Six Steps to Cassava Weed Management and Best Planting Practices

**STEP 1: Site Selection**
Select a suitable field that is not stony or very shallow, does not get water-logged and is not on a slope. Presence of biological activity (earthworms or worm casts) is an indication of good soils.

**STEP 2: Land Clearing - Slashing**
What does your field look like?

- Little Vegetation
- Bush (Trees)
- Broad Leaves
- Grass

**Does your field have any of the problem weeds below?**

- Vegetation is fresh and green.
- Vegetation is taller than knee height (50cm).

- NO
- YES

**Further actions:**
- Slash and clear the field. Remove stumps if needed
- Apply a glyphosate-containing herbicide at label rate (See list of products in separate sheet). Wait for 2 weeks to allow a total kill by the herbicide.

**STEP 3: Land Clearing - Herbicide Application**
(See details in separate sheet)

**STEP 4: Ploughing and Riddging**

**STEP 5: Planting**

**STEP 6: Weed Control**
**STEP 4: Ploughing and Ridging**

Tillage operations are costly. Investments in ploughing and ridging must be paid back by the returns from an increase in yield. Tillage investments are only advisable in well-managed fields of sufficient fertility in which a root yield of at least 5 tonnes per acre can be achieved.

- **I expect a yield of at least 5 tonnes per acre.**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

  - **Do not plough or ridge**

- **Ploughing can increase your root yield by at least 2 tonnes per acre. Calculate your expected profit:**
  - **2 X Cassava root price (NGN per tonne)**
  - **Is this larger than the cost of ploughing (NGN per acre)?**

- **I intend to harvest in the dry season.**
  - **YES**
  - **OR**
  - **My soil is high in clay and sometimes water-logged.**
  - **OR**
  - **Controlling weeds is very difficult in my field.**

  - **Ridge your field**

  - **Do not ridge**

  - **Ridging can increase your root yield by at least 1.5 tonnes per acre. Calculate your expected profit:**
  - **1.5 X Cassava root price (NGN per tonne)**
  - **Is this larger than the cost of ridging (NGN per acre)?**

**STEP 5: Planting and Pre-emergence Weed Control**

1. **Plant cassava** in moist soil, after two good rains. Planting recommended at 1 m between rows and 0.8 m within row (or 1 m x 0.7 m if you expect low sprouting).

2. **Spray a pre-emergence herbicide within 24 hours after planting.** Do not apply herbicide on dry soil.

3. **Visit farm regularly. Replace cuttings that failed to sprout after 2–3 weeks.**

   - * Obtain disease-free cuttings from an accredited source.

**STEP 6: Post-emergence Weed Control**

1. **Conduct weeding each time weeds cover 1/3 of the field and reach the 4-6 leaf stage. Apply a post-emergence herbicide, use a mechanical weeder, or weed manually with a hoe or cutlass.**

2. **For portions of the field where weeds are mostly grasses, apply a post-emergence herbicide that is specific for controlling grass weeds.**

3. **If the field contains mostly broadleaf weeds, or broadleaf weeds and grasses, glufosinate ammonium or glyphosate can be applied directly to weeds under the cassava canopy.**

4. **Do not use glyphosate or glufosinate ammonium if the cassava is less than 8 weeks old!** If less than 8 weeks old, use manual weeding to control broadleaf weeds.

5. **Glyphosate or glufosinate ammonium can be used later than 8 weeks. Always use a shield while spraying to avoid the product touching the green stems or leaves.**

6. **Alternate between herbicides to avoid resistant weeds.**

**Warning:** For health reasons, avoid any herbicide containing paraquat!!!

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