

The KARI codes for MU03-036, MU03-022 and MU03-017 are KH500-43A, KH500-44A and KH500-22A respectively.

The new varieties have other special attributes such as earliness, double cobbing, use as feed crops and also mature early.

These varieties have been found also to perform well in Kiambu, Embu, Kirinyaga, Kangundo, Busia and Kakamega districts

### Other varieties

Varieties which are highly adapted to the medium altitudes include KH500-31A, KH500-32, KH500-33A and KH500-34A .

These varieties can be sourced from seed companies such as FreshCo, Faida seeds, Leldet and East African Seed company.



Healthy maize on disease free plants



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## Use streak tolerant maize to manage maize streak virus disease



## Introduction

### What is maize streak virus disease?

This is an important leaf disease of maize in most parts of Kenya. It is transmitted by a leafhopper from a disease affected plant to a healthy plant. Affected plants have yellow streaked leaves.

When the disease occurs early in the season, the plants appear stunted and their yields are very low or fail to yield altogether.

The disease is commonly referred to as *Gikware* in Kikuyu.



Leaf hopper



Maize streak infested plant

## How wide spread is the disease?

The disease has been increasing and severe epidemics have been experienced in some years due to:

- Continuous or relay planting of maize and other leafhopper host plants such as Napier grass .
- Low adoption of resistant varieties.
- Most commonly grown varieties are susceptible to the streak.

## Impact of the disease

Planting of susceptible varieties has led to yield reductions of up to half the yield potential.



Heavily infected field

## What can we do about it?

One option would be to control the disease carrier but insecticides are costly and environmentally unfriendly.

Other options include:

- Early planting and good husbandry practices
- Use of tolerant/resistant maize varieties which yield sizeable cobs even after infestation.



Maize streak tolerant varieties