

## **Linking the farmers' perception and weed management behavior with actual on-farm weed pressure.**

M. M. Riemens\*,<sup>1</sup> R. Y. van der Weide<sup>2</sup>;

1Wageningen University and Research Centre, Plant Research International, Wageningen, Netherlands,  
2Wageningen University and Research Centre, Applied Plant Research, Lelystad, Netherlands

Decisions that influence weed management are made at several different levels. Two levels that can be distinguished are the environmental level and the farm level. Decisions at the environmental level influence the availability of weed management tools. Decisions at the farm level influence whether these available weed management tools are applied or not. However, very little is known about the way the decision maker at the farm level (the farmer) deals with weed management in relation to other activities on the farm. The objective of the exploratory research reported here is to investigate how the farmers' perspective on their own weed management strategy relates to his/her weed management activities and get a better understanding of the farmers weed management behaviour. We address the following research questions: how relates the farmers' perspective on their own weed management strategy with his/her weed management activities? Can the difference between farms with low and high weed densities be explained with the difference in their weed management behaviour? And if so, how relates the farmers' perspective of farmers with high weed densities to the actual weed management on these farms? Determines the actual weed pressure the moment and amount of weed control? Or is weed control something that is carried out whenever there is time left? Several factors influencing weed management behaviour and densities will be identified and discussed in a conceptual framework.