Crop cover selection to improve weed control in sugarcane agrosystems in Reunion Island

Context:
- Cover crops are increasingly used for weed management in tropical regions as an alternative to herbicide.
- Selecting the most suitable species of cover crop to be associated with a main crop requires long-term trials.

Objectives: to assess the ability of various cover crops to limit weed growth in Reunion Island

Collection experiments: to assess the life cycle of cover crops

- 4 trials: 55 species and varieties
- 2 years: 2016, 2017
- 3 sites in Reunion Island: La Mare, Bassin Plat, Colimaçons

Large plot experiments: to limit weed growth

- 4 trials: 10 species
- 2 years: 2016, 2017
- 2 sites: La Mare & Bassin Plat
- Coverage after 60 days of growth

Perspectives: sugarcane association

- CanécoH project: eRcane (2014 – in progress)
- SALSA – FertiCannes: Design: sugarcane & legumes (Jack bean) association
  Objectives: to assess the nitrogen intakes by legumes

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High potential to limit weeds below the 30% threshold.