Systems in Enhancing Soil Fertility and Pest Control

K. K. N. Reddy*

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India

Abstract

Rice-based cropping systems are common in the Tropics. The sustainability in rice farming depends on the choice of crops and their sequence. Crop rotation systems involving rice can help in enhancing soil fertility and controlling pests. This review highlights the benefits of different crop rotation systems, including the use of legumes, millets, and other cereals, in maintaining soil health and reducing pest pressure. The article also discusses the challenges and future research directions for improving rice-based crop rotation systems.

Keywords: Rice, Crop rotation, Soil fertility, Pest control, Sustainable agriculture

Introduction

Rice is a staple food crop in the Tropics, providing a significant portion of the global food supply. However, rice cultivation can lead to soil degradation and pest problems if not managed sustainably. Crop rotation systems involving rice can help in addressing these issues. This review aims to summarize the benefits of different crop rotation systems for enhancing soil fertility and controlling pests in rice-based cropping systems.

Discussion

Enhancing Soil Fertility

Soil fertility is a critical factor for sustainable rice production. Crop rotation systems can help in maintaining soil health by adding organic matter, improving soil structure, and reducing nutrient leaching. Legumes, in particular, are effective in fixing atmospheric nitrogen, which can be used by subsequent rice crops. Millets and other cereals can also contribute to soil health by breaking disease cycles and providing a diverse range of root systems.

***Corresponding author:** K. K. N. Reddy, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India, E-mail: kkreddy@icrisat.org

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