

# Ecological approach to organic pest and disease management

Pests and diseases can negatively impact crops health, quality and yields. Organic pest and disease managements' first line of defense is: prevention. Many of the preventative measures used act to promote on-farm diversity and keep pests and diseases at a level which does not cause economic damage. If pests reach critical levels, the second line of defense is employed: direct control measures.

How can we prevent pest and disease outbreaks in organic farming?

Grow healthy, resistant crops

Use crop varieties with high pest tolerance and locally-adapted

Supporting on-farm beneficial organisms, e.g., maintain wild areas, a variety of flowering plants, apply organic composts, etc.

Improve field hygiene, e.g., timely weeding, removal of host plants, proper disposition of infected plants, e.g., burning

Scout plants early for pest and disease

Increase crop diversity, e.g., companion cropping, crop rotations, agroforestry systems

Use physical barriers, e.g., fruit wraps

Maintain a healthy soil

Use bait, light, colour or pheromone traps for monitoring insect pests

Knowledge product funders



Projects involved



Project funders



Developed by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL in 2022 supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). This poster is a part of a series of knowledge products created within the KCOA project, analysing the outcomes of the SysCom and ProEcoAfrica projects.