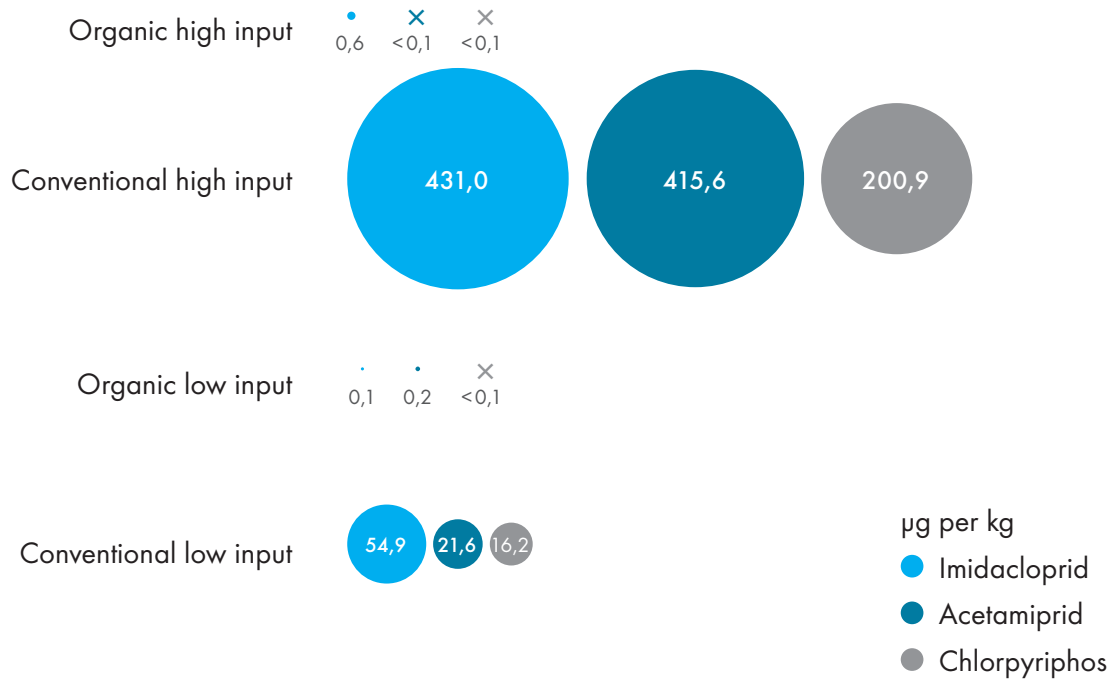


Pesticide residues in vegetables in organic and conventional farming at Chuka, Kenya



Long-term Farming Systems Comparison Trials in Kenya

Impact of Organic and Conventional Farming on Pesticide Contamination



Continuous use of chemical pesticides in conventional farming is a potential threat to human and environmental health due to pesticide residues in soils, water and crops.

Results after six years of comparative cultivation at two sites (Chuka and Thika):

- Soil and running water from organic fields were free from residues of the applied bio-pesticides.
- Conventional fields were highly contaminated with pesticide residues and exceeded the acceptable thresholds.
- Traces of chemical pesticides from conventional fields were also found in nearby organic fields, as wind and water were able to transport them.

Conclusion

The sole use of preventive control measures and bio-pesticides in organic farming minimizes pesticide residue contamination. Thus, organic farming provides an effective alternative and environmentally sound approach to the pesticide problem in agriculture.

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