

6 – 12 July 2020

Stemborers



Some maize plants send out a chemical signal when a ‘stemborer’ moth has laid its eggs on the plant, in order to recruit parasitic wasps that lay their eggs in the moth caterpillars. Scientists from *icipe*, Keele University and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Kenya are studying how this insect attack can be harnessed as a biological pesticide (paper link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-68075-2>)

- <https://www.sciencefocus.com/news/wasp-bodyguards-could-be-used-as-biological-pesticide/>
- <https://www.kbc.co.ke/scientists-discover-smart-maize-able-to-defend-against-stemborers/>
- <https://www.seedtoday.com/article/205799/scientists-discover-genes-allowing-smart-crops-to-call-in-bodyguards-when-attacked-by-pests>
- [https://www.alphagalileo.org/en-gb/Item-Display/ItemId/194863](https://www.alphagalileo.org/en-gb/Item-Display/ItemId/194863?returnurl=https://www.alphagalileo.org/en-gb/Item-Display/ItemId/194863)

Strategy for Managing Invasive Species in Africa



icipe, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) have developed a 10-year strategy for managing invasive species in Africa.

<https://www.seedtoday.com/article/205336/international-institute-for-tropical-agriculture-releases-10-year-strategy-for-managing-invasive-species-in-africa>

BioInnovate Africa



BioInnovate Africa is part of a scientific network seeking to develop a regional innovation-driven bioeconomy strategy for Eastern Africa. Dr Julius Ecuru (Programme Manager) recently wrote an informative article on why such a strategy is necessary.

<https://www.rural21.com/english/search/detail/article/why-east-africa-chose-to-develop-a-regional-bioeconomy-strategy.html>

Tsetse flies



icipe is part of a Sh7.7 billion drive to eliminate tsetse fly in Kenya. Other partners include Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council (Kenntec), Kenya Agricultural Research Organization (KALRO), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

- <https://www.nation.co.ke/kenya/news/kenya-in-ambitious-sh7-7-billion-drive-to-eliminate-tsetse-fly-1446676>
- <https://allafrica.com/stories/202007080127.html>

Desert locusts



Scientists at *icipe* are experimenting with isolates from fungi and microbes that target locusts as an alternative to the widespread use of pesticides. Other options include using the locusts for human food or animal feed. This article has been popular since last week, and has continued to be translated into more languages.

- <https://eldispensador.blogspot.com/2020/07/how-to-rid-e-africa-of-locusts-serve.html>
- <http://www.palpalindia.com/2020/07/10/Hum-Chup-Nahee-Hai-World-Afraid-of-Locusts-but-people-in-East-Africa-cooking-them-news-in-hindi-9999.html>
- <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4408321>
- https://visao.sapo.pt/atualidade/sociedade/2020-07-09-come-los-mata-los-ou-confundi-los-as-hipoteses-em-cima-da-mesa-para-controlar-as-pragas-de-gafanhotos-em-africa/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=come-los-mata-los-ou-confundi-los-as-hipoteses-em-cima-da-mesa-para-controlar-as-pragas-de-gafanhotos-em-africa
- <http://legendnews.in/many-countries-of-the-world-are-afraid-of-locusts-but-people-in-east-africa-are-making-them-dish/>
- <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/world/other-countries/east-africa-locusts-being-eaten-smell-is-used-for-cannibalism-and-more-research/articleshow/76868315.cms>
- <https://headtopics.com/in/234723602354237123886-14213488>
- <https://www.mynet.com/dogu-afrika-daki-cekirge-istilasina-uzmanlardan-cozum-kebab-yapin-110106547753>
- <https://www.alayyam.info/news/89FQX8XG-VRI9PF-73D4>

Potato nematodes



Recent studies by *icipe* and partners have shown that it may be possible to manage potato cyst nematodes (PCN) by inducing 'suicidal hatching' of the pests using naturally occurring chemicals in crop roots.

<https://panafricanvisions.com/2020/07/agriculture-glimmer-of-hope-as-scientists-battle-lethal-potato-nematodes/>

Social media



There was some social media buzz around a new paper: Detection and monitoring of ‘*Candidatus*’ Liberibacter spp. vectors: African citrus trioza *Trioza erytreae* Del Guercio (Hemiptera: Triozidae) and Asian citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama (Hemiptera: Liviidae) in citrus groves in East Africa (paper link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/afe.12395>)

Other social media topics included:

The Strategy for Managing Invasive Species in Africa

[Agro-ONE Group @Agro1Media](#)

[Today • 4:59 PM](#)

in 12 African countries will cause an estimated annual yield loss of 4.1-17.7 m tons of maize crop alone. Find out how African countries can coordinate to defend against [#pests: t.co/Wtojr46hOx](#) [#biodiversity @IITA CGIAR @icipe @CABI_News t.co/ebkHSfidNy](#)

[CGIAR @CGIAR](#)

[FR Jul 11 • 1:45 PM](#)

Invasive species pose a huge global threat, and Africa is particularly vulnerable. A new strategy from [@IITA CGIAR, @icipe & @CABI_News](#) will help build Africa's capacity to respond to threats--before, during & after outbreaks: [t.co/Wtojr46hOx @au_ibar @SwissMFA @DFID_UK](#)

A new paper from the Social Science and Impact Assessment Unit

New [#Agriculture](#) paper "Potential [#Adoption](#) of [#Integrated](#) [#Pest](#) Management Strategy for Suppression of [#Mango](#) [#Fruit](#) [#Flies](#) in East Africa: An Ex Ante and Ex Post Analysis in Ethiopia and Kenya", written by Beatrice W. Muriithi et al. from [@icipe](#) [t.co/vzLflbkWUZ](#)

Stemborers

[ACIAR in Eastern and Southern Africa @ACIARAfrica](#)

[KE Today • 11:38 AM](#)

[#Inthenews](#) scientists from [@icipe](#), [@ICRISAT](#) and [@KeeleUniversity](#) discover certain ‘smart maize’ varieties able to defend themselves against stemborers [t.co/bTa50VWm0a](#)

Locusts

[CropLife International @CropLifeIntl](#)

[BE Jul 10 • 6:35 PM](#)

RT [@GlobalFarmerNet](#): Scientists at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology ([ICIPE](#)) are experimenting with biopesticides and the use of locusts as human and animal food as they look for environmentally-friendly extermination methods. [t.co/uU06sqLYXs #](#)