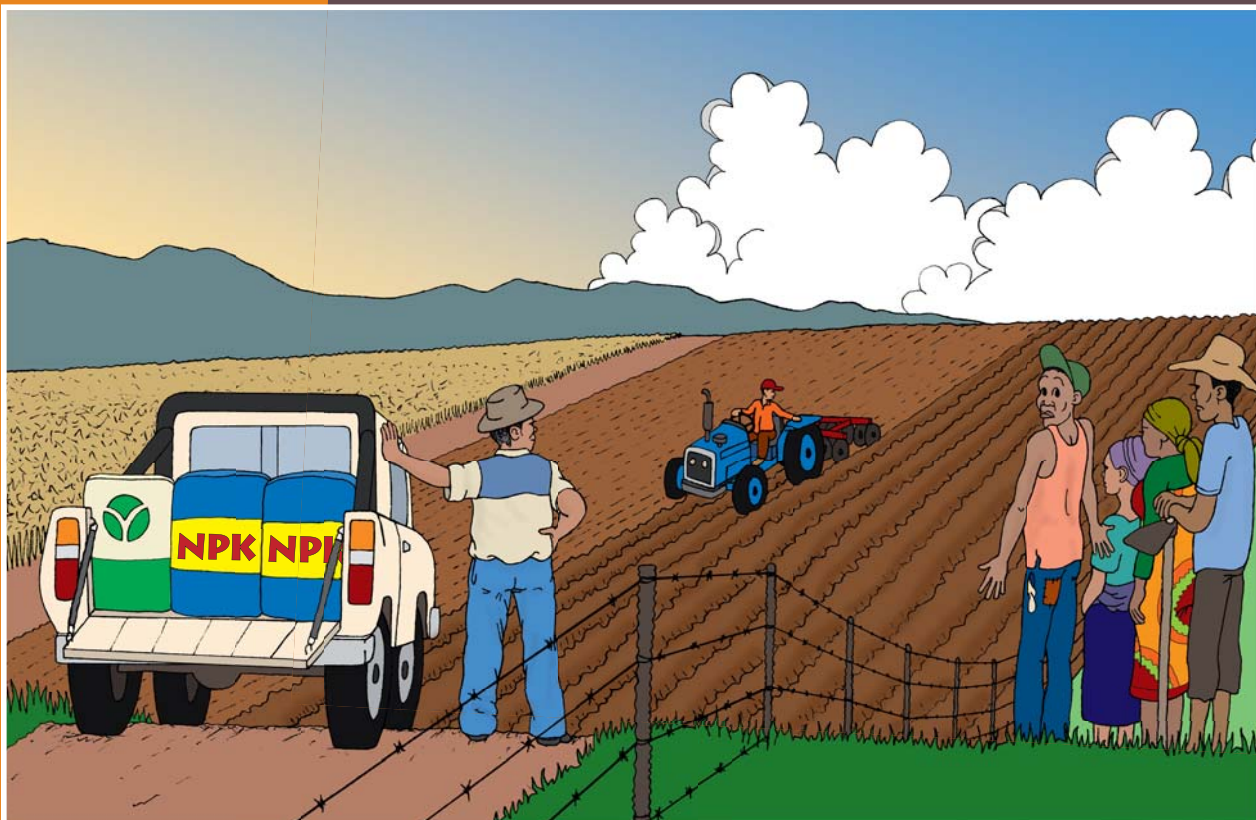


# WHAT IS THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA?



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**T**he Green Revolution refers to the development of high yielding seed varieties, also referred to as 'improved varieties' or 'certified varieties'. These seed varieties are bred specifically to produce increased yields per hectare, as part of a technological package consisting of inorganic fertilisers, pesticides and other chemical inputs, financing, securing output markets, etc.

Advocates of the Green Revolution argue that its approaches best promote agricultural sustainability, and food and nutrition security.

Their logic is that farmers will buy inputs (which may be subsidised for the first few seasons to kick-start the process), which will enable them to generate higher yields that can be sold for a profit. This, in turn, will produce sufficient income both to purchase their food needs until the next season and to buy inputs for further production.

In reality, it does not work this way, and only a small proportion of farmers can benefit from this approach.

