# Sustainable Intensification of Push–Pull System with Vegetables





# AT WAWAGA SHOPPING CENTRE IN MIGORI, THE VILLAGE HEAD IS ANNOUNCING A MEETING MEANT FOR THE WEEKEND.











caused by farmyard chemicals. The doctor has given them medicine.

They have rashes which the doctor said are







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Lately, we have been having medical cases related to the use of agro-chemicals on our farms. Additionally, my office has received complaints of increased pest damage to our crops.

With us, we have the agricultural extension officer and the community health nurse to train us on what we need to do. Welcome nurse.





Greetings all! We can reduce, and even eliminate, the use of chemicals on our farms by using the proper farming practices.







Stemborer moths and larva, a pest destroying cereals



Fall armyworm adult and larva, pests of cereal crops and several other crops







However, over the years we have managed to control stemborers and fall armyworm on our maize, sorghum and millet using Push–Pull and subsequently the Climate-Smart Push–Pull technologies.







Scientists at *icipe* have improved on the Climate-Smart Push–Pull technology to include vegetables. This new technology is Push-Pull System Intensification with Vegetables.





The Push–Pull System Intensification with Vegetables involves planting alternate rows of maize, desmodium and vegetable crops together with a border trap crop of Brachiaria or Napier. The working of this technology is as shown below.











Push–Pull System Intensification with Vegetables where integration is with sorghum.





The Push–Pull System Intensification with Vegetables still maintains good control of the striga weed, stemborers and fall armyworm. Apart from pest management, additional benefits of the Push–Pull System Intensification with Vegetables include improvement of soil fertility, and improved income, because the farmer will be harvesting the vegetables for sale and domestic use, while still waiting for the maize crop to mature. During the off season, you can plant vegetables between the desmodium. This ensures maximum utilisation of the *shamba*. Additionally, it ensures moisture use efficiency and conservation. Desmodium and brachiaria will provide year-round fodder for your cows and goats



Zero chemical use ensures a healthy population of pollinators, such as bees and natural enemies of pests. Desmodium also acts as a cover crop reducing soil erosion and enriching soil by fixing nitrogen and improving carbon. Our community health nurse can take over from here.



Our able agricultural extension officer has taught us that we can farm organically without using harmful pesticides. This ensures that we eat fresh healthy food and so we spend less time in hospitals and more time being productive.





Hello, I have just watched Shamba Shape Up on Citizen TV. How is your Push–Pull System Intensification with Vegetables getting along? Mine is superb.











The children no longer suffer from conditions triggered by agro-chemicals and their performance in school is improved since they no longer miss classes due to hospital visits.



Since we integrated vegetables in our Push– Pull vegetable integrated farm, we have stopped buying vegetables altogether. We also have vegetables for food and sale in between the cropping seasons.







That is great. The Ministry of Agriculture has been looking for model farms to use as a training base for villagers and I had hoped you will be willing to cooperate with them to teach Push–Pull vegetable integration.







*icipe's* mission is to help alleviate poverty, ensure food security and improve the overall health status of peoples of the tropics by developing and extending management tools and strategies for harmful and useful arthropods, while preserving the natural resource base through research and capacity building.

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