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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 year draws to a close, we would like to use this newsletter issue to thank everyone for their continued great work, motivation, and commitment. This year has shown us once more the urgent need for an agroecological transformation of our food systems as we witnessed extreme climate events around the globe and the vulnerability of globalised input supply chains.

To disseminate agroecological and organic practices is more important than ever to achieve such a transformation, and the Knowledge Hubs have been putting a lot of efforts into communications and sensitisation activities this last quarter of the year – whether it be for the COP27, for media workshops and events or for rolling out our campaign “Meet Africa’s Organic Farmers”. Check out the updates below for more details.

All Knowledge Hubs continue to create and upload knowledge products to the KCOA database. So far 251 knowledge products have been uploaded, 21 have already been validated. We cannot wait to see these validated knowledge products being used and disseminated.

Enjoy the read of this newsletter and see you next year!

Current activities & achievements

Knowledge Hub Southern Africa (KHSa)

Regional Knowledge Management Strategy Workshop in South Africa



Muketoi Wamunyima (PELUM Zambia), Rabeca Mwila (PELUM Zambia) and Kondwane Khonje (SFHC Malawi) during a group work at the workshop. Photo: Stefanie Swanepoel

The KHSa held a three-day workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa for the KME (Knowledge, Monitoring, Evaluation) and Communications Officers and Project Managers for the six country partners from Zambia, Namibia, Malawi and South Africa – 23 people attended the event. The workshop was designed to gamify the steps of the KHSa Knowledge Management Strategy and ground it within practice. Each country team used one of their needs assessments to identify or create knowledge products, validate them – including with multipliers –, gain IPR permission and activate them with the group. The KHSa also released its Playbook 2022 at this event, a guide to KHSa standard operating procedures.

Knowledge Hub North Africa (KHNA)

KHNA Team Workshop in Morocco



On the occasion of the team workshop, KHNA organised an event in Morocco to sensitise the media on organic agriculture. Photo: Tanja Reischl

In September 2022, the KHNA team met in Rabat, Morocco, to plan the next project phase. On the occasion of this meeting, KHNA organised a big public event where KHNA colleagues met with official representatives, TV and radio reporters and talked about organic agriculture and KHNA. Various speeches were held, the multipliers presented their projects, and Naglaa Ahmed from Egypt introduced the **Carbon Credit Model** "Farms 4 Climate". Through this model, SEKEM incentivises farmers to follow the Economy of Love standards, reduce their CO2 emissions and contribute to carbon sequestration on their farms. The farmers increase their income by selling the saved CO2 as certificates to SEKEM or other companies wanting to compensate their emissions. KHNA is working on spreading this model across North Africa.

The team also visited three farms of different sizes. Unfortunately, the Tunisian colleagues could only join the workshop virtually.

Knowledge Hub Eastern Africa (KHEA)

KHEA launches Meet Africa's Organic Farmers Campaign



Artwork for the "Meet Africa's Organic Farmers" campaign. Photo: Pamela Magino

On the 3rd of October, the KHEA launched the online campaign “Meet Africa’s Organic Farmers” using the hashtags #FarmersOfAfrica & #KHEA. The campaign will run until 1st of December 2022 and portrays farmers in videos.

The campaign is running across all hubs and recognises farmers trained under the KCOA project for their dedicated services to the sector. In the videos, the farmers raise their voices for their products, their needs, and the support they require from governments and consumers.

In the KHEA, the campaign envisages to generate a public debate around the type of agricultural systems in the region. The goal is to influence Eastern African policymakers to adopt legislation and programmes that support sustainable agriculture and lead to sustainable, healthy livelihoods. Therefore, the videos create awareness of the different focus areas and interventions done in KHEA’s countries Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

To view all uploaded videos so far, go to the KCOA KHEA YouTube channel with a list of all campaign videos [here](#).

