



**24-26 October 2022**

*Science-driven, nature-based  
plant health management for  
African smallholder farmers*

**Manuele Tamò**

Principal Scientist, Entomologist  
IITA-Benin Country Representative

*On behalf of many national and international  
collaborators*

Basel, October 25, 2022







# Characterization of farm households and adoption of agro-ecological practices

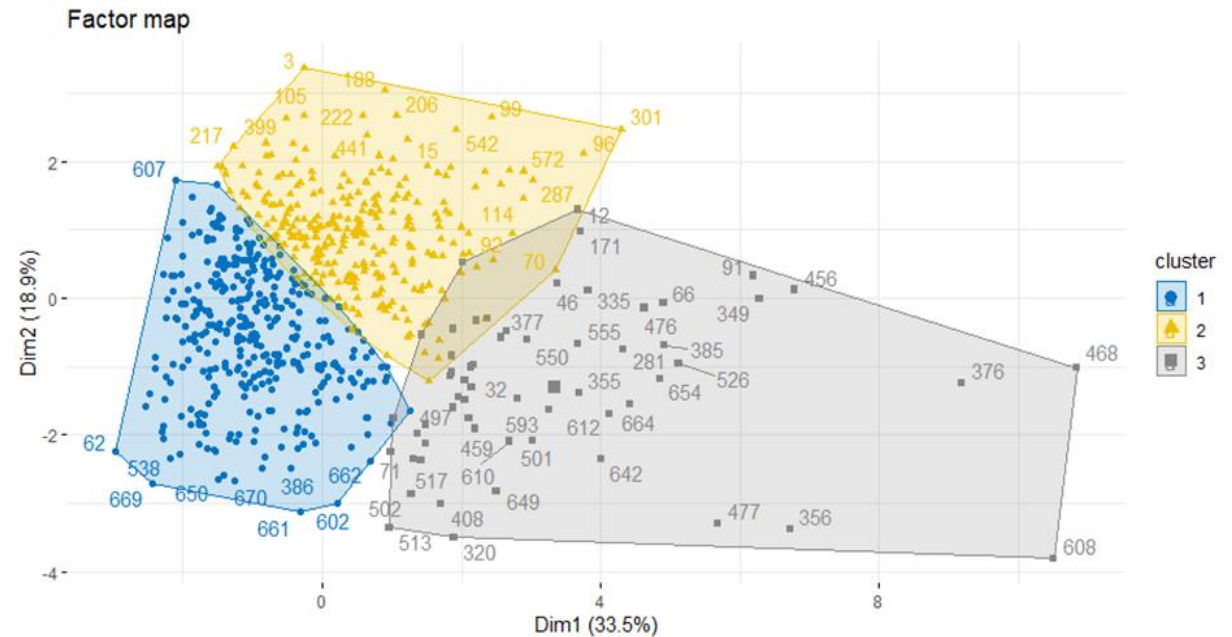
**Table 1. Pest management characteristics in Benin**

Characteristics	%
Apply chemical pesticides to cowpeas	88
Believe pesticides are harmful to people	93
Knows color label for highly toxic pesticides	11
Use face/nose mask to apply pesticides	24
Skin problems after spraying	73
Eye irritation after spraying	57
Awareness of beneficial insects	9

Agyekum et al, 2016

## Socio-economic survey

- 675 farm households surveyed in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder
- 19.5% women-managed farms
- average age of respondents  $47.91 \pm 12.85$  y
- average hh size  $10.64 \pm 5.31$  individuals
- 50.1% of farmers are literate and have  $3.60 \pm 2.61$  fields with an average area of  $4.44 \pm 4.18$  ha per farm.
- Land acquisition most often by inheritance (91.6%) and by purchase (33.9%)
- predominant system millet + cowpea (93.9%) and millet + cowpea + sorghum (73%).
- Average cowpea area  $1.42 \pm 1.62$  ha with an average yield of  $223.61 \pm 171.86$  kg / ha.



Factor	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3
Average cowpea yield	190.93±148.67	243.54±172.12	320.44±233.05
Cowpea surface	1.16±0.92	1.36±0.87	4.29±3.04
years of experience cowpea	19.80±8.80	33.63±10.31	20.32±7.54
Average age	43.01±11.64	55.67±10.11	42.35±11.61
HH numbers	7.82±3.47	13.18±2.66	13.74±5.61
HH in agriculture	2.64±1.59	5.18±2.66	6.42±3.14



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

**ScienceDirect**

**Current Opinion in  
Insect Science**

## **How does IPM 3.0 look like (and why do we need it in Africa)?**

Manuele Tamò<sup>1</sup>, Isabelle Glitho<sup>2</sup>, Ghislain Tapa-Yotto<sup>1</sup> and Rangaswamy Muniappan<sup>3</sup>



The concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was introduced sixty years ago to curb the overuse of agricultural pesticides, whereby its simplest version (IPM 1.0) was aiming at reducing the frequency of applications. Gradually, agro-ecological principles, such as biological control and habitat management, were included in IPM 2.0. However, throughout this time, smallholder farmers did not improve their decision-making skills and continue to use hazardous pesticides as their

