

24 – 30 August 2020

Potato cyst nematodes

icipe scientists are working alongside partner organizations to save potatoes from cyst nematodes, which pose major threat to potato production in East Africa. The microscopic parasitic worms can cause yield losses of up to 80% and, in some cases, total loss of the crop.

- <http://www.hortitecnews.com/une-nouvelle-menace-phytosanitaire-sur-la-pomme-de-terre-en-afrique-de-lest/>
- <https://potatoes.news/news/regions/africa/scientists-spearhead-efforts-to-save-east-africas-potatoes-from-a-new-pest-threat.html>



Fall armyworm

icipe researchers have developed biopesticides to aid the fight against fall armyworm. The products are effective against the highly destructive pest yet environmentally safe.

- <https://nation.africa/kenya/business/seeds-of-gold/agriculture-news-in-brief-1925582>
- <https://www.agritours.co.ke/icipe-records-breakthrough-in-fight-against-fall-armyworm/>
- <https://kizatrends.com/2020/08/25/agriculture-news-in-brief-nation/>



Tuta absoluta



In collaboration with Real IPM, a Kenyan manufacturer of biological pest control resources, icipe has developed a biopesticide to control *Tuta absoluta*. The product is based on an entomopathogenic fungus and is currently undergoing tests in the field. The team has also team identified a species of parasitic wasp that lays its eggs inside the young larvae of *Tuta absoluta*, which can significantly reduce the population of this pest in a natural way.

<https://www.biovision.ch/en/news/healthy-tomatoes-thanks-to-wasps-and-fungal-spores/>