Knowledge Hub West Africa (KHWA)

Training of Teams of Trainers in The Gambia



Group picture of the participants of the ToToT in the Gambia. Photo: El Hadj Bâ

FENAB in partnership with IFOAM - Organics International organised a Training of Teams of Trainers (ToToT) in The Gambia from 19 to 23 September 2022.

This training programme is being implemented in all Knowledge Hubs in order to train national teams of master trainers, who will in turn train rural service providers and change agents in their respective regions and countries.

This initiative aims to build capacity for ecological and organic agriculture. To this end, the programme addresses the curricula and technical topics of organic and ecological agriculture. It helps and guides trainers and multipliers to have the necessary knowledge and to pass on their messages to the value chain actors in the most effective way.

ECOWAS launches 15 agroecology training centres



Workshop of the ECOWAS Agroecology Programme in Benin. Photo: ECOWAS

From 31 October to 5 November, the ECOWAS Agroecology Programme held a workshop in Cotonou, Benin to review and plan activities.

During the event, 15 agroecology trainings centres – one in each ECOWAS member country – were officially launched. These training centres are supposed to train at least 12,000 persons and equip them with the knowledge to maintain soil fertility and optimise water use.

The ECOWAS Agroecology Programme started in 2018 and has been financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union. Its goal is to support family farms with agroecological transition.

Knowledge Hub Central Africa (KHCA)

Training of Master Trainers in Cameroon



Master trainers with partners from KHCA and IFOAM in Cameroon. Photo: Jean Kana

The 2nd training session for master trainers in organic agriculture took place from 24 to 29 October 2022 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This training was facilitated by IFOAM. 9 Cameroonians and 3 Chadians participated and shared experiences on the transmission of knowledge in order to develop their technical and methodological knowledge in organic agriculture.

Various topics were covered: general organic agriculture knowledge, marketing of organic products, facilitation of training sessions. At the end of the training, the master trainers committed themselves to disseminating the knowledge on organic agriculture in their respective networks.

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I)

17th Continental Steering Committee / Memorandum of Understanding with African Union



Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and Dr. David Amudavi, Executive Director of BvAT, signed the Memorandum of Understanding at the African Union

The EOA Initiative held its 17th Continental Steering Committee in June 2022 in South Africa and made key decisions and resolutions on the implementation of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Africa. It was decided to establish a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) for EOA-I in Africa and harmonise EOA and Agroecology principles to avoid confusion of the two complementing practices.

Furthermore, the African Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) over the hosting of the EOA-I Continental Secretariat. The two organisations agreed to strengthen collaboration and advance the EOA/Agroecology and Farmer Managed Seeds Sector in Africa.

Lastly, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has commissioned FiBL to undertake an external project evaluation of the ongoing phase 2 which ends in April 2023. A cost extension was given until December 2023 and a new SDC programme is expected to start in 2024.

GIZ

Virtual side event at COP27



The panel with representatives from GIZ, the Government of Georgia, the World Food Program, SEKEM, CIAT/CGIAR and KliK Foundation. Photo: GIZ

From 6 to 18 November, the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) is taking place in Egypt. The conference is held every year and pursues the goal to decide on policies that limit global temperature rises and climate change.

In collaboration with **SEKEM**, **CIAT/CGIAR**, **World Food Program**, **the Government of Georgia**, and **KliK Foundation**, the KCOA team coordinated a side event on 9 November. The 45-minute session looked at different examples for climate financing in the agriculture and food system. Helmy Abouleish, CEO of SEKEM, concluded the session saying that “if we acknowledge organic smallholders as climate heroes, then I hope that the parties will really honour them for their climate

and ecosystems services.” For further information on the session and the panellists, please see [here](#).

Did you know that?



The Knowledge Hubs have established 213 working relationships so far. The project's goal is to reach 500 until 2025.
Photo: GIZ/Caro Kadatz

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?

Rosinah Mbenya | Country Coordinator | PELUM Kenya | Juja, Kenya | joined the project in November 2019

1. It's amazing to see the change that is happening through the multiplier effect. KHEA has enhanced learning and networking across the Eastern Africa region bringing more complementarity for positive change.

