

Intercropping pigeon pea for greater yield

Pigeon pea breeders at the International Crops Research Institute (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh, have developed a new, large seeded pigeon pea (red gram) variety for the semi arid tropics. The variety, named `Aasha', can be an intercrop for sorghum, pearl millet, groundnut and cotton crops. The crop is resistant to fusarium wilt and sterility mosaic disease, which are a major pestilences of pigeon pea, and can be harvested in 180-200 days. This is the first known medium-duration variety that combines resistance to the two most devastating pigeonpea diseases, fusarium wilt and sterility mosaic and is suitable for cultivating in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Source: The Hindu, 29th September, 2005