

THE ORGANIC FARMER MAGAZINE

FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN KENYA

[The Organic Farmer](#) is a magazine with practical information, published monthly in printed and digital versions and distributed free of charge to interested farmer groups in Kenya. Farmers receive concrete guidance and practical tips on securing and increasing their harvests through simple, environmentally friendly means. From the *Organic Farmer Magazine* website, it is possible to [download the monthly last issue](#) and access articles of particular interest published in the various editions of the magazine.

The *Organic Farmer Magazine* is promoted by the [ICIPE International Center of insect physiology and ecology](#) based in Nairobi (Kenya) and the [Biovision Africa Trust \(BvAT\)](#), a not-for-profit organization established in Kenya by the Biovision Foundation (Switzerland) for the human, animal, plants and the environmental health. On the operational level, the TOF Magazine is produced and diffused by the [Biovision Farmer Communication Programme](#) which works in Kenya to improve the lives of smallholder farmers by supporting the dissemination and application of scientifically and practically validated information and knowledge and at the same time safeguard the environment and biodiversity.

The issues of the TOF Magazine are produced with content sourced from experts informing farmers on practical technologies they can adopt to increase yields in their farms, while producing safe food with the resources at their disposal, developing value chains and gaining markets for their farm produce. Some of the technologies and topics covered include: compost making; soil testing; homemade livestock feeds, IPM (Integrated Pest Management) to control Fall armyworm, tomato blight, leaf miners and stem borers; added value and marketing for common farm produce, especially bananas, mangoes and dairy milk; interventions in case of diseases affecting livestock and poultry, especially during outbreaks.

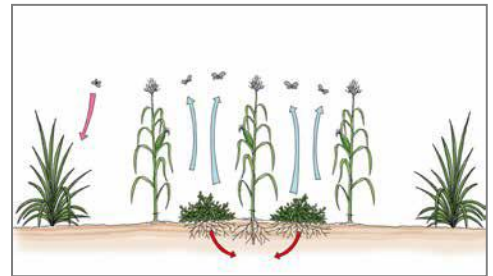
Infonet Biovision, the web-based knowledge platform established in 2007, presents [all the issues published since 2005 by the TOF Magazine](#) which can be downloaded for free. The page also allows to [select specific subjects of interest](#) published in the TOF Magazine.

Thanks to the Infonet Biovision web-based knowledge platform, which represents an extraordinary library for organic farmers on a wide range of issues concerning sustainable agriculture in tropical areas, the *Organic Farmer Magazine* not only brings direct benefits to Kenya's rural areas but is a useful tool for organic farmers and organizations working in the field of ecological development in many other countries.

For example, the TOF Magazine continues to promote through several articles [the Push-pull technology](#) created by the Prof. Zeyaur



Khan, Principal Scientist at ICIPE. The Push-pull technology is a system that controls farm pests through planting crops that repel pests *Push* and those that attract and trap the pests *Pull* keeping them away from the main crop. Sorghum and maize, for example, are often attacked by the maize stalk borer. To control the pest, one can plant desmodium (to repel) in between the maize and Napier grass (to trap the pest) on the edges of one's farm. This technology prevents the pest from attacking the maize crop.



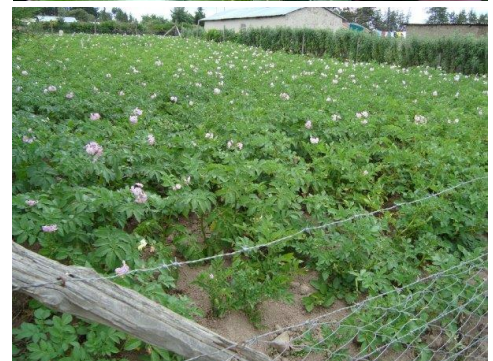
The ICIPE Center is working in 33 African Countries in collaboration with an important network of partners and the *Push-pull* technology has helped more than 250,000 farmers to increase yields and control numerous pests without using chemicals and pesticides. In the [ICRIP website](#) manuals and guides for the use of the Push-pull technology are available. Guides and articles on the Push Pull Technology are also available in the [Publications section](#) of the Infonet-biovision knowledge platform.



Biovision and ICIPE are engaged in an extraordinary work to make available to small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks, techniques and methodologies developed and validated by scientific research which can environmentally, socially and economically improve their livelihoods. Despite the fact that research institutions innovate and generate new knowledge relevant to the needs of small farmers, there still remains the challenge of reaching these key players with an appropriate targeted information.



Biovision and ICIPE work in addressing this gap, producing information that can be used directly to carry out ecological production activities and biological methods of ecological pest control with locally available resources, linking farmers' knowledge with sustainable innovations. In 2013, [Biovision and its founder Hans Rudolf Herren have been recognized by the Right Livelihood Award](#). In 2017 Herren was elected for the [board of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements IFOAM](#).



Based on the data published in the [Biovision Africa Trust 2019 Report](#), the *Organic Farmer Magazine* has been a great resource for over 100,000 farmers spread across Kenya (in 41 counties so far), through the print and the digital versions of the magazine whose demand continues to grow remarkably. In 2019, hard copies of the magazine were dispatched to more than 3,300 recipients monthly, most of which received batches to share with farmer groups. Over 300 online readers received the soft copy monthly and with Smart Farmer Africa's partnership, the number of readers downloading the soft copy from the net is projected to rise to 6,000 readers.



The overall variety of information about sustainable agricultural practices and biological methods of pests control that protect environment published by *The Organic Farmer Magazine* and by the web-based knowledge platform of Infonet Biovision can be useful for all interested actors working in tropical areas.

To know more

[The Organic Farmer website](#)

[The Organic Farmer – October 2020](#)

[The Organic Farmer in Facebook](#)



[TOF magazine in Infonet Biovision](#)

[ICIPE International Center of insect physiology and ecology](#)

[Infonet-biovision.org](#)

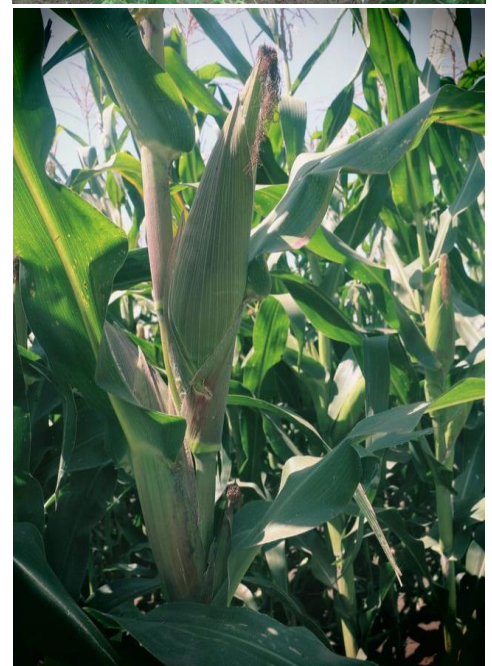
[Biovision Africa Trust website](#)

[Biovision 2019 Annual Report](#)

[Pushpull technology - TOF May 2020](#)

[ICIPE Publications and manuals](#)

[Push-Pull.net website](#)



KNOW YOUR PASTURE GRASSES

Nandi Setaria