2. Just like the [story of the hummingbird](#) by Kenyan Nobel Prize Laureate Wangari Mathai, the small bird may not be seen as significant, but it will try its best to solve problems. The KH is striving to ensure ecological organic agriculture is embraced in the farming systems across the Eastern Hub



and Africa as a whole.

3. KHEA is providing a solution to the continuous knowledge and training needs that PELUM Kenya's network members seek. Personally, I am glad to contribute to a healthy ecosystem, healthy people and a healthy planet.

Rosinah Mbenya from KHEA. Photo: PELUM Kenya

Rachida Mehdioui | Master Coach Morocco | Rabat, Morocco | joined the project in May 2020

1. You are adorable.
2. An orchid for its beauty.
3. Contribute to valuing small producers and sensitising on an agriculture that respects the environment.



Rachida Mehdioui from KHNA. Photo: Tanja Reischl

Ibra Diaw | M&E Officer | Agrecol Afrique | Thiès, Senegal | joined the project in December 2020

1. The project is an effective and sustainable solution for strengthening and creating networks. The project is a therapist for the dissemination of endogenous and scientific knowledge.
2. It would be a bee because bees are very organised in their work and each one has its role. In addition, bees play a crucial role in agriculture. It is also said that honey can cure all diseases. A world without bees is synonymous with the apocalypse. This is just to show the importance of the project.



Ibra Diaw from KHWa. Photo: Baye Yoro Diallo

Daniel Kalala | Project Manager | Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre | Lusaka, Zambia

1. Promotion of agroecology has historically been done by individuals or institutions working in silos. There is already enhanced visibility through the KHSa with the current network of partners working together.
2. It is an eagle, representing our ability to rise above challenges to liberate our region from unsustainable practices. Despite the lack of policy support and multinational opposition, we can still make our voices heard.
3. My goal has always been to have more people shift to sustainable food production systems. Our work with KHSa helps to raise awareness of the need for agroecology within government structures.



Daniel Kalala from KHSa. Photo: KATC

Media – powerful influencers for sustainable food and farming systems

PELUM Zambia trains and sensitises journalists to the need to publish stories on sustainable food and farming systems



Journalists filling in the gap of knowledge. Photo: Rabecca Mwila

Journalists are powerful multipliers of knowledge. PELUM Zambia has worked in partnership with other civil society organisations in Zambia to train journalists to report accurately on sustainable food and farming systems.

PELUM Zambia hosts an annual awards ceremony to recognise journalists that publish stories that raise awareness of sustainable farming and profile farmers producing poison-free and nutritious food without harming the planet.

Through the KHSAs, PELUM Zambia conducted additional training with journalists in 2022 to find out what they needed to improve their work and gain more exposure for organic agriculture and agroecology in the country. Journalists created workplans in the training that PELUM tracks throughout the year. PELUM also connects journalists to stories and to farmers using sustainable practices.

The 2022 trainings sensitised editors to the need to publish stories on sustainable food and farming systems, with particular reference to climate change, nutrition and rural livelihoods. PELUM has an ongoing relationship with journalists, feeding them relevant information, inviting them to key events

and connecting more informally through a WhatsApp group.

Thanks to this work with media stakeholders, PELUM has been receiving ongoing requests from other institutions and civil society organisations. They ask to be connected to journalists trained and supported by PELUM because of their ability to holistically tell evidence-based, accurate and relevant stories of sustainability in food and farming systems.

Rabecca Mwila, Communications Officer for PELUM Zambia, says that “media are key influencers, able to disseminate information to the broader public and shift public perception of what kind of food and farming systems we need.”

