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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,

In the last issues of our Newsletter it became clear that the richness of activities, stories, events in different countries within the hubs is enormous. The request to make the content more accessible, has led us to share with you in this edition an overview of KCOA and Knowledge Hubs per country instead of region. Now, you will find updates of all Knowledge Hubs focusing on the country activities happening across the continent.

We hope you enjoy reading and seeing campaigns from Tunisia to South Africa, the engagement of new networks in Cameroun, project meetings in Senegal, and discover more about KCOA trainings in all regions and our results so far. As a highlight, KCOA and the Knowledge Hub in Eastern Africa (KHEA) officially onboarded Madagascar and the organisations SYMABIO and GSDN into the project. A warm welcome from all KCOA to our new partners!

Meanwhile, another important change also happened in Germany. The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), after long and fruitful years of the special initiative "A world with no hunger," has launched its new special initiative **"A life free of hunger – Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems"** that aims at enabling all people to enjoy the right

to safe, sufficient and balanced food. To achieve this, food systems must become more effective and efficient, while at the same time economically and socially sustainable to create prosperity and new jobs especially for young people and women. To find out more about the initiative and it's new priorities, check this website [here](#).

We are happy to be working with our partners for this transformation that certainly requires more organic and agroecological practices!

Enjoy the read!

Your KCOA team at GIZ

Current activities & achievements

Knowledge Hub Southern Africa (KHSa)

Zambia

PELUM Zambia successfully co-hosted the annual Agroecology, Social Accountability and Climate Change Media Awards



Award-winning journalists at ASACC Awards, Lusaka Zambia, March 2023. Photo: PELUM Zambia

On the 31 March 2023, PELUM Zambia co-hosted the annual Agroecology, Social Accountability and Climate Change Media Awards. The prize awarded 24 journalists for producing good quality stories in the categories of agroecology, social accountability, and climate change. Journalists represented several media categories, including television, radio, online and newspaper genres. Zambia's Information and Media Services Permanent Secretary Kennedy Kalunga graced the occasion.

Malawi

First IFOAM training in Malawi



Malawi ToToT participants receive their certificates, Eden Estate, Lilongwe Malawi 21 April 2023 Photo: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology

Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology hosted from 17 to 21 April 2023 the first International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)-Organics International Training of Master Trainers (ToToT) in Malawi. The ToToT was designed to support national teams of master trainers comprising teams of existing trainers, including government extension officers, in strengthening their design and facilitation skills in promoting the adoption of ecological organic agriculture.

Namibia

Dialogue and organic farming through a Food Jam event

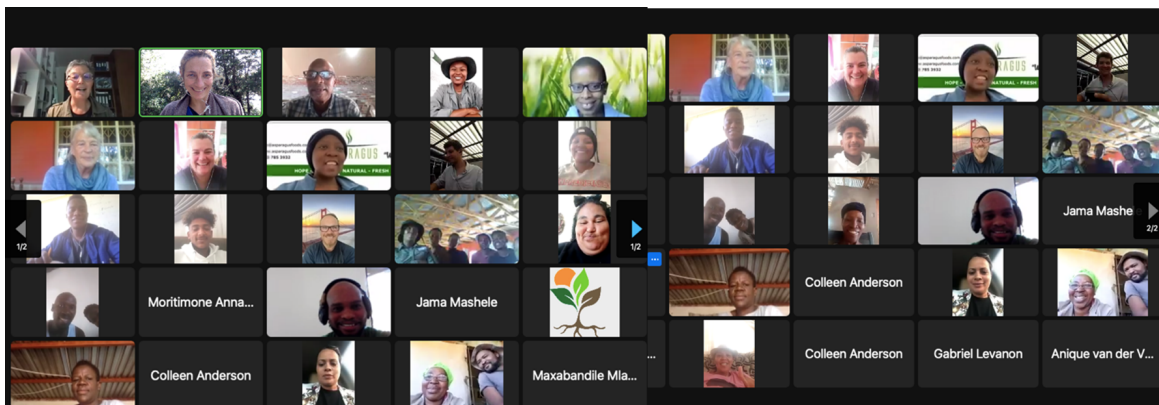


NOA team with some media participants at the Food Jam, Farm Krumhuk, Windhoek, 23 March 2023. Photo: NOA

