



TOWARDS A NATIONAL PLANT HEALTH SYSTEM KENYA

01. SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE SHOWCASE

Plant health clinics were introduced to Kenya in 2010 by CABI. Working closely with existing public extension services, clinic clusters have enabled steady learning and have been a shop window for local innovation. This study examined progress in building a

plant health system approach to close gaps in access to information and technical support through steady engagement with research, regulation and input supply.

02. INTERACTIONS WITH THE SOLINSA PROJECT TEAM OVER THREE YEARS

Plant clinics are a good entry point for attempting major changes in complex systems and helping diverse organisations combine resources to make significant contributions to big development goals.

A closer integration in 'plant health' requires a common understanding of how related contributions combine to have lasting impact on farmers. A plant health systems framework helps to

understand what is needed to create change, fostered by regular learning from plant clinics.

Too much emphasis on operations of clinics deflects attention from understanding the motivations and incentives which determine how organisations behave; more research is needed to stimulate stronger partnerships between extension, research, regulation and input supply.

03. HOW TO SUPPORT A LINSA ?

Existing resources and capacity can sustain innovation networks if they are allowed to breath and grow through natural incentives. Care is needed to avoid creating a parallel support system with donor funds which diminishes official urgency to encourage a national plant health system.

Publicising the achievements of plant clinics maintains a steady pressure to improve accountability to farmers, reminds organisations of the need to improve access to timely, targetted informa-

tion and shows the opportunities for wider involvement of NGOs and hence closer ties to farmer groups.

There are immediate opportunities to create closer ties between clinics and agrodealers. This would offer new ways to manage use of pesticides, suggest ways of supporting clinics without compromising independent advice, and begin to show a plant health system approach as fact, not fiction.

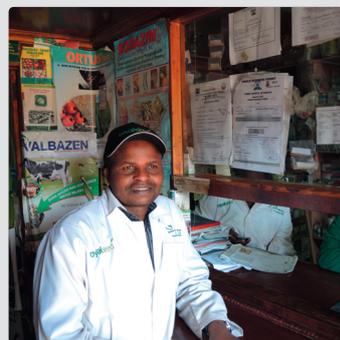
04. QUOTATIONS AND PICTURES



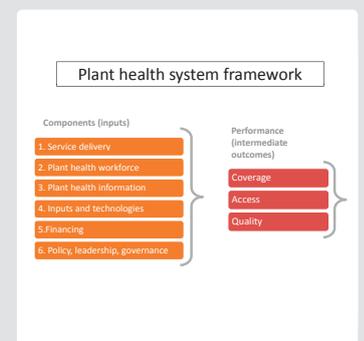
Kataloni is a community-based organisation which runs mobile plant clinics – they rotate sites. They serve 280 farmer groups, thus widening access to advice while feeding back information on priority problems.



Lucy Karimi Muriithi at a plant clinic in Nderi. The plant doctor training was the first systematic in-service training she had received in twenty years.



Peter had extensive experience in agricultural R&D before managing this agrodealer shop in Kikuyu. He has no links to local plant clinics. A poster advertising maize lethal necrosis disease, a new threat to Kenya, was produced by an NGO, not by official plant health authorities



The PHS framework developed by Sol Danielsen and colleagues in Uganda was a helpful tool in analysing progress towards integrated responses. More work is needed to define overall outcomes.