

Beneficial Terminates

I assume they are writing from Africa. If so, I am not as familiar with the issue as I would like to be. But here's what I do know: termites attack living plants only when the dead wood in the area has been finished up. Thus, if farmers could increase the amount of biomass on their farms enough, they will eventually have no more problems with termites bothering their crops. This has already happened to a lot of farmers in Zambia, where there has been a lot of work with green manures (especially mucuna).

Nevertheless, in the short run, it could be that the organic matter would attract the termites.

Roland Bunch

By the way, termites have been given a very bad name because the damage to the environment caused by farmers has caused the termites to go after live plants. When there is sufficient biomass around, they eat only dead stuff and distribute the manure throughout the soil. They are the tropic's earthworms! And wise farmers use them as such.

Most termite species are innocent inhabitants of tropical forests, and have a positive effect on soil fertility. They and their nests also provide food and shelter for an extraordinary number of associated organisms.

In tropical forests, where most termite species live, they play an important ecological role, recycling nutrients from dead wood and improving soil fertility.