

Chapter 14

Weed Suppression in Legume Crops for Stress Management

Gudeta W. Sileshi and Taye Tessema

14.1 Introduction

In many cropping systems farmers spend more time and labour (up to 70% of family labour) in removing weeds from their crop than in any other farm operation (Chikoye et al., 2001). Worldwide, weeds constitute a major constraint to the production of legumes as many legume species are poor competitor to weeds because of slow growth rate and limited leaf area development at early stages of crop growth (Solh and Palk, 1990). Hence, losses could be substantial when optimum weed control is not achieved. In chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) for instance, yield losses vary between 40 and 94% in the Indian subcontinent, between 40 and 75% in West Asia, 13–98% in North Africa, and 35% in Italy (Solh and Palk, 1990). In legumes such as chickpea, excessive weed competition may also adversely affect seed size, which is an important quality parameter in the Mediterranean region (Solh and Palk, 1990). Losses could vary from site to site or year to year depending on the legume species, the type of weed (parasitic vs. non-parasitic), the prevailing weed species, level of weed infestation, soil type, climate and management practices. Weed control becomes even more critical where moisture is limiting. When moisture is in short supply, weeds can reduce crop yields more than 50% through competition for moisture. In the past certain misconceptions about weeds have led in some cases to inappropriate use of control practices. Weeds have been assumed to exert only negative effects within cropping systems (Liebman and Dyck, 1993). However, weeds may enhance agro-ecosystem stability in terms of maintenance of ground cover, conservation of nutrients, and provision of habitat for beneficial organisms (Liebman and Dyck, 1993; Sileshi et al., 2008a). This calls for an ecosystem approach to weed management where the objective is weed management rather than control.

In the future, climate change, invasive weeds and herbicide resistance, are likely to pose challenges to weed management and water conservation. While rain-fed

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Metadata of the chapter that will be visualized online

ChapterTitle	Weed Suppression in Legume Crops to Stress Management	
Chapter Sub-Title		
Chapter CopyRight - Year	Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2010 (This will be the copyright line in the final PDF)	
Book Name	Climate Change and Management of Cool Season Grain Legume Crops	
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Abstract	<p>Worldwide, weeds constitute a major constraint to the production of food legumes. Weeds can reduce crop yields more than 50% through competition for moisture, and this can be aggravated under the anticipated climate change scenarios. In the future, the spread of invasive alien species of weeds and herbicide resistance, which are partly aggravated by increased global trade and climate change, are likely to pose challenges to weed management and water conservation. In this chapter we will synthesize the state-of-art knowledge on weed management in legume production systems with a major emphasis on anticipated impacts of climate change and alien invasive species on weed management and water conservation. We provide a brief review of the types of weeds and weed effects followed by review of recent developments in the management of weeds in legume cropping systems. We also assess the strength and limitations of each practice and suggest the need for emphasis on the integration of different environmentally friendly control measures that are economically feasible to smallholder farmers.</p>	

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In many cropping systems farmers spend more time and labour (up to 70% of family labour) in removing weeds from their crop than in any other farm operation (Chikoye et al., 2001). Worldwide, weeds constitute a major constraint to the production of legumes as many legume species are poor competitor to weeds because of slow growth rate and limited leaf area development at early stages of crop growth (Solh and Palk, 1990). Hence, losses could be substantial when optimum weed control is not achieved. In chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) for instance, yield losses vary between 40 and 94% in the Indian subcontinent, between 40 and 75% in West Asia, 13–98% in North Africa, and 35% in Italy (Solh and Palk, 1990). In legumes such as chickpea, excessive weed competition may also adversely affect seed size, which is an important quality parameter in the Mediterranean region (Solh and Palk, 1990). Losses could vary from site to site or year to depending on the legume species, the type of weed (parasitic vs. non-parasitic), the prevailing weed species, level of weed infestation, soil type, climate and management practices. Weed control becomes even more critical where moisture is limiting. When moisture is in short supply, weeds can reduce crop yields more than 50% through competition for moisture. In the past certain misconceptions about weeds have led in some cases to inappropriate use of control practices. Weeds have been assumed to exert only negative effects within cropping systems (Liebman and Dyck, 1993). However, weeds may enhance agro-ecosystem stability in terms of maintenance of ground cover, conservation of nutrients, provision of habitat for beneficial organisms (Liebman and Dyck, 1993; Sileshi et al., 2008a). This calls for an ecosystem approach to weed management where the objective is weed management rather than control.

In the future, climate change, invasive weeds and herbicide resistance, are likely to pose challenges to weed management and water conservation. While rain-fed

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46 agriculture is likely to remain a feature of the subsistence and large-scale agri-
47 cultural enterprises in the foreseeable future, climate change will be a major
48 determinant of their productivity. Another emergent problem is the increase in inva-
49 sive alien species of weeds, which is partly aggravated by increased global trade and
50 climate change (Ziska and George, 2004). Many plant species have moved out of
51 their natural geographic locations and have spread around the world with humans
52 either as accidental or deliberate introductions. The weedy nature of these species
53 often gives them an advantage over more desirable crop species because they often
54 grow and reproduce quickly, have seeds that persist in the soil seed bank for many
55 years, or have short life-spans with multiple generations in the same growing season.
56 Some species when introduced into a new environment lack the competition and pre-
57 dation they evolved under in their native environments freeing them to proliferate
58 quickly. The most serious problem that invasive weeds pose is their consumption of
59 large quantities of water. For example, the invasive tree, slatcedar (*Tamarix ramo-*
60 *sissima* Ledeb) uses more than twice as much water annually as all the cities in
61 southern California (Johnson, 1986). The overall effects of climate change on weed
62 invasions seem to bring bad news for farmers. Most of the important elements of
63 global change are likely to increase the prevalence of invasive species (Dukes and
64 Mooney, 1999). Thus invasive weeds could jeopardize legume production under
65 climate change.

66 In this chapter we will synthesize the state-of-art knowledge on weed manage-
67 ment in legume production systems with a major emphasis on climate change and
68 alien invasive species. Although the focus of this book is on cool season legumes,
69 we have also included warm season tropical legumes. Cool season legumes are
70 more widely grown in Mediterranean climates, which are characterized by rela-
71 tively scarce and erratic precipitation, with wet winter, and dry and hot summers.
72 This is typical of the Mediterranean basin in south Europe, North Africa and West
73 Asia as well as Western Australia and parts of South Africa. However, these legumes
74 are also adapted to various tropical or subtropical climates. For example, most cool
75 season legumes are widely grown at high elevations in subtropical countries such as
76 Ethiopia. In fact, wild and primitive forms of field pea and faba bean (*Vicia faba*) are
77 known to exist in the high elevations of Ethiopia, and hence some authorities con-
78 sider Ethiopia as one of the primary centres of diversity (Keneni et al., 2007). With
79 the increased interest in crop diversification in recent years, cool season crops are
80 being promoted more and more in tropical and subtropical climates. For example,
81 chickpea is being promoted in Malawi to make use of residual moisture after harvest
82 of main crops. In such areas a substantial overlap is expected in the distribution of
83 cool season legumes and tropical warm season legumes. We believe that limiting the
84 discussion to cool season crops only will not be helpful to the increasing number of
85 farmers who grow both types of legumes. Therefore, this chapter will use a broader
86 framework in order to address the relevant issues in legume cropping systems not
87 only in Mediterranean climates but also other climates especially in Sub-Saharan
88 Africa and the Indian subcontinent. Because of the lack of economic development
89 and institutional capacity, societies in these regions are likely to be among the most
90 vulnerable to the impact of climate change (IPCC, 2001).

14.2 Types of Weeds and Weed Effects in Legume Cropping Systems

14.2.1 Parasitic Weeds

The economically important group of parasitic weeds in legumes belongs to the genera *Orobanche* (Family Orobanchaceae), *Striga* and the closely related genus *Alectra* (Family Scrophulariaceae). *Orobanche* species are holoparasites, i.e. lack chlorophyll and entirely depend on hosts for nutrition. On the other hand *Striga* and *Alectra* are hemiparasites, i.e. they have some chlorophyll and are capable of photosynthesis, but they still rely on hosts for water and minerals. All are obligate root parasites and connection with a host plant is fundamental in order to survive. Therefore, their seeds principally remain dormant until a chemical exuded by the host root indicates the vicinity of a host. Their seeds germinate and produce a germ tube that must create a contact with the host root or die. Once the parasite attaches to the host, materials are transferred from the source (crop) to the sink (parasite) through straw like penetrations, called oscula. Affected plants usually grow slowly and, dependent on the severity of infestation, biomass production is lowered. Crop damage is often very significant and depends on crop variety, soil fertility, rainfall pattern and level of infestation in the field. The loss caused by *Orobanche* spp. is often directly proportional to its biomass (Sauerborn et al., 2007). The loss inflicted by *Striga* infection may be even greater than the parasite's biomass, indicating the involvement of other than source/sink-based relations such as the reduction of photosynthesis in the host plant (Frost et al., 1997).

14.2.1.1 Orobanche Species

The genus *Orobanche* includes more than 100 species in both the eastern and western hemispheres. They attack mainly dicotyledonous crops in both rain-fed and irrigated production systems (Parker and Riches, 1993). *Orobanche* species are favoured by relatively low atmospheric humidity, which ensures a high rate of transpiration and hence enhanced transfer of water and solutes from the host (Parker and Riches, 1993). Most of the economically important species are native to the Mediterranean region (i.e. North Africa, the Middle East, and southern Europe), and western Asia (Mohamed et al., 2006). However, invasive *Orobanche* species extend to North America, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, and Australia (Mohamed et al., 2006; Parker and Riches, 1993; Rispaïl et al., 2007). With the anticipated climatic changes taking the form of higher temperatures and drought, most of the *Orobanche* species also pose potential invasive threats to much of the United States, southern and eastern South America, eastern Asia, southern Africa, and southern Australia (Mohamed et al., 2006). In the following sections we will discuss those species that affect legumes:

Orobanche crenata Forsk occurs exclusively in agricultural and disturbed habitats. It is an important pest in faba bean, pea (*Pisum sativum*), lentil (*Lens culinaris*),

136 vetches (*Vicia* spp.), grass pea (*Lathyrus sativus*), chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) and
137 other grain and forage legumes in the Mediterranean and Middle East (Joel et al.,
138 2007; Mohamed et al., 2006; Rubiales et al., 2006). It occurs mainly in rain-fed
139 crops, and has been reported to be reduced under wet conditions (Parker and Riches,
140 1993). *O. crenata* has a limited range and has been collected primarily from south-
141 ern Europe and countries around the Mediterranean basin in North Africa and the
142 Middle East. It also shows a more restricted invasive potential compared with other
143 species (Mohamed et al., 2006). The limits of its distribution could be attributed to
144 its low and narrow range of optimum temperature requirement for conditioning and
145 germination, which was found to be around 18°C. Both lower and higher temper-
146 atures resulted in poor germination. As a result, for example, in Israel, *O. crenata*
147 was found only in winter (Mohamed et al., 2006). At high infestations, this species
148 could cause severe losses. In Israel it caused 100% loss in peas (Bernhard et al.,
149 1999). In Morocco, the total infested area was estimated to be about 50% of the
150 total faba bean area, causing 12–33% yield losses (Gressel et al., 2004). In Tunisia,
151 losses in faba bean yield were estimated at 50–80%. In Egypt, *O. crenata* occurs in
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180 **Fig. 14.1** *Orobancha crenata* infestation showing 100% yield loss on faba bean in South Wello, Ethiopia (Photo Taye Tessema)

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181 20% of the total area cropped with faba bean, causing 5–33% (Gressel et al., 2004).
 182 In Ethiopia the practice of harvesting green pods of faba bean is customary to pre-
 183 vent further yield loss by the weed. According to farmers crop loss could reach as
 AQ1 184 high as 75–100% (Besufekad et al., 1999) in some areas (Fig. 14.1).