On 23 March 2023, the Namibian Organic Association (NOA) hosted its first Food Jam (a collaborative harvesting and cooking experience) with selected media on Farm Krumhuk, Windhoek. The goal was to create an informal environment for training on organic food and farming systems in Namibia through a facilitated farm tour. The event encourages dialogue around reporting on these issues in the media, generating broader public awareness.

South Africa

Organic value chain and market development trainings



Participants of SAOSO and PGS SA Market Webinar Series, online, April 2023. Photo: SAOSO

In April 2023, the South African Organic Sector Organisation (SAOSO) and Participatory Guarantee System South Africa (PGS SA) launched a nine-part online training series focused on how to build an organic value chain and set up markets and alternative retail spaces. This webinar series aimed

to mentor participants on various aspects of organic value chain development and the establishment of a farmers' market. It also focused on organising a market day launch.

Knowledge Hub North Africa (KHNA)

Egypt

An initiative to open organic farmers shops to serve organic inputs centres



Opening of Egypt's first vital fertilizer distribution centre. Photo: SEKEM

On May 15th, Egyptian partners reached an important milestone - the opening of Egypt's first vital fertilizer distribution centre. This centre will be a focal point for producers and value chain actors, providing essential organic resources countrywide.

Tunisia

Launching campaign of the 2nd phase of KHNA project in Tunisia



Launching event of the 2nd phase of KHNA project in Tunisia. Photo: CTAB

The launching of the second phase of KHNA project was held on May 24th, 2023, on the Central Tunisian region of Kairouan. More than 90 representatives from public and private sectors have

attended to witness the achievements of the 1st phase of the project and to discover the new program.

Morocco

Participation of KHNA Moroccan team in the Siam 2023



KHNA Morocco booth at the Siam exhibition. Photo: KHNA Morocco

The KHNA Moroccan Team and some of the country's multipliers participated from 2 to 7 May in the 15th edition of the Meknes International Agricultural exhibition. The exhibition was an opportunity to present KHNA project. It was also an opportunity to visit other booths, connect with new actors, and enhance the networking activities.

Knowledge Hub Eastern Africa (KHEA)

Madagascar

KCOA-KHEA Project officially launched in Madagascar



Launching event of KCOA-KHEA in Madagascar. Photo: KHEA

On May 12, 2023, the KCOA-KHEA Project was officially launched in Madagascar. The event brought together the KHEA regional team, international partners, the leadership of local partner organisations and representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MINAE). Now, SYMABIO – “Le Syndicat Malgache de l'Agriculture Biologique” and GSDM – “Groupement semis direct Madagascar” are part of KHEA and KCOA network of implementing partners.

Uganda

PELUM Uganda conducts PGS Trainings among farmer groups in Rubanda, Mukono and Masaka-Kyotera under the KHEA Project



Let's change my village PGS working group. Photo: PELUM Uganda

Throughout February, farmer groups in Rubanda, Mukono and Masaka-Kyotera districts in Uganda participated in trainings on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). The trainings are part of the hub's strategy of promoting and strengthening markets in the country, and focused on aspects from

theory, documentation and record keeping, to the consolidation of PGS to access new consumers. The training was held in English and Luganda (a local language). Each training had active participation and attendance from over 15 organic farmers, that were able to reflect on challenges and present recommendations on how to strengthen their PGS groups.

Kenya

PELUM Kenya hosts 6 online refresher webinars for KHEA Kenyan Multipliers

PELUM Kenya with its Master Trainers organized an online refresher training for Multipliers from 27th March 2023 to 4th April 2023. The refresher trainings focused on topics of pest control, organic fertilisers and were live streamed on social media. A total of 362 people registered for the refresher trainings. The PELUM Kenya's Master Trainers facilitated the sessions and offered support to each other during preparation and the online sessions. The Q&A sessions were interactive through all social media platforms.

