

Supplementary Table S1. Economic benefit of the use of plastic mulching in maize grown during the dry season (June-August) in the highlands of Ecuador, 2019-2020.

Maize variety	Planting system (T)	Yield, fresh ears (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Yield surplus (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )		Additional income* (USD ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Benefit* (USD ha <sup>-1</sup> )
		Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2019	Year 2020	Total	
INIAP 101	Plastic mulching	6.24	7.49	3.12	5.15	936	1545	2481	1201
	Conventional practice	3.12	2.34	-	-	-	-	-	-
INIAP 122	Plastic mulching	3.79	6.50	2.59	1.77	777	531	1308	28
	Conventional practice	1.20	4.73	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average				2.86	3.46	857	1038	1895	615

\*Price of fresh corn (paid to farmers): 0.30 USD kg<sup>-1</sup>

•Benefit = additional income – cost of the plastic (1280 USD ha<sup>-1</sup>)