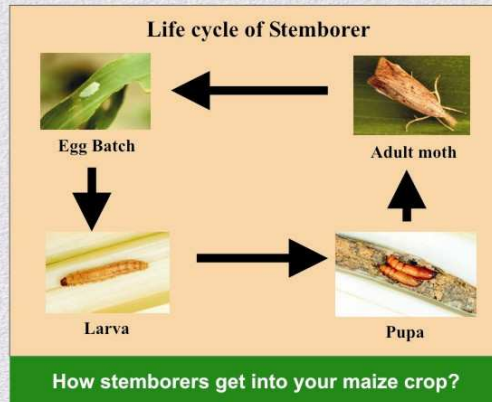




# Use 'Push-Pull' Strategy to Increase Your Farm Production by Managing Striga, Stemborers and Soil Fertility



Maize plant damaged by stemborers



A stemborer larva feeding inside maize stem



Maize crop damaged by striga weed

## How striga weed affects your maize?

Striga weed puts its roots into in to roots of maize plant. Striga weed takes the food the maize crop is trying to get from soil before maize uses it.



Striga attached to maize roots



## Yield losses caused by stemborers and striga:

If you were to harvest 10 bags of maize, stemborers and striga can cause a loss of 8 bags

## WHAT IS A PUSH-PULL STRATEGY?

'Push-Pull' is a cropping strategy for management of stemborers, striga weed and soil fertility. The farmers plant Napier grass (Bana Variety) and Desmodium (Silverleaf or Greenleaf) with maize crop for managing these pests and improving soil fertility. Desmodium is planted in between the rows of maize. It produces a smell that stemborer moths do not like and are 'pushed away' from maize crop. Desmodium also covers the soil surface and stops striga weed from growing on maize.

Napier grass is planted around maize crop as a trap crop. It is more attractive to stemborer moths than maize and it 'pulls' the moths to lay their eggs on it. But Napier grass does not allow stemborers larvae to develop on it, so very few larvae survive. Thus maize is saved from stemborers and striga when planted in 'push-pull' strategy.



A 'Push-Pull' Field: Maize is intercropped with desmodium and napier grass is planted as border.



Increased maize and fodder Production in a 'push-pull' field. In a well-managed 'push-pull' field, maize yield is doubled.



Napier and desmodium from 'push-pull' field plots provides continuous supply of fodder for your livestock and this can increase milk production.

## Advantages of adopting 'Push-Pull':

- Increased maize yield
- Continuous supply of livestock feeds from Napier and desmodium
- Nitrogen fixed into your farm by desmodium legume
- Soil protected from erosion as desmodium act as a cover crop
- Soil retains water as desmodium act as mulch
- Money from the sale Napier grass.
- Money from selling of more milk from your cattle.
- Money from the sale of desmodium seed at a good price
- Maize protected from strong winds when surrounded by Napier grass
- Saving on farm labour as you do not have to pull striga.