



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 40

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Benefits of growing poppies with an auxiliary crop

The use of auxiliary crops in the cultivation of the main crop finds a growing response in agricultural practice. The Precision Farming Center (CPZ) in the Czech Republic, in collaboration with a demonstration farm, has explored the use of auxiliary crops in poppy crops to reduce the risk of erosion, increase water infiltration, reduce weed infestation, and improve the state of vegetation in general. In 2018, within the framework of the development of new technologies, a poppy seed with an auxiliary crop of spring barley was seeded. The sowing was carried out by a Bednar Omega sowing machine, allowing an independent sowing of two crops in every other row and simultaneous fertilization of poppy seed from an additional Ferti-BOX container. The amount of sown seeds of poppy was 0.8 kg/ha and 50 kg/ha of spring barley. The processes and technologies used meet the principles of the so-called precision planting systems that eliminate competition between the main and the auxiliary crops.

In assessing the impact of the presence of the auxiliary crop on the infiltration of water into the soil the infiltration was monitored on the control surface without the presence of barley and on the barley area. Better infiltration conditions were found on barley surfaces. The blue colour solution reached nearly 0.4 m into the soil. Good erosion protection of soil with barley and poppy was also manifested in torrential rainfall where no erosion had been recorded on the evaluated plots. In comparison to that, the other neighbouring poppy parcels were seriously affected by erosion, often on the whole plot area.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information <https://cpz.czu.cz/cs/r-12241-aktuality/aktualne-z-terenu-mak-s-pomocnou-plodinou.html>



ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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