



Practice Abstract N° 10

Top threats for 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) threats** is crucial for developing integrated and sustainable weed management approaches. This study identifies commonalities and differences, enabling better-targeted solutions for agroecological weed management.

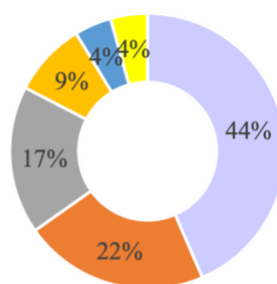
The analysis is based on 240 interviews conducted at the GOOD Living Labs in 2023 and presented as aggregated data.

MAIN RESULTS – OUTCOMES

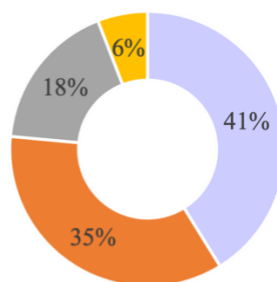
- ❗ Across all stakeholder groups, changing climate patterns and unpredictable weather conditions are seen as major obstacles to NCWM implementation
- ❗ Farmers and advisors emphasize that market dynamics, including competition and pricing, make NCWM less economically viable
- ❗ Researchers, advisors, and farmers note that non-chemical approaches often do not receive adequate recognition or financial incentives in the marketplace
- ❗ Farmers highlight the role of agricultural policies in shaping weed management choices, while advisors see the energy sector as a competing factor affecting land use and resources
- ❗ Researchers stress the growing challenge of invasive weeds

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

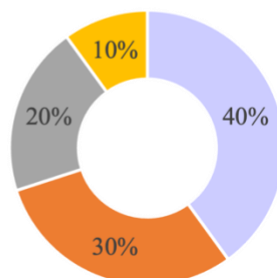
- 1 **Promote agroecological weed management** such as cover crops and bioherbicides to reduce herbicide reliance
- 2 **Create farmer training programs** to improve knowledge and implementation of agroecological weed management strategies
- 3 Encourage **research and innovation** & support **policies**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

TOP 5 THREATS FOR NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT (**FARMERS**)

- Climate and weather conditions
- Market
- Lack of recognition from markets
- Agricultural policy
- Energy sector
- Other

TOP 5 THREATS FOR NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT (**RESEARCHERS**)

- Climate and weather conditions
- Lack of recognition from markets
- Market
- Invasive species

TOP 5 THREATS FOR NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT (**ADVISORS**)

- Climate and weather conditions
- Market
- Lack of recognition from markets
- Energy sector


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