

Seeds of Life

Note to File

Velvet bean trials in Betano and Viqueque

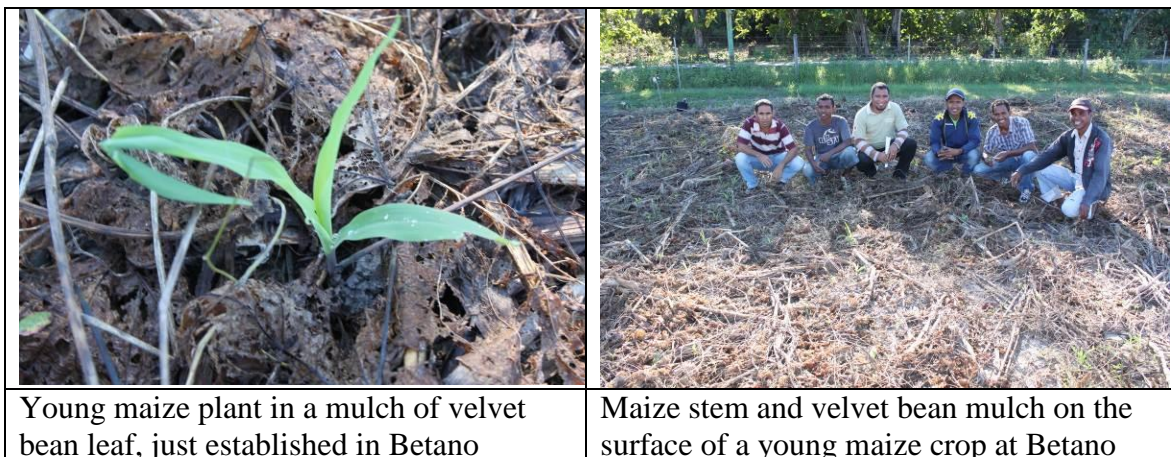
14 June 2012

General information

- Rotation trials using velvet bean have been established at Betano research station and a farmers filed in Viqueque
- The Betano trial has been established for 3 years, and this is the first year for the Viqueque site.

Updates

- Betano
- The second season maize crop has just been planted. There is a very good mulch on the soil surface of the velvet bean plots. The plants have meerged well through the mulch.



Young maize plant in a mulch of velvet bean leaf, just established in Betano

Maize stem and velvet bean mulch on the surface of a young maize crop at Betano

Table 1. Wet season corn results from 5 production methods at Betano . (t/ha)

Treatment	Yield (t/ha)	Density (plant/m ²)	Cobs/plant	weight of cob (g)
Ploughed, no velvet bean	1.2	3.1	1.2	41
Ploughed, with velvet bean	3.4	5.5	1.2	90
Hand clearing, with velvet bean	2.8	5.4	1.2	68
Roundup with velvet bean	2.8	4.7	1.2	82
Roundup, no velvet bean.	1.7	4.6	1.3	27
F pr.	<.001	0.005	0.37	<.001
l.s.d.	0.24	1.0	Ns	11.6
cv%	5.3	11.9	4.8	10

- Average yield of plots with velvet bean were 3.0 t/ha and without velvet bean was 1.5 t/ha.

Viqueque

At a field day at Betano, farmers from Viqueque saw the positive impacts of velvet bean on corn yields. In response, they asked for a velvet bean experiment in their village. The site was established by Inancio in Oct 2011.

This site had velvet bean grown amongst a corn crop last wet season. After the corn harvest, the velvet bean was left to smother the corn stalks. As on June 13 2012, there was considerable growth of the velvet bean, as seen in photo below. This will be planted to corn next wet season.



Excellent growth of velvet bean at Viqueque site in June 2012.