185 *Orobanche aegyptiaca* Pers attacks a wide range of crops including tomato,
 186 potato, tobacco, eggplant, bell-pepper, pea, vetch, faba bean, carrot, celery, pars-
 187 ley, cumin, cabbage, cauliflower, rape, mustard, turnip, hemp, sunflower, spinach.
 188 In some areas, e.g. southern Russia, melon and water melon are also hosts. Also
 189 parasitizes ornamentals like Chrysanthemum and Gazania (CABI, 2003). It is an
 190 important pest of faba bean, common vetch, grass pea, chickpea and lentil in the
 191 Middle East and Asia. In addition, it also attack peanut (*Arachis hypogea*) (Parker
 192 and Riches, 1993).

193 *Orobanche foetida* Poiret is widely distributed in natural habitats in particularly
 194 in the western Mediterranean countries – Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Portugal and
 195 Spain (Vaz Patto et al., 2008). Until recently, it was known to attacks wild legumi-
 196 nous plants in the genera *Anthyllis*, *Astragalus*, *Ebenus*, *Lotus*, *Medicago*, *Ononis*,
 197 *Scorpiurus* and *Trifolium* (Pujadas-Salvá, 2002). It was considered an important
 198 agricultural parasite in faba bean and chickpea only in parts of Tunisia (Kharrat
 199 et al., 1992). In Tunisia, heavy infestation of faba bean fields by *O. foetida* is an
 200 emerging problem (Abbes et al., 2007). It has also been found in Morocco infecting
 201 common vetch (Rubiales et al., 2005). Recent studies show that *O. foetida* is evol-
 202 ving from parasitising wild hosts to crop plants, and this host shift is likely to pose a
 203 threat to agriculture (Vaz Patto et al., 2008).

204 *Orobanche ramosa* L. is mainly distribute in the Mediterranean but also extend-
 205 ing to central Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa and Ethiopia. *O. ramosa*
 206 can infect several legumes including chickpea, clover, groundnut, faba bean, lentil
 207 and pea (Parker and Riches, 1993). Its host range outside the legumes is very
 208 wide, including some members of the families Alliaceae (onions), Cannabidaceae,
 209 Asteraceae (lettuce, niger seed, safflower and sunflower), Brassicaceae, Solanaceae
 210 (tomato, eggplant, tobacco), Cucurbitaceae (melon, watermelon, cucumbers), and
 211 Umbeliferae (carrot, parsley, celery, parsnip) (CABI, 2003; Parker and Riches,
 212 1993).

213 *Orobanche minor* is found in native and disturbed habitats throughout the central
 214 and southern parts of Europe, and extends to the eastern coast of Africa and south-
 215 wards (Parker and Riches, 1993). It has a wide host range among forage legumes in
 216 temperate climates. In addition, it was imported to various other parts of the world
 AQ2 217 and is currently found as a garden weed. It is of economic importance on clover
 AQ3 218 (*Trifolium* spp.) in the USA (Osterbauer and Rehms, 2002; Eizenberg et al., 2004).
 219 Although other *Orobanche* species can infect leguminous plants, they are generally
 220 of little economic importance.

222 14.2.1.2 *Striga* Species

224 Worldwide, more than 30 species of *Striga* are recognized, 22 of which are endemic
 225 to Africa, the centre of distribution and diversity (Mohamed et al., 2006). *Striga*
 species are a particular problem in sub-humid and semi-arid areas (Parker and

226 Riches, 1993; Rispaïl et al., 2007). So far, *Striga gesnerioides* (Willd.) is the only
227 species known to parasitize legumes. This species also parasitizes members of the
228 family Convolvulaceae, Agavaceae and Euphorbiaceae. It occurs in natural vegeta-
229 tion throughout the drier regions of Africa (Reiss and Bailey, 1998). *S. gesnerioides*
230 is a highly variable but host-specific (Musselman, 1980). To-date eight host-specific
AQ4 231 strains of *S. gesnerioides* have been described (Mohamed et al., 2001). Of these, the
232 *Vigna* strain that attacks cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L.) Walp is the most impor-
233 tant biotic constraint to cowpea production in the Sahel, the Sudan savannah and
234 the northern Guinea savannahs of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Togo,
235 Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon (Parker and Riches, 1993). Yield losses of 30% or
236 more are common in these regions (Riches, 2002). Host-specific strains of *S. gesne-*
237 *rioides* also attack tobacco in localized areas in southern Africa, and sweet potato
238 in East Africa. Interestingly the strain, that attacks tobacco in Zimbabwe and South
239 Africa is unable to develop on cowpea roots, even though it is stimulated to germi-
240 nate by root exudates from cowpea and other legume non-hosts including pigeon pea
241 and velvet bean (*Mucuna pruriens*) (Riches, 2002). On the other hand, the American
242 strain of *S. gesnerioides* has not been reported to attack cultivated crops (Mohamed
243 et al., 2006).

244 The *Vigna* strain of *S. gesnerioides* devastates cowpea mostly in the Guinea and
245 Sudan savannahs and the Sahel region of West and Central Africa (Emechebe et al.,
AQ5 246 1997). However, the Sudano-Sahel zone is generally more affected than the Guinea
247 savannah zone (Singh and Emechebe, 1997). *S. gesnerioides* in southern Bénin has
248 been characterized as a race that is different from those found in the dry savan-
249 nah of West Africa (Carsky et al., 2003; Lane et al., 1994). With more cowpea
250 monocropping and increasing population pressure, *S. gesnerioides* damage in cow-
251 pea has become more acute, particularly in areas with sandy, infertile soils and low
252 rainfall (Singh and Emechebe, 1997). In Ethiopia, *S. gesnerioides* has been reported
253 to attack sweet potato (Fasil and Wogayehu, 2008). In areas of low precipitation
254 it can cause severe damage because its hosts are already stressed. Its adaptation
255 to drought has been well established and, with the increasing drought frequency
256 expected under climate change scenarios it could pose a major threat to cowpea
257 production. Recent analysis shows that *S. gesnerioides* has a great invasive potential
258 and, may expand its range further north in Africa (Mohamed et al., 2006).

260 14.2.1.3 *Alectra* Species

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262 *Alectra* includes about 30 species occurring primarily in tropical and subtropical
263 Africa (Mohamed et al., 2006; Parker and Riches, 1993). However, they also occur
264 in parts of India and China (Parker and Riches, 1993; Sauerborn et al., 2007). So
265 far *Alectra vogelii* Benth has been the major species known to attack leguminous
266 species. *A. vogelii* replaces *S. gesnerioides* as an important constraint to cowpea pro-
267 duction in East, Central and southern Africa (Parker and Riches, 1993). However, its
268 range extends from the Northern Province of South Africa and Swaziland, through
269 central Africa to Burkina Faso and Mali in the west, and through Tanzania and
270 Kenya to Ethiopia in the east (Riches, 2002). Its climatic requirements are similar

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271 to those of *S. gesnerioides*, and in many cases the two are sympatric (Mohamed
272 et al., 2006). However, deviation in temperature from the optimum significantly
273 reduced germination and attachment showing sensitivity to extreme temperatures
274 (Okonkwo and Raghavan, 1982). Some studies suggest sensitivity to drought
275 (Dawoud and Sauerborn, 1994). This probably explains its restriction to savannahs
276 and its absence in semiarid regions (Mohamed et al., 2006). This species attacks
277 cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) and groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea*) in Africa, with high
278 crop losses reported for Botswana, Ethiopia, and Mali (Mohamed et al., 2006).
279 Bambara (*Vigna subterranea*), mung bean (*Vicia radiata*), common bean (*Phaseolus*
280 *vulgaris*), chickpea and soybean (*Glycine max*) are also damaged in parts of eastern
281 and southern Africa. Soybean, which is relatively free of pests in the dry savannas
282 of Africa, is increasingly being threatened by *A. vogelii*. Pot trials also indicate that
283 *Dolichos lablab*, siratro (*Macroptilium atropurpureum*), velvet bean (*Mucuna pur-*
284 *puriens*) and *Stilozobium deerinianum* can be attacked. It can also attack members of
285 the family Compositae, Euphorbiaceae, Labiatae, Malvaceae and Pedaliaceae (Parker
286 and Riches, 1993). As with *S. gesnerioides*, host preference varies between regions
287 and narrows the host range of different populations. There is evidence suggesting
288 that *A. vogelii* has developed host-specific strains, each attacking a narrow suite of
289 hosts, but host specificity is more complex than that for *Striga*. Those from West
290 Africa and Cameroon attack cowpea and groundnut. Populations from Botswana
291 and northern parts of South Africa attack mung bean, while populations from Kenya,
292 Malawi and Zimbabwe attack bambara nut in addition to the other crops which
293 are susceptible elsewhere (Riches, 2002). This wide range of hosts poses a prob-
294 lem for the introduction of alternative pulses or legume cover crops into an arable
295 rotation.

296 *A. vogelii* cause considerable yield reduction of grain legume crops throughout
297 semi-arid areas of sub-Saharan Africa (Parker and Riches, 1993; Singh et al., 1993).
298 Yield losses of 80–100% have, for example, been recorded on heavily infested cow-
299 pea fields in Botswana (Riches, 2002). Complete failure of some groundnut varieties
300 and 30–50% reduction in Bambara nut yield occur in South Africa (Parker and
301 Riches, 1993). In the northern Guinea savannah of Nigeria, it causes yield losses
302 of 15% in groundnut. Late-sown soybean crops may be completely destroyed in
303 northern Nigeria (Riches, 2002). Another minor species *Alectra pica* (Hiern) Hemsl
304 has also been reported to attack cowpea and groundnut in Ethiopia and cowpea in
305 Cameroon (Riches et al., 1992). *A. pica* has a similar host range to West African
306 populations of *A. vogelii* parasitizing cowpea and groundnut but not bambara or
307 mung bean (Parker and Riches, 1993).

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14.2.2 Non-parasitic Weeds

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312 All non-parasitic weeds possess chlorophyll and can have either C₃ or C₄ photo-
313 synthesis. Most grass weeds are C₄ plants, while many broad-leaved weeds and
314 legume crops are C₃ plants. These differences have significant implications in terms
315 of legume weed competition. In some instances, the legumes have shown stronger

316 ability to compete with the grass weeds. For example, faba bean and soybean were
317 stronger competitors to *Cynodon dactylon* (Juraimi et al., 2005). Among the C₄
318 plants, grasses are perhaps the most dominant weeds in cool season legume cropping
319 systems. The abundance and composition of grass and broad-leaved weeds species
320 varies with the region, climate and soil type.

