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Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa Newsletter



News from the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa

A service of the project Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa

Dear KCOA partners,

As the pandemic restrictions have been lifted completely in many places in the world, the second half of this year has brought back people to the offices and in-person meetings and encounters. At the steering unit of KCOA at GIZ, we have been busy designing and organising our Networking Meeting and participation at Biofach Fair, both taking place with in-person participation at the end of this month. We cannot wait to finally meet many of you, and we look forward to lively discussions and exciting field visits.

The second half of this year is a milestone for KCOA as we embark on the project's dissemination journey. While up until now, the Knowledge Hubs were rather focussed on collecting and adapting knowledge, they have now started to develop strategies for disseminating this knowledge to their target groups.

An important tool for this step is the **KCOA knowledge database** that has been developed collaboratively by experts from all Knowledge Hubs over the past two years. The database has started validation of knowledge products in June 2022. Since January 2022, almost 200 knowledge products from all Knowledge Hubs have been uploaded. These are now being verified, validated,

and then available for dissemination.

We are excited to see the database grow further and look forward to the upcoming dissemination activities that will spread the word on agroecological and organic practices across the continent.

Enjoy the read of this newsletter and learn about the other activities the Knowledge Hubs are currently up to!

Your KCOA team at GIZ

Current activities & achievements

Knowledge Hub Southern Africa (KHSa)

Networking Workshop in Malawi



KHSa networking event at Kusamala. Photo: Macdonald Thom

Kusamala, a new in-country partner for the KHSa, hosted a two-day networking workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi on 14 and 15 June. The workshop brought together government representatives, academics and researchers, civil society, farmer organisations and farmers to discuss the challenges to food security in Malawi and how organic/permaculture agriculture could address these challenges. The 35 participants mapped the organic sector in Malawi, identified missing stakeholders and noted obstacles to scaling organics in the country. Several collaborative actions were planned, including

the setting up of a WhatsApp group for participants and the drafting of an open letter to government and the press.

Knowledge Hub North Africa (KHNA)

Review and Appraisal Mission (RAM)



RAM participants from all 3 countries in Egypt with virtual participants from Morocco and Tunisia. Photo: Tarek El-Araby

From the 13th until 21st of June, the KHNA team as well as GIZ representatives gathered in SEKEM, Egypt, for the final and main part of the Review and Appraisal Mission (RAM). Country as well as hub self-assessments, sector updates, stakeholder analysis were conducted beforehand. As the mission was organised in a hybrid format, team members who could not join in person were able to participate virtually. The time was full of fruitful discussions, insightful presentations, brainstorming and working on ideas for the next phase. The biodynamic SEKEM farm and its guest house provided the perfect environment for the intensive work. Field trips as well as a cultural excursion to the Pyramids completed the programme.

Knowledge Hub Eastern Africa (KHEA)

Quality Assurance Workshop brings together Master trainers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda



KHEA Master trainers discussing quality assurance principles and outcomes. Photo: BvAT

From May 25th to May 27th, the KHEA together with IFOAM, organised a Quality assurance workshop. 19 out of the 25 Master trainers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda came together in Entebbe, Uganda for this event.

The participants reflected on and discussed metrics and principles for quality assurance in training processes of the KHEA. These were identified during prior online in-country workshops.

Recommendations for quality assurance will be identified during the second phase of the project, between 2022-2024, that targets to reach 1,500 multipliers and 22,500 farmers. Thus far, the KHEA has trained 24 Master trainers and 1,355 Multipliers (572 female, 738 male) across the region (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda).

Knowledge Hub West Africa (KHWA)

Field visit with the future organic agriculture value chain network in Senegal

A field visit to the Beershaba Farm, a production and processing unit in Senegal, took place on the 30th of May 2022. 18 people, including 12 women, representing different actors all along the value chain, met and shared experiences. The field visit served to facilitate the interaction and exchanges within the agroecological and organic sector, strengthening the knowledge sharing and working relationships among them.

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I)

Road Map for Seed Systems



Sowing seeds at SEKEM Farm in Egypt. Photo: GIZ\Emad Abdelrahman

In May, the seed working group of the EOA-I Continental Steering Committee presented a road map on farmer managed seed systems at the 3rd steering group meeting of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP) in Kampala, Uganda. The ASBPP is part of the **African Seed and Biotechnology Program**, which is the continental program of the African Union framing the development of the African seed sector. The participants of the meeting gave comments to be included and endorsed the final road map, work plan and budget.