The recordings are available on the following links:

- [Introduction to Organic Agriculture principles and practices, Soil Management, Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\), principles, methods and practices, Seed management](#)
- [Growing onions and leafy vegetables in arid and semiarid areas by KHEA Master Trainer Sylvia Kuria](#)
- [Composting by KHEA Master trainer-Mr. Nderitu Sam](#)

Rwanda

Farmers Market Day at Kimironko Market



Farmers Market Day at Kimironko Market . Photo: KHEA

On March 17, 2023, the event “Meet the farmer, know the source” was organised by ROAM with support of KHEA in the Kimironko Market. The market aims at connecting different organic value chain actors with consumers, raising consumer awareness on organic products and creating broader

market linkages. 29 exhibitors, who are also KHEA trained multipliers, brought their produce to the capital Kigali, reaching over 600 people that visited the stand and bought fresh and processed organic produce.

Tanzania

Engagement with Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) to promote conservation of indigenous seeds



Meeting participants from TARI, TOAM and KHEA. Photo; TOAM

TOAM, in collaboration with Seed Working Group, on May 5 held a meeting with Director General of Tanzania Research Institute (TARI – reference in agriculture research in the country. The discussions aimed at promoting Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) into TARI's research agenda. Among the outcomes of the meeting are: TARI's inclusion of indigenous seeds in their research agenda, extended collaboration between community members and government ministries and agencies, establishment of financial resources from the National agriculture budget to be mobilized for research, conservation, and promotion of indigenous seeds.

Knowledge Hub West Africa (KHWA)

Senegal

Community feedback workshops



Feedback workshop in different communities in Senegal. Photo: Pape Abdoulaye Dieng Diagne

In the first half of 2023, Feedback workshops were organised in different zones in Senegal with the aim of disseminating the knowledge gathered as part of the KCOA project. The events aim at collecting and gaining insights from communities, that verify the accuracy, relevance and effectiveness of the knowledge collected by the partner organisation Enda Pronat. Communities also specify the origins of the knowledge (indigenous/traditional or new) and were able to give further inputs before the knowledge can be disseminated more widely.

Mali

The third session of the National Steering Committee of the Knowledge Hub in West Africa



Third session of the KHWa National Steering Committee. Photo: Ibrahima Coulibaly

On 26 and 27 May, around 20 people attended the KHW National Steering Committee to assess the progress and discuss new directions for the project implementation in Mali. From the two days, participants drew up a detailed plan of activities for 2023. This included defining the steps to be taken, allocating the necessary resources, identifying the key stakeholders, and establishing a realistic timetable.

Nigeria

Multipliers visit to farmers field school (FFS) farm site



Multipliers visiting an experimental site of the farmers field school. Photo: Ope farms

60 trained multipliers were selected as participants to visit and learn about using *Jatropha Curcas* leaf extract to control Cucumber Mosaic Virus (CMV) in okra plants as well as other innovative and sustainable organic farming practices in four different locations in Nigeria. The visits enabled the multipliers learn through interaction, observation and participation in order to grasp the idea and develop an understanding that would enable them to pass such information on to other organic agriculture farmers.

Knowledge Hub Central Africa (KHCA)

Cameroun

Network of organic value chain in Cameroun



Event for the creation of the network RABIO-CAM (Réseau des Acteurs Bio du Cameroun). Photo: Inades

From 18 to 19 January 2023, the KHCA partner organisation Inades-Formation Cameroun brought together 43 stakeholders in the organic farming value chain to consider setting up a network. At the end of the activity, the participants analysed a proposal for the network's operating rules. RABIO-CAM (Réseau des Acteurs Bio du Cameroun) was chosen as the group's name.

