Traditional Agriculture and Indigenous Knowledge - Section 2

Examples of Crops Grown
In Association

I. Sweet potatoes with Cassava
   ↓
   4-8 month growing season
   ↓
   14-24 month growing season
   After sweet potatoes, vegetables planted between cassava stalks.

II. Potatoes with beans
   Association of legumes with cereals and/or tubers
   Advantages:
   - replenish soil fertility
   - diet
   Layering of crops, or mimic natural forest patterns
   - Type of crop succession and mix
   - Cash crops with home consumption
   - Timing of crops
   Long- and short-lived

Crop Association and Productivity

Ex: Intercropping with coffee

- Soil preparation and coffee growth
  - Clips coffee roots and stimulates more root development

- Effects of annual crops
  - Beans: enrich soil
  - Cocoyam: loosens soil when dug; coffee roots penetrate deeper
  - Corn: roots deeper than coffee; break up soil deeper
  - Banana: competes with coffee, but produces compost

- Effects on yields:
  - Individual crops lower
  - Total, including coffee, higher