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DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF COCONUT PALM (Cocos nucifera L.) IN AN AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM

Cássia Regina A. Moraes Jeferson Luis V. de Macêdo Adelaide M. Mota Raunira C. Araújo

1. INTRODUCTION

The Amazon region provides edaphic and climatic condition favorable for the development of the coconut palm. However, its cultivation in this region is still insignificant.

Since the crown of the coconut palm allows the radiation to pass sufficiently and since it is a compact plant of high productivity, this species is considered a promiser component of agroforestry systems.

In this study, the development and production of the coconut palm were evaluated in the course of three and one year, respectively.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS :

The coconut palm was planted in a system together with rubber, cupuaçu, orange, lemon, mahogany, "louro pirarucú", "jacareúba", cassava, maize and beans. This system have been treated by application of 30% or 100% of the recommended fertilizer dose combined with inoculation or not of seedlings with VA-mycorrhizal fungi.

The field experiment was conducted as a randomized complete block with five repetitions. Tukey's multiple range test was used to evaluate differences among treatments.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS :

In the Figure 1 and 2, the development data of the coconut palm in agroforestry system are presented. The statistical analysis of the data shows that the higher level of fertilization has had a significant influence on the girth of the stem only.

The production data of the coconut palm in the agroforestry systems are presented in Figure 3. It could be observed that the plants, which received the higher level of fertilizer, presented a faster production compared with the production of the lower level.

The mycorrhizal inoculation did not show a significant effect on the development and production of this species.



FIGURE 1. Lenght of the laef of coconut palm at 12, 24 and 36 months in an agroforestry system treated with two fertilization level (30 and 100 %) and mycorrhizal fungi inoculation [presence (+) and absence (-)].



FIGURE 2. Girth of the stem of coconut palm at 12, 24 and 36 months in an agroforestry system treated with two fertilization level (30 and 100 %) and mycorrhizal fungi inoculation [presence (+) and absence (-)].



CONCLUSIONS:

- The higher level of fertilization employed has had a significant influence on the girth of the stem and on the production of the coconut palm;
- The mycorrhizal fungi inoculation did not show any significant effect on the development and production of the coconut palm.

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