

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In all countries but particularly in the tropics, the question of crop establishment is largely influenced by the factor of weed control. Cultivation has not yet been supplanted by any other method which aims at reducing or suppressing the weed population. Under temperate conditions however, chemical spraying of weeds in cereal crops has often been successfully carried out. The cost of such operations bears favourable comparison with normal cultivations. In tropical climates, the differences of weed types and of weed growth conditions, apart from any economic aspect, will determine to a marked extent the success of chemical spraying. The ecology and physiology of weeds in the tropics must first be studied, together with trials of effective weedkillers before it can be stated that chemical methods are either economic or uneconomic.