Horizon Europe 2023-2027

AGROECOLOGY FOR WEEDS

Practice Abstract Nº 9

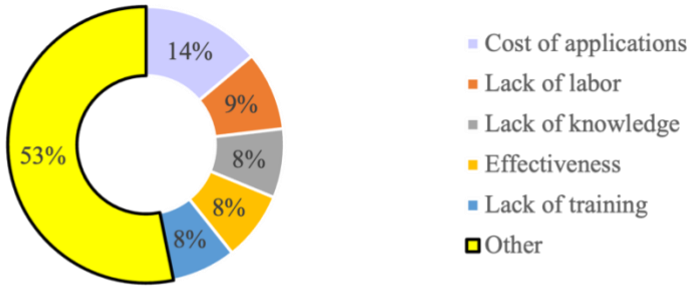
Top weaknesses of non-chemical weed management for farmers, researchers and advisors

INTRODUCTION

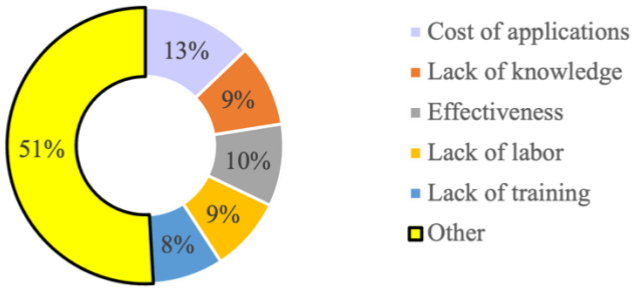
The effectiveness and sustainability of weed management strategies depend on stakeholders' perspectives, including farmers, researchers, and advisors. Understanding their concerns regarding **non-chemical weed management (NCWM) weaknesses** is crucial for developing integrated and sustainable weed management approaches. This study identifies commonalities and differences, enabling better-targeted solutions for agroecological weed management.

The analysis is based on 240 interviews conducted at the GOOD Living Labs in 2023 and presented as aggregated data.

TOP 5 WEAKNESSES OF NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT (FARMERS)



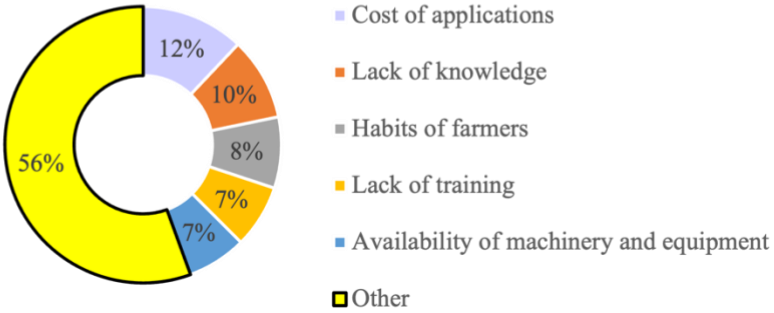
TOP 5 WEAKNESSES OF NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT (RESEARCHERS)



MAIN RESULTS – OUTCOMES

- Farmers, researchers, and advisors all highlight the expense associated with NCWM methods, limiting their adoption
- Non-chemical methods often require more labor, posing a challenge in agricultural systems facing workforce shortages
- A lack of knowledge and training on NCWM techniques hinders effective implementation, especially among farmers and advisors
- Factors such as the availability of equipment, entrenched farming habits, and other difficulties further complicate the transition to NCWM

TOP 5 WEAKNESSES OF NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT (ADVISORS)



PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Promote agroecological weed management** such as cover crops and bioherbicides to reduce herbicide reliance
2. **Create farmer training programs** to improve knowledge and implementation of agroecological weed management strategies
3. Encourage **research and innovation** & support **policies** for sustainable weed management

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