321 Non-parasitic weeds can be classified as native and invasive species. Terms
322 such as noxious weed are also used somewhat loosely to refer to weeds that
323 infest large areas or cause economic and ecological damage to an area. It must be
324 noted however that a clear distinction exists between invasive and noxious weeds.
325 Irrespective of their origin, noxious weeds are those species if left unchecked that
326 often dominate the environment where crop plants are to be grown. Among the
327 invasive weeds, the parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.) is probably
328 the best known in legume production systems (Fig. 14.2). Introduced from Central
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359 **Fig. 14.2** Close up of *Parthenium hysterophorus* (top) and infestation in beans at Instituto de
360 Investigaç o Agr ria de Moçambique (IIAM) near Maputo, Mozambique (Photo Gudeta Sileshi)

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361 America, this invasive weed is widely distributed throughout southern Africa and
362 East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa), South and South-
363 east Asia (India, China, Vietnam, the Pacific Islands, Nepal, Pakistan and Taiwan),
364 Australia and many other countries of the world cutting across country-boundary
365 and climate-barrier (Besufekad et al., 2005; Evans, 1997; Shabbir and Bajwa, 2006;
366 Taye et al., 2004a, b; Taye, 2005). Thus, invasive weeds could jeopardize legume
367 production under climate change. It is still spreading and may become more promi-
368 nent in other parts of the World in the near future. Although it has not been reported
369 from many parts of southern Africa, the first author have recently noted it in legume
370 fields in Mozambique (Fig. 14.2). Because parthenium weed is an extremely prolific
371 seed producer, with up to 25,000 seeds per plant, and with an enormous seed bank,
372 estimated at 200,000 seeds/m², it has the potential to be an extremely aggressive
373 colonizer of crops (Evans, 1997).

374 The spiny cocclebur (*Xanthium strumarium*) is another invasive species com-
375 mon in legume production areas of Australia, Africa and the Indian sub continent.
376 However, it is less publicized weed. Mexican poppy (*Argemone mexicana*), native
377 to tropical America, is now found in at least 30 countries with warm climates in the
378 world (CABI, 2003). It is adapted to a wide range of habitats, including humid and
379 semi-arid areas and a wide range of soil types. Legumes such as *Phaseolus vulgaris*
380 (common bean), *Arachis hypogaea* (groundnut), and *Medicago sativa* (lucerne) are
381 among the affected crops (CABI, 2003).

382 Some of the existing problems in legume crops arise from the incidence of
383 herbicide resistant weeds. Herbicide resistance is an induced inherent ability of
384 some plant species to survive and reproduce after receiving a lethal dose of her-
385 bicide. Since the first report in 1970 there have been many reports of herbicide
386 resistance (Chaudhry, 2008a; Heap, 2003). A global survey shows that there are
387 over 323 resistant biotypes in 187 species (112 dicots and 75 monocots) (HRAC,
388 2009). Resistance to herbicides of various modes of action has been reported
389 in over 60 countries worldwide (Chaudhry, 2008a). The evolution of herbicide
390 resistance is already a serious problem in parts of the Mediterranean. The first
391 report of herbicide resistance in Tunisia concerned ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*)
392 in cereals in 1996 (Heap, 2003). The total infested area with herbicide-resistant
393 *Lolium* has been estimated to be 4,000–40,000 ha and is increasing (Gressel et al.,
394 2004).

14.2.3 Weed Effects

399 Parasitic weeds inflict fitness costs by withdrawing water, minerals, and photo-
400 synthates directly from the host (Sauerborn et al., 2007). On the other hand,
401 non-parasitic weeds cause losses through competition with legumes for moisture,
402 light and soil nutrients. In any case, weeds consume large quantities of water, and
403 most of it is lost by transpiration to the atmosphere. Some common annual weeds
404 growing in association with cultivated crops use up to three times more water to
405 produce a given amount of dry matter as do the crops.

406 The other direct weed effect is production of toxins and allelopathy. For exam-
407 ple, parasitic weeds may produce phytotoxins that adversely affect the growth of
408 their host. Many non-parasitic weeds also affect crops through allelopathy, a type of
409 interaction in which one plant releases chemicals that are detrimental to the growth
410 of other plants growing in its vicinity. The chemicals responsible for allelopathic
411 activity are called allelochemicals, which are synthesized within plants as secondary
412 metabolites and released through leachate from fresh and decaying plant parts or
413 microbial decomposition of the fallen plant parts, or as root exudates or volatiliza-
414 tion. A good example in legume cropping systems is the allelopathy by the invasive
415 parthenium weed. Parthenium produces water soluble allelochemicals from roots,
416 stems, leaves, inflorescences, pollen and seeds (Evans, 1997). Allelopathic effects
417 of foliar leachates from parthenium weed have been demonstrated on cowpea, black
418 gram, chickpea, green gram, mung bean, soybean, French beans (Evans, 1997; Kohli
419 and Batish, 1994; Oudhia et al., 1997; Singh et al., 2003). The germination and
420 yields of traditional Indian pulse crops (guar, black and green gram) were also
421 reduced when these were grown in soils previously infested by parthenium weed
422 (Kohli and Batish, 1994). In addition, pollen allelopathy of parthenium weed has
423 been demonstrated and, this may affect crops within the infested fields as well as
424 in neighbouring weed-free crops (Evans, 1997). Some of the allelochemicals were
425 also shown to have an inhibitory effect on nitrogen fixing and nitrifying bacteria
426 (Kanchan and Jayachandra, 1981). These indirect and cryptic effects which can
427 influence crop yields are even more difficult to quantify than direct competition.

428 Weeds may also act as alternative hosts of crop pests. For instance, in western
429 Kenya *Striga hermonthica* is a good host for root-knot nematodes (Sileshi et al.,
430 2008a). The parthenium weed has been shown to be an alternative host of bean
431 aphid, *Aphis fabae* Scopoli in southern India (Evans, 1997). Weeds can also harbour
432 and spread plant pathogens that infect and degrade the quality of crop. For example,
433 the parthenium weed act as a secondary host of plant diseases. For example, the bac-
434 terial pathogen, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *phaseoli*, could be transmitted from
435 parthenium weed to beans (Evans, 1997). The parthenium weed also harbours the
436 faba bean phyllody phytoplasma (Taye et al., 2004a, b). A host range study in India
437 (Mathur and Muniyappa, 1993) has also shown that the phytoplasma disease was
438 transmitted to field bean (25%), soybean (20%), lupin (20%), green gram (10%),
439 horsegram (10%) blackgram (7%) and cowpea (5%). In some agro-ecosystems,
440 complex interactions occur between weeds, insects and pathogens (Sileshi et al.,
441 2008a).

442 The negative impact to a native species caused by an invasive species might
443 trigger additional negative interactions for other associated native species. Invasive
444 weed such as parthenium may out-compete and displace native grasses and
445 broadleaf plants, which may have served as the sources of food and refuge to nat-
446 ural enemies of crop pests (Mulisa et al., 2008; Taye et al., 2004a, b). Invasive
447 alien species can cause significant and sometimes irreversible environmental and
448 socio-economic impact at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels. Their manage-
449 ment costs include not only costs of prevention, control and mitigation, but also
450 indirect costs due to impacts on ecological services.

14.3 Drought, Climate Change and Weed Effects

Among the number of abiotic and biotic factors curtailing crop productivity, drought ranks as one of the most important ones. Drought effects could be aggravated by weed competition as weeds often use moisture before crop requirements are met. Drought is considered relative to some long-term average condition of balance between precipitation and evapo-transpiration in a particular area, a condition often perceived as “normal”. It is also related to the timing (i.e., principal season of occurrence, delays in the start of the rainy season, occurrence of rains in relation to principal crop growth stages) and the effectiveness (i.e., rainfall intensity, number of rainfall events) of the rains. Other climatic factors such as high temperature, high wind, and low relative humidity are often associated with it and can significantly aggravate its severity. For the sake of clarity and to put weed management in the context of drought, we identify three types of drought: meteorological, agricultural and hydrological drought. Meteorological drought is defined usually on the basis of the degree of dryness (in comparison to some “normal” amount) and the duration of the dry period. Agricultural drought is said to exist when soil moisture is depleted so that the yields of plants are reduced considerably. Agricultural drought links various characteristics of meteorological or hydrological drought to agricultural impacts, focusing on precipitation shortages, differences between actual and potential evapo-transpiration, soil water deficits, reduced ground water levels, and so forth. Plant water demand depends on prevailing weather conditions, biological characteristics of the specific plant, its stage of growth, and the physical and biological properties of the soil. Hydrological drought, on the other hand, is associated with the effects of periods of precipitation shortfalls on surface or subsurface water supply. The frequency and severity of hydrological drought is often defined on a watershed or river basin scale. Although the three type of drought are interlinked, agricultural drought has direct influence on the interaction between weeds and crops.

With climate change, drought is predicted to occur 10 times more frequently in the future over a large part of the Mediterranean (Weiß et al., 2007). In the Sahel, droughts with varying degrees of severity occur in two out of every five years, making harvest of the major food and cash crops highly uncertain (Hengsdijk and van Kuelen, 2002). In the Sahel, 20–40% of annual rainfall is lost as runoff. This often results in agricultural drought, which cannot always be linked to low rainfall (meteorological drought). The loss of rain water through runoff, soil evaporation and drainage below the rooting zone is often considered as the major cause of moisture stress (Zougmore et al., 2004). Water transpired by weeds could exacerbate crop drought stress in dry periods through increasing soil moisture deficits, resulting in a decrease in crop water use efficiency (WUE). For example, in cluster bean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*), water consumption was higher in unweeded plots. WUE decreased with the increase in time of weed removal beyond 20 days after crop sowing (Yadav, 1998). Thus weed control becomes even more important in drought conditions.

The effect of climate change such as rising temperature and changes in precipitation are already affecting agricultural production (Lobell et al., 2008; Long

496 et al., 2006). Future impacts are projected to worsen as the temperature continues
497 to rise and as precipitation becomes more unpredictable. Model projections suggest
498 that increased temperature and decreased soil moisture will act to reduce global
499 crop yield by 2050 (Long et al., 2006). There are also strong empirical reasons for
500 expecting climate change to alter weed management (Chaudhry, 2008b; Patterson,
501 1995; Ziska and George, 2004; Ziska et al., 1999). Firstly, changes in precipita-
502 tion, CO₂ concentration and temperature are likely to have significant direct (CO₂
503 stimulation of weed growth) and indirect effects (climatic variability) on weed biol-
504 ogy and distribution (Zikas, 2002a; Ziska et al., 1999). In the following sections
505 we will briefly describe the effects of elevated temperature, carbon dioxide and
506 precipitation.

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510 *14.3.1 Elevated Temperature*

511

512 A common feature of many projections is a rise in temperature over much of the
513 regions where legumes are traditionally grown. Some climate models suggest that
514 temperatures could rise up to 4°C by 2,100 in many inland areas and by over half of
515 this over the Mediterranean Sea. There has also been a warming trend in southern
516 Africa over the last few decades. This is consistent with the global trend of temper-
517 ature rise since 1970s. According to the IPCC (2001), temperatures in the region
518 have risen by over 0.5°C over the last 100 years. Overall, Africa has warmed by
519 0.7°C over the 20th century and general circulation models project warming across
520 Africa ranging from 0.2°C to more than 0.5°C per decade (Hulme et al., 2001;
521 IPCC, 2001). Most cool season legumes have temperature optima for growth and
522 development processes within the range of 15–25°C, with a base temperature of
523 0°C (Johansen et al., 2000). The optimum temperature for warm season tropical
524 legumes is within the range of 25–35°C, with a base temperature of 10°C (Johansen
525 et al., 2000). Increasing temperatures may mean increased stress on legumes and
526 susceptibility to insects and diseases. It could also lead to an expansion of weeds
527 into higher latitudes or altitudes. Global warming could extend the northern limits
528 of parasitic weeds by several hundred miles (Mohamed et al., 2006). Studies on the
529 effects of increasing temperatures on the germination and emergence of some inva-
530 sive weeds suggest that such weeds could increase in distribution and importance
531 (Ahmed and Wardle, 1991).

532 Increase in temperature can also pose a variety of direct and indirect effects on
533 herbicides (Chaudhry, 2008b). For example extended heat reduces moisture in both
534 soil and plant, limiting herbicide uptake either from the soil or foliage. Elevated
535 temperature can also lead to structural degradation of herbicides and loss of potency.
536 Herbicide volatility and carryover may also increase with increased temperature.
537 This may harm susceptible crops that come into rotation. Phyto-toxicity caused by
538 Triazines (e.g. simazine and atrazine) applied pre-emergence was reported to have
539 increased with increase in temperature (Chaudhry, 2008b).

