



Cultivation of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* Moench, Malvaceae) in combination with two local varieties of legumes (peanuts and beans) in a school gardening context

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1 ABSTRACT

Market gardening contributes significantly to food security in Côte d'Ivoire. Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) is one of the market garden crops grown in most regions of the country. All parts of the plant (roots, stems, leaves, fruits, and seeds) are used for food, medicine, crafts, and even industry. However, the supply of fresh okra pods to the market is severely limited by the lack of arable land, especially in suburban areas. As a result, the price of this foodstuff continues to rise on the local market. The production of okra by students through gardening would be an asset in supplying school canteens with food. Combining this plant with legumes would offer hope for optimizing its yield in a school gardening context. The main objective of this study is to evaluate the yield of the KOTO variety of okra when grown in combination with two types of legumes (peanuts and beans) in a school garden. An experimental plot consisting of three blocks was set up. Each block included the following treatments: okra/peanut combination; okra/bean combination; and okra grown alone. Various growth and yield parameters were measured. The results of these experiments showed that okra grown in combination with peanuts exhibited the highest growth and produced the best yield compared to okra grown alone.