GIZ

Review and Appraisal Mission in North Africa



Field visits to farms were part of the review and appraisal mission. Photo: GIZ\Henrike Hüseman

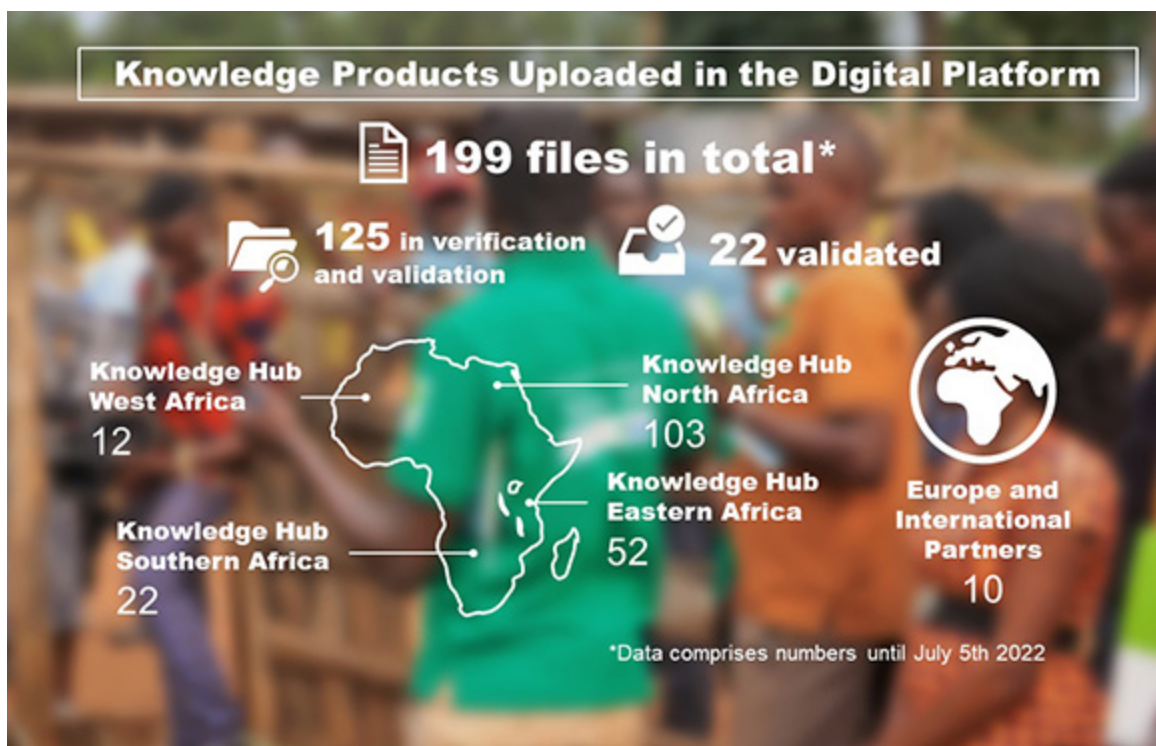
In June, the mid-term evaluation of the Knowledge Hub in North Africa (KHNA) took place. Colleagues from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Germany, including a team of three persons from GIZ, came together in Egypt. KHNA was the fourth Knowledge Hub to have this evaluation, the three other ones were done in 2021.

The agenda consisted of self-assessments and an overall assessment according to the DAC criteria, country studies, sector analysis and discussions around implemented activities, achieved results and future topics in the three countries. This indoor programme was accompanied by field visits to Heliopolis University and different farms.

The evaluation showed that the following four topics are the most important for the KHNA: Partnerships with other organisations and institutions, market linkage for farmers, networking, advocacy and public awareness.

The so-called micro interventions that are a particular approach of the KHNA (see success story in this newsletter issue for an example) as well as the demo plots were evaluated very positively as they are highly relevant for the beneficiaries and directly address their needs. Another success story shared was the contract farming approach at SEKEM, where farmers agree to produce defined quantities at fixed rates at the beginning of the season. This approach gives both the farmers and the processors stability and planning security.

Did you know that?



Since June 2022, knowledge products uploaded in the KCOA database are being verified and validated. Photo: Cinelab Akademie Initiative

3 questions to a colleague

In every newsletter, we ask three questions to one colleague from every Knowledge Hub (KH). This time we asked the following questions:

1. If you had to give your KH one compliment, what would it be?
2. If your KH were an object/animal/plant, which would it be and why?
3. What personal goals do you have that KCOA helps you achieve?