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14.3.2 Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Enrichment

Atmospheric CO₂ has risen from about 260 parts per million (ppm) 150 years ago to 380 ppm today (Houghton et al., 2001). The effect of increasing atmospheric CO₂ on climate change and agriculture has been a source of worry and mixed feelings for decades. The effect of rising carbon dioxide (CO₂) on crop yields is much more complicated and, more recent analyses cast doubts on earlier projections that suggested that CO₂ fertilization will increase crop yields (Long et al., 2006; Schimel, 2006). Hundreds of studies have shown that most major crops respond positively to CO₂ enrichment, because of the direct stimulatory effect of CO₂ on photosynthesis and the indirect effect of decreasing the water requirement of crops. The former effect should make crops more productive and the later more drought-tolerant (Schimel, 2006). Yet a new analysis of far more realistic studies based on the free-air concentration enrichment (FACE) technique casts doubts on projections (Long et al., 2006). The FACE results in food crops are different from earlier reports from laboratory and chamber studies in a consistent way (Schimel, 2006). Although the beneficial effects of elevated CO₂ on crop yields are well established for the experimental conditions tested, this knowledge is incomplete for numerous tropical crops and crops grown under suboptimal conditions (Schimel, 2006).

Results from various studies suggest that rising CO₂ could alter current yield losses associated with competition from weeds; and that weed control will be crucial in realizing any potential increase in economic yield of agronomic crops such as soybean as atmospheric CO₂ increases (Ziska, 2002a, b; Zikas et al., 1999). An important direct effect of high CO₂ on plants is a partial closure of stomata, which will restrict transpiration more than it restricts photosynthesis. The different effects of elevated atmospheric CO₂ have important implications for weed/crop interaction (Chaudhry, 2008b). It has been well known that the C₃ photosynthetic pathway is less efficient than the C₄ pathway. Because of this, CO₂ enrichment is more beneficial to plants with C₃ than those with C₄ photosynthetic pathway (Wolfe and Erickson, 1993). Recent studies and syntheses indicate that vegetative growth, competition, and potential yield of economically important C₄ crops could be reduced by co-occurring C₃ weeds as atmospheric carbon dioxide increases (Wolfe and Erickson, 1993; Ziska, 2002a, b). It can be argued that many weed species have the C₄ photosynthetic pathway and therefore will show a smaller response to atmospheric CO₂ relative to C₃ crops. However, this argument does not consider the range of available C₃ and C₄ weeds present in any agronomic environment. Hence, if a C₄ weed species does not respond, it is likely that a C₃ weed species will. To date, for all weed/crop competition studies where the photosynthetic pathway is the same, weed growth is favoured as CO₂ is increased. However, the interactive effect of temperature and water availability could influence the photosynthetic characteristics of the C₃ and C₄ species over the growing season (Niu et al., 2005). Many of the invasive weeds reproduce by vegetative means and may show a strong response to increases in atmospheric CO₂ (Ziska and George, 2004).

586 CO₂ enrichment may also stimulate vigorous weed growth, and induce phys-
587 ical or physiological resistance/tolerance to herbicides (Chaudhry, 2008b). These
588 changes also could limit chemical weed control efficacy and increase weed–crop
589 competition. In addition, elevated CO₂ could lead to further below ground carbon
590 storage with subsequent increases in the growth of roots or rhizomes, particularly
591 in perennial weeds. Consequently, mechanical tillage may lead to additional plant
592 propagation in a higher CO₂ environment, with increased asexual reproduction from
593 below ground structures and negative effects on weed control (Ziska and George,
594 2004).

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597 ***14.3.3 Reduced Precipitation***

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599 The second effect of climate change is its effect on precipitation. Annual precip-
600 itation is projected to decline over much of the Mediterranean region south of
601 40–45° N (Palutikof and Wigley, 1996) where cool seasons legumes are tradition-
602 ally grown. Even areas receiving more precipitation may get drier than today due
603 to increased evaporation and changes in the seasonal distribution of rainfall and
604 its intensity. Changes in large-scale atmospheric circulation, as represented by the
605 El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO),
606 would further affect the occurrence of extreme events (Lionello et al., 2006). The
607 effects of climate change have also been dramatic in tropical and subtropical areas of
608 Africa. While ENSO is a natural part of the Earth’s climate, an important concern
609 is whether its intensity or frequency may change as a result of global warming.
610 The second half of the twentieth century has witnessed a dramatic reduction in
611 mean annual precipitation and, severe droughts have occurred since the early 1970s
612 (Giannini et al., 2003). East Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania and the Nile basin
613 experiences, in the long rains from March to May, wetter than normal conditions due
614 to ENSO. From 1996 to 2003, there has been a decline in rainfall of 50–150 mm
615 per season across most of eastern Africa (Funk et al., 2008). Under intermediate
616 warming scenarios, parts of equatorial East Africa will likely experience 5–20%
617 increased rainfall from December to February and 5–10% decreased rainfall from
618 June to August by 2050 (Hulme et al., 2001).

619 Similarly, southern Africa has experienced significant rainfall variability since
620 the late 1960s. Below-normal rainfall years are becoming more and more frequent
621 and the departure of these years from the long-term normal more severe. In par-
622 ticular droughts became more intense and widespread (Faucherreau et al., 2003).
623 Between 1988 and 1992, over 15 drought events were reported in various areas of
624 southern Africa. Rainfall variability in southern Africa has shown increased statisti-
625 cal association to the ENSO phenomenon (Faucherreau et al., 2003). There has been
626 an increase in the frequency and intensity of El Niño episodes. Prior to the 1980s,
627 strong El Niños occurred on average every 10–20 years. However, the early 1980s
628 marked the beginning of a series of strong El Niño events. Climatic changes of
629 this magnitude will have far-reaching negative impacts on the availability of water
630 resources, and hence the competition between crops and weeds.

14 Weed Suppression in Legume Crops

631 Precipitation (both amount and temporal variation) may play important roles in
 632 regulating the growth dynamics of C_3 and C_4 plants (Niu et al., 2005). Dry win-
 633 ters and wet summers promote C_4 expansion, while wet winters and dry summers
 634 increase the abundance of C_3 plants. At the global scale, increasing variability of
 635 seasonal rainfall accelerated the expansion of C_4 grassland in Northern America,
 636 China, and Africa (Pagani et al., 1999).

637 Drought also poses serious challenges to the use of herbicides. Many herbicides
 638 lose effectiveness during dry periods or drought conditions. Soil incorporated herbi-
 639 cides work best when soils have reasonable moisture levels after incorporation has
 640 been completed. Pre-emergence herbicides also depend totally upon rainfall after
 641 applications to activate the product. During drought stress weeds develop a thicker
 642 cuticular layer on their leaves or increased leaf pubescence to reduce moisture loss.
 643 This subsequently reduces herbicide entry into the leaf and decrease in herbicide
 644 efficacy.

645 646 647 **14.4 Weed Control: The *Status Quo* and Future Needs**

649 In parts of the Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, legumes are produced
 650 mostly by smallholder farmers on marginal soils and with traditional low-input tech-
 651 nologies. Rain-fed agriculture also remains the dominant legume production system
 652 in these regions (Oweis et al., 2001; Tuberosa et al., 2007). In dry land agricul-
 653 ture, intensity and type of weed pressure depend upon the rainfall pattern during the
 654 crop season. Clearly, water supply can limit crop yield and there are few manage-
 655 ment options to try and improve this. In future, water will also become increasingly
 656 scarce particularly in rain-fed semi-arid regions, thus limiting the option for irri-
 657 gation (Shiklomanov, 2001). Research concerned with common annual weeds and
 658 with their water use requirements, compared with those of agricultural crops, shows
 659 that weed control must become an integral part of the farming operation. In the fol-
 660 lowing sections we will briefly discuss the major approaches used for control of
 661 parasitic and non-parasitic weeds. There are a number of general and comprehen-
 662 sive reviews and books (Evans, 1997; Gressel et al., 2004; Parker, 1991; Parker and
 663 Riches, 1993; Rispaill et al., 2007) on weed biology and management. The present
 664 work focuses on more recent developments in weed control specifically aimed at
 665 drought management in the context of anticipated climate change. In the following
 666 text, we will give a brief overview of the status quo in weed control, the limitations
 667 and main gaps in our knowledge and what further research should be undertaken to
 668 begin to address these gaps.

669 670 671 **14.4.1 Manual Weed Control**

673 Hand pulling, hoeing and tillage are the traditional methods practiced for a long
 674 time in West Asia, North Africa, the Indian-subcontinent and other parts of the
 675 world (Saad El-din, 2003; Sharara et al., 2005; Solh and Palk, 1990; Wortmann,

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1993). For example in Egypt and Ethiopia, hoeing in faba bean fields is the most widespread method of weed control (Saad El-din, 2003; Sharara et al., 2005). The major advantage is that it usually requires no capital outlay when cash is not readily available and labour is provided from the farmer's immediate family or through non-cash exchange. It may also be the only feasible method for weeding broadcast legumes when herbicides are not available (Desta, 2000). Hand pulling and hoeing have become increasingly expensive because of scarcity of labour in rural areas. Where crops are not normally planted in rows, hand pulling is a time-consuming task. In Ethiopia it has been estimated to take up to 140 h to weed a hectare of land (Desta, 2000). This method is effective when carried out two to three times at early stages of weed development. When weeding is delayed, irreversible damage, from weed competition occurs and removal of bigger weeds requires more man-power, with little economic return and serious physical damage to the crop (Solh and Palk, 1990). In addition, parasitic weeds exert their greatest damage prior to their emergence. Therefore, the majority of field loss may occur before diagnosis of infection (Sauerborn et al., 2007).

Preparatory tillage indirectly contributes to weed control as good seedbed preparation reduces the weed population and gives advantage to the crop to grow rapidly thus improving its competitiveness with weeds (Solh and Palk, 1990). Inter-row cultivation using implements drawn by animal or tractor power contributes to weed control directly. In the Ethiopian highlands, making three to six passes with a traditional ox-drawn plough before planting is a common practice aimed at reducing weed emergence (Desta, 2000). In some of the farming systems in the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region, however, the very wide row spacing (1.0–2.0 m) practiced to control weeds through inter-row cultivation is a major limitation to high yield in spring chickpea due to very low crop density. For example, in Algeria and Morocco, farmers increase row spacing up to 2.0 m to facilitate inter-row cultivation (Haddad, 1988). To exploit fully the potential of winter sowing, the crop should be planted at high population density (Saxena, 1987) which makes inter-row cultivation impossible, except at very early stage of crop growth. Since weeds emerge with the winter sown crop and create severe competition, inter-row cultivation is not sufficient and intra-row hand weeding is necessary under most conditions (Solh and Palk, 1990). The limited effectiveness of manual weeding methods, particularly in winter sown chickpea, and the rising labour costs impose limitations on these methods. Under climate change scenarios, elevated temperature and CO₂ may result in faster growth of both weeds and crops. This may shorten the window of opportunity for manual weeding as this increases labour requirement at critical times.

14.4.2 Resistant Genotypes

The legumes could be resistant to weed through different mechanisms: (1) chemically induced resistance, (2) transgenic resistance, (3) inherent genetic resistance; (4) weed suppressive ability; and (5) tolerance or the ability to maintain high yield despite weed competition.

