



# PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS

HIGHLANDS AGRICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Charles Bonaventure,  
ECHO East Africa Technical Advisor  
[cbonaventure@echonet.org](mailto:cbonaventure@echonet.org)



# INTRODUCTION

- ECHO has become aware of an invasive weed in many areas in Africa. *Parthenium hysterophorus*, a noxious weed, has spread from its native region in Mexico and South America to more than twenty countries globally, arriving in Ethiopia in the 1980s in contaminated famine-relief food supplies. Since then it has advanced throughout Kenya and northern Tanzania

## CONT...

- *Parthenium* is considered one of the worst weeds in East Africa because it reduces crop yield, decreases biodiversity, and harms both human and animal health. *Parthenium* releases toxins into the soil that kill or suppress the growth of other plants. In some fields of maize and beans have produced little to no harvestable crop because of the presence of *Parthenium*. When animals, like cows or goats, eat *Parthenium*, they develop mouth sores, the milk and meat become tainted with an unpalatable flavor, and they may even die

## CONT...

- . Prolonged exposure to the vegetation or pollen of *Parthenium* can result in dermatitis for humans– a rash that usually appears on the hands, arms, neck, and face. Many women in Arusha suffer from *Parthenium*-induced dermatitis. Furthermore, the pollen damages the respiratory system, triggering asthma or bronchitis. *Parthenium* spreads rapidly and is difficult to control because each plant can produce up to 25,000 seeds, which can survive in the soil for up to ten years.

# *Parthenium hysterophorus*

**Rosette**



**Mature**



# Flowers & Seeds



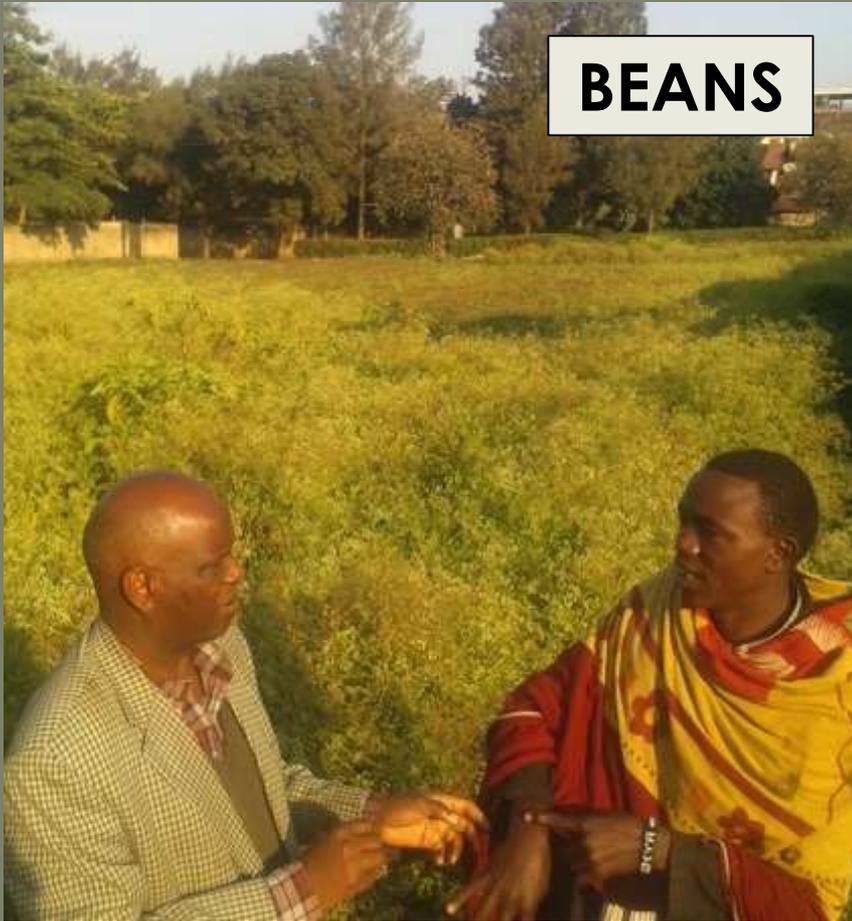
# Local Testimonies



**Njiro, 27 July 2016**

# Crops

**BEANS**



**MAIZE (Njiro)**



# Animals



# Parthenium Field Behind Elementary School



# Spreading



# Njiro Mamas & Education Campaign



# Njiro Mamas & Education Campaign



# ACAF Presentation



# Community Outreach



# Pesticide Control - TPRI



# Marigold For Control



# Local Removal & Community Mobilization



# Community Mobilization

