



Infonet Biovision



*Hands-on electronic library
For practitioners of
sustainable agriculture in
Africa.*

The beginning.....

- Farmers express need to have a one stop shop for information (2004)
- Idea is taken up by BioVision
- Technical partner found (2005)
- Concept developed
- Funding secured (2005)
- Baseline studies (2006)
- Content Development (2007 onwards)
- Usability study in Kenya (2007)
- Official launch (2007)
- Stakeholder planning platform - first edition available on offline cd
- Official home – *icipe*, Nairobi (from Nov 2008)
- 2009-2012 Phase II, consolidation, networking with other programs and projects
- SRA conference NRb Nov 2008 identifies the need for farmer – scientists link
- From Feb 2009: emerging partnerships with Public institutions and CBO's in Kenya

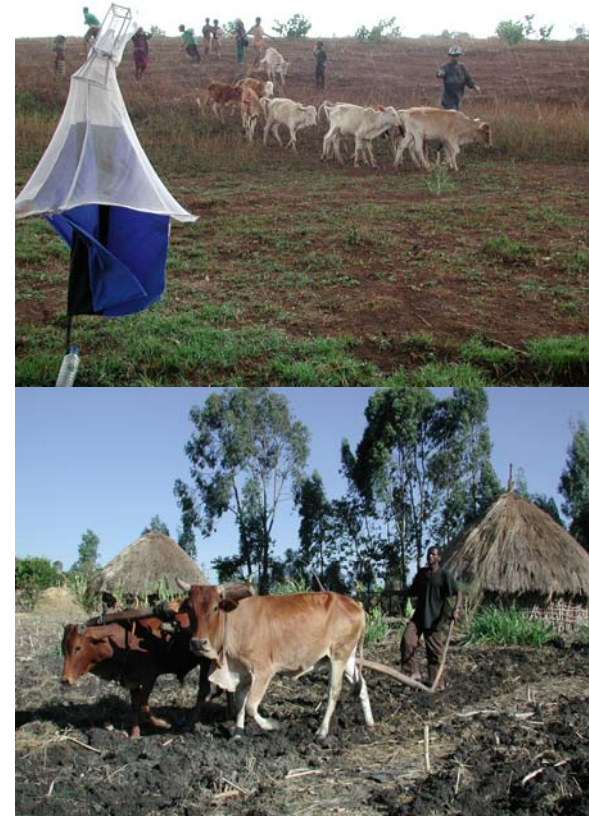


Goal – Bridge the gap between:

Research



Application



Impact spiral within the 4-H paradigm



Provide and disseminate sustainable and environmentally sound
Methods in the areas of
Human, Animal, Plant and Environmental Health

Which kind of information does Infonet contain?

www.infonet-biovision.org
The "hands on" electronic library for practitioners of sustainable agriculture in the tropics

 PLANT	 HUMAN	 ANIMALS	 ENVIRONMENT
<p>Crops/fruits/vegetables information on husbandry, identification and management of pests and diseases.</p> <p>Pests/diseases/weeds preventive and curative measures, biology and ecology, photographs for identification.</p> <p>Medicinal plants Medicinal plants with income generating potential.</p> <p>Fruit and vegetable processing for preservation; pulp, jam, drying, construction of a dryer.</p> <p>Natural pest control when to apply control methods; plant extracts, bio-pesticides, natural enemies, etc.</p> <p>Cultural practices cultural methods, composting, crop rotation, intercropping, etc.</p>	<p>Insect borne diseases Malaria, integrated and preventive control (water management, bed-nets, medical treatment).</p> <p><i>More information on human health coming.</i></p> <p><i>www.infonet-biovision.org</i> is a web-based information tool offering trainers, extension workers and farmers a quick access to up-to-date and locally relevant information in order to optimise their livelihoods in a safe, effective, and ecologically sound way.</p> <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on major crops, vegetables and fruits prevalent in East Africa, including crop and animal husbandry, soil and water management, cultural methods and organic pest and diseases management in East Africa, with illustrated descriptions for quick and accurate identification of crop pests and diseases. • Over 1300 images allowing easy identification of major pests, diseases and illustrations of methods promoted. • Publications and database of TOF Organic Farmer Magazine (Search by keywords or issue, audio and text versions) • The experience of over 200 agriculture experts and content from over 500 books—all in one website or offline CD. <p>The information-platform will continue to be enhanced and the quality of the data maintained.</p>	<p>Animal husbandry and beekeeping Information on organic animal husbandry, animal diseases prevention and management by species (bees, chicken/ poultry, camels, cattle etc.).</p> <p>Products <i>More information on animal health coming</i></p>	<p>Water management Watersheds, rainwater harvesting, irrigation systems, water quality and treatment, etc.</p> <p>Soil management How to improve your soil fertility, soil conservation measures: home-gardens, alley-cropping, improved fallows, contour farming, etc.</p> <p>Sustainable land management The concepts Ecoagriculture, Agroforestry, Organic Farming, Biodynamic Farming and Conservation Agriculture.</p> <p>Energy (under construction).</p> <p>Methods for income generation (under construction).</p> <p><i>More information on environmental health coming.</i></p>

How is the information compiled?

- Step 1:

Compilation of basic datasheet on desired topic by for instance student.

- Step 2:

Review and update by subject matter specialist (scientist)

- Step 3:

Review by user

- Step 4:

Usability feed back to system (still in the process)

- Step 5:

Adjustment, addition etc

How can farmers access this information?

- Any computer with a cd drive
- From internet café's
- OLPC computer – solar charger or wind up dynamo – screen readable in full sunlight, hardy, no hard disc, can be connected to network where it exists, dust and water proof.



New features planned

- Question/ answer system with access to database from sms and voice mail (Avallain, Teknobyte, University of Wolverhampton)
- Links to market information locally and internationally (KACE & KENFAP partnerships)
- Vastly improved livestock information (Review by KARI scientists)
- Up to date water conservation and treatment for consumption and agriculture (review by SEAR-net)

Who benefits?

- Farmers and community groups
- NGO's, schools and extension services
- Researchers and scientists
- Information networks
- Companies targeting farming community
- Consumers benefitting from abundant food supply

Who are the partners so far?

- Technical issues: Avallain
- Content and dissemination:
 - KAINet : KARI, KEFRI, Universities etc
 - AIRC Agriculture Information and Resource Center (MoA)
 - The Organic Farmer Magazine
 - ICIPE
 - ACT – African Conservation Tillage network
 - FiBL, WOCAT
 - Open to participation and collaboration

Researcher Opportunities/Benefits in partnerships with Infonet

- Publish farmer relevant abstract with link to full article in KAINet or other collaborating partner publications
- Access to direct farmer feed back system
- Authors quoted in references - recognition
- Pictures and illustrations with quoted origin - recognition
- Quick reference to other technologies in organic farming
- Easy networking tool for further research

Country Information Systems Benefits in partnering with Infonet

- Free basic database to adapt to country specific needs
- Easy networking world wide and particularly in Africa
- System back-up in Zurich/London in case of local technical challenges

Join us in promoting a safe environment in Africa and beyond



Thank You