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721 **14.4.2.1 Chemically-Induced Resistance**

722 Recently, chemically induced resistance (CIR) has been identified as a tool for con-
 723 trolling plant pathogens, including fungi, bacteria and viruses, but only recently has
 724 this phenomenon started to be evaluated as a control strategy against parasitic weeds
 725 (Pérez-de-Luque et al., 2004). The phenomenon has been studied at the molecular
 726 level and has proven to be mediated by salicylic acid and associated with a number
 727 of defence responses and genes. CIR can be activated by exogenous application of
 728 salicylic acid or its synthetic functional analogue BTH. Recently, Pérez-de-Luque
 729 et al. (2004) demonstrated that foliar application BTH can reduced *O. crenata*
 730 infection by limiting the success in attachment and retarding the development of
 731 established tubercles. This method could be particularly useful for pea, which is
 732 highly sensitive to common herbicides and, in which little genetic resistance is avail-
 733 able to *O. crenata* (Rubiales et al., 2003). However, using CIR strategies requires
 734 repeated applications of activators and its effect is transient (Pérez-de-Luque et al.,
 735 2004).
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 737

738 **14.4.3 Transgenic Resistance**

739 During the last decade, crops with resistance to broad-spectrum post-emergence her-
 740 bicides such as glyphosate, have been developed through genetic engineering. This
 741 enables farmers to use a non-selective herbicide applied selectively over already
 742 emerged crops, and to easily implement zero tillage with subsequent soil protec-
 743 tion. Herbicide-resistant crops offer the potential for simpler weed control, more
 744 effective management of problematic and resistant weeds, more timely weed con-
 745 trol with potential to employ critical period, increased usage of minimum or zero
 746 tillage and avoidance of yield loss caused by current “selective” herbicides (FAO,
 747 1998). However, there are several concerns with regard to deployment of transgenic
 748 crops. Objections to the use of these crops rest on several issues related to the asso-
 749 ciated risks, such as direct risks to human health, the potential transfer of genes from
 750 herbicide resistant crops to wild relatives (thus creating super weeds) and the pos-
 751 sibility of volunteer crops becoming weeds in subsequent crops a (Ford Denison,
 752 1999).
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 754

755 **14.4.3.1 Inherent Genetic Resistance**

756 Inherent genetic resistance remains as one of the most desirable components in the
 757 integrated control of parasitic weeds (Pérez-de-Luque et al., 2007). Resistance to
 758 *Orobanche* has been found in, lentil (Fernández-Aparicio et al., 2007a), species of
 759 *Pisum* (Pérez-de-Luque et al., 2005; Valderrama et al., 2004), *Cicer* (Fernández-
 760 Aparicio et al., 2007a; Rubiales et al., 2003, 2004), *Vicia* (Abbes et al., 2007; Sillero
 761 et al., 2005a) and *Lathyrus* (Sillero et al., 2005a). In the species of *Cicer* the resis-
 762 tance to *O. crenata* is a result of a combination of several mechanisms, including
 763 low induction of parasite seed germination, prevention of establishment, or reduced
 764
 765

766 development of parasite tubercles (Rubiales et al., 2004). Similarly, resistance to
767 *O. crenata* in lentils appears to have multiple components and a chain of escape
768 and resistance mechanisms that either act alone or in combination and at differ-
769 ent stages of the infection process (Fernández-Aparicio et al., 2007a). Abbes et al.
770 (2007) demonstrated resistance to *O. foetida* in faba bean genotypes selected for
771 resistance to *O. crenata*, and some Tunisian breeding lines.

772 Resistance of cow pea varieties to *S. gesnerioides* has also been reported widely
773 (Carsky et al., 2003; Moore et al., 1995; Singh et al., 2006). Cowpea cultivars
774 with different susceptibility to *S. gesnerioides* infection were first observed in
775 1981 in Burkina Faso, and two lines (Suvita-2 and 58–57) were found to be com-
AQ13 776 pletely resistant (Aggarwal, 1985). Further screening of new lines revealed that
777 IT82D-849 (breeding line from IITA) and B301 (a landrace from Botswana) were
778 completely resistant to *S. gesnerioides* populations in Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria
AQ14 779 and Cameroon (Aggarwal, 1991). A systematic breeding program for resistance to
780 *S. gesnerioides* was started in 1987. From this program several lines were obtained
781 that had complete resistance in several countries of West and Central Africa (Singh
782 and Emechebe, 1997). For example, two cowpea landraces, APL-1 and 87-2, were
783 completely resistant to *S. gesnerioides* from Burkina Faso, Mali and Cameroon
784 and partially resistant to *S. gesnerioides* from Niger (Moore et al., 1995). Varieties
785 APL-1 and 87-2 provided additional sources of resistance to most races of *S. ges-*
786 *nerioides*, including a newly discovered virulent race from Benin (Moore et al.,
787 1995). Complete resistance was expressed either as a hypersensitive response of
788 infected root tissues or as a severely retarded development of successful infec-
789 tions (Moore et al., 1995). However, neither of these cowpeas was resistant to
790 *A. vogelii* (Moore et al., 1995). On the other hand, a landrace from Botswana
791 (B 301) has shown complete resistance to both *Striga* and *Alectra* (Singh et al.,
792 1993).

793 Resistance to *S. gesnerioides* is controlled by a single dominant gene, while
794 resistance to *A. vogelii* is controlled by duplicate dominant genes which are dif-
795 ferent from the gene conferring *S. gesnerioides* resistance (Singh et al., 2006).
796 Therefore, transfer of resistance is more straightforward. Recently, the International
797 Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) registered 6 improved cowpea germplasm
798 lines with combined resistance to *S. gesnerioides* and *A. vogelii* (Singh et al., 2006).
799 In addition, the first line (IT90K-59) is also resistant to major diseases includ-
800 ing anthracnose, web blight, brown blotch, and scab, Cowpea yellow mosaic virus
801 and Cowpea aphid-borne mosaic virus, nematodes, cowpea storage weevil, cowpea
802 flower thrips, and cowpea aphid (Singh et al., 2006).

803 From the preceding discussion it is clear that in many cases resistance of simple
804 inheritance has been identified and exploited in breeding. This has been particu-
805 larly important allowing rapid progress to develop resistant cultivars of cowpea.
806 However, breeding programs based on only a few dominant genes are in serious
807 risk of breakdown of resistance. Although genetic resistance remains as one of the
808 most important components in the integrated control of parasitic weeds, breeding for
809 resistance is a difficult task and many aspects of the host/parasite interaction remain
810 unknown (Pérez-de-Luque et al., 2007). Resistance against most parasitic weeds

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811 is of complex nature making breeding for resistance a difficult task. Precise and
812 reliable screening techniques are required for an effective transfer of resistance into
813 varieties better adapted to the target areas. Therefore, combining different escape
814 and resistance mechanisms in a single cultivar may provide increased resistance that
815 at the same time may be more difficult to lose through the evolution of the parasite,
816 compared with resistance based on a single mechanism (Fernández-Aparicio et al.,
817 2007a). In future, application of post-genomic technologies and the use of model
818 plants should improve the understanding of the plant–parasite interaction and drive
819 not only breeding programmes through either marker-assisted selection or transgen-
820 esis but also the development of alternative methods to control the parasite (Rispaill
821 et al., 2007). The integration of molecular marker selection techniques into resis-
822 tance breeding is hoped to facilitated quicker transfer of desirable genes among
823 varieties and novel genes from related wild species.
824
825

14.4.3.2 Weed-Suppressive Genotypes

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827
828 This is the ability of a crop to reduce weed growth through competition. Interest in
829 developing weed-suppressive varieties to enhance traditional herbicide and tillage-
830 based approaches has increased recently (Jannink et al., 2000, 2001). Within the
831 array of approaches available to implement integrated weed management, the com-
832 petitive suppression of weeds by crops can make several small but cumulative
833 contributions. Two arguments favour focussing breeding effort on weed-suppressive
834 varieties over weed resistance/tolerance to aid weed management (Jordan, 1993).
835 First, suppressing weeds reduces weed seed production and benefits weed manage-
836 ment in future growing seasons while tolerating weeds only benefits the current
837 growing season. Secondly, weed pressure from unsuppressed weeds increases the
838 likelihood of crop yield loss, irrespective of the crop's tolerance. For a given initial
839 weed infestation, a weed suppressive genotype may prevent the risk of excessive
840 weed pressure and thereby also confer within-season benefits. The literature docu-
841 ments relationships between several plant traits and competitive ability, in particular
842 height, various measures of leaf area or light interception and maturity (Jannink
843 et al., 2000). Wortmann (1993) assessed morphological characteristics of over 16
844 bean genotypes and, found that the ability to suppress weeds was found to be inde-
845 pendent of bean growth habit, but was related to leaf size, leaf area index, and
846 plant growth rate. His work also shows the feasibility of inclusion of large leaf
847 size and high leaf area index as criteria for selecting high-yielding genotypes with
848 improved ability to suppress weeds (Wortmann, 1993). Tall genotypes of pea gener-
849 ally suppressed *Lolium rigidum* and wheat more effectively than short genotypes
850 (McDonald, 2003). Weed suppression is preventative in that it decreases the weed
851 seed and therefore tends to reduce weed infestations in subsequent years. While
852 competitive suppression will rarely kill weeds outright, it will act reliably across
853 environments. Moreover, competitive suppression can function independently of
854 weather conditions that might hinder the application of other management practices
855 (Jannink et al., 2000).

14.4.4 Crop Rotation and Fallowing

In the past crop rotation has often been considered in the context of facilitating rotation of herbicides in order to avoid major shifts in the weed flora and the build up of infestation of one or few noxious weeds (Liebman and Dyck, 1993). However, it forms the framework that allows one to keep weeds, insect pests and diseases off-balance in many agricultural ecosystems (Liebman and Dyck, 1993; Sileshi et al., 2008a). In a review of the literature involving 29 test crop and rotation combinations, Liebman and Dyck (1993) found that weed densities were less in 21 cases compared to the control (monoculture without rotation). Weed densities were more in the rotation in only one case, while no difference was found in the remaining five cases. In 12 cases where weed seed densities were reported, nine had lower weed seed densities than the control while the remaining three cases did not differ from the control (Liebman and Dyck, 1993). Crop yields were also higher in rotation than the control in 11 cases and equivalent in three cases. The success of rotation systems for weed suppression appears to be based on the use of crop sequences that create varying patterns of competition, allelopathic interference and soil disturbance to provide an unstable and frequently inhospitable environment that prevents the proliferation of a particular weed species (Liebman and Dyck, 1993). These results suggest that, in general, crop rotation results in better weed control than continuous monoculture. However, it does not guarantee that all rotations work to control weeds. Therefore, the use of rotations in legume cropping systems needs to be examined on a case by case basis.

Recently, crop rotation has received more attention in the framework of conservation agriculture. Legumes such as soybean are grown in some parts of the world under this system. Conservation agriculture is based on the principle of causing the least disturbance (with minimum or zero tillage), leaving plant residue on the soil surface, and crop rotation, including the use of legumes as green manure or cover crops. While this approach is beneficial to effectively protect and increase soil fertility, the switch to zero tillage or direct seeding practices may increase weed problems. For example, in one study conducted in Nigeria there were more weed species in plots under minimum tillage than in conventionally tilled plots (Ekeleme et al., 2005). The loss of tillage as a method of weed control means that producers must adjust crop rotations, herbicide use, and other cultural practices to compensate. Perennial weeds may become a serious problem to overcome, and there is a need to implement additional cultural methods, such as the use of cover crops. Under crop-livestock mixed production systems, this practice may also be limited because legume residues are used as livestock feed rather than for use as soil cover. In the Middle East, North Africa, Ethiopia, and India, residues of cool season legumes are important as a feed for livestock (Rao et al., 2005).