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I)

The 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference (21 to 24 March 2023)



Dr. David Amudavi moderating one of the plenary sessions. Photo: EAAC Secretariat

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) jointly with the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative and Agroecology partners in East Africa organized the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference with the Theme: Transforming Food Systems for Responsible Production, Consumption and Social wellbeing. It provided a platform to facilitate a conversation on how to transform and establish more truly sustainable food systems in Eastern Africa by invoking dialogue on how to invest in interventions. Additionally, it showed ways how to ameliorate the negative impacts of the current unsustainable food systems.

In the official opening Dr David Amudavi (Executive Director-BvAT and Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee) highlighted that the Conference was building on the success registered after the 1st International Agroecology Conference held in June 2019 as well as the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) held in 2021. Dr Amudavi underscored the need to sustain the conversation on agroecology and its proven contribution towards sustainable agriculture and food systems. Many important regional authorities attended the conference, such as Hon. Fred Bwino Kyakulaga, the Minister of State Agriculture for Uganda, that used the opportunity to show case the country's call to more action on organic agriculture and agroecology.

Conference Call to Action: The four-day conference called upon the United Nations, African Union, donors, and stakeholders to:

1. Sustain and enhance the campaign for continued adoption and implementation of global, continental, and regional development goals and aspirations.
2. Formulate and support policy frameworks that provide enabling environment for sustainable food systems.
3. Mobilize, target resources and coordinate investments in interventions that promote adoption and scaling up of agroecological principles.
4. Coordinate serious dialogues on agroecology at various levels (from local to global) that allow for global support.
5. Develop and promote the application of tools for measuring the performance of agroecology-based food systems to provide evidence for decision making and enhance accountability.
6. Sustain agroecology advocacy at the global level by anchoring the FAO's ten (10) elements of agroecology and the 13 principles by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE).

GIZ

Moving forward: KCOA concept consultation and internal team workshop



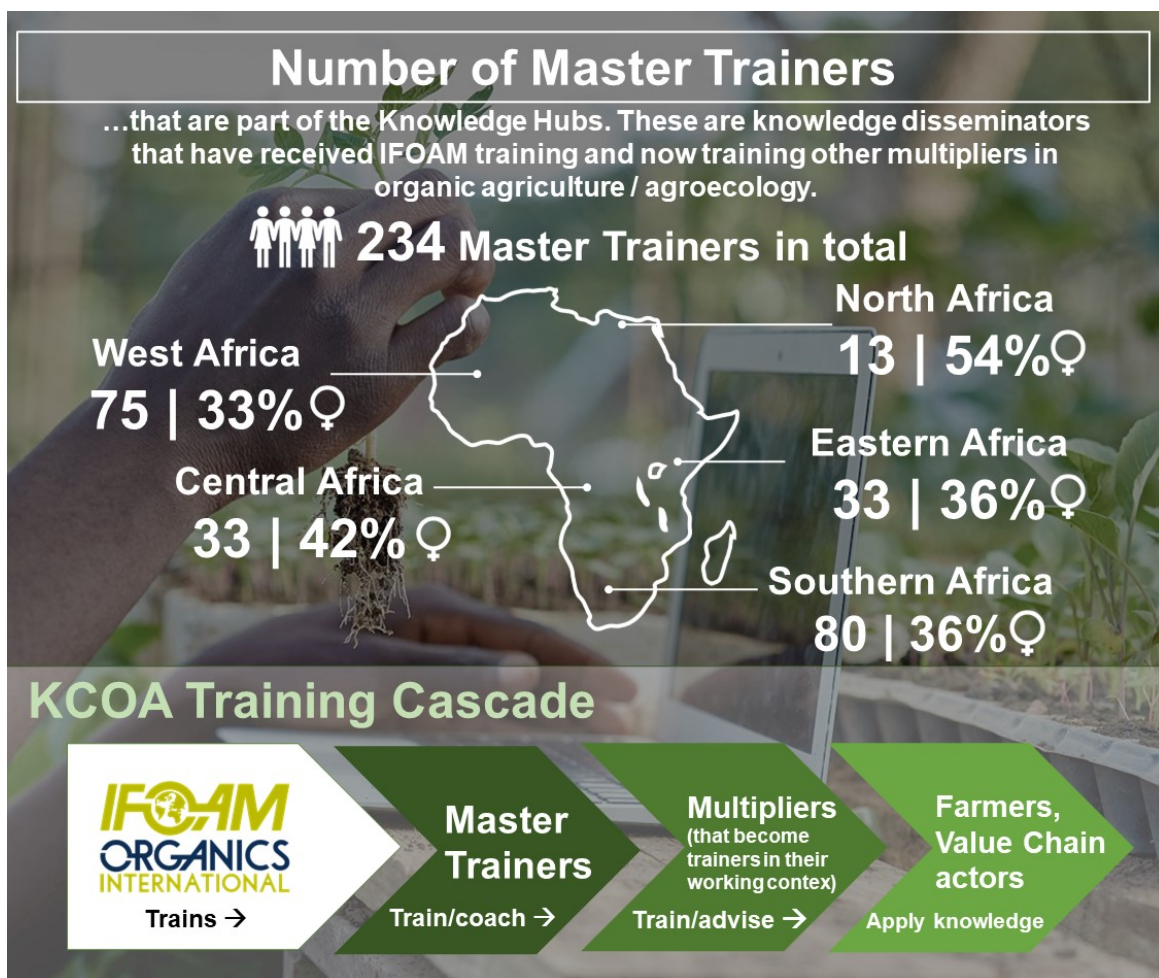
GIZ-KCOA during the Team Workshop in Eschborn, Germany - May 2023. Photo: GIZ-KCOA

