Towards nutritional security through agroecological practices in orangefleshed sweetpotato systems in Mozambique

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Nutritious food intake for improved health Nourish people Nourish soil Nourish soil Nourish plant Optimized high-diversity cropping system to provide and preserve soil fertility

2. Methods

Continuous OFSP

1 st Season	2 nd Season	3 rd Season
OFSP	OFSP	OFSP
OFSP	MZ	OFSP
OFSP + CP	OFSP + CP	OFSP + CP
SP + CP	MZ + CP	SP + CP

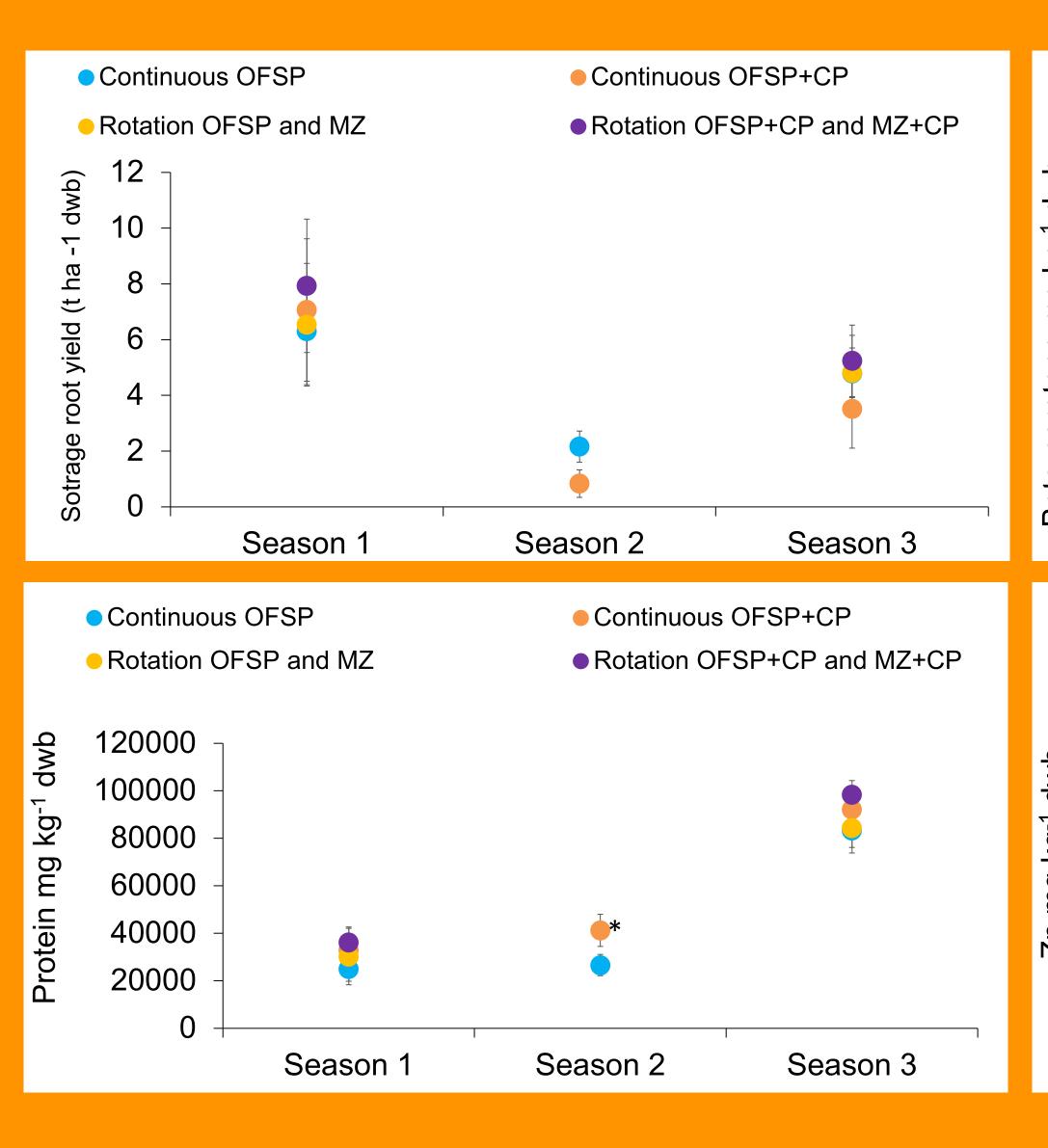
- OFSP = orange-fleshed sweetpotato, MZ = maize, CP = cowpea
- Objective: Test agroecological practices in regards to its potential to:
- Increase yield and nutritional quality of storage root
- 2. Preserve soil fertility for long-term cultivation
- Plant aboveground and storage roots yield, nutrient content (N, P, K, Fe and Zn) and nutritional quality (bcarotene, protein, starch)
- Soil analyses: total N, P, K, Fe and Zn.

