

# Potato Farmers can witness much more potato through effective control of plant parasitic nematodes

## What are nematodes?

Nematodes are tiny eelworms, most times invisible tens of thousands of species, over half of which are plant parasitic, meaning they feed on plants and are mostly found in the soil.

Some nematode species are beneficial to agriculture when they are parasitic to

important insect pests or soil borne diseases, while others such as root knot nematodes and potato cyst nematodes are disastrous as they can cause over 60% loss in yield.

In an infested field, the potato crop will look stunted, yellow in colour and result in low yields of poor quality.



Potato crop affected by potato cyst nematode

## Controlling nematodes:

In Kenya, soil samples from key potato growing areas have tested positive for plant parasitic nematodes, making control of nematodes imperative. Use of an effective nematicide is one among multiple approaches potato farmers can adopt to manage plant parasitic nematodes. Velum® Prime is a novel nematicide developed by Bayer and has shown improved soil, plant and root health, when applied at the time of planting thus enhancing crop yield.



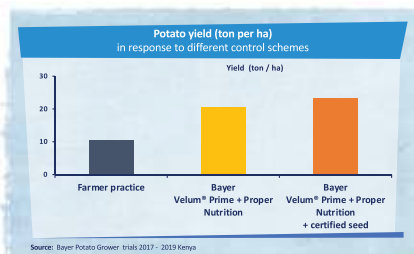
## Potato yield potential with various practices

Bayer conducted a baseline survey among Kenyan potato farmers to identify the requirements to increase yield and income. Three key factors stood out and against

which field trials were conducted to assess impact on yield over a period of three years:

- Lack of agronomic know-how
- Low use of certified potato seed
- Lack of expertise in enhanced fertilizer and crop protection usage

To fully optimize potatoes productivity, farmers should invest in technologies that improve soil health and adopt best agronomic practices so as to significantly increase high-quality yields and improved incomes.



Average yield outcomes on different practices

For more information on managing you Potato crop, contact a Bayer representative near you

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