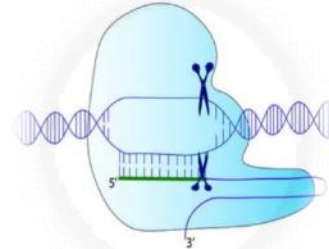
concept should be labeled 'IPM 3.0'. The past sixty years of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) have been well-described and characterized in detail [1••] with the following simplified historical perspective of IPM. Accordingly, the label IPM 1.0 is attributed to the initial efforts in the 1960s and 1970s for drastically reducing the indiscriminate use of pesticides by introducing the notion of threshold-based intervention derived from scouting. For

# IPM 3.0 – three main pillars

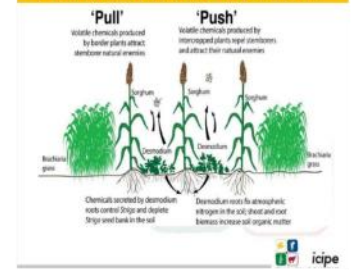
## Pillar #1 Empowering farmers



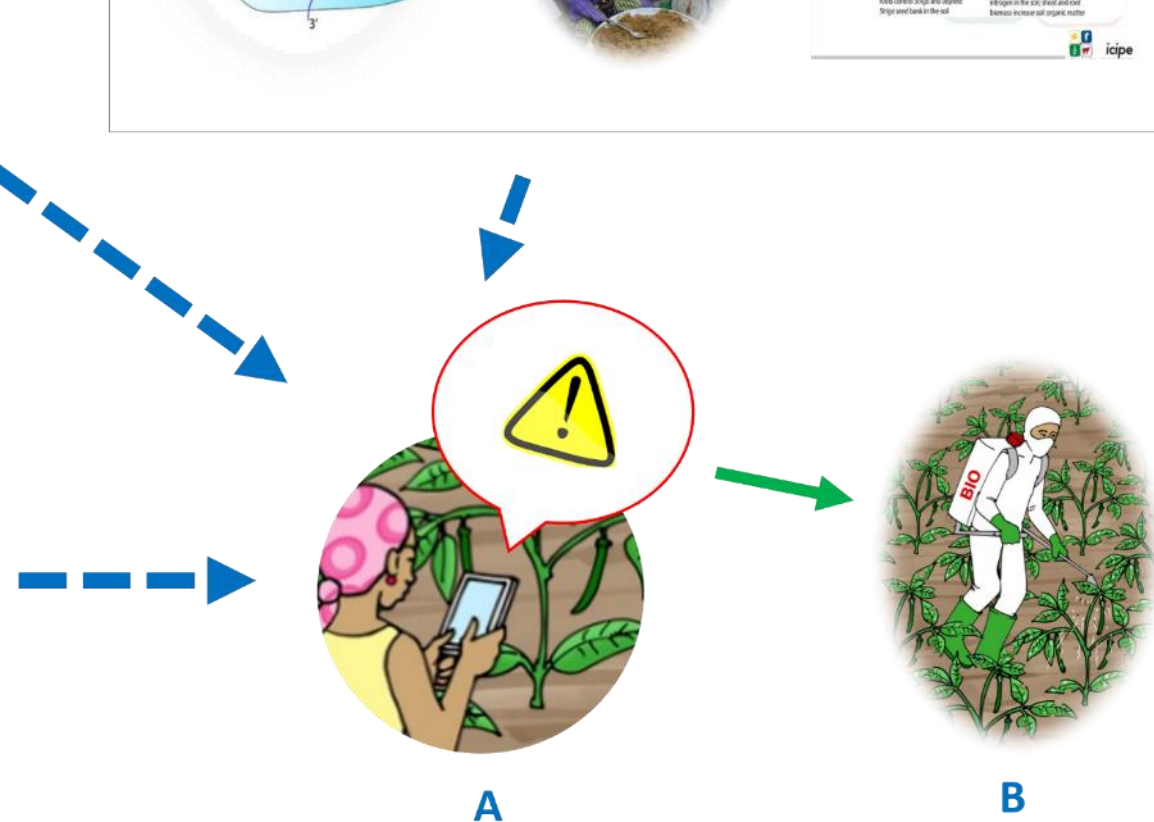
## Pillar #3 Integration of innovations



### CLIMATE-SMART PUSH-PULL



## Pillar #2 Science-driven, nature-based solutions





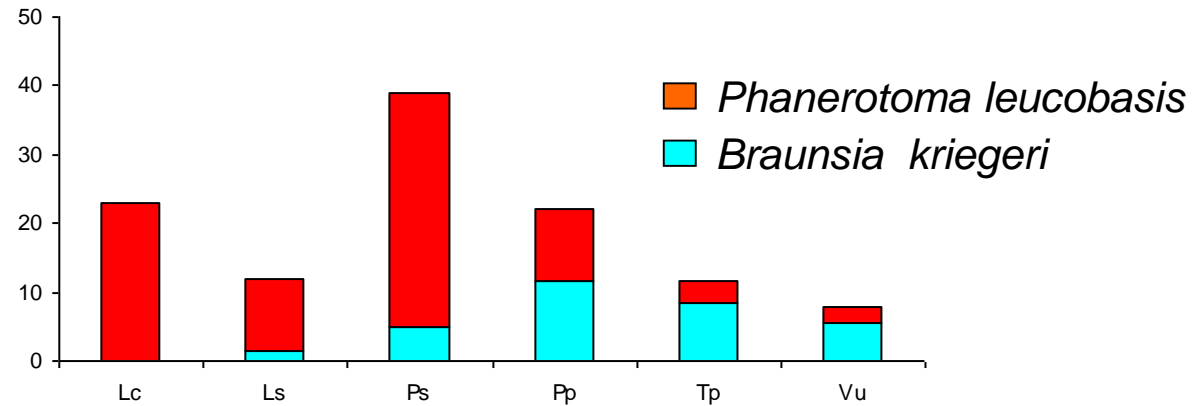
## One of the most devastating insect pests of cowpea in Africa: the legume pod borer, *Maruca vitrata*