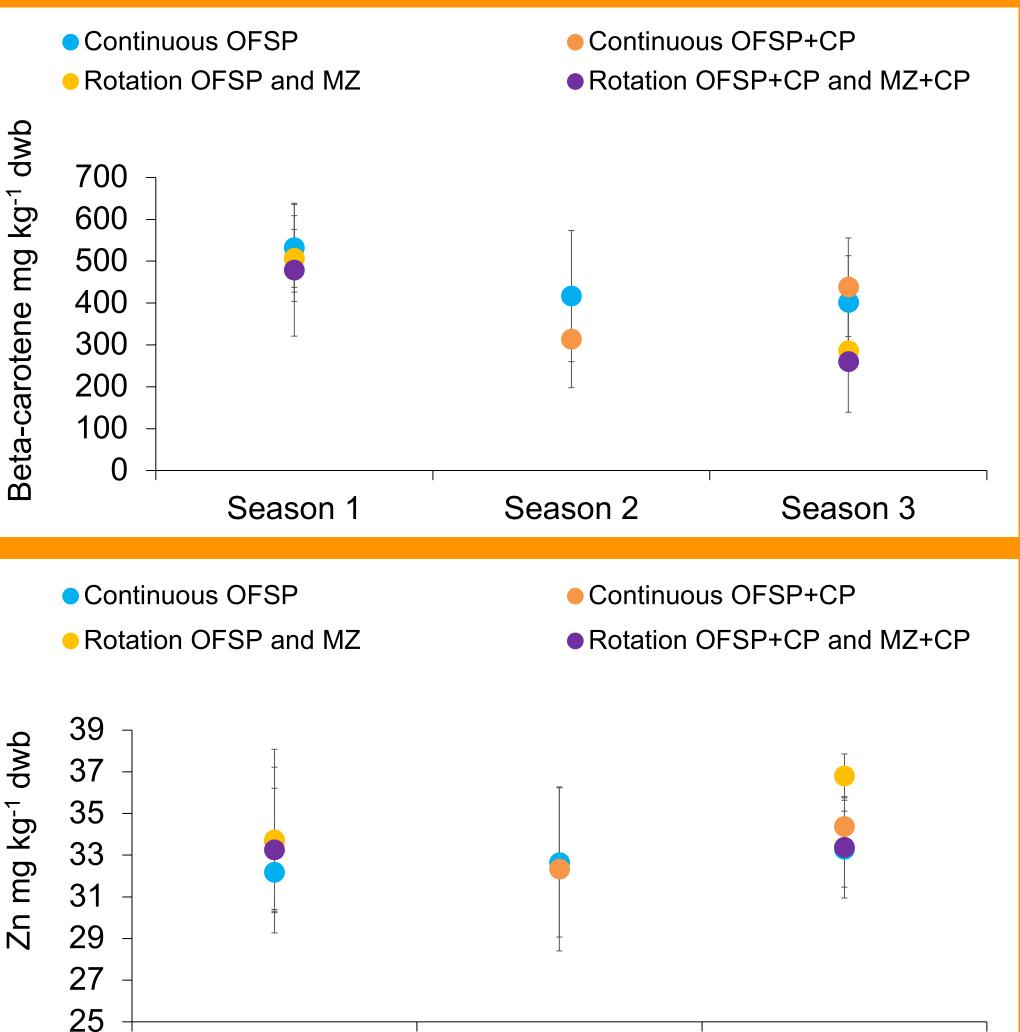
[nutrient] at harvesting
 [nutrient] at planting
 + soil nutrient accumulation
 - soil nutrient depletion

