

## PROJECTS: KENYA

# PUSH-PULL METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN CENTRAL KENYA



### Project

The main activity is large-scale dissemination of **methods of sustainable agriculture (Push-Pull)** to as many farming families as possible; complemented by important further training courses to improve **soil fertility** through composting and organic fertilisers as well as the implementation of concrete measures to **improve market access** for small-scale farmers.

**Access to information** is a critical factor in the dissemination of new, sustainable cultivation methods. For this reason, synergies with other Biovision projects such as the farmers' newspaper *The Organic Farmer* (TOF) and Infonet ([www.infonet-biovision.org](http://www.infonet-biovision.org)) are used, which are employed in various trainings. TOF reports on the experiences and findings of this project and so reaches a wide readership.

In over 72 „**Farmer Field Schools**“, practical courses are taught on how an increase in value can be achieved locally: Participants are trained and encouraged to process and package their agricultural produce themselves in their villages.

### Relevance

The majority of small-scale farmers in Central Kenya have the use of less than 0.8 hectares of land, on which they predominantly cultivate maize and beans. Biovision supports this integrated project, in which a sustainable increase in maize and feed crop yields, and in soil fertility even in smaller agricultural areas can be achieved using environmentally-friendly methods. In this way the food security and living situation of the farmers is decisively improved. The popular Biovision information project *The Organic Farmer* (farmers' newspaper) and [www.infonet-biovision.org](http://www.infonet-biovision.org) also play an important role in this project.

### Development Goal

Improvement in the availability of nutrition, income generation and alleviation of poverty for small farmers through access to sustainable cultivation methods and regular information on the themes of organic farming.

### Beneficiaries

More than 2000 people (among these 1500 women) in over 72 „**Farmer Field Schools**“ are regularly trained and supervised in sustainable agricultural methods (Push-Pull, composting methods etc.). The field schools maintain planting materials to cultivate demonstration fields.

**Project number:**  
BV PH-05

**Project active since:**  
January 2008

**Project duration:**  
until December 2010

**Budget for 2009:**  
40'000 USD

**Project coordinator:**  
Samuel Njihia, Senior scientist  
KARI

**Program responsibility:**  
Verena Albertin



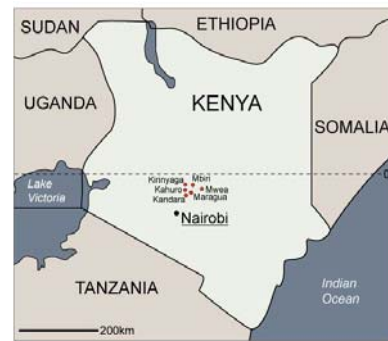
*Crop yields are improved thanks to Push-Pull methods.*



*“The Organic Farmer” publishes articles on sustainable agriculture.*

## Goals

1. Establishment/supervision of 72 „**Farmer Field Schools**“, where practical training takes place.
2. Proven increase of soil fertility by **manufacture of compost** and **use of cattle dung** as natural fertiliser.
3. Offer of **courses in dairy farming** (hygiene and pasteurisation of organic milk) for the beneficiaries.
4. Monthly distribution of 1400 copies of the **famers' newspaper** *The Organic Farmer* TOF to various farm schools.
5. Improved **access to markets** through consolidation of the small-scale famers into village unions to sell their produce collectively.



Project area in Central Kenya.

## Partner Organisations

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute KARI [www.kari.org](http://www.kari.org); *The Organic Farmer* Magazine TOF [www.organicfarmermagazine.org](http://www.organicfarmermagazine.org), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology *icipe* [www.icipe.org](http://www.icipe.org); Ministry of Agriculture extension division Central province, Kenya Institute of Organic Farming KIOF [www.kiof.org](http://www.kiof.org); Sustainable Agriculture Community Development programme SACDEP [www.kcdfoundation.org](http://www.kcdfoundation.org), LEAD (Business Dairy Service), Infonet-BioVision, Githunguri Farmers Dairy Farmers Society

## Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. (4x Health, 4-H Strategy). Every project supported by Biovision effects considerable improvements in at least one of the four health areas. The key to effectively replicating the success of the project is the availability of specific information on the methods applied and the results achieved. With this approach and its 'helix of effects', living conditions are improved and the poverty of the people is gradually overcome while the environment is protected.



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