

New method to disseminate the use of herbicides for the benefit of small-scale farmers in Kenya

Pernicious grass weeds are difficult to control by manual cultivation, and result in serious loss of crop yield potential. Herbicides are conventionally packaged in large containers, and beyond the reach of most small-scale farmers.

FIPS-Africa, working within the framework of the DfID-funded Crop Protection Programme, works closely with *Monsanto* to make herbicides more accessible to small-scale farmers.

Monsanto packaged its “*Roundup Max*” granular herbicide in 100g sachets, which cost only KSh200 (equivalent to US\$2.5). This is sufficient to kill grass weeds over a 0.25 acre plot of land. However, the pack is still expensive for farmers to experiment with.

FIPS-Africa developed a method whereby an extension worker visits farmers to conduct a small demonstration (10m x 5m) using 10g of herbicide and a 1 litre hand sprayer.

Approximately 3000 farms were visited over a 6 month period, and farmers were shown how to use the herbicide. A follow-up survey of 100 farmers showed that 80% of the farmers returned to their local stockist to purchase 1 or more 100 g sachets of the herbicide.

