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U.S. Department of Agriculture <b>Accomplishments Report AD-421</b> U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Other Institutions			Date (Month, Day, Year) 01/14/2013		
1. Accession 0210990	Agency Identification No. 2. CSREES 3. LA.B		5. Work Unit/Project No. LAB93859		6. Status Final Report
7. Title Sustainable Vegetable Crop Research					
12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) Motsenbocker, C. E.					
20. Termination Date 05/31/2012			40. Period Covered (mo/da/year): 06/01/2007 TO 05/31/2012		
Outputs: The information from this project was disseminated to vegetable crops growers in Mississippi and Louisiana by the group of multi-state collaborators. The information generated from this research was disseminated to growers in Mississippi at the Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association annual meetings and to growers attending USDA NRCS workshops. In addition, multi-year demonstration sites in both states were used to facilitate train-the-trainer and farmer training activities. Two undergraduate and 3 graduate students (2 LSU, 1 MSU) received training through the project.					
Outcomes/Impacts: Late spring and summer cover crops can be beneficial in a fall-winter season sustainable vegetable crops management system. There were significant differences in the above ground biomass and weed management from various cover crops. Summer-planted Sesame and Sunn Hemp were selected for their performance and used in demonstration and research trials in Mississippi and Louisiana for the production of fall-planted vegetables. The results for fall-planted cabbage indicated that the type of summer cover crop impacted yield as well as organic fertilizer rate. Summer cover crops can benefit the production of vegetables later in a management system. The proper identification and selection of the summer cover crops and the timing of planting and harvest are critical to insure maximum benefit in the production of organically grown vegetables. Small to medium-scale vegetable growers that sell primarily through direct marketing channels are the target audience for the sustainable/organic vegetable and summer cover crops research. Sustainable and/or organic production research that supports small farm enterprises and enables these businesses to provide more on-farm income is essential.					
Publications: Evans, W., C. Motsenbocker, G. Panicker, R. Mentreddy, and V. Cerven. 2012. Summer cover crop screenings for fall vegetable production in the Gulf States. Presented to the Soil Sci. Soc. Amer. 2012. Annual Conf. Cincinnati, OH. Poster. Volunteered. Abstr. 238-5. <a href="http://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2012am/webprogram/Paper72140.html">http://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2012am/webprogram/Paper72140.html</a> .					
Participants: Carl Motsenbocker (PI), LSU AgCenter; Bill Evans, B. Cerven, Mississippi State University; Garish Panicker, Alcorn State University; and Rao Mentreddy, Alabama A and M University. Robert Miller, LSU Louisiana SARE PDP program.					
Target Audiences: The target audiences for the organic vegetable and summer cover crops research is small to medium-scale mixed vegetable crop growers that sell primarily through direct marketing channels. The research, however, is also relevant to large-scale vegetable farms as well.					
Project Modifications: Nothing significant to report during this reporting period.					
Approved (Signature)		Title		Date	
					

