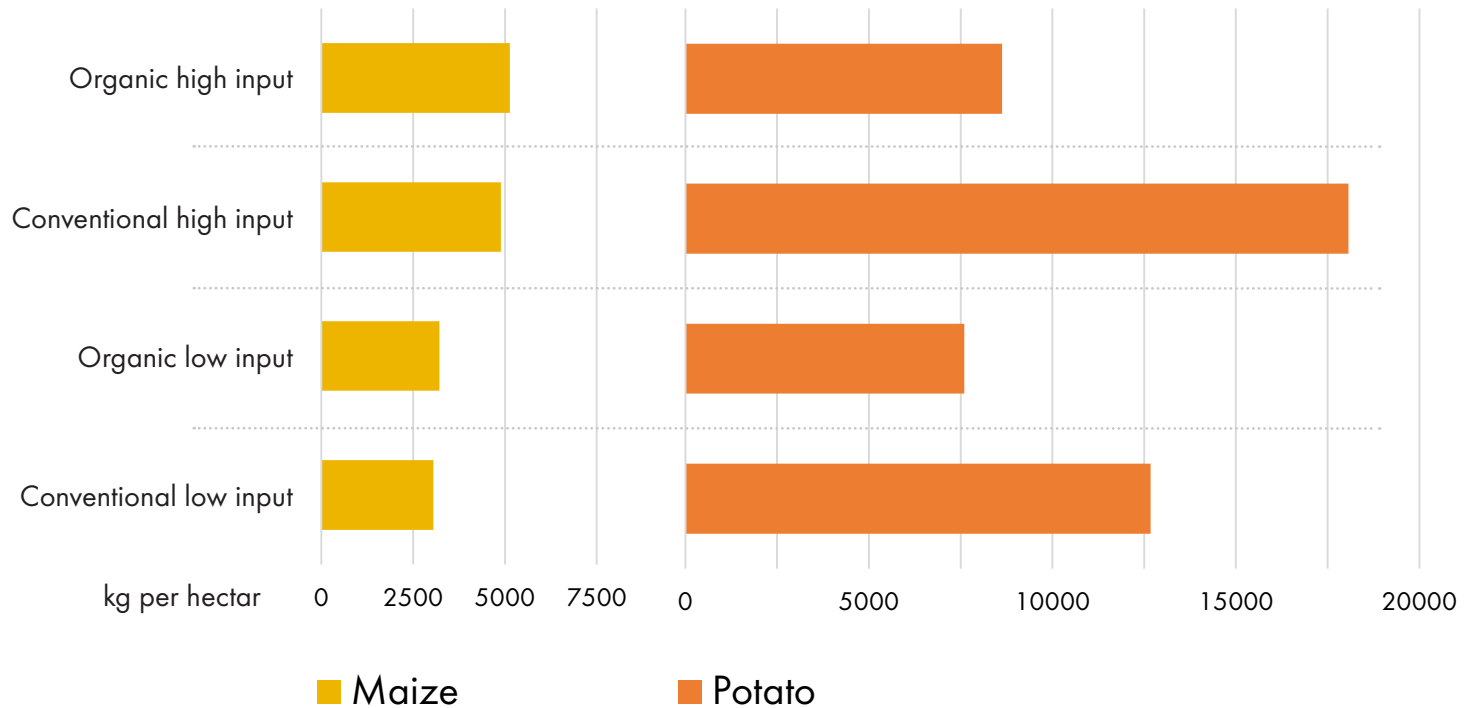


Maize grain and potato tuber yields in organic and conventional farming systems at Chuka, Kenya



Source:
Maize: Adamtey et al. 2016 | Potato: FiBL; unpublished data

Long-term Farming Systems Comparison Trials in Kenya

Impact of Organic and Conventional Farming on Productivity and Profitability



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

- Similar yields of maize grain, baby corn and common beans in the organic and the conventional farming systems.
- Lower yields of potato and vegetables in the organic systems compared to the conventional systems due to higher pest and disease losses.
- Higher production costs in the organic systems due to higher labour costs linked to increased labour time for fertilizer preparation.
- Higher profitability in the organic high input system than in the conventional high input system for maize and baby corn with premium prices on organic products usually paid in Nairobi; but lower profitability in organic potato and vegetable production.

Conclusion

Organic farming is partly able to achieve similar or even higher yields and profits than conventional. For overall better results of organic farming, more research is needed especially in the field of pest and disease prevention.

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