How can we narrow the yield gap?

Yield gaps can be narrowed through adoption of existing best management techniques and technologies, and improved access to inputs and finance. Farmers’ yields are often limited by nutrient availability, making mineral fertilizers crucial for bridging yield gaps. Because fertilizer is a bulky product and its efficient use is knowledge-intensive, improving market infrastructures and access to best practices are priorities.

Why do yield gaps matter?

High yield gaps are clearly correlated with increases in hunger prevalence. Yield gaps may be substantial. For instance, in Sub-Saharan Africa the average maize yield is only one fifth of the attainable yield.

Why are some farmers less productive than others?

Farmers may achieve very different yield levels under similar agroecological conditions. The ‘yield gap’ represents the difference between farmers’ actual and attainable yields and is often caused by poor access to agricultural inputs and to knowledge.