Rotation with non-host crops continues to be one of the most widely recommended practices for the control parasitic weeds. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that seeds of parasitic weeds (e.g. *A. vogelii*) may remain viable in the soil as long as 12 years (Parker and Riches, 1993). Rotations that make use of a small number of crops do not allow much flexibility for varying seeding dates, altering

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herbicide practices or using crops with different competitive abilities or life cycles. Diversified rotations that use many different crops provide more opportunities for varying weed control practices. For example, in the Ethiopian highlands, a weed-suppressing crop is often rotated with legumes such as field peas, faba bean and chick pea.

Fallowing has also been widely used for controlling weeds in traditional farming systems in the humid tropics of Africa (Banful et al., 2007; Ekeleme et al., 2005). For severely depleted soils, which are common in *Striga* infested areas, improved fallows, which include nitrogen fixing woody species that increase soil fertility concurrently with reducing the weed seed banks appear to be promising (Ekeleme et al., 2005; Sileshi et al., 2006). Improved fallows consist of deliberately planted species – usually legumes with the primary purpose of fixing nitrogen as part of a crop–fallow rotation (Banful et al., 2007; Sileshi et al., 2006, 2008a). Planted fallows reduce weed infestation by shading weeds surviving after crop harvest and by reducing the weed seed population in the soil (Banful et al., 2007; Chikoye et al., 2001; Sileshi et al., 2006).

14.4.5 Intercropping

The continuous production of legume crops often increases weed problems and also gives weeds a chance to adapt. In some areas parasitic weeds on cowpea have increased significantly as sparse stands of landraces inter-cropped with cereals have been replaced by sole crops of high yielding but susceptible varieties (Riches, 2002). Intercropping represents an option for spatially diversification of cropping systems (Baumann et al., 2002; Vandermeer, 1989) and weed management. Intercropping is widely practiced in Africa, Latin America and Asia as means of increasing crop production per unit area with limited capital investment and minimal risk of crop failure (Vandermeer, 1989). Legumes are traditionally intercropped with cereals. For example in Ethiopia, sorghum-faba bean, sorghum-chickpea, maize-faba bean intercrops are very common (Liben et al., 2001). Recent syntheses have demonstrated that intercropping is an ecologically sound method for management of weeds, insect pests and plant diseases in low external inputs farming systems (Baumann et al., 2002; Liebman and Dyck, 1993; Sileshi et al., 2008a). A global review of literature (Liebman and Dyck, 1993) showed that weed biomass in intercrops was lower in 47 (out of 54) cases compared to the respective sole crops. Weed biomass was higher than the sole crop in four cases and variable response was observed in the remaining three cases (Liebman and Dyck, 1993). The mechanisms by which intercrops suppress weeds have been explained in detail in Liebman and Dyck (1993). In the following sections, we will give specific examples relevant to legumes.

Intercropping is widely used in Africa as a low-cost method of controlling *Striga* (Oswald et al., 2002; Sileshi et al., 2006). Intercropping with broad-leaf crops which cover the inter-row also can help reduce *Striga* emergence and seed production, though the practice may not always result in increased cereal yield due to

946 competitive effects. Intercropping legumes with cereals (Fernández-Aparicio et al.,
947 2007a, b) or other legumes such as fenugreek (Fernández-Aparicio et al., 2007a, b,
948 2008a) has been shown to reduce infection of legumes by *O. crenata*. Fenugreek is
949 frequently intercropped with vetches or faba bean in the Mediterranean (Evidente
950 et al., 2007). This is an important cash crop in India, China, Near East, East Africa
951 and Mediterranean countries, with market for its seeds for curry powder and for
952 flavouring agent for ruminant and pig feed. It is also a popular forage and fodder
953 crop. Some reports were inconclusive and conflicting, with some authors suggest-
954 ing a beneficial effect of fenugreek when intercropped with faba bean for *O. crenata*
955 or *O. foetida* (Kharrat et al., 1992). Fernández-Aparicio et al. (2007a, b, 2008a)
956 showed a consistent control of *O. crenata* infection in faba bean, pea, lentil and
957 chickpea when intercropped with fenugreek. The main mechanism for the reduction
958 of *O. crenata* infection in legumes by the intercrop with fenugreek was suspected to
959 be allelopathy (Fernández-Aparicio et al., 2007a, b, 2008a).

960 Weed suppression by intercrops has been reported in cool-season pulse and cereal
961 crops. Specific examples include intercrops of lentil and wheat (Carr et al., 1995),
962 barley and field pea (Mohler and Liebman, 1987), wheat and field beans (Bulson
963 et al., 1997; Haymes and Lee, 1999), pea and barley (Hauggaard-Nielsen et al.,
964 2001; Poggio, 2005). In an experiment comparing barley and pea intercrops with
965 the sole crops, winter-emerging species were less abundant in intercrops (Poggio,
966 2005).

969 **14.4.6 Trap and Catch Cropping**

971 Trap-crops, also known as “false hosts”, produce *Alectra*- or *Striga*-germination
972 stimulants but are not susceptible to attack. Cowpea, pigeon pea and velvet bean
973 stimulate the germination of *S. gesnerioides* in southern Africa (Parker and Riches,
974 1993). There are some reports on potential trap crops that offer the advantage of
975 stimulating germination of the root parasites without themselves being parasitized
976 (Parker and Riches, 1993). Although the concept of using trap crops to reduce the
977 *Striga* seed bank in the soil is not new, recent research has shown that the selection
978 of variety within a species can increase the effectiveness of this practice.

982 **14.4.7 Cover Cropping and Residue Management**

984 Cover crops grown in the period between two main crops have potential as an
985 important component of a system-oriented ecological weed management strategy.
986 Residue-mediated weed suppression involves the management of residues from
987 cover crops, green manure legumes and crops. Cover crops and green manure
988 legumes fit very well in residue-mediated management of weeds (Kruidhof et al.,
989 2009). Residues incorporated in the soil or applied as mulch on the soil surface
990 can have inhibitory effect on weeds. For example, cover crop residues have been
reported to negatively affect germination and establishment of weed seeds through

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991 allelopathic and phytotoxic effects (Kruidhof et al., 2009; Liebman and Davis,
992 2000). Weed species appear to be more susceptible to phytotoxic effects of crop
993 residues and other organic soil amendments than crop species (Liebman and Davis,
994 2000). Cover crops that contain a high level of allelochemicals seem well-suited for
995 residue-mediated weed suppression (Kruidhof et al., 2009).

996 In addition, crop residues can exert an effect on weed germination and estab-
997 lishment through other mechanisms. Release of nutrients from the residues can
998 stimulate weed germination, whereas temporary immobilization of nutrients from
999 the soil upon decomposition can inhibit it (Kruidhof et al., 2009). Delayed availabil-
1000 ity of nutrients may favour large-seeded crops over small-seeded weeds (Liebman
1001 and Davis, 2000). Residues left on the soil surface can lead to decreased soil tem-
1002 perature fluctuations and reduced light penetration, which both have been shown to
1003 inhibit weed germination (Liebman and Davis, 2000). Residue-amended soil may
1004 conserve moisture better than bare soil. Cover crops and green manure legumes
1005 provide many additional services to the agro-ecosystem, including improved soil
1006 quality, increased nutrient cycling and, in some cases, a contribution to pest manage-
1007 ment (Kruidhof et al., 2009; Sileshi et al., 2008b). Addition of organic materials can
1008 change the incidence and severity of soil-borne diseases affecting weeds and crops
1009 (Conklin et al., 2002; Liebman and Davis, 2000; Manici et al., 2004). However, opti-
1010 mal residue management strategy for weed suppression depends both on the cover
1011 crop species used and the target weed species (Kruidhof et al., 2009). Very few sys-
1012 tematically studies exist on the effect of different residue management methods on
1013 weed suppression in legume crops. Therefore, this is an area for future research.

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1017 **14.4.8 Soil Fertility Management**

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1019 Incidence of *Striga* is known to be negatively correlated with soil fertility, par-
1020 ticularly nitrogen availability (Cechin and Press, 1993; Sileshi et al., 2006). This
1021 also applies to *Alectra* to some degree (Parker and Riches, 1993). On the other
1022 hand, soil fertility appears to be a less critical factor for *Orobanche* spp. (Parker
1023 and Riches, 1993). *Striga* seed germination can be increased by improving fertili-
1024 ty of the soil through the use of nitrogen fertilizers, compost or green manure.
1025 Although nitrogenous fertilizers can reduce *Striga* infection rates, they are rarely
1026 economical for resource poor farmers in the first year of application. Ammonium
1027 nitrogen impairs germination and attachment of *Striga* seedlings to roots of the host
1028 plant. It also reduces production of germination stimulant by the host. In Nigeria,
1029 application of N reduced and delayed *Alectra* emergence in soybean. In some crops
1030 fertilizer use can also reduce non-parasitic weeds. For example, in Egypt faba bean
1031 yield improved under interactive effects of fertilizer and weed control treatments
1032 as growth improved (El-Metwally and Abdelhamid, 2008). Using compost favored
1033 growth and yield of faba bean more than of weeds. Application of compost alone
1034 or combined with 50 or 100% of the recommended fertilizer rate improved faba
1035 bean growth in terms of specific leaf area, and leaf weight ratio (El-Metwally and
Abdelhamid, 2008).

1036 Soil fertility and organic matter can be improved through legume cover crops and
1037 improved fallows (see crop rotation). *Striga* species thrive on degraded soils, which
1038 are the majority of soils in tropical Africa. A more remarkable effect on *Striga*
1039 is expected from organic matter as compared to mineral fertilizers (Sileshi et al.,
1040 2006). In situ production of organic matter by growing short-rotation fallows and
1041 cover crop which improves soil fertility and crop yields have been widely studied
1042 (Banful et al., 2007; Sileshi et al., 2006, 2008b). Inducing *Striga* suppression in soils
1043 is probably manageable with the long-term application of principles that improve the
1044 biological health of the soil. Nitrogen fixed by the legumes has long been known to
1045 suppress *Striga*. In contrast to the *Striga*/cereal systems, nitrogen is unlikely to play
1046 any effect in legume-legume intercrops as both the host and the intercrop improve
1047 N through biological N-fixation.
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1050 **14.4.9 Biological Control**

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1052 Biological control is used here in its broader sense; including natural control as
1053 well as classical biological control. Biological control is particularly attractive in
1054 suppressing parasitic weeds in annual crops because the intimate physiological rela-
1055 tionship with their host plants makes it difficult to apply conventional weed control
1056 measures (Sauerborn et al., 2007). Both insects and fungi have been isolated that
1057 attack parasitic weeds. Most of the insects which have been reported to occur on
1058 *Orobanche* and *Striga* species are polyphagous and thus damage to these para-
1059 sitic weeds is limited (Klein and Kroschel, 2002). However, the Agromyzid fly
1060 *Phytomyza orobanchia* is reported to be host-specific attacking only *Orobanche*
1061 species. Its distribution is related to the natural occurrence of *Orobanche* species
1062 (Sauerborn et al., 2007). *Phytomyza orobanchia* has been studied as a potential bio-
1063 control agent for *Orobanche crenata* in Syria (Linke et al., 1990). *P. orobanchia* is
1064 particularly common throughout the Mediterranean area and is known in Bulgaria,
1065 Germany, England, Spain, Italy, Malta, Egypt, Israel and Ethiopia, the Balkans, the
1066 Ukraine, Central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula (Çikman and Doganlar, 2006). Larvae
1067 decrease the reproductive capacity of *Orobanche* spp., either directly through their
1068 feeding activity in seed capsules or indirectly through weakening the shoots (Klein
1069 and Kroschel, 2002). However, effectiveness of the fly could be reduced by par-
1070 asitism by Eulophidae, Pteromalidae, Aphelinidae and Braconidae (Çikman and
1071 Doganlar, 2006).

