Safe and correct use of herbicides

Weeds are a major constraint in rice production. Herbicides are a time saving method of controlling them. But these need to be used carefully and in combination with other methods.

Before choosing a herbicide to use, it is important to identify the weeds in your garden. This guides on which herbicide to use. For efficient use of herbicides, choose the right product, at the right time, manage water levels correctly, use right dosage, use appropriate equipment and check it before use, follow correct application techniques and respect all safety measures.

About herbicides

These can be used as preventative or curative measure against weeds. Many herbicides are specific to given weeds therfore it is important to know the weeds in order to identify the right herbicide.

Buy herbicides from a reliable supplier and only those approved by local authorities and ensure timely application of the herbicides. Herbicides are most effective when the weeds are still young at 1 to 3 leaf stage.

Herbicide application

Before application, check to ensure that your equipment is fit before use and wear appropriate personal protective equipment like masks, gloves and gumboots.

Always respect the dosage indicated on the container and apply the herbicide while holding the nozzle slightly above the knee and walk at a constant regular speed while spraying.

Never apply the herbicide when its windy, shortly before or after raining. The best time for application is early morning or evening.

After solution preparation, carefully wash the equipments, your hands and cloths thoroughly.

Never eat or drink when handling herbicides. If solution enters your eyes, rinse with lots of water and get medical attention as soon as possible. After spraying, dispose off the containers carefully to avoid children playing with them.