

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, ICIPE, is a unique international research organization which specializes in arthropod-based issues which impact on the economics and welfare of tropical developing countries. With headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, the centre was founded in 1970 by a Kenyan scientist, Professor Thomas R. Odhiambo. Leading the organization in its second quarter-century is the Director General Dr. Hans Herren, winner of the 1995 World Food Prize, the Brandenberger Prize for 2002 and the Tyler Prize in 2003 among others. The center's 280-some staff are drawn primarily from the developing world, and include about 48 professionals; Kenyans make up 88 per cent of the total, including 22 professionals. Governance is by a 16-member governing council, drawn from the world-wide scientific community, academia and relevant professions, and includes two members from Kenya. ICIPE's international charter has been signed by 11 countries. Funding comes from United Nations and government aid agencies and private foundations. In 2002, ICIPE's annual budget totaled US\$12 million. ICIPE's activities centre on vital issues of global and regional concern: human health, livestock productivity, food security, biodiversity, poverty alleviation (sustainable livelihoods), sustainable use of natural resources, and institutional and individual capacity building. As the host country, Kenya is in the frontline to benefit directly from the research results and testing of ICIPE's products and ICIPE collaborates with many local and international institutions (over 100) in delivering and testing technologies.



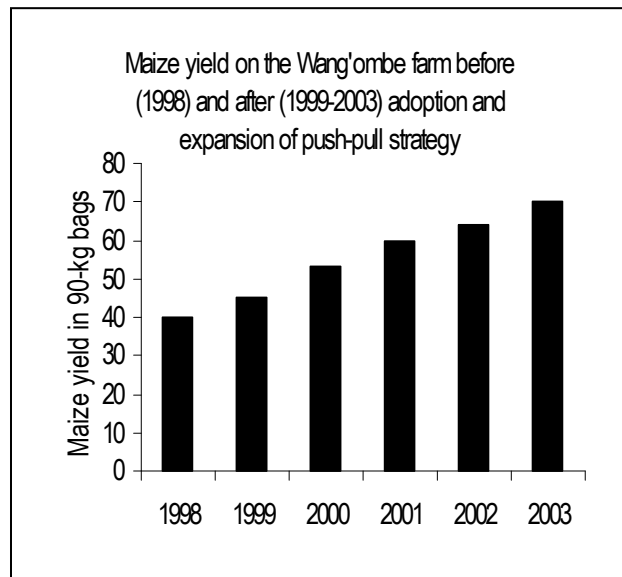
The Gatsby Charitable Foundation

IMPACT OF 'PUSH-PULL' TECHNOLOGY ON THE WANG'OMBE FAMILY, TRANS NZOIA, KENYA



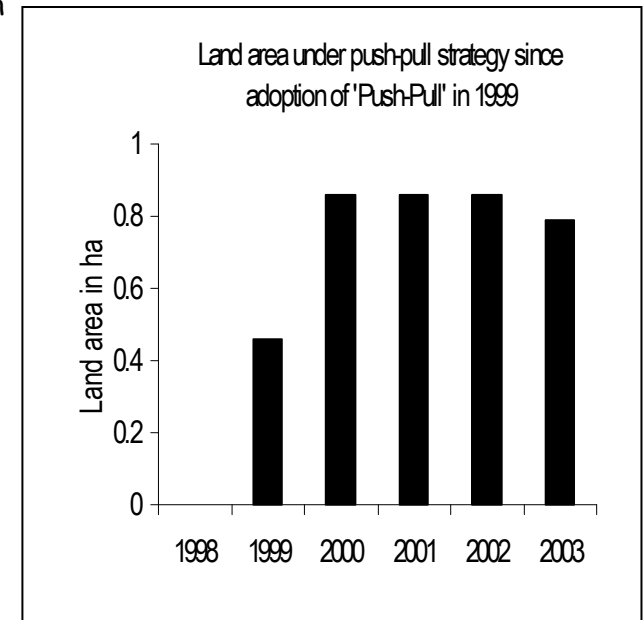
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Lillian and John Wang'ombe, a young couple with young children have a small farm of 2 acres in Kitale. Before joining the Gatsby funded 'push-pull' ICIPE project, they grew maize as a cash crop. They also established a poultry unit for income generation, since it would not require a lot of space and would not compete with maize for land allocation. John, being a trained livestock production extensionist had a heart for livestock. However, rearing poultry turned out to be a very expensive affair. Lillian had to fetch water almost the whole day to meet the poultry needs leaving her with little time for a myriad of other household chores. On the other hand, John had regularly to travel to Kisumu to buy *omena* (small fish) to make home-made rations for the birds. The market demand for poultry was low in the nearby town of Kitale and the income they generated from the enterprise could not meet their input costs, let alone provide a profit. They wanted an alternative but felt limited by the size of their land. Lillian then heard about the 'Push -pull' Habitat Management Strategy from her mother, where she could plant Napier grass around her crop to benefit the maize by 'pulling' away stem borers, and get fodder without using too much of her limited



land. It was a great opportunity and she adopted the technology. She later planted desmodium for the "push" component, which is a good protein supplement for cattle. Within one season, they were able to give Napier grass to her mother who would give them milk for

their young children in return. Within a short time, they realized they had supplied her mother with Napier grass almost all year. "This is enough to feed our own cow for a whole year" they consulted with each other. They were also positively surprised when in 2000, they got



over 50 bags of maize when their entire farm was under 'push-pull', for they kept expanding their plot. Previously, they had been getting less than 40 bags. They sold the maize, bought their first grade cow at Ksh 10,000, paid a deposit for their second cow and still had enough money to invest in farm inputs for the next season. Since then their herd has grown to 5 cows with 14 liters of milk to nourish the young family and sell per day. Today, they are the ones getting Napier grass and other fodder crops from their neighbours in exchange for a bottle of milk. "Those who laughed at us when we first planted Napier grass without cows on such a small farm now come for advice on how to establish push-pull" says John with a chuckle, as he proudly shows us round his animal shed.

For more information contact the Team Leader Dr. Zeyaur Khan, ICIPE, PO Box 30, Mbita Point, Kenya or by e-mail zkhan@mbita.mimcom.net. Please see our webpage www.push-pull.net. The project is funded by Gatsby Foundation