

Weed Impacting the Agricultural Production in the former Warangal district of Telanagana State, India

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Abstract

Weeds are always a problem to the farmer. Along with rodents and insect pests, weeds not only reduce the crop yields to the tune of 30% by competing for physical space, water, nutrients and pollinators besides hosting the crop pathogens. The weed survey of agricultural fields (wet and upland crops) in the composite Warangal district (which includes Warangal Rural, Warangal Urban, Mehabubabad, Janagoan and Bhupalpally) revealed the prevalence of as many as 121 species which represent 35 angiosperm (flowering plant) families. These were categorized as exclusive to wetlands, drylands and common to either or both. The plant families which contribute the maximum number of weedy species, as per APG IV classification, are Poaceae (15), Cyperaceae (14), Amaranthaceae (12), Asteraceae (10), Euphorbiaceae s.s. (8), Malvaceae (7) and Solanaceae (4). Besides, there are four families three, seven families with two and sixteen families with one weedy species. The species which are exotic invasive and those indigenous ones are further identified with besides the paddy crop mimics like *Echinochloa*. The economic and ecological implications are discussed with an easy key for the field identification by farmers.