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ECONOMICS OF MAIZE (*Zea mays*) PRODUCTION UNDER DIFFERENT WEED CONTROL METHODS

O. A. AKINYEMIJU and T. ALIMI
Department of Plant Science and Agricultural Economics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

This study examined the profitability of three weed control methods (hand-weeding, boom-spraying and knapsack-spraying) in the production of maize (*Zea mays* L.) both in the early and late seasons. The yields obtained from the three weed control methods were higher than the yield from no weeding. The weed control cost expressed as percentage of the total production cost was about 27, 21 and 18% in the early season and 29, 22 and 20% in the late season for hand-weeding, knapsack-spraying and boom spraying respectively. Yield under hand-weeding was higher on the average by 215 and 159%, boom-spraying by 200 and 150% and knapsack by 124 and 115% than yield under no-weeding in the early and late seasons respectively. Considering the physical efficiency, hand-weeding is the best followed by boom sprayings and knapsack spraying in that order. Boom-spraying was however the most profitable methods (most economically efficient) followed by hand-weeding and knapsack spraying in that order. No-weeding resulted in a net loss.