

15 – 21 June 2020

Director General feted

icipe's Director General has been celebrated in this feature in *Le Monde*, titled 'Segenet Kelemu, queen of insects'. The beautifully written piece not only highlights her passion for science, but also her accomplishments and the odds she has overcome.

https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2020/06/19/kenya-segenet-kelemu-la-reine-des-insectes_6043496_3212.html

Dr Kelemu was also featured in the Twitter thread [#366womeninSTEM](https://twitter.com/hashtag/366womeninSTEM) celebrating female scientists.

https://twitter.com/hashtag/366womeninSTEM?src=hashtag_click



Maize pests

Dr Paul-André Calatayud and Dr Sevgan Subramanian published an article in *The Conversation* on icipe's research into the biological control of crop pests, especially stem borers and fall armyworm in maize. Biocontrol agents negate the need for harmful chemicals that have devastating effects on the environment and human health.



<https://theconversation.com/deux-nouveaux-insectes-identifies-au-kenya-peuvent-aider-a-lutter-contre-les-ravageurs-du-ma-s-138364>

Desert locusts



The Government of Kenya has mentioned *icipe* as one of the institutions it is collaborating with in the war against desert locusts. Agriculture Principal Secretary Hamadi Boga said the joint research team is working on tracking and sample analysis as part of efforts to reduce crop destruction:

<https://www.nation.co.ke/kenya/business/ministry-uses-half-of-its-budget-maize-subsidies-ps--733804>

Fruit flies



The setting up of a factory to produce *icipe's* fruit fly bait is expected to boost mango exports in Kenya. The facility based in Murang'a has the capacity to produce 2,000 litres of 'Fruit Fly Mania' a day.

<https://www.nation.co.ke/kenya/counties/muranga/boost-for-mango-farmers-as-icipe-launches-fruit-fly-bait-379482>

Mosquitoes

Dr Jeremy Herren's article on the groundbreaking discovery of a microbial fungus that protects mosquitos from malaria infection continues to be republished across the globe. Last week, it was translated in the Spanish daily, *El Pais*.

https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/06/18/planeta_futuro/1592481255_955464.html



RSIF



The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund's call for applications for PhD scholarships has elicited a lot of interest among African scholars. Scholarships will be offered in selected African priority areas in the applied sciences, engineering and technology, and are tenable at leading universities across Africa. June 22, 2020, is the deadline for applications.

<https://businessday.ng/education/article/uniport-bayero-university-others-jostle-for-116-phd-scholarship-opportunities/>

Potato cyst nematodes



Recent studies *icipe* and partners show that it may be possible to control potato cyst nematodes (PCN) by inducing 'suicidal hatching' of the pests using naturally occurring chemicals in crop roots. The findings were published in *Frontiers in Plant Science* journal (paper link: <https://bit.ly/30z440W>) and also reported in the *Smart Investor*:

http://smartinvestor.co.ke/4092/scientists-discover-new-way-to-manage-invasive-potato-pests-boost-yields?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=scientists-discover-new-way-to-manage-invasive-potato-pests-boost-yields