Attacks flowers and pods of various legumes, up to 80% yield loss, farmers resort to **inappropriate pesticide applications**

# So, what science is needed??

## Biodiversity studies: locally available natural enemies of *Maruca vitrata* in West Africa



Lc: *Lonchocarpus cyanescens*

Ls: *Lonchocarpus sericeus*

Ps: *Pterocarpus santalinoides*

Pp: *Pueraria phaseoloides*

Tp: *Tephrosia plathycarpa*

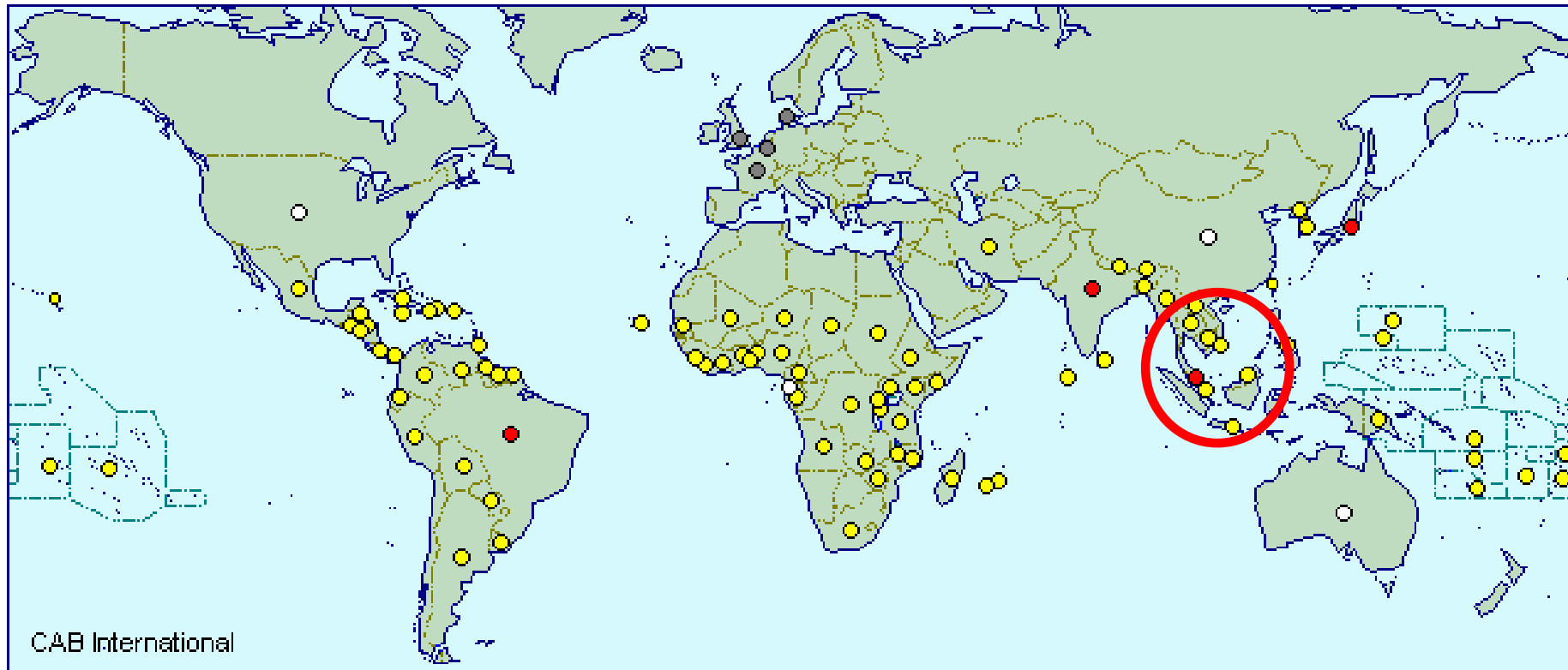
Vu: *Vigna unguiculata* (cowpea)

**Non-host specific parasitoids, low and insufficient parasitism rates**

Arodokoun *et al*, 2006

## So, what science is needed??

### Biodiversity studies: re-visiting the origin of *Maruca vitrata*



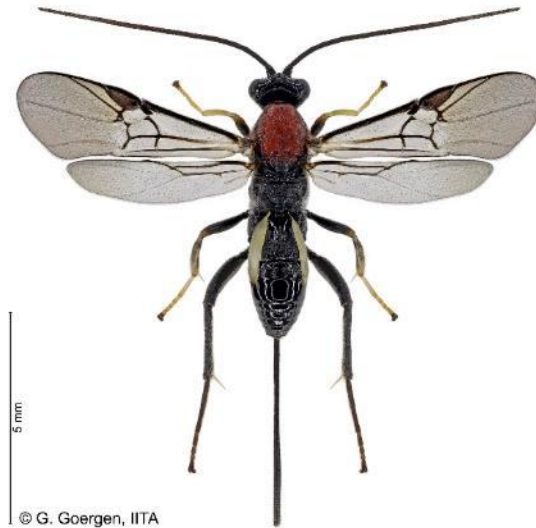
Evidence of South Asian origin supported by latest population genetic studies  
(Periasamy et al, 2015)