Resource tips

Videos/Photos: **Advocacy Campaign “Meet Africa’s Organic Farmers”**

Country: Africa | **Publication date:** October 2022 | **Language:** English/French/Arabic

The videos and photos show organic farmers voicing their calls to governments and consumers across the continent. [Link to photo Tunisia »](#) | [Link to video Egypt »](#) | [Link to video Morocco »](#) | [Link to video list Eastern Africa »](#)

Video: **12th Annual Indigenous Food and Seed Fair 2022**

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

This year’s event focused on showcasing the resilience within the traditional food and seed systems and their contribution to nutrition resilience for households. The event included exhibition of indigenous and traditional foods and seeds from all regions of the country. [Link to video »](#)

Video: **4th National Agroecology Actors Symposium 2022**

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

The event is the largest annual convening of Agroecology stakeholders in Uganda with the aim of facilitating, consolidating and catalysing actions for scaling up agroecology in Uganda at policy and practice levels. [Link to video »](#)

Video: **1st Agroecological Market Systems Expo**

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

The goal of the expo is to provide a platform for agroecology entrepreneurs and market systems actors to share experiences, build synergies, showcase, and explore opportunities for strengthening agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial market development at various levels. [Link to video »](#)

Video: **1st YALTA Regional Summit 2022**

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

The involvement of youth in agroecology is limited, while their involvement is crucial for the future. The event facilitates interactions between youth, agroecology stakeholders, policymakers, service providers, investors etc. [Link to video »](#)

Facebook Post: Trainings of Trainers on “Fertilisation and composting in organic agriculture”

Country: Tunisia | Publication date: 19 October 2022 | Language: French

Four trainings sessions: 1. Steps and methods of composting | 2. Vermicomposting | 3. Soil applications: Soil improvement for soils low in organic matter | 4. Visit of the CTAB demo plot.

[Link to post »](#)

Brochure: KCOA-KHEA Phase I Story booklet

Country: Eastern Africa | Publication date: September 2022 | Language: English

This booklet outlines the key achievements realised within the project implementation period of the first phase, August 2019 - June 2022. [Link to publication »](#)

Webinar series: KHSA Practical Farming Systems

Country: Southern Africa | Publication date: September 2022 | Language: English

A five-week webinar series focused on practical sustainable farming approaches – seed saving, soil enhancement, appropriate technologies, pest and disease management and conversion to agroecology. [Link to videos »](#)

Newsletter: ISAN Magazine Issue 4

Country: Southern Africa | Publication date: September 2022 | Language: English

A quarterly magazine of the IFOAM Southern African Network focused on sustainable food and farming systems in Southern Africa. [Link to newsletter »](#)

Video: Economy of Love in SEKEM

Country: Egypt | Publication date: February 2022 | Language: English

Insight into the daily work of SEKEM, accompanying the product cycle for bagged tea. [Link to video »](#)

Video: Economy of Love Standard – An Introduction

Country: Egypt | Publication date: October 2020 | Language: English

Economy of Love is a comprehensive certification standard, established in 2019, that stands for an economy that is harmonious with nature, regenerative of the environment, fair, and reflective of human dignity and respect. [Link to video »](#)

Upcoming events



Event title & content	Where & when?	Organised by
Farmer training on PGS establishment Farmers learn about the requirements and steps to establish a functional PGS.	Rwanda 14 – 18 November 2022	ROAM, Jennifer Mutamuliza
COP27 KHNA/SEKEM participates in different panels, with a booth, and speeches to present the EoL CC initiative, in addition to networking with international companies to work on the intuitive application.	Egypt 7-18 November 2022	SEKEM, Naglaa Ahmed
Harmonisation workshop of West African PGS This workshop harmonises the information systems and specifications on organic farming of the WaFroNet members and strengthens the existing PGS.	Senegal November 2022	KHWa
BIOFACH 2023 BIOFACH is the world's largest and most important trade fair for organic products. More information: https://www.biofach.de/en	Nuremberg, Germany 14-17 February 2023	Nürnberg Messe
Agroecology Days The 4th edition of this event focuses on the territorialisation of agroecology through diagnostic and sharing workshops, discovery visits and knowledge optimisation. More information: https://t.ly/ty-N	Senegal 6-16 February 2023	ENDA Pronat, Elhadji Faye

About the project

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.

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.



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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