

Facts about weeds and cassava in Nigeria

- Nigeria is global leader in cassava production with over 50 million tons
- About 4.5 million farmers in Nigeria are engaged in cassava farming
- Average cassava yield is about 12–13 tons per hectare or half of those of leading countries in Asia
- Weeding takes 50 to 80% of the total labor budget of cassava growers
- Women contribute more than 90% of the handweeding labor
- About 69% of farm children between the ages of 5–14 are forced to leave school and engage in weeding

The Cassava Weed Management project aims to address the weed menace by increasing the productivity of cassava while minimizing the drudgery of hand weeding by women and children.

The project is employing best bet agronomic practices, mechanical weed control options, use of safe and environmentally friendly herbicides, and integrated weed control measures to address the weed challenge while preserving the natural resource base.

