

Pest-Exclusion Nets Protect Crops, Boost Yields



Vegetable crops are succulent targets for insect pests.

Vegetable production in Sub-Saharan Africa is far below international standards for yield, quality and environmental impact

- Vegetable farms are routinely devastated by pests and extended drought.
- Insect pests reduce yield directly by attacking crops or indirectly by transmitting viral diseases.
- Farmers use high levels of pesticides, which threatens their health and that of consumers and increases pest resistance to pesticides.
- Small-scale growers rarely have access to training on effective use of pesticides.

Pest-Exclusion Nets provide an inexpensive and safe method of managing insect pests

Pest-Exclusion Nets:

- create a barrier that protects vegetables against pests and associated viral diseases.
- improve temperature, light, relative humidity and soil moisture like floating row covers.
- can be reused for 3 to 5 years.
- are produced locally by mosquito net factories.

Benefits:

1. Higher yields and improved vegetable quality
2. Reduced reliance on toxic and expensive pesticides that impact environmental and human health
3. Adds another useful integrated pest management tool that farmers can use to reduce pest pressure, resistance, and disease transmission
4. Improved water use efficiency, enhancing yield and produce quality
5. Minimal interference with other operations (e.g. weeding) as they are easily removed and replaced
6. Increased market for a domestically-produced textile

Basic Costs:

Heavy weight netting — \$99/150 m²

Light weight netting — \$60/150 m²

cost subject to variations



Without Nets

With Nets



Benin farmer covering cabbage with netting.