



## Project

www.infonet-biovision.org is an internet-based information platform that promotes and disseminates locally relevant knowledge on sustainable agriculture, health promotion and environmentally safe technologies and approaches.

The practice-oriented and clearly structured information database is targeted at farmers' groups, goal-related NGOs and agricultural and health advisers.

The content of the knowledge platform is developed in co-operation with scientists and local experts and presented according to the needs of the beneficiaries in a practical and user-friendly way. In order to make use of all possible dissemination channels, a so-called 'offline version' (CD) of the platform is available and can be used on computers without internet access. New technologies in the field of knowledge dissemination are evaluated and integrated if considered beneficial. Such as for example the robust OLPC (One Laptop per Child) which can be used to make Infonet available to agricultural extension workers in rural areas without internet access.

## Relevance

Agriculture remains the main source of income for 80% of the rural population in Africa. Agricultural production; and therefore also food supply is impeded by various environmental factors and a lack of information and training. Plant pests alone are responsible for up to 80% of crop losses. Ecologically sustainable solutions are a practical alternative for African farmers to achieve good crop yields without using expensive chemical fertilisers and pesticides. However, there is a deficit of understandable and relevant information for farmers.

## Beneficiaries

Individual small-scale farmers and community groups, teachers, trainers and extension officers in the health, environmental and agricultural areas, local NGOs and GOs

## Development Goal

To make a contribution to the improvement of health, nutrition, education and income generation in the rural population, while conserving natural resources by supporting local information exchange and promoting ecologically sustainable solutions to rural problems.

**Project number:**  
BV IS-03/04

**Project active since:**  
2005

**Project duration:**  
until December 2012

**Budget for 2011:**  
422'500 USD

**Project coordinator:**  
Dr. David Amudavi, icipe

**Program responsibility:**  
Andreas Schriber



*The users learn very quickly how to find the required information on the internet.*



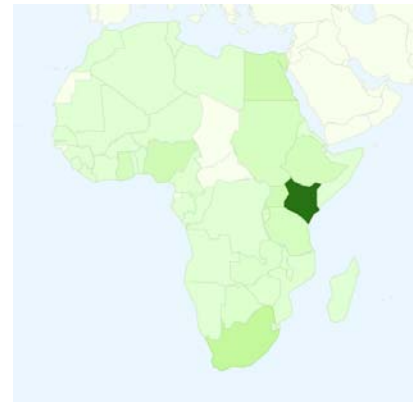
*Thanks to the emergence of numerous internet cafes, access to the internet has become much easier.*

## Achieved so far

Construction of a database and an online information platform with qualitatively high, locally relevant information. Establishment of a partner network to review and disseminate information.

## Goals

1. Expansion and optimisation of the information service according to analysis of needs.
2. Dissemination of the contents through sensitisation campaigns and public relations work in collaboration with local partner organisations and goal-related programs.
3. Development of useful technologies and software for targeted dissemination of contents via new media.
4. Integration of infonet-Biovision in a regionally coordinated communications program (FCP) with existing projects such as TOF Magazine, TOF radio, iTOF
5. Development of general quality standards for the FCP projects and use of synergies.



## Partner Organisations

International insect research institute *icipe* (implementing partner, [www.icipe.org](http://www.icipe.org)); FiBL, [www.fibl.ch](http://www.fibl.ch) (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture); KARI, [www.kari.org](http://www.kari.org) (Kenya Agriculture Research Institute); KENFAP (Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers); ACT (African Conservation Tillage Network); AIRC (Agriculture Inf. Centre, Kenya); University of Wolverhampton [www.scit.wlv.ac.uk](http://www.scit.wlv.ac.uk); The Organic Farmer Magazine [www.theorganicfarmer.org](http://www.theorganicfarmer.org)

*Infonet statistics: The website is used worldwide. Number of hits worldwide in November 2010 was 17'262. 4'949 of those hits are from 41 countries in Africa. Visits to the site continue to increase.*



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