

# New approach to tackling malaria

**The Wageningen company In2Care used special ventilation shafts in houses in villages in the Ivory Coast to attract and kill malaria mosquitoes. This method reduces the number of malaria cases by about 40 per cent.**

This finding comes from a field experiment in the Ivory Coast funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In half of the 40 villages in the study, In2Care placed multiple ventilation shafts (known as EaveTubes) high up in the walls of a large number of homes. The EaveTubes contain static gauze that an insecticide powder sticks to. If the mosquitoes land on the gauze, they are 'attacked' by the insecticide and die.

**'This method also kills resistant malaria mosquitoes'**

'One advantage of these EaveTubes,' says Tim Möhlmann of In2Care, 'is that

the gauze with the insecticide is high up out of the reach of children. What is more, you only need small amounts of insecticide and the method even kills resistant malaria mosquitoes.' The EaveTubes are more effective than mosquito nets, says Möhlmann. 'Even the best nets only cut the number of malaria cases by 12 per cent.'

The Wageningen company (half of whom studied at WUR) wants to sell the EaveTubes in Africa but has run up against a problem. It needs to carry out a second similar test in order to get the tubes certified by the World Health Organization (WHO). 'So now we are looking for new sources of funding.' <sup>AS</sup>