1072 *Smicronyx* spp., a gall-forming weevil, is described to be specialized on *Striga*
1073 species (Sauerborn et al., 2007). These insects prevent seed production through the
1074 development of larvae inside the seed capsules of their target hosts and thus con-
1075 tribute to reduce their reproductive capacity and spread. However, research with
1076 both insects has revealed that their effectiveness to prevent seed set is limited and
1077 will not be enough to lower the soil seed bank significantly (Smith et al., 1993;
1078 Sauerborn et al., 2007).

1079 Approximately 30 fungal genera were reported to occur on *Orobanche* spp. and
1080 about 16 fungal genera were found on *Striga* species (Sauerborn et al., 2007).

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1081 Results of surveys for fungal pathogens of *Orobanche* and *Striga* revealed that
1082 *Fusarium* species were the most prominent ones associated with diseased broom-
1083 rapes and witch weeds. Of these, *F. oxysporum* was the predominant species. To
1084 date about 17 *Fusarium* species are reported to be associated with either *Orobanche*
1085 or *Striga*. Of these, six *Fusarium* species have shown significant disease develop-
1086 ment in selected species of *Orobanche* (Sauerborn et al., 2007). All growth stages
1087 from un-germinated seeds to inflorescences can be attacked (Sauerborn et al., 2007).
1088 Consequently, seeds of *Orobanche* and *Striga* may be infected by the application of
1089 *Fusarium* even if no host plant for the parasite is present in the field. That means
1090 that the parasite seed bank could be lowered every season. Fungal agents have also
1091 been developed as mycoherbicides (e.g. *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* trade name
1092 Lu bao) to control parasitic weeds such as *Cuscuta* spp (Auld, 1997).

1093 Opportunities for biological control of non-parasitic weeds have also been
1094 explored and, significant progress has been made in some cases (Evans, 2002;
1095 Sileshi, 1997, 1998; Taye, 2007). Classical biological control – the introduction of
1096 natural enemies of exotic plants – is probably the only long-term solution for con-
1097 trolling invasive plant species. For example, several arthropods and fungi have been
1098 identified as bicontrol agents for the control of the parthenium weed (Evans, 1997,
1099 2002). Searches for, and evaluation of coevolved natural enemies against parthe-
1100 nium weed have been conducted in the neotropics, and the leaf-feeding beetle,
1101 *Zygogramma bicolorata*, a seed-feeding weevil, *Simyconyx lutulentus*, a stem-
1102 galling moth, *Epiblema sternuana*, a leaf mining moth, *Bucculatrix parthenic*, and a
1103 sap-feeding plant hopper, *Stobaera concinna*, and a stem-boring curculionid weevil,
1104 *Listronotus setosipennis* from Mexico, Brazil and Argentina were introduced and
1105 successfully established in Australia. Two species of pathogenic rust fungi: *Puccinia*
1106 *abrupta* var. *parthenicola* and *Puccinia mealmpodii* were introduced and estab-
1107 lished. *Puccinia abrupta* and the phyllody caused by Faba Bean Phyllody (FBP)
1108 group were the two most important diseases infecting parthenium weed in Ethiopia.
1109 The rust was commonly found in mid altitude (1,500–2,500 m) with incidence from
1110 5 to 100% (Taye et al., 2004a, b) while phyllody was observed in low to mid altitude
1111 regions (900–2,300 m) of Ethiopia with incidence of 5–75% (Taye et al., 2004a, b).
1112 In India, the mycoherbicide potential of plurivorous fungal pathogens, belonging to
1113 the genera *Fusarium*, *Colletotrichum*, *Curvularia*, *Myrothecium* and *Sclerotium*, has
1114 and is being evaluated (Mishra et al., 1995; Evans, 1997). Potentials biological con-
1115 trol agents also exist for indigenous problematic weeds such as the blue couch grass
1116 (*Digitaria abyssinica*) and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon* spp.) (Sileshi, 1997, 1998).

1117 The strength of biological control is its environmental safety and sustainability.
1118 Because of their high host-specificity, pathogens can distinguish between a crop and
1119 associated weed where chemical herbicides may suffer from low margins of safety.
1120 However, the major constraint to the use of biological control agents may result
1121 from the regulatory authorities in the countries where the weeds are a problem. Since
1122 biocontrol agents are living organisms, regulators are fearful to introduce them from
1123 foreign countries. In such situations, biocontrol agents probably fail to be marketed
1124 internationally. This means that local strains have to be found in each country and
1125 need to be developed independently (Sauerborn et al., 2007).

1126 A potential constraint in the future is climate change, which could alter the
1127 efficacy of biological control agents by potentially altering the development and
1128 reproduction of the target pest. Increased temperature, CO₂ enrichment and reduced
1129 precipitation will definitely affect dynamics and interaction among the biological
1130 control agent and the weed species. Drought or warming may benefit control in some
1131 cases but may be disruptive in others. Climate matching is important for selecting
1132 appropriate biological control agents (Myers and Bazely, 2003). Thus, increasing
1133 drought frequency or intensity may be detrimental to currently successful biological
1134 control agents, or it may facilitate the impact of agents by stressing the target
1135 plants.

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1139 **14.4.10 Chemical Control**

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1141 Despite the many limitations of chemical control (see below), it will remain an
1142 integral part of weed management in the foreseeable future especially where con-
1143 servation agriculture is practiced. The use of broad-spectrum herbicides make
1144 conservation agriculture easier, but it also runs the risk of bringing about new weed
1145 problems, either by a shift in the weed populations or the presence of species able
1146 to evolve resistance to the herbicides in use.

1147

1148

1149 **14.4.10.1 Types of Herbicides**

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1151 **Seed-Applied Herbicides (SAH)**

1152 Commercial seed treatment with herbicides is increasingly being used in the con-
1153 trol of parasitic weeds of cereals and legumes (Jurado-Expósito et al., 1997).
1154 Herbicides applied to crop seed are very important especially in the control of par-
1155 asitic weeds since parasite infection occur mainly in the root zone near the site
1156 of seed planting (Jurado-Expósito and García-Torres, 2000). Recent studies and
1157 reviews indicate that the attachment of haustoria to host crops can be delayed by
1158 seed-dressing using seed-applied herbicides (Jurado-Expósito and García-Torres,
1159 2000; Kabambe et al., 2008). Jurado-Expósito et al. (1997) studied the feasibility of
1160 controlling broomrape (*Orobanche crenata*) in faba bean and lentil by treating seeds
1161 with imazethapyr and imazapyr in Spain. In faba bean, coating with imazethapyr
1162 resulted in 60–80% control of broomrape. Similarly, lentil seed treatments with
1163 imazapyr by coating seeds controlled 85–95% of broomrape (Jurado-Expósito
1164 et al., 1997). Similarly, seed dressing with imazapyr, suppressed *Striga* emer-
1165 gence in addition to depleting the soil seed bank in maize (Kabambe et al.,
1166 2008). Dicamba applied pre-emergent to *Striga* can control early parasite attach-
1167 ment under restricted circumstances. The attachment of haustoria of *Striga* to host
1168 crops can also be delayed using imazapyr for crop seed-dressing (Kabambe et al.,
1169 2008).

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1171 Germination Stimulants

1172 Perhaps, the most effective germination stimulant available is ethylene gas. A
1173 number of other chemicals including cytokinins and sodium hypochlorite, which
1174 are not related to the natural stimulants, promote germination of parasitic weeds
1175 (Parker and Riches, 1993). However, the effectiveness of ethylene in some areas
1176 in Africa has been less than expected. For example, *Alectra vogelii* is unrespon-
1177 sive to ethylene (Parker and Riches, 1993). Recently, much attention has been
1178 focused on the isolation and identification of novel metabolites including those
1179 isolated from plant root exudates and fungal metabolites. The fungal metabolite
1180 cotylenins and fusicoccins have been reported to induce over 50% seed germina-
1181 tion of *Striga hermonthica* and *Orobanche minor* even at very low concentrations
1182 (Yoneyama et al., 1998). Recently, Fernández-Aparicio et al. (2008b) screened sev-
1183 eral fungal metabolites to determine their capacity to stimulate the germination of
1184 several *Orobanche* species and found the highest stimulatory effect on *O. aegypt-*
1185 *tica*, and *O. minor* by ophiobolin A and derivatives of fusicoccin. The fusicoccin
1186 derivatives and ophiobolin A could represent a potential herbicide in view of their
1187 practical application in agriculture for the biocontrol of parasitic *Orobanche* species
1188 (Fernández-Aparicio et al., 2008b).
1189

1190 Pre-emergence Herbicides

1192 Most of the pre-emergence herbicides used in legumes prevent the early establish-
1193 ment of crop seedling from germinating weed seeds. Several herbicides have been
1194 used for pre-emergence control of broomrape. For example, imazethapyr applied at
1195 75–100 g/ha applied to faba bean and pea results in efficient control of broomrape
1196 (Jurado-Expósito and García-Torres, 2000). Those effective as pre-emergent her-
1197 bicides for non-parasitic weed control in chick pea are alachlor, chlorobromuron,
1198 cyanazine, dinoseb amine, methabenzthiazuron, metribuzin, pronamide, prome-
1199 tryne and terbutryne (Solh and Palk, 1990). Among those used for controlling
1200 weeds in faba bean, Igran (terbutryn), Fusilade (fluazifopbutyl), Basagran (ben-
1201 tazon), Gezagard (prometryn), Amex (butralin) and Topstar (oxadiargyl) are the
1202 most prominent. Gezagard (prometryn) was used as pre-emergence herbicide in the
1203 control of a wide range of broad and narrow-leaved weeds in legumes (Singh and
1204 Wright, 2002). Some researchers have reported increased growth characters, yield
1205 and yield attributes of faba bean plants when prometryne was applied (Singh and
1206 Jolly, 2004). The selectivity and efficacy of these soil-acting herbicides is usually
1207 limited to specific agro-ecological conditions because of differences in soil type,
1208 moisture availability, temperature, and weed flora. Therefore, recommendations
1209 differ from one agro-climatic zone to another (Solh and Palk, 1990).
1210

1211 Post-emergent Herbicides

1213 Post-emergent herbicides have limited effectiveness particularly for broad-leaf
1214 weeds. Post-emergent applications need great care with respect to stage of growth
1215

1216 and air temperature to avoid phytotoxicity. Post-emergent herbicides such as
1217 glyphosate (60 g/ha) effectively control broomrape in faba bean (Jurado-Expósito
1218 and García-Torres, 2000). Imidazoline herbicides are generally well tolerated by
1219 legumes after emergence. For example, post-emergence applied imazethapyr is
1220 highly selective in pea and faba bean at 20–40 g/ha. Imazapyr (2.5–10 g/ha) and
1221 imazaquin (40–60 g/ha) have been reported to be effective in control of broom-
1222 rape (Jurado-Expósito and García-Torres, 2000). For non-parasitic weed control in
1223 legumes, dinosebacetate, fluazifop-butyl and fenoxprop-ethyl have been reported
1224 to be effective (Solh and Palk, 1990).

