

SURVEY OF *STRIGA* INFESTATION IN SOME FARMING COMMUNITIES IN DUTSIN-MA, KATSINA STATE

MUHAMMAD, A.^{1*}, JARI, S.¹, MAHMOUD, B.A.² AND USMAN, A.²

¹Department of Crop Production and Protection, Federal University Dutsin-ma, Nigeria

²Federal College of Horticulture Dadin-Kowa, Gombe, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Striga parasitism has assumed a devastating dimension in Katsina State. *Striga* affects both cereal and legume crops. In 2013 cropping season, many farms were lost to both *Striga hermonthica* (Del.) Benth and *Striga gesnerioides* (Willd.) Vatke in Dutsin-ma Local Government Area (LGA). This observation necessitated the conduct of this survey during 2013 cropping season. The survey was conducted in some selected villages in Dutsin-ma LGA of Katsina State where *Striga* was a threat to food production. The results revealed that *Striga* was endemic in 95 % of the surveyed areas with more devastation on legumes (58.9 %) especially in the much drier areas of Sanawa and Shema towns. About 31.7 % of the farmers possess formal education while the majority (68.3 %) attended Kur'anic education (non-formal education). The farm holding is highly fragmented with 73.3 % of respondents having 0.1-2 hectares. The result also revealed that only 10 % of the farmers were aware of improved control method (which is resistant varieties) but do not to have access to it. It was estimated that yield losses of up to 75 % can be attributed to *Striga* parasitism in the Local Government area. The study revealed that the major bottleneck to adopting *Striga* control methods was lack of awareness due to poor extension activities by the extension agents. The study therefore recommends more research should be carried out in order to assist farmers on best way to reduce the menace caused due to this parasite.

Keywords: Survey, *Striga*, infestation, parasite, farming communities

***Correspondence:** amuhammad1@fudutsinma.edu.ng