## So, what science is needed??

Biodiversity studies: much larger diversity of specific and efficient hymenopteran parasitoids



*Apanteles taragamae*



*Liragathis javana*



*Phanerotoma syleptae*

# So, what science is needed??

Hindawi  
Psyche  
Volume 2017, Article ID 3156534, 8 pages  
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2017/3156534>

## Research Article

### An Insight in the Reproductive Biology of *Therophilus javanus* (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Agathidinae), a Potential Biological Control of the Legume Pod Borer (Lepidoptera, Crambidae)

Djibril Aboubakar Souna,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Aimé Bokonon-Ganta,<sup>3</sup> Marc Ravallec,<sup>1</sup> Antonino Cusumano,<sup>4</sup> Barry Robert Pittendrigh, Anne-Nathalie Volkoff,<sup>1</sup> and Manuele Tamò<sup>5</sup>

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*Therophilus javanus* is a koinobiont, solitary larval endoparasitoid currently being considered as the pod borer *Maruca vitrata*, a devastating cowpea pest causing 20–80% crop loss. Morphology and anatomy, oogenesis, potential fecundity, and egg load in *T. javanus*, of the female and parasitoid/host size at oviposition on egg load. The number of ovarioles influenced by the age/size of the *M. vitrata* caterpillar when parasitized. Egg load also of *M. vitrata* caterpillar at the moment of parasitism and wasp age. The practical implications of rearing of the parasitoid toward successful biological control of *M. vitrata* are discussed.

Biological Control 130 (2019) 104–109



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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/](http://www.elsevier.com/)

Volatiles from *Maruca vitrata* (Lepidoptera, Crambidae): olfactory responses of the parasitoid *Therophilus javanus* (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Agathidinae)

Djibril Aboubakar Souna<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Aimé Hippolyte Bokonon-Ganta<sup>c</sup>, Elie Nazyhatou Imorou<sup>b</sup>, Benjamin Agui<sup>b</sup>, Antonino Cusumano<sup>a</sup>, Ramasamy Srinivasan<sup>d</sup>, Barry Robert Pittendrigh<sup>d</sup>, Anne-Nathalie Volkoff<sup>a</sup>, Manuele Tamò<sup>e</sup>

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#### ARTICLE INFO

##### Keywords:

Biological control  
Natural enemy  
Olfaction  
Attraction  
Cowpea  
Host plants

#### ABSTRACT

Plants damaged by herbivores are known to release information how leguminous plants damaged by *Therophilus javanus*, which was imported into B. Asia for assessing its potential as a biological control agent to investigate *T. javanus* response towards odor *unguiculata*, the most important cultivated host *Sesbania rostrata* and *Tephrosia platycarpa*. Olfaction of plant damaged by the pod borer. Moreover,  $\alpha$  and pods were discriminated over non-infested are discussed in the context of the possible subsequent establishment in natural environment.

[www.nature.com/scientificreports](http://www.nature.com/scientificreports)

## scientific reports

Check for updates

### OPEN Progeny fitness determines the performance of the parasitoid *Therophilus javanus*, a prospective biocontrol agent against the legume pod borer

Djibril Aboubakar Souna<sup>1</sup>, Aimé Hippolyte Bokonon-Ganta<sup>2</sup>, Marc Ravallec<sup>3</sup>, Mesmin Alizannon<sup>4</sup>, Ramasamy Srinivasan<sup>5</sup>, Barry Robert Pittendrigh<sup>6</sup>, Anne-Nathalie Volkoff<sup>7</sup> & Manuele Tamò<sup>1,8\*</sup>

