PLANTING DATES FOR PEANUT AT SONGKHLA

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ABSTRACT :- *Peanut variety Tainan 9 was tested at Prince of Songkla University in 1980, for yield at different planting dates. The mid June planting gave good seed yield, while other subsequent dates were unfavorable for peanut due to excessive or inadequate moisture. However, if good preventive measures for diseases are to be used, early October planting date is recommended for tnis crop in tne region*

INTRODUCTION

Peanut *(Arachis hypogaea* L.*)* is another important legume grown in all regions of Thailand. In 1979 the total areas under this crop was 97,411 hectares,yielding approximately 108,087 tons of seeds yield.

Among very few field crops grown in the South, peanut is by far the most important and known to all farmers. During the past five years the area under this crop in the region was 4-7 % of the national acerage (1). It is grown before rice in the lowland field and as an intercrop of immature rubber. However, tne research relating to the production of this crop in the region is very limited.

This study attempts to gather basic data for the production of peanut at Songkhla. The result may be applied to other areas close to the province.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkhla. The climatic and soil conditions at

the experimental site were described by Laosuwan (2). Peanut variety Tainan 9 was planted at six dates (June 17, July 22, August 28, October 1, November 1, and December 11) by using six plant spacings (30 x 10, 30 x 15, 30 x 20, 50 x 10, 50 x 15, and 50 x 20 cm). The experiment was conducted by using a randomized complete-block design with two replications. Each plot consisted of four 5-m rows, but the data collection was made from the two central rows.

RESULTS AND DTSCUSSION

Although six planting dates were tried for peanut, only the first three were harvested due to certain unfavorable conditions. Peanut planted on October 1 was heavily attacked by Cercospora leaf spot (caused by *Cercospora personata*). The fungicide spraying of peanut grown at this date was somewhat less effective due to the intense rain. On the other hand, November 1 and December 11 planting dates were obviously not suitable for peanut since the rain ceased in late December creating a dry period of insufficient moisture for the crop.

Yield measurement made on peanut sown on the first three dates was somewhat unrealistic due to diseases and pod germination resulting from continuous rains. The first planting date was somewhat favorable for peanut. Low but well distributed rainfall accompanied by a short, dry period at harvest made this date recommendable for peanut. Seed yield of peanut for the first three dates are presented in Table 1. Noticeably, the growing periods for all dates were shorter than expected since the harvest was usually made before the crop approached full maturity to avoid pod germination. The Cercospora leaf spot ratings were low on June 17 but reaching the destructive level at other dates. Therefore, an effective measure to prevent the disease is required for peanut production at the location.

Table 1. Seed yield and other characters of peanut variety Tainan-9 grown at Hat Yai, Songkhla, 1980.

Planting date	Plant spacing	Seed yield	Shelling percentage	Days to harvest	Disease [1a]
	(cm)	(kg/ha)	(%)	(no.)	(score)
June 17	30 x 20	1,456	68	108	2
	50 x 20	2,043	70	108	3
July 22	30 x 20	950	69	104	4
	50 x 20	1,000	70	104	4
August 28	30 x 20	538	70	104	4
	50 x 20	525	68	104	4

[1a] Cercospora leaf spot was rated as 1-5; 1 = no disease; 5 = heavily diseased.

REFERENCES

1. Division of Agricultural Economics. 1980. Agricultural Statistics of Thailand, crop year 1979/80. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

2. Laosuwan, Paisan. 1981. Influence of planting date and plant spacing on yield and other characters of soybean. (included in this report).