In the past months, GIZ-KCOA together with a team of external consultants and the support and inputs of our partners has been working on a project concept consultation. The 2021 and 2022 Review and Appraisal Missions (RAM) have shown that the project, Knowledge Hubs, and partners involved are on a very good track to achieve KCOA's objectives. However, as there are still a few years of joint implementation and important activities ahead of us, the concept consultation takes place to adjust the project and introduce improvements.

So far, the main topics addressed by the joint consultation process are policy dialogue and advocacy as well as gender – two crucial aspects to foster agroecological transformation at global, national, and regional levels.

In parallel to the consultation, GIZ-KCOA team has also engaged internally at a Team Workshop. All working areas of KCOA were looked at in more detail while members of these working areas had a chance to discuss next steps, identify synergies and find effective ways to move forward. The diversity of topics and the many interfaces between the work areas led the team to define new working groups during the workshop. These will soon begin work in areas such as capacity development and advocacy.

Did you know that?



The Knowledge Hubs currently count 234 master trainers in total. Photo: GIZ/Agricomm

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?

Carole Fopa | Knowledge Manager and Gender Focal Point | GADD | Cameroon | joined the project in June 2022

1. Efficient, because we have a wide range of expertise that shares a common goal of efficiency. This concern for efficiency is reflected in the work we do and the way we do it.

2. An ant. Social insects by excellence, ants have taken cooperation and the division of labour very far. There is a clear division of roles within the colony, but no hierarchy among the workers and no "central power". This organisation of roles within the colony is comparable to the distribution of roles between KHCA member organisations.



Cooperation is the central axis of the ant operating model, a strong value that underpins KHCA.

3. My personal goal was to improve my knowledge of gender studies. Working with KCOA has enabled me to compare my own knowledge with that of other players in the hub, to learn from them and, above all, to realise my own limitations.

Faizo Wasswa | Master trainer | Uganda | Agency For Integrated Rural Development | joined the project in November 2020

1. KHEA is not only a knowledge hub but also an “East African family” where African values of compassion, sharing, and caring are nurtured. As a master trainer, the hub gives me the strength and courage to transfer organic agriculture knowledge to local communities in Uganda.

2. KHEA is like a bee. Due to its incredible services towards biodiversity on which we thrive. Like a bee, KHEA provides timely, prompt, and high-quality organic farming information to country partners. Like a bee, KHEA is a “cross-pollinator” for organic agriculture knowledge across the various country implementing partners.

