

384. Prasad, S.N., Singh, Ratan, Prakash, C. and Verma, B. 1993. Effect of conservation measures on erosion, soil fertility and yield of castor (*Ricinus communis*). *Indian J. Agrl. Sci.*, 63(1): 47-49.

The paper deals with a study conducted at Kota (Rajasthan) to investigate the efficacy of contour cultivation and castor+greengram intercropping on erosion losses, crop yields and soil fertility. Contour cultivation of crops showed lower runoff and soil loss than up-and-down cultivation. Castor+ greengram intercropping showed 17.3 and 21.9% lower runoff and 36.3 and 29.8% lower soil loss than the sole castor under up-and-down and contour cultivation, respectively. In general, the loss of nutrients followed the trend of soil loss. The contour cultivation increased the yield of castor by 26.6 and 13.0% compared with up-and-down cultivation under sole and intercropped stands, respectively. The corresponding increase in greengram yield was 19.6%. Contour cultivation did not show marked variation in soil fertility than up-and-down cultivation. Castor + greengram intercropping, being

comparable with initial status, showed higher values of organic carbon and available N and K than sole castor.