SWOT ANALYSIS OF RUNNER BEAN (*Phaseolus coccineus* L.) CULTIVATION IN INTERCROPPING SYSTEM

Silvia Brîndușa HAMBURDĂ[1], Neculai MUNTEANU[1], Andy Felix JITĂREANU[1], Vasile STOLERU[1], Gabriel Ciprian TELIBAN[1], Gianina BUTNARIU[1], Lorena-Diana POPA[1]

e-mail: silvia_hamburda@yahoo.com

Abstract

This paper presents the SWOT analysis of a runner bean crop (*Phaseolus coccineus* L.) in intercropping system, using maize, sunflower and Jerusalem artichokes as associated plants, in the conditions of North-Eastern Romania. Runner bean can be cultivated in several crop systems, associated or interleaved, depending on the area, traditions, technical possibilities etc. Runner bean cultivation interspersed with maize is traditionally the best known, but it may be successfully done with sunflower or Jerusalem artichoke, whose stem is also the suport system for the runner bean plants. The SWOT analysis shows, as a main advantage, the fact that runner bean is a species with a high level of rusticity and a higher ecological plasticity than the common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), due to higher resistance or tolerance to pathogens. Grown in intercropping system, it benefits from an improved microclimate, close to environmental requirements. A weak point is the competition for the elements that are necessary for the growth and development of plants, which interleaving is performed with. As an opportunity, runner bean cultivation in intercropping system can increase quality and quantity of production. Among threats, the adverse weather conditions which may compromise the crop are highlighted. In conclusion, intercropping system can be adopted with good results for runner bean cultivation in the conditions of North-Eastern Romania.

Key words: intercalated crops, strengths, opportunities, threats, weaknesses