Continuous OFSP+CP

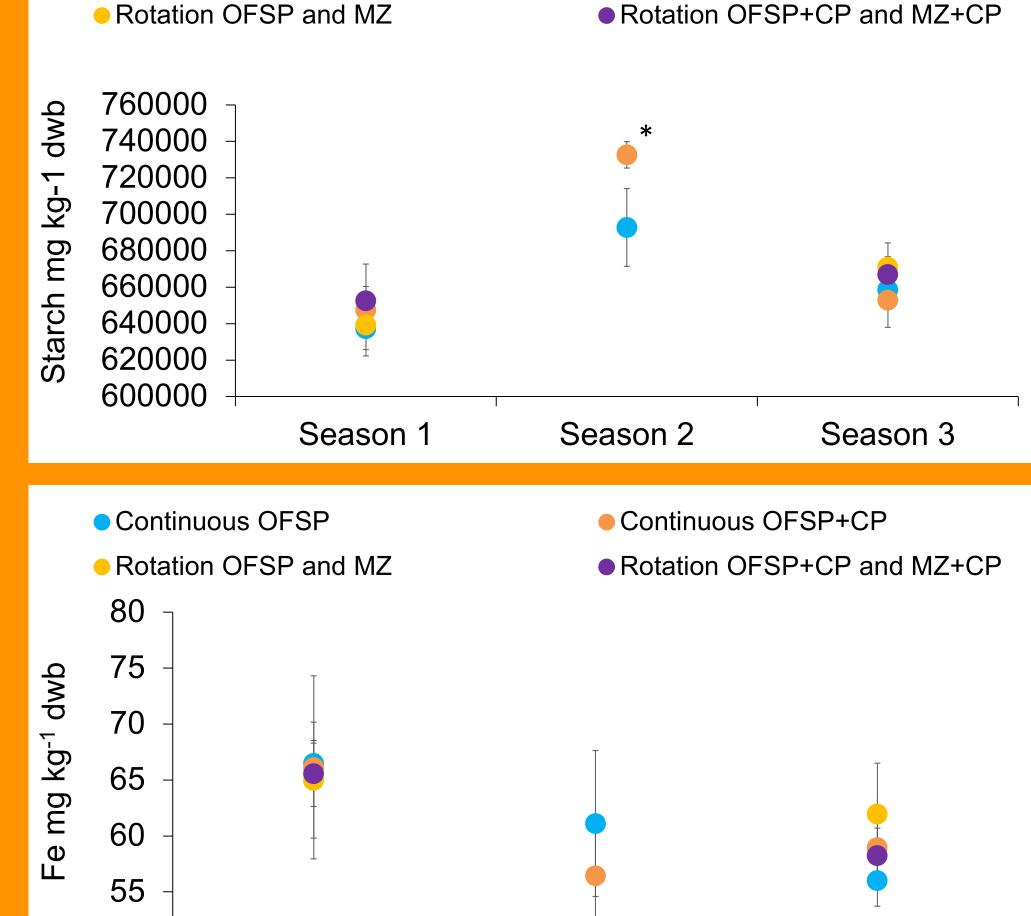
3. Results

Plant indicators: Yield and nutritional quality

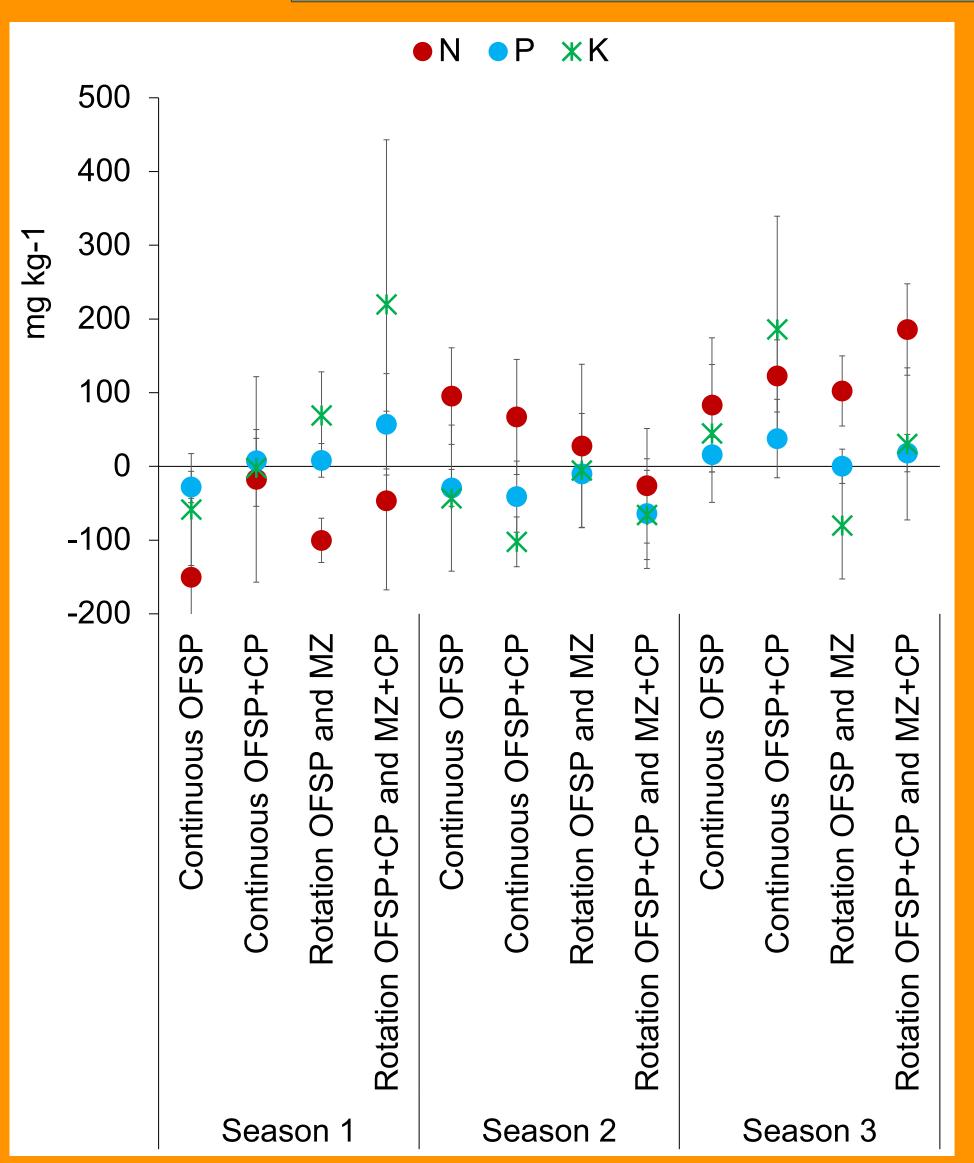


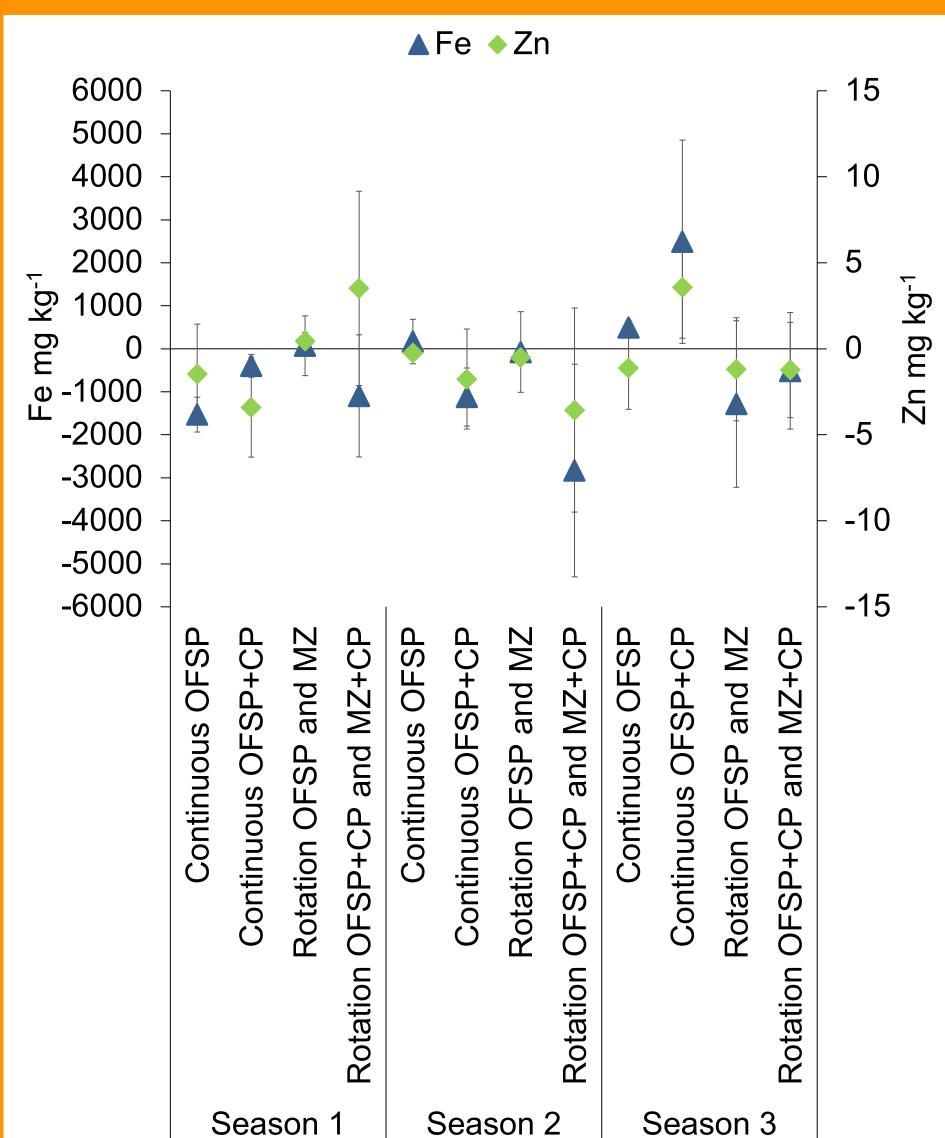


Season 2



Soil indicators: Total macro and micronutrients depletion/accumulation





Season 1

4. Remarks

Season 1

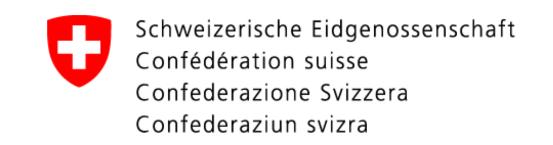
Season 2

Season 3

- The decreased storage root yield from first to subsequent seasons was caused by drier climate during the winter. Rotation schemes with OFSP and maize preserved yields closer to the first cropping season.
- ➤ B-carotene was not affected by soil fertilization and remained similar for all treatments during three seasons.
- Starch and protein contents were higher in continuous intercropping after the second harvest. This could be caused by lower yields caused by the environmental stress.
- Rotation combined with intercropping preserved K in soil after the first and third seasons.







STIFTUNG MERCATOR SCHWEIZ

Season 3