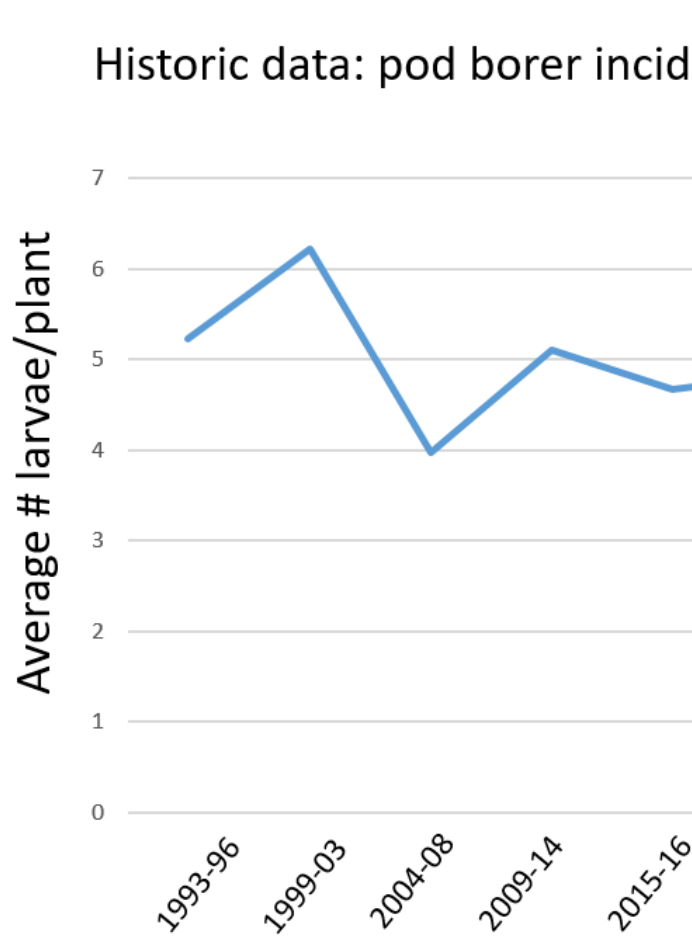
*Therophilus javanus* (Bhat & Gupta) is an exotic larval endoparasitoid newly imported from Asia into Africa as a classical biological control agent against the pod borer *Maruca vitrata* (Fabricius). The parasitoid preference for the five larval instars of *M. vitrata* and their influence on progeny sex ratio were assessed together with the impact of larval host age at the time of oviposition on development time, mother longevity and offspring production. In a choice situation, female parasitoids preferred to oviposit in the first three larval instars. The development of immature stages of the parasitoid was observed inside three-day-old hosts, whereby the first two larval instars of *T. javanus* completed their development as endoparasites and the third larval instar as ectoparasite. The development time was faster when first larval instars (two- and three-day-old) of the host caterpillars were parasitized compared to second larval instar (four-day-old). The highest proportion of daughters (0.51) was observed when females were provided with four-day-old hosts. The lowest intrinsic rate of increase ( $r$ ) ( $0.21 \pm 0.01$ ), the lowest rate of increase ( $\lambda$ ) ( $1.23 \pm 0.01$ ), and the lowest net reproductive rate ( $R_0$ ) ( $35.93 \pm 6.51$ ) were recorded on four-day-old hosts. These results are discussed in the light of optimizing mass rearing and release strategies.

# Experimental releases

Country	Parasitoid
Benin	<i>Liragathis javana</i>
Benin	<i>Phanerotoma syleptae</i>
Burkina Faso	<i>Liragathis javana</i>
Burkina Faso	<i>Phanerotoma syleptae</i>
Niger	<i>Liragathis javana</i>
Niger	<i>Phanerotoma syleptae</i>
Ghana	<i>Liragathis javana</i>
Ghana	<i>Phanerotoma syleptae</i>
Nigeria	<i>Liragathis javana</i>
Nigeria	<i>Phanerotoma syleptae</i>
Mali	<i>Liragathis javana</i>
<b>Total</b>	



# ... preliminary impact data from pilot sites !



Up to 86% pod borer population reduction at pilot release sites



BUT there is **no 'silver bullet' approach in IPM**, all compatible technologies have to work together and **in synergy**





# Scaling of neem tea bag in Niger

- Game changer: use of easily transportable motorized mills (acquired during the initial activity phase) to grind the neem grains
- Saving time and reduce women drudgery



# Scaling of neem tea bag in Niger

- Game changer: use of easily transportable motorized mills (acquired during the initial activity phase) to grind the neem grains
- Saving time and reduce women drudgery
- Currently three community-based production units have produced 2774 neem tea bags, of which over 2300 already sold
- Strong cap dev activities





SAWBO™

Neem tea bag: SAWBO animation



SAWBO™

# Biopesticide based sustainable pest management for safer production of vegetable legumes and brassicas in Asia and Africa

Ramasamy Srinivasan,<sup>a\*</sup>  Subramanian Sevgan,<sup>b</sup> Sunday Ekese<sup>b</sup> and Manuele Tamò<sup>c</sup>

## Abstract

Vegetables are one of the important crops which could alleviate poverty and malnutrition among the smallholder farmers in tropical Asia and Africa. However, a plethora of pests limit the productivity of these crops, leading to economic losses. Vegetable producers overwhelmingly rely on chemical pesticides in order to reduce pest-caused economic losses. However, over-reliance on chemical pesticides poses serious threats to human and environmental health. Hence, biopesticides offer a viable alternative to chemical pesticides in sustainable pest management programs. Baculoviruses such as nucleopolyhedrovirus (NPV) and granulovirus (GV) have been exploited as successful biological pesticides in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. *Maruca vitrata* multiple nucleocapsid NPV (MaviMNPV) was found to be a unique baculovirus specifically infecting pod borer on food legumes, and it has been successfully developed as a biopesticide in Asia and Africa. Entomopathogenic fungi also offer sustainable pest management options. Several strains of *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana* have been tested and developed as biopesticides in Asia and Africa. This review specifically focuses on the discovery and development of entomopathogenic virus and fungi-based biopesticides against major pests of vegetable legumes and brassicas in Asia and Africa.

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**Keywords:** vegetable legumes; brassicas; MaviMNPV; *Metarhizium anisopliae*; *Beauveria bassiana*

## Improving the efficiency of *Beauveria bassiana* management of *Plutella xylostella* (Lepidoptera)

Lakpo K. Agboyi<sup>a,c</sup>, Guillaume K. Ketoh<sup>a</sup>, Orou K. Dossou  
 Isabelle A. Glitho<sup>a</sup>, Manuele Tamò<sup>b,\*,1</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Benin Station, 08 B.P. 0932 Cotonou,

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### ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
 Cabbage  
*Plutella xylostella*  
 Entomopathogenic fungi  
*Beauveria bassiana*

### ABSTRACT

The effectiveness of the entomopathogenic fungi Bb116 and Bb362 against the diamondback moth (DBM) was investigated in the lab and 10<sup>9</sup> conidia/ml of each inoculated with 2 µl of each inoculated with sterilized Tw against DBM with LD<sub>50</sub> value. The effectiveness of Bb116 and Bb362, at a low dose of unsprayed control and delta 4 days was able to reduce cabbage yield obtained on farm. The better performance of Bb116 at a 199% and 452% increase in yield was observed. The better performance of Bb116 at a 199% and 452% increase in yield was observed. The better performance of Bb116 at a 199% and 452% increase in yield was observed.

