

## **Production potential of root and tubers in association with plantation crops**

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**Abstract.** In India tropical root and tuber crops namely cassava, greater yam, lesser yam, elephant foot yam, taro, tannia and arrowroot are mostly cultivated in association with plantation crops like coconut, arecanut, coffee, rubber and banana. Intercropping the root and tubers with tree crops both at the immature and mature phases is a common practice especially in small and medium sized land holdings, in order to augment the net income and employment opportunities. In such farms, the produce from the perennials generates the cash income, while the starchy root and tubers partially meet the food requirements of the farm family and the feed needs of farm animals. Research during the past two decades in India had brought out the agronomic and economic advantages of the cropping systems involving tropical root and tubers and the plantation crops. In this paper the opportunities, challenges and future research needs of cropping/farming systems involving tropical tuber crops and perennials are critically evaluated.