



COMBATING *TUTA ABSOLUTA* IN TOMATOES

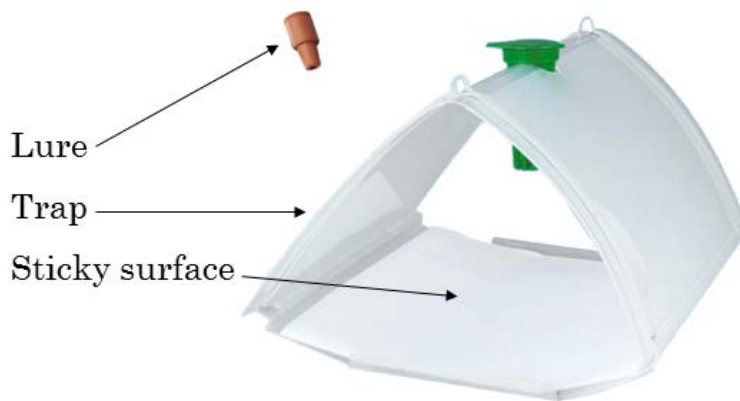
The Problem

- *Tuta absoluta* is a tomato moth that causes 100% loss in tomatoes.
- Recently identified in Kenya where it is spreading quickly, the caterpillar hides inside leaves and develops resistance very fast in hot climates.
- The pest is currently affecting thousands of farmers and even more consumers as prices are rising due to increasing losses of produce in the field.
- Chemical sprays are minimally effective. *Tuta absoluta* is a leaf miner. No control products are currently registered in Kenya.

The Innovative Solution

Kenya Biologics is testing its Tutrack innovation to combat the *Tuta absoluta* in tomatoes for smallholder farmers.

Tutrack is a pheromone-based mass-trapping system for *Tuta absoluta* consisting of a lure and a trap. The innovation is unique as the lure is specifically designed for the Kenyan market and is being developed on the request of, and together with, Kenyan smallholder farmers. The innovation (the delta-trap version is pictured above) is in an advanced stage of registration in Kenya, and is well-positioned to be the first product to receive registration against *Tuta absoluta*.



About the Award

Following an open and competitive process in 2014, Kenya Biologics was among three proof-of-concept innovations which won a seed funding and technical assistance award from USAID through the Feed the Future Kenya Innovation Engine.

Award Duration: April 2015 – May 2016

Award Amount: KES 7.6 million (\$92,909)

Technical Assistance: governance and business planning, financial management

Implementation Counties: Migori, Bungoma and Kericho

Targeted Value Chain: Horticulture

About the Innovator

Chris Kolenberg is the CEO of Kenya Biologics. A former military man, Chris holds Bachelor's Degrees in Military Management and Business Administration, as well as an MBA. Chris joined Kenya Biologics in 2009 as the company's Business Development Manager. He is passionate about food safety, emphasizing that minimizing chemical residue on plants is everyone's responsibility. Together with his business partner, Chris has grown Kenya Biologics into a sizable company that employs nearly 30 people and provides at least eight bio-pesticide products to equip farmers with affordable, efficacious, and environmentally-friendly means to combat crop pests, without leaving any residues on crops.



Achievements under the Award

- Tested the use of Tutrack by smallholder farmers.
- Developed a customized version named the water trap for Kenyan smallholders. At least 1,000 traps of the final design were produced, ready for market.
- Secured Tutrack registration by the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) including approval of the labels by PCPB in readiness for market.
- Contracted agrovets to sell the Tutrack traps and lures to farmers in the respective counties.
- Demonstrate the efficacy of Tutrack through trials – the innovation gives 400 kg more yield per 0.1 hectare compared to competing products.

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An early prototype of Kenya Biologic's smallholder water trap developed in response to demand from smallholders. Kenya Biologics tested the product to make it as effective as the delta-trap in preparation for mass production. The finished water trap will retail at KSh 250 (\$2.50) to enable smallholder access to the first pheromone mass-trapping system custom designed for farmers in Kenya.