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14.4.10.2 Limitations of Herbicides

1227

1228 Chemical control of weeds has several limitations. Undoubtedly, the top most under
1229 the anticipated climate change scenarios will be soil moisture deficit, which lim-
1230 its herbicide efficacy. Generally, the efficacy of herbicide treatments to control
1231 parasitic weeds such as broomrape depends heavily on rain fall and tempera-
1232 ture and the parasite life cycle (Jurado-Expósito and García-Torres, 2000). In the
1233 case of non-parasitic weeds, drought may induce the development of a thicker
1234 cuticular layer or increased pubescence on weed leaves. This will reduce herbi-
1235 cide entry into the leaf and decrease in herbicide efficacy. Herbicide adjuvants
1236 can help increase the penetration of the herbicide into the leaf. However, adju-
1237 vants may reduce herbicide selectivity and increase crop injury. Increasing numbers
1238 of studies have also demonstrated decline in chemical efficacy with rising CO₂
1239 (Ziska et al., 2004; Ziska and Teasdale, 2000; Ziska et al., 1999). Under the
1240 increased temperature and unpredictable precipitation scenarios, current recom-
1241 mendations of herbicides (dozes/rates) may not be effective. Therefore, selected
1242 herbicides may need to be subjected to re-testing for specific locations. There
1243 is also a need for matching modification of current herbicide recommendations
1244 (Chaudhry, 2008b).

1245 The second major limitation of chemical control is their residual effect and phy-
1246 totoxicity. In high elevation areas severe damage occurred on cereals following
1247 legume crops on which pronamide has been applied. In Algeria, use of trifluralin
1248 in chickpea resulted in damage to cereals in the following season (Haddad, 1988).
1249 Metribuzin showed a large degree of phytotoxicity to green gram, inhibiting its veg-
1250 etative growth (Zaidi et al., 2005). Herbicides suitable for broomrape control such
1251 as imazethapyr have also been shown to cause phytotoxicity depending on the level
1252 of water stress and lentil cultivar (Hanson and Hill, 2001).

1253 Development of herbicide resistant weeds is another major problem. Where her-
1254 bicides have been used, weeds have evolved resistance, or new weed species have
1255 appeared that could not be selectively controlled by herbicides.

1256 Another limitation of herbicides in legume production systems is their negative
1257 effect on nitrogen-fixation (Anderson et al., 2004; Khan et al., 2004; Singh and
1258 Wright, 1999; Zaidi et al., 2005). For example, chlorsulfuron adversely affected
1259 the formation and activity of symbiotic nitrogen-fixing nodules, even when only

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1261 the rhizobial inoculant is exposed briefly to the herbicide (Anderson et al., 2004).
1262 Similarly soil applications of bentazone and 2, 4-D in chickpea decreased nodula-
1263 tion (Khan et al., 2004). Both production of late nodules and nodule growth were
1264 reduced particularly with simazine. Higher doses of chlorobromuron and methabenz-
1265 thiazuron also had adverse effect on number of nodules per plant (Malik et al.,
AQ19 1266 1982). The presence of chlorsulfuron in the soil reduced the nodulation and nitrogen
1267 fixation of chickpea plants (Anderson et al., 2004). In pot experiments, the pre-
1268 emergence herbicides terbutryn/terbuthylazine, trietazine/simazine and prometryn
1269 decreased nodulation in pea (Singh and Wright, 1999). In green gram inocu-
1270 lated with *Bradyrhizobium* sp., pre-emergence application of metibuzin, glyphosate,
1271 fluchloralin and 2,4-D at the higher rates significantly reduced nodule number and
1272 dry mass (Zaidi et al., 2005). Many studies have concluded that herbicides affect
1273 nitrogen fixation largely via indirect effects on plant growth and consequent avail-
AQ20 1274 ability of photosynthates to the root nodules (Rennie and Dubetz, 1984; Bertholet
AQ21 1275 and Clark, 1985; Sprout et al., 1992; Vidal et al., 1992; Abd-Alla et al., 2000).
AQ22 1276 There is also evidence that some pesticides might impair the ability of the rhizobia
AQ23 1277 to recognize appropriate host plants. Other herbicides, including glyphosate, can
AQ24 1278 cause root hair deformations that apparently results in formation of fewer nodules
AQ25 1279 (Mårtensson, 1992).

1280 Other limitations of chemical control include unavailability, low persistence
1281 and lack of skills and equipment among subsistence farmers. There are no widely
1282 used chemicals for parasitic weeds especially in Africa (Parker and Riches, 1993).
1283 The intimate connection between host and parasite hinders efficient control of
1284 parasitic weeds by herbicides. Because of the close interconnection between the
1285 parasitic weed and its host, herbicidal control is difficult since herbicides cannot
1286 distinguish between the host and parasite (Sauerborn et al., 2007). Herbicides are
1287 applied at a certain growth stage of the crop when the root parasite is still under-
1288 ground. The herbicides concentrate in the parasites by translocation through the
1289 host-plant or through the soil solution until they die. However, often the timing
1290 and rate of herbicide application is critical because a proper concentration propor-
1291 tional to the parasite biomass has to be achieved without causing damage to the
1292 crop. Post-emergent herbicides that could effectively control broad leaf weeds sat-
1293 isfactorily are not available. The new post-emergent chemicals for grasses seem
1294 effective though the choice is limited. Most of the effective soil-acting herbicides
1295 have limited persistence in the soil and these are only effective at early stages of
1296 crop development. The narrow adaptation of these herbicides and the inconsis-
1297 tency of their effect from season to season are other limitations. Increasing price
1298 of some herbicides (especially with increase in fuel prices) and lack of credit facil-
1299 ities make herbicides inaccessible to such farmers (Gressel et al., 2004). Herbicide
1300 usage also requires skill, precision and suitable equipment which are not always
1301 present under subsistence agriculture. Development and spread of herbicide resis-
1302 tance (Heap, 2003) may also limit the use of those currently in use. The use of
1303 herbicides is also becoming more and more limited, due to changes in the regulatory
1304 environment.

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1306 ***14.4.11 Integrated Weed Management***

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1308 Controlling weeds with one or a few techniques is only partially effective and
1309 sometimes inconsistent. This also gives the weeds a chance to adapt to those prac-
1310 tices. Simply replacing herbicides by other control measures is also inadequate.
1311 Obviously, the most effective approach is the integration of different environ-
1312 mentally friendly control measures that are economically feasible to smallholder
1313 farmers. Integrated weed management combines different agronomic practices, so
1314 that the reliance on any one weed control technique is reduced. The objective of inte-
1315 grated weed management is to maintain weed densities at manageable levels while
1316 preventing shifts in weed populations to more difficult-to-control weeds. Integrated
1317 weed management using a variety of control techniques may also keep non-parasitic
1318 weeds off balance. Weeds are less able to adapt to a constantly changing system that
1319 uses many different control practices, unlike a program that relies on one or two
1320 control practices.

1321 Three main types of practices can be used to develop integrated weed manage-
1322 ment in the framework of good agricultural practices. These practices are aimed
1323 at (1) preventing the introduction and spread of weeds, (2) giving the crop a com-
1324 petitive edge over weeds and, (3) making it difficult for weeds to adapt. The main
1325 principles of preventing introduction and spread of parasitic weeds are preventing
1326 seed set, reducing soil seed bank and inhibiting spread from infested to non-infested
1327 areas. Unlike normal weeds, most of the damage done by parasitic weed occurs
1328 before weed emerges above the soil (Sauerborn et al., 2007). Therefore, control
1329 methods have focused on reducing soil seed bank and interfere with the parasite's
1330 early developmental stages. Practices that reduce the soil seed bank of parasitic
1331 weeds include hand pulling stems before seed set or prompt destruction of crop
1332 residues after harvest to prevent continued parasite seed production. Other practices
1333 such as use of clean and certified seed and clean equipment can reduce chances of
1334 the introduction of new and/or noxious weeds in the fields. Composting livestock
1335 manure will reduce the viability of many weed seeds, although certain weeds can
1336 survive longer than others in composted manure. Patches of new invading weeds
1337 should be controlled to prevent them from spreading. Eradication of alien species
1338 such as the parthenium weed is mandatory.

1339 Practices that help the plant to have a competitive edge over weeds include vari-
1340 ety selection, high seeding rates, narrow row spacing, uniform seeding, appropriate
1341 land preparation, planting date and fertilizer application. Certain crop varieties
1342 can be more competitive than others. For example, yield losses caused by grassy
1343 weeds in tall pea varieties were less than half those suffered by shorter varieties
1344 (McDonald, 2003). High density can help give the crop an edge on weeds. Extra
1345 plants allow the crop to shade weeds and make it more difficult for weed to access
1346 nutrients and water. Narrow row spacing also allows the crop to be more compet-
1347 itive. There may be situations where wide row spacing is necessary, and higher
1348 seeding rates may offset the effect of wider row spacing. Shallow and uniform seed-
1349 ing is important for fast crop emergence and good establishment, which allows the
1350 crop to be more competitive with weeds. The closer is the seed to the soil surface,

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1351 the faster the crop will emerge. Weeds that emerge after the crop cause less yield loss
1352 than those that emerge before the crop. Ensuring that the crop seed is placed in an
1353 ideal growing environment, and the weeds are not, is another way to give your crop
1354 the edge. Conservation farming practices leave crop residue in between the rows,
1355 which shades the soil and keeps it cool. Fewer weeds germinate under zero-tillage
1356 because of the reduction in soil disturbance.

1357 Crop rotation and varying herbicide practices is important for keeping weeds off
1358 balance. Recent reviews suggest that crop rotations that involve alteration between
1359 host and non-host crops can be effective against plant pathogenic organisms and
1360 insect pests that are relatively host-specific, non-mobile, and that inhabit the soil
1361 for at least part of their life cycle. Rotating herbicides with different modes of
1362 action (from different herbicide groups) will help delay the development of her-
1363 bicide resistance. Changing the planting date from year to year means that specific
1364 types of weeds cannot adapt. However, most of the cultivated area in legume pro-
1365 ducing regions relies on rainfall. In such conditions, conservation farming practices,
1366 in addition to other traditional practices such as crop rotation and fallow, plus tradi-
1367 tional or new water harvest technique become a clear option to increase WUE and
1368 sustainability of agriculture (Oweis et al., 2001).

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14.5 Scaling-Up Weed Management Practices

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14.6 Conclusion

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This work reviewed the *status quo* of weed control in legumes and suggests future developments aimed at weed management in the context of anticipated increases in drought intensity and climate change. In future, water will become increasingly scarce in rain-fed semi-arid regions where legumes are widely grown, thus severely limiting options for irrigation. The spread of invasive alien species of weeds and

herbicide resistance, which are partly aggravated by increased global trade and climate change, are also posing more challenges to weed management. This may make conventional weed management practices ineffective. Cultural practices such as manual weeding and intercropping may also be affected by shorter growing seasons induced by climate change. Climate change may also disrupt the effectiveness of biological control as it will affect dynamics and interaction among the biological control agent and the weed species. Under the increased temperature and unpredictable precipitation scenarios, current recommendations of herbicides may not be effective. Increase in temperature and drought can reduce herbicide uptake, increase volatility, structural degradation and loss of potency. Therefore, selected herbicides may need to be subjected to re-testing for specific conditions reflecting climate change scenarios. This highlights the need for a well-planned weed management strategy to mitigate the effect of climate change and invasive alien weeds in legume cropping systems. Integrated weed management in the framework of good agricultural practices that (1) prevent the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, (2) give the crop a competitive edge over weeds and (3) make it difficult for weeds to adapt to cultural practices or herbicides need to be developed. Novel chemical control approaches, chemically induced resistance, and transgenic resistance will also play a crucial role in the integrated management of weeds in future. However, such developments must take into consideration the socio-economic and ecological conditions of individual farming systems.

Acknowledgments The first author was supported by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) – International Foundation for Science (IFS). The authors also gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and Irish Aid.

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Chapter 14

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