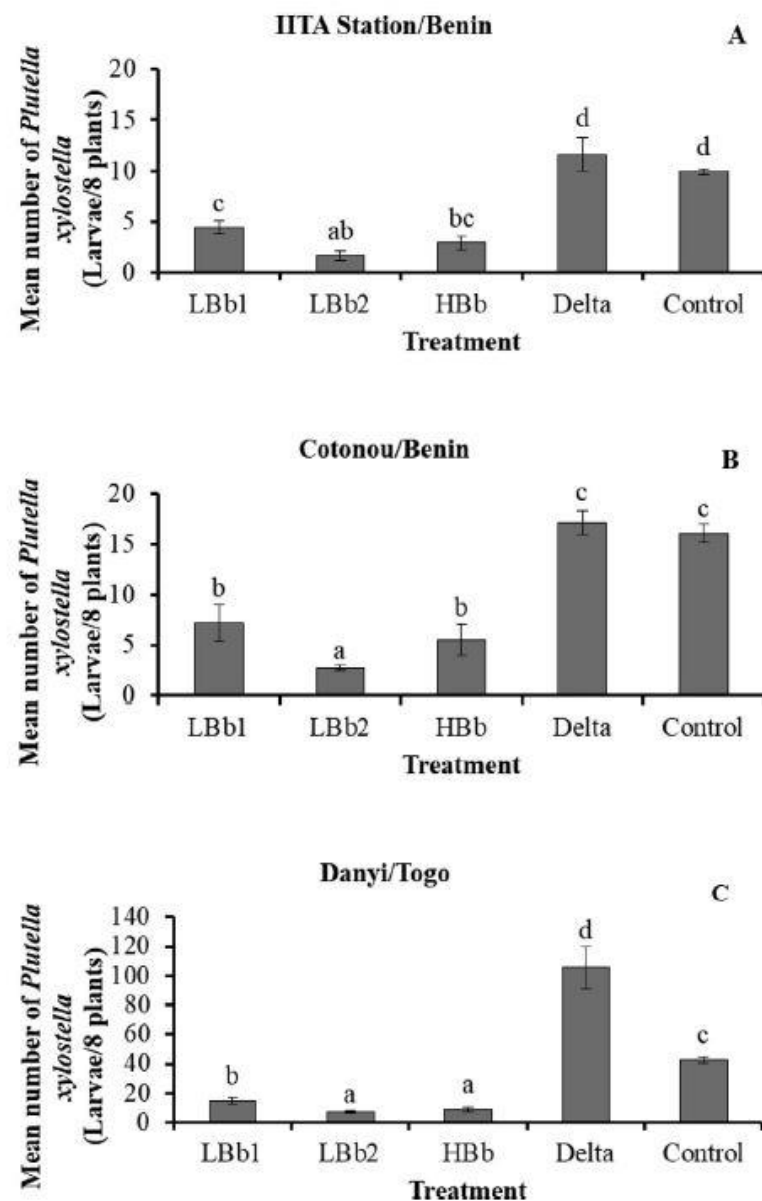


Fig. 4. Density of diamondback moth (DBM) populations under the influence of the different treatments on station (A) and on farm (B and C). Mean (± SE) with the same letter are not significantly different (ANOVA; SNK test;  $P < 5\%$ ); LBb1: low dose of *B. bassiana* (53 g/ha) applied once a week; LBb2: low dose of *B. bassiana* (53 g/ha) applied twice a week; HBb: High dose of *B. bassiana* (315 g/ha) applied once a week; Control: cabbage

