



Chemical Weed Management in Finger Millet (*Eleusine coracana* L. Gaertn.)

Likhita Kumari Mohanty*, M. Roja, Sagar Maitra and M. Devender Reddy

Department of Agronomy, M.S. Swaminathan School of Agriculture, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Paralakhemundi, Odisha, India

*Corresponding author: likhitalikky917@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The yield loss due to weeds in finger millet has been reported to vary from 34 to 61% and for realising higher yields, weed control at proper time is required. As hand weeding is costly and unavailability of labour for weeding operation, the use of herbicide will be an alternative method of weed control. It has been reported that application of pre emergence herbicides like, 2, 4- D @ 0.75 or 1.0 kg a.i ha⁻¹, Oxadiargyl @ 80 g a.i ha⁻¹, Isoproturon @ 0.375 kg a.i ha⁻¹, and Nitrofen @ 0.5 kg a.i ha⁻¹ and post emergence herbicides Chlorimuron ethyl @ 5 or 10 g a.i ha⁻¹, and Ethoxysulfuron @ 12 g a.i ha⁻¹ found to give better weed control and yield of finger millet. In this paper, review on available literature on weed management in finger millet and presented.

Keywords: Finger millet, Weed Flora, Crop Weed Competition, Weed control methods

Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* L. Gaertn.) is an annual herbaceous plant widely grown as a cereal crop in the arid and semiarid areas in Africa and Asia and is popularly known as Ragi in Telugu, Rajika in Sanskrit and Mandia in Odia. It is an important small millet crop grown in India and has the highest productivity amongst small millets. Out of the total minor millets produced finger millet accounts for about 85% of production in India.

Finger millet is grown both for grain and fodder purposes and cultivated at an altitude of 3000 metres above MSL. The crop is mainly cultivated in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat.

The constraints in finger millet cultivation are weeds and the conventional method in hand weeding. The hand weeding has become the most expensive operation due to unavailability of labour and high

cost. Hence, alternate to hand weeding is use of herbicide for control of weeds. It has been reported that weed flora has a wide diversity within them; types of weeds species and its density directly influence the extent of yield loss in finger millet (Subhashree and Sowmyalatha, 2019). It has reported that uncontrolled weed growth during crop growth period reduces the grain yield ranging from 34 to 61% (Rama Chandra Prasad *et al.* 2013). Weed management is one of the production technologies and contributes about 43 per cent (Kumara *et al.* 2007) increase in yield. Weeds are crop as well as season associated and managed either by cultural, mechanical or chemical methods or by integration of all these methods. In this review, a brief description

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