

Proof of Concept Scheme

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Leader Name: Mrs Jacqueline SAUZIER	
Address: Vivéa Business Centre, Block 18 Batiment 1827, St Pierre	The information on this form may be made public.
Enterprise / Company / Institution: Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture	
Project Title: Incorporating Cover Crops ("Plantes de Service" – PdS) for Organic Sugarcane Production	
TECHNICAL ABSTRACT (200 words or less)	Include Potential Commercial Applications
<p>Organic sugarcane production implies, among others, the non-use of herbicides and inorganic fertilizers. Currently, weed control in sugarcane is mostly achieved by use of pre- & post-emergence herbicides; non-chemical means to minimize weed infestations remains mainly exploitation of cane trash as a mulch. In Réunion Island, with their severe restrictions on herbicides, eRcane and CIRAD are testing the use of some "Plantes de Service – PdS" to manage weed infestations in sugarcane and organic vegetables/pineapple production. In Mauritius, inclusion of leguminous crops as PdS (e.g. <i>Canavalia ensiformis</i> or <i>Lablab purpureus</i> cv. Highworth) in sugarcane interrows is also expected to supply partly the organic N requirements of the crop through atmospheric fixation.</p> <p>The aim of this project is, firstly, to develop and adapt a sowing machine to establish the "PdS" through cane trash under our local conditions, and then to evaluate their agronomic contributions and limitations. The successful inclusion of PdS in our sugarcane cropping systems will enable us to embark in the production of organic sugar, a commodity with a more lucrative price. In the conventional sugarcane cropping system, PdS may minimize herbicides and fertilizers costs. Similar sowing machines will be required by the various sugarcane producers, including possibility of producing seeds locally.</p>	
Key Words to Identify Research (8 maximum) Organic Sugarcane, leguminous crops, cover crops (Plantes de Service), weed control, N fixation, sowing machine	