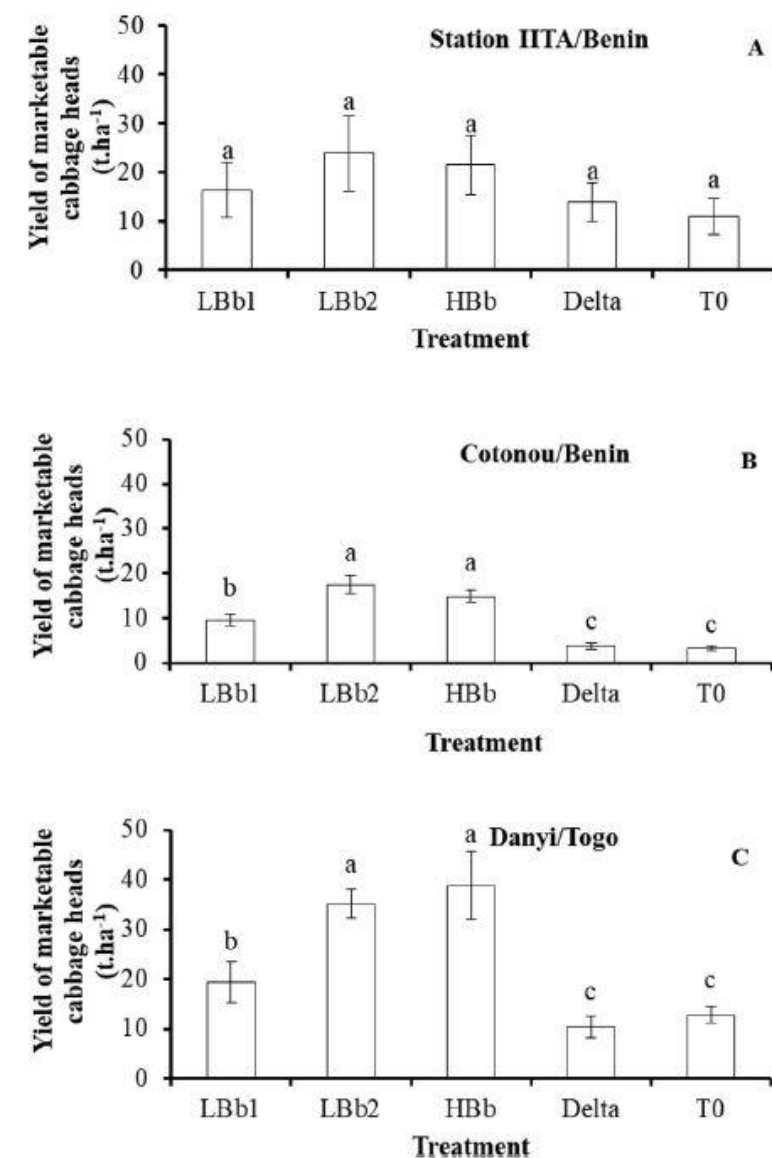


Fig. 5. Marketable cabbage heads yield on station (A) and on farm (B and C) per season. Mean (± SE) with the same letter are not significantly different (ANOVA; SNK test;  $P < 5\%$ ). LBb1: low dose of *B. bassiana* (53 g/ha) applied once a week; LBb2: low dose of *B. bassiana* (53 g/ha) applied twice a week; HBb: High dose of *B. bassiana* (315 g/ha) applied once a week; Control: cabbage

