

## SysCom Team



## FiBL Team



David Bautze  
david.bautze@fibl.org



Marc Cotter  
marc.cotter@fibl.org



Chloé Durot  
chloe.durot@fibl.org



Eva Goldman  
eva.goldman@fibl.org



Beate Huber  
beate.huber@fibl.org



Chigusa Keller  
chigusa.keller@fibl.org



Milka Kiboi  
milka.kiboi@fibl.org



Amritbir Riar  
amritbir.riar@fibl.org



Johanna Rüegg  
johanna.rueegg@fibl.org



Stéphane Saj  
stephane.saj@fibl.org



Akanksha Singh  
akanksha.singh@fibl.org

## Members of the Scientific Advisory Board



Paul Mäder  
paul.maeder@fibl.org

Paul Mäder, Chairman (FiBL)  
Georg Cadisch (University of Hohenheim)  
Andreas Fliessbach (FiBL)  
Gerhard Gerold (University of Göttingen)  
Lindsay Norgrove (HAFL)  
Rainer Schulin (ETH Zürich)  
Franco Weibel (LZE Sissach)

## The project at a glance

**SysCom** stands for “Long-term Farming Systems Comparison in the Tropics”. It provides scientific evidence on the benefits and drawbacks of organic versus conventional farming practices. Its results support the development of policies and strategies that foster the adoption of sustainable land use practices at the local, regional and international level.

**SysCom** started in 2007 and is being implemented in Kenya, India and Bolivia by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in cooperation with national and international partners. Two main activities prevail:

- **Long-term experiments** are set in place to compare the agronomic, ecological and socio-economic performance of organic and conventional farming systems in different variations, reflecting the best management practices feasible for the farmers.
- **Participatory on-farm research** has a focus on fostering sustainable agricultural production systems in the project areas through participatory development of innovations addressing bottlenecks and by improved capacities of partner institutions.

## Further information & contact

Please find more detailed information and publications at [systems-comparison.fibl.org](https://systems-comparison.fibl.org) or contact us directly.

### Contact:



Marc Cotter  
FiBL Switzerland  
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL  
Ackerstrasse 113, PO Box 219, 5070 Frick, Switzerland  
Phone +41 62 865 72 72  
[www.fibl.org](https://www.fibl.org)

[systems-comparison.fibl.org](https://systems-comparison.fibl.org)



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# SysCom Comparing organic and conventional production systems in the tropics

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### Location of project site

Kasravad, Khargone District in the Nimar Valley of Madhya Pradesh State – the site is characterised by fertile Vertisols and semi-arid climate with 800 mm annual precipitation mostly in a single peak monsoon season.

### Long-term experiments

- Cash crop based production system with a 2-year crop rotation including cotton, wheat / chickpeas, soya, wheat.
- 4 treatments comprising biodynamic, organic, conventional and conventional with genetically modified Bt-cotton, each replicated 4 times in 2 strips, so that each crop is grown each year.

### Participatory on- farm research

- Improved nutrient management e. g. rock phosphate enriched farm-yard manure
- Best organic pest management strategies
- Biophysical bottlenecks to adoption of sustainable farming systems

Local partner India



### Location of project site

Sara Ana in the valley of the river Alto Beni in the Bolivian rainforest – the site is located within a settlement region characterised by tropical humid climate with 1500 – 2000 mm of annual rainfall.

### Long-term experiments

- Cocoa as the main crop cultivated in organic and conventional monoculture and agroforestry systems.
- The treatments involve different levels of complexity and biodiversity: from full sun to agroforestry to successional agroforestry.

### Participatory on- farm research

- Cocoa on-farm variety testing
- Pest and disease control
- Best farmers' practices in agroforestry
- Cacao Nacional Boliviano

Local partners Bolivia



### Location of project site

Chuka and Thika municipalities in the sub-humid zones of Central highlands of Kenya – the 2 sites differ in amount and distribution of annual rainfall, 1500 – 2400 mm and 900 – 1100 mm respectively.

### Long-term experiments

- 4 farming systems: comprising of low input conventional and organic farming under rain-fed representing subsistence farming; and high input conventional and organic farming with supplementary irrigation representing commercial farming.
- 6-season 3-year crop rotation with maize, beans, vegetables and potatoes.

### Participatory on- farm research

- Soil fertility management approaches
- Improving the efficiency of rock phosphate use
- Best organic pest management and strategies

Local partners Kenya

