

THE PLANT CLINICS TO FIGHT AGAINST PESTS PROMOTED BY THE PLANTWISE GLOBAL PROGRAM

Presented in the Swiss Pavilion at Expo 2015, in the framework of *the Food Security Day* by Andrea Powell of CABI Center, the [Plantwise Programme](#) represents an innovative way for fighting against pests and contributing to a global food security.

Plantwise is a programme led by the [CABI Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International](#) which works to help farmers lose less of what they grow. Working closely with national agricultural services the Plantwise programme establishes and supports sustainable networks of plant clinics [run by trained plant doctors](#) where farmers can find practical plant health advice.

The Plantwise programme underlines in its website that today an estimated 30-40% of crops are lost each year due to pests. Over a third of the world's population is supported by 500 million smallholder farmers. Supporting farmers in their fight against pests is a global food security priority today because water and energy remaining scarce resources for many and climate change and globalisation are speeding up the spread of new pests to new areas. Reducing the crop loss by just 1% could feed millions more people.

The Plantwise programme was officially launched in 2011 in many countries setting up [plant clinics](#). By building and strengthening partnerships today the programme works in over 34 countries, establishing 1,500 Plant Clinics and have reached more than half a million farmers since the programme began.

Plant clinics work similarly to clinics for human health: farmers visit with samples of their crops, and plant doctors diagnose the problem and make science-based recommendations on ways to manage it. Plant clinics are reinforced by the Plantwise Knowledge Bank, a gateway to practical online and offline plant health information, including diagnostic resources, best-practice pest management advice and plant clinic data analysis for targeted crop protection.

The knowledge bank offers tools and insights, and the plant clinics create an efficient and effective way to reach farmers with best-practice advice. These two resources are part of the Plantwise approach to strengthen the plant health system in the interested countries.



[CABI \(Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International\)](#) is an international not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Its approach involves putting information, skills and tools into people's hands. CABI's 48 member countries guide and influence their work.

The [CABI Center was established in Switzerland](#) in 1948 and carries out applied scientific research and undertakes consultancy projects to support the work on invasive species, knowledge for development and commodities in many different regions around the world. The Swiss Pavilion is promoting the Plantwise approach as a way to contribute to a global food security.

To know more

<https://www.plantwise.org/>

<http://www.cabi.org/>

[PlantwiseMap](#)

[Plant Clinics](#)

[Plant Clinic location](#)

[KnowledgeBank](#)

[2014 Plantwise Annual Report](#)

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