# Empowering farmers: Farmer Interface App FIA



# What

- Smart  
to mo



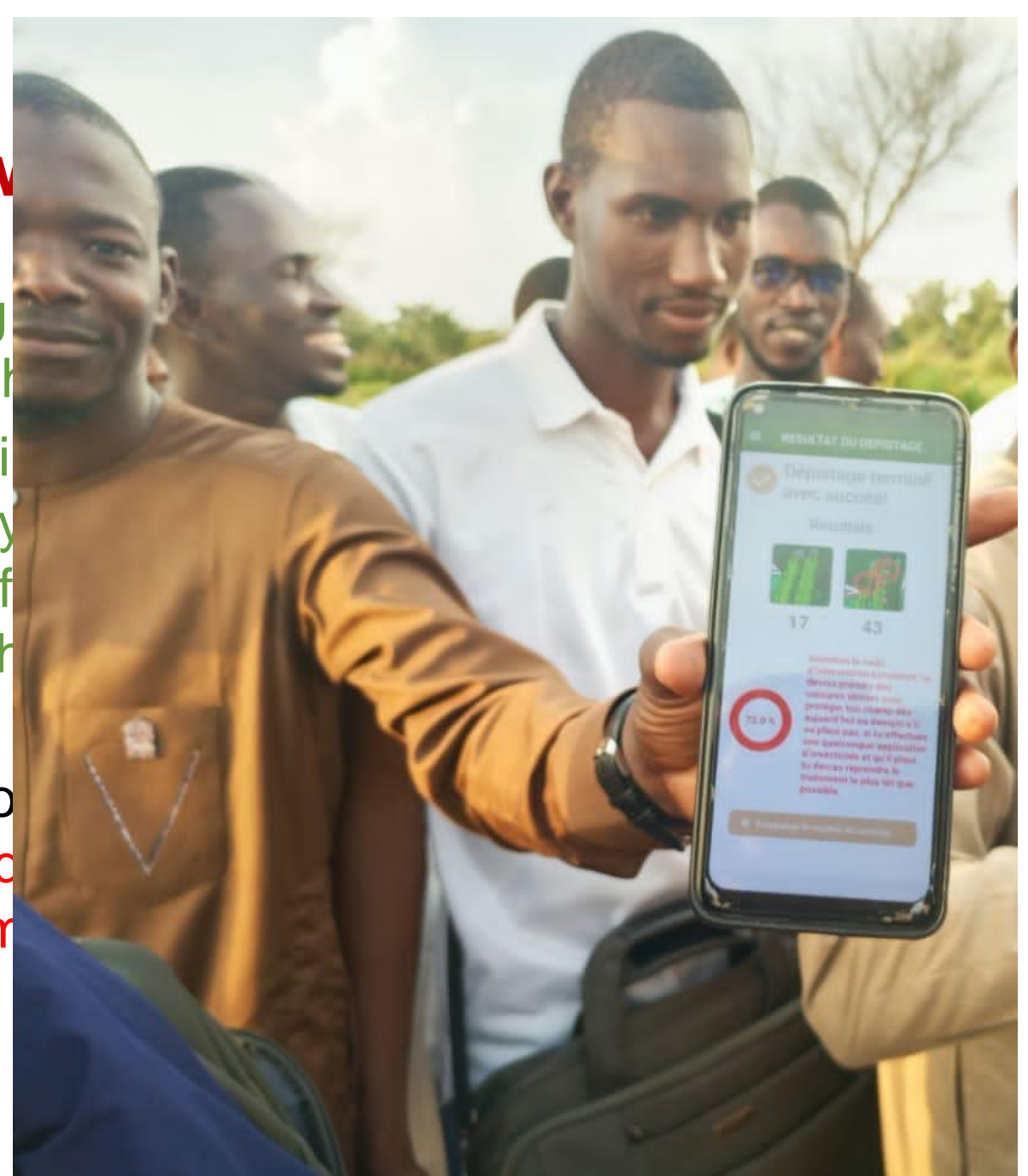
soybean fields

# What is FIA-niébé and how does it work?

- Smartphone App on Android guiding farmers to scout their cowpea fields to monitor and detect the attack by the brown pod bug
- Integrates a **scouting algorithm** guiding the farmer with voice commands (French for the moment, Hausa early next year) how to **move randomly** in the field and to check a number of crop plants, inspect them for pests (or damage symptoms), and press the **right symbol** to record presence/absence of the pest.

# What is FIA-niébé and how

- Smartphone App on Android guiding to monitor and detect the attack by the
- Integrates a scouting algorithm guiding (French for the moment, Hausa early in the field and to check a number of (or damage symptoms), and press the presence/absence of the pest.
- This will allow FIA, independently from to calculate an **intervention threshold** **informed decision about protective m**

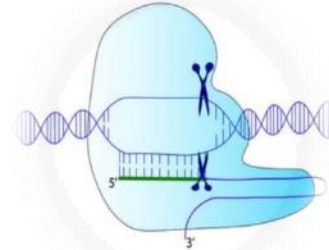


# IPM 3.0 – three main pillars

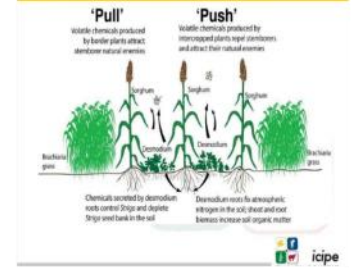
## Pillar #1 Empowering farmers



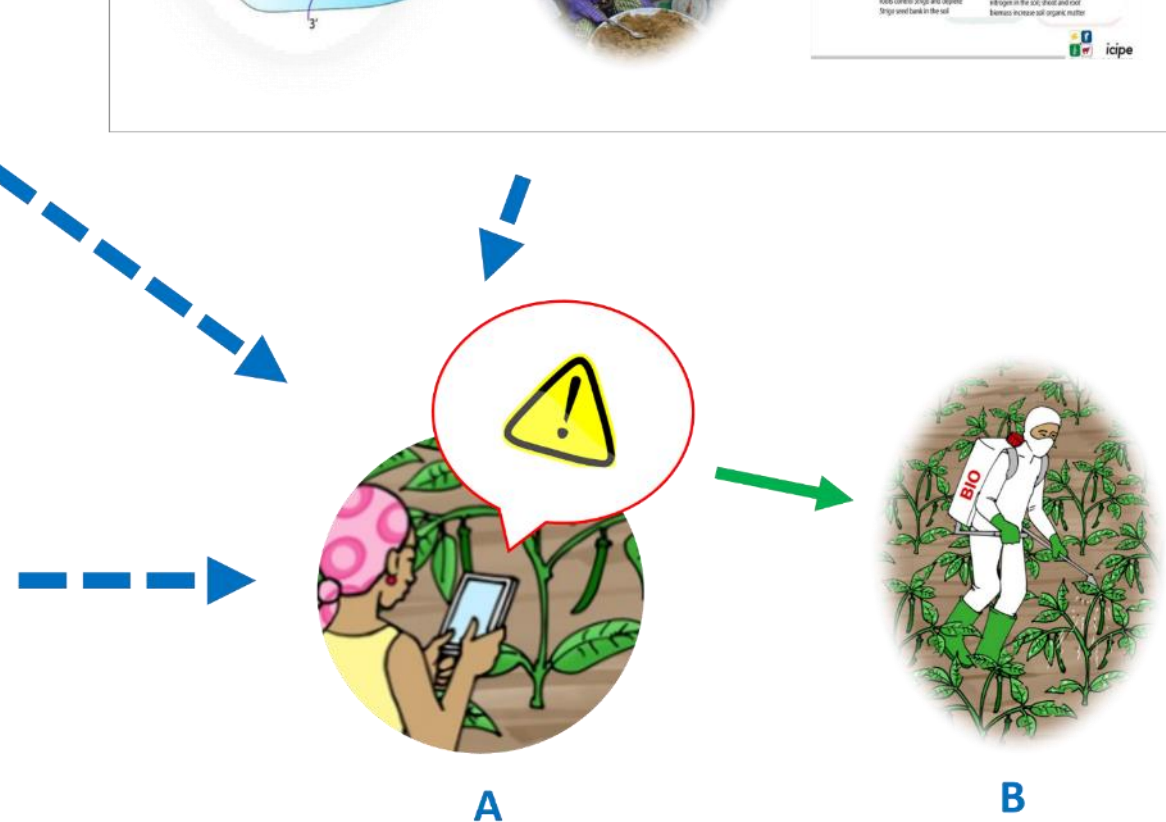
## Pillar #3 Integration of innovations



### CLIMATE-SMART PUSH-PULL



## Pillar #2 Science-driven, nature-based solutions



# Acknowledgements

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**24-26 October 2022**

***Thank you !***

