

The Yaounde Initiative Foundation



Public health and food production in Africa

What is the Yaounde Initiative Foundation?

The Yaounde Initiative Foundation is a community development Foundation for Africa. It is a “not-for-profit” organisation with NGO status and operations in Cameroon, and supporting offices and laboratories in UK.

The Foundation’s goal is *to improve the health and well being of communities in Africa through the control of insect vectors of human diseases, improved agricultural production and environmental protection.*

The *Yaounde Initiative* itself is a unique programme with an innovative approach to reducing key constraints on socio-economic development in Africa. It is doing this by providing integrated solutions to:

1. devastating human diseases carried by vectors such as
 - blackflies (transmitting river blindness, or onchocerciasis)
 - mosquitoes (transmitting malaria and other diseases)
 - severe nuisance insects and other minor vectors
2. crop losses caused by pests, diseases and weeds
3. human and environmental problems caused by inappropriate responses to these vectors and pests



Yaounde Initiative Foundation Cameroon and UK staff

IPARC

The International Pesticide Application Research Centre (IPARC) is a specialist unit within the Biological Sciences Department of Imperial College London, UK. The Centre is internationally renowned and has been at the forefront of pesticide application technology, particularly for vector control and small-scale farming since its inception in 1955.

IPARC offers consultancy, training, and research to a wide range of clients around the world from international bodies like WHO and FAO, to national governments, the agricultural supply industry and to private grower organisations.

While major emphasis still remains on pesticide application technology, over the years the work of the Centre has embraced much broader issues of vector control, crop protection and biopesticide development. It now offers up-to-date, international expertise on most approaches including biological control, integrated pest and vector management and pesticide residues.

The effect of these integrated solutions will be to improve

- rural family health and well-being
- farm productivity and profitability
- farm produce quality and regulatory compliance
- human and environmental safety

It is an initiative centred on Cameroon, which draws principally on national Cameroonian expertise, supported by decades of in-depth specialist knowledge and international practical experience from Imperial College Consultants, and key collaborating partners from Imperial College London's IPARC (see box to the left), the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

The origins of the Yaounde Initiative Foundation

The Foundation has its roots in an African Union development project initiated in 2000, funded by FAO and hosted by the Ministry of State for Agriculture in Cameroon. The concept of the independent, non-governmental organisation, which has now become “The Yaounde Initiative Foundation”, was endorsed in March 2003 in Yaounde at a conference of pan-African states, initiated and supported by FAO, endorsed by the African Union and hosted by the Minister of State for Agriculture in Cameroon.

The design and start up phase of the Foundation has been supported by the Geneva-based Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and Imperial College Consultants in the United Kingdom.



Collaborators and supporters

- Imperial College Consultants Limited, UK
- Natural Resources Institute, UK
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Syngenta Vector Control, Switzerland
- T L Wiles and Associates Ltd, UK
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- The African Union
- The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
- The World Health Organization (WHO)

What the Yaounde Initiative Foundation offers

The *Yaounde Initiative Foundation* offers clients and organisations:

- Safe and cost-effective integrated public health programmes
- Integrated pest management solutions for improved crop profitability and consumer safety
- Practical participatory training for instructors, advisers, farmers
- Tailor-made training support tools, manuals and materials
- Awareness-raising for government staff, policy makers, NGOs, commercial managers and executives
- Appropriate legislation, and Quality Assurance certification for equipment, operators and food crops.



Typical white water black fly breeding habitat

Who can benefit?

The *Yaounde Initiative Foundation* is of relevance to all those involved in public health, agriculture and the food industry:

- Small-scale farmers and other members of rural communities
- Co-operatives, grower associations and NGOs
- Plantation companies and large scale commercial farming
- National/regional development agencies and public health bodies

The strategy for rural development

A 5 step model is at the core of all activities:

- Define the problems through baseline surveys
- Identify effective and acceptable technologies and approaches
- Validate them in Cameroon through pilot projects
- Package them into appropriate integrated strategies
- Implement the strategies with collaborating organisations

Contact details:

For further details, or to discuss your requirements, please contact:

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African Union