Valentine Kyage | Project Officer / Country Knowledge Manager | Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) | Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | joined the project in 2019

1. KHEA is the leading influencer across the East African region that promotes organic agriculture systems. KHEA has an ambitious, committed, and very innovative project team working towards enhancing organic agriculture and improving the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers through different interventions.

2. ELEPHANT.

- KHEA is as large as an elephant.
- KHEA is made up of many stakeholders and value chain actors in its implementation to ensure its achievement. It is the same for the elephant with its many organs.
- KHEA employs diverse experiences and knowledge from various value chain actors and stakeholders to achieve its objectives. It's the same for the elephant using various organs to attain sustainable life.



Valentine Kyage from KHEA. Photo: TOAM

3. Transform agriculture policies and strategies in favour of organic agriculture through ensuring food and income security, the health of the soil and targeting communities to improve the lives of all actors involved in the value chain.

Naglaa Ahmed | Multiplier Coach and Coordinator of KHNA Egypt | Cairo, Egypt | joined the project in May 2020

1. The KHNA enables me to enhance many different skills, e.g. communication, interaction, building channels. It also facilitates my master thesis by joining and applying numerous activities with innovative objectives.

2. It would be a sunflower – a plant that follows the sun in the same way as KHNA follows the rays of hope to benefit others.

3. My personal goal is to disseminate what I have learned to others and to get involved more in community development by including university students in the development process.



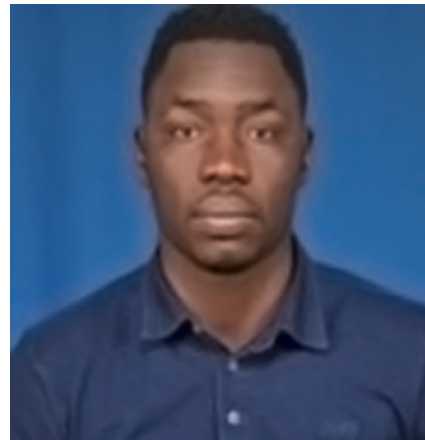
Naglaa Ahmed from KHNA. Photo: Christine Arlt

Mouhamed Seck | Project Manager | FENAB | Thiès, Senegal | joined the project in December 2021

1. The KHWA is made up of a competent and committed team, which works in synergy and eager to do well.

2. Baobab. For its robustness and durability. The KHWA rests on solid bases with a good organisation ensuring its perpetuity.

3. The organisation of the work within the KCOA allowed me to enhance my skills and knowledge in organic agriculture. It also allowed me to be in an intercultural environment and work with colleagues who have different profiles.



Mouhamed Seck from KHWA. Photo: Elhadji Mandiaye Ndiaye

Rose Bell | Project Manager | Kusamala | Lilongwe, Malawi | joined the project in January 2022

1. KHSa provides excellent support for building strong networks with the objective of promoting organic agriculture in the region.

2. KHSa can be seen as the *Uapaca kirkiana* tree, that has fruits rich in essential nutrients that can be processed into other products. It can improve communities' nutrition, food security and livelihoods.

3. I would like to become an expert in the organic sector and share the expertise with local communities. KHSa helps me to enhance my knowledge through the created networks and sharing of knowledge products.



Rose Bell from KHSa. Photo: Kusamala

Save the Moroccan pistachio trees!

Less pistachio trees are cut down thanks to KHNA's micro intervention



Souhad Azennoud in front of a pistachio tree. Photo: Jamila Loukili

In the Moroccan pre-Rif mountains near Taounate, 100-year-old pistachio trees, whose ecological and economic benefits are largely unknown, are often cut down. The farmers cutting them down hope to gain more space for their crops, but they forgot that the trees hold together the soil of the mountains and prevent erosion.

In 2010, Souhad Azennoud, a former senior manager in a multinational company and an agroecology activist since 2000, attended a conference on fruit forests. This is where she learned that this endemic pistachio tree plays a double role: it protects the soil from erosion and, when grafted, it produces edible pistachios, which are profitable trade products. She also learned that the fruit can be processed into pistachio oil, a raw material much in demand in the cosmetics industry.

As a KHNA Rural Service Provider, Souhad is one of the 472 KHNA multipliers and integrates the economic dimension into her advocacy. In her micro interventions, she shows farmers the grafting techniques of the pistachio tree and equips the local populations with solid arguments for safeguarding the pistachio tree of the Atlas and its valorisation.

