

## ABSTRACT

The production of maize is constrained by parasitic weeds, particularly *Striga*. A study was carried out to document farmers' knowledge, attitude and practices on *Striga* control among smallholder farmers across three districts: Kisumu West, Busia

and Teso South of Western Kenya. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the locations and farmers to be interviewed.

A semi structured, open and closed ended questionnaire was administered leading to field experiment. Besides village meetings (39.2%), farmers got informed on farming methods under *Striga* weed farms and its control technologies through neighbours (2.5%),

workshops and trainings (5.0%), field schools (3.7%), media (7.5%) and extension agents (10.8%). The attitudes of farmers towards

*Striga* control varied but frequently cited: long term viability of the *Striga* seed (12.5%), difficult to control sharing of farm tools (10.8%), expensive technologies (13.3%), lack of adequate information (18.3%), labour intensive (15.0%), large farms for use of push and pull technology (1.7%) and time consuming (12.5%). Farmers used various *Striga* control practices but traditional methods

(25%) were among the most used (25%). Concerted effort involving researchers, extension agents and private sector are, therefore,

required for wide scale dissemination and adoption of the existing modern control technologies.

**Key words:** Attitude, knowledge, practice, striga control technologies.