Today, 80% of the inhabitants of the area don't cut down pistachio trees anymore. But Souhad dreams even bigger. She hopes to develop a new organic and ecological industry with the fruits of the pistachio tree. This would create opportunities for more people, especially for the region's young people.



Photo: Pixabay/reklam43

Resource tips

Videos & handbooks: [Biofertilisers come to Africa](#)

Country: Southern Africa | **Publication date:** 2020 | **Language:** English

Four handbooks and four videos on making bokashi, fermented cow manure, native microbes and lactic acid bacteria. [Link to videos and handbooks »](#)

Report: [Proud Past, Exciting Present, Grand Future - 10 Years of Sustainable Development](#)

Country: Egypt | **Publication date:** July 2021 | **Language:** English

As an inspiration for students and for all interested in sustainable development in the area of university studies. [Link to report »](#)

Press release: [Quality Assurance in Training of Teams of Facilitators](#)

Country: Uganda | **Publication date:** May 2022 | **Language:** English

KHEA & IFOAM - Organics International conducted a Workshop on Quality Assurance in Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) Approach under the KCOA. [Link to press release »](#)

Videos: [Educational videos on good practices in organic olive production](#)

Country: Tunisia | **Publication date:** May 2022 | **Language:** Arabic with French/English subtitles

Description of the steps of fertilisation for organic olive trees. [Link to video \(French subtitles\)](#) | [Link to video \(English subtitles\)](#) »

Video: 1st National Agricultural Education Show

Country: Uganda | Publication date: June 2022 | Language: English

This platform is for learners at different levels. Farmers showcase innovative technologies that suit the prevailing farming conditions in the country. **Links to [video 1 »](#) | [video 2 »](#) | [video 3 »](#) | [video 4 »](#)**

Upcoming events



Event title & content	Where & when?	Organised by
National Steering Committees - KHWa Meeting of the NSC to assess the activities of the KHWa at the national level, and to propose perspectives and orientations.	Benin, Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal June / July / August	KHWa partners
Sessions on sharing and socializing endogenous knowledge - KHWa Endogenous knowledge is shared with the actors of the value chain.	Senegal July / August	Agrecol Afrique, Baye Yoro diallobayeyoro@gmail.com
Sub-regional workshop for PGS harmonisation in West Africa The various organic agriculture specifications used by the different WaFroNet member countries is further harmonised.	Senegal August	Agrecol Afrique, Assane Gueye agueye.gueye@gmail.com
GIZ – Call for Proposals: “Feminist & Fair – The Future of Agricultural Supply Chains” Do you have an innovative idea realising gender transformative approaches within agricultural supply chains? Apply together with an international company and receive up to 50% funding of project costs.	Until August 1 st See more in: Feminist & Fair: The Future of Supply Chains – INA (nachhaltige-agrarlieferketten.org)	For questions, contact: feministan@fair.giz.de
Social Initiative Forum The Forum will bring together educators, social workers, researchers, farmers & individuals interested in holistic education, development and sustainability. KHNA Egypt will host the ecological pillar.	Cairo, Egypt August 2022 http://sifegypt.com/2022/03/22/elementor-37/	SEKEM, Naglaa Ahmed naglaa.ahmed@sekem.com
KHNA Face2Face Event 2022 The KHNA team meets in Morocco to – amongst other activities – work on the proposal for the next phase.	Rabat, Morocco 5-9 September	FIMABIO, Jamila Loukili henounj@yahoo.fr
SIAT 2022 - International Exhibition of Agricultural Investment and Technology This fair offers local and foreign agriculture operators opportunities for networking and knowledge on the Tunisian market as well as multiple forums and workshops.	Tunisia 12-15 October http://www.siat.tn/	APIA – Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency
Zambia Traditional Seed & Food Festival The festival promotes indigenous knowledge sharing among farmers. It brings together stakeholders and government to address issues affecting farmers. It promotes informal seed sharing.	Zambia 14 October	PELUM Zambia, Muketoi Wamunyima muketoi@pelumzambia.org

About the project



The hub bases (dark red) and the current project countries (light red). © GIZ

Legal disclaimer: This geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions.

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) aims to scale up adoption of organic/agroecological farming practices through a network of five Knowledge Hubs in Africa. The Knowledge Hubs are set up as collaborative country-led partnerships.

KCOA is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and currently 29 non-governmental organisations in 17 countries across Africa. The project runs from 2019 to 2026.



These organisations are part of the KCOA network. The PELUM logo is listed only once. PELUM is a network with several national, independent chapters. KCOA works with PELUM Uganda, PELUM Kenya and PELUM Zambia.

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