3. KCOA has been outstanding towards my personal career and ambitions including: 1) Train, inspire, and develop a network of young organic farming entrepreneurs in Uganda; 2) Strengthening my personal methodological competencies on rolling out organic agriculture through the knowledge skills development by IFOAM.

Carole Fopa from KHCA. Photo: Maxime Fopa



Faizo Wasswa from KHEA. Photo: KHEA

Papa Abdoulaye Dieng Diagne | Communication Manager | ENDA Pronat | Dakar, Senegal | joined the project in 2019

1. The knowledge hub is remarkable in the way it integrates and values knowledge, training and support, but also its ability to bring together relevant resources, present them clearly and offer appropriate support demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the importance of these three essential aspects.

2. The knowledge hub would be a Library, which contains a vast amount of accessible, reliable and effective knowledge and information.

3. The ability to work in a multi-stakeholder communications project.



Papa Abdoulaye Dieng Diagne from KHWA. Photo: Diallo

Siyabonga Mngoma | Communications Officer | South African Organic Sector Organization (SAOSO) and PGS South Africa | South Africa | joined the project in September 2022

1. The diversity of my hub is great. With four countries (and eight partners) involved we get to learn from each other and share experiences about the varied programmes in our monthly meetings.

2. My hub would be a rose. Roses have different varieties and grow in different seasons. The flower is the beauty that each person brings. The bud is the potential to do great things from our contributions. The thorns represent the challenges!

3. I am on a journey to becoming an expert in South Africa's food system through my work for the hub. I aspire to be the best communicator and an activist for food systems, especially in Southern Africa.



Siyabonga Mngoma from KHSA. Photo: KHSA

Ebrahim Fouad Mougib | Networking Intervention Manager | SEKEM | Egypt | joined the project in 2021

1. Our knowledge hub is magnificent because it's succeeding in mixing diverse experiences from different cultures to work towards one goal.

2. It would be a bee because it collects nectar from various flowers and give us honey and I think the bee is the best symbol for organic agriculture.

3. The most important thing is to be an active part in changing African societies via making them adopting organic and sustainable agricultural practices to protect the planet.



Ebrahim Fouad Mougib from KHNA. Photo: Houcine Zaoui

Success story

Plants and people that make a difference

Tithonia and knowledge on its use make biofertilisers and fungicides available to small-scale farmers in Cameroun



Multiplier Aline Mafokeng spreading knowledge on the uses of Tithonia in her community in Cameroun. Photo: SAILD/Nguimtsop Yannick

Aline Mafokeng, now in her thirties, is a farmer from the West Cameroon region who has adopted the various uses of the plant Tithonia on her farm. *Thithonia diversifolia*, also known as Mexican Sunflower, is a flowering plant valued for its many benefits and applications in the production of organic pesticides and fertilisers. Aline, an agroecological farming enthusiast, has benefited from trainings and awareness-raising sessions run by Nguimtsop Yannick, a master trainer supervised by the "Centre Polyvalent de Formation" (CPF) in Mbouo, Cameroun. The farmer shared, "Before, I used pesticides to treat attacks on my plants, but Mr Nguimtsop taught us how to use Tithonia. I've tried it and it works," she says with conviction.

In addition to its role as a fungicide, Tithonian based slurry (a mixture of manure, the plant extract and water) also enables farmers to fertilise their field.

"Tithonia is available in large quantities in our village, but we didn't know how useful it was. With the skills we learned at the training course, Tithonia is saving us money on fertilisers and pesticides," admits the farmer and multiplier.

The training course on the uses of Tithonia was organised for the multipliers of Knowledge Hub in Central Africa (KHCA). After the training, in which she saw the benefits of Tithonia, Aline showed her drive and determination and has since mentoring groups of producers in her region. So far, the multiplier has trained around fifteen farmers in the use of Tithonia and more growers have already expressed the interest in learning how to use the plant.

Besides being ready to continue sharing this knowledge, Aline reported that thanks to Tithonia, she

no longer has attacks in her potato field. She regularly sprays the mix of the plant on her crops as a preventive measure and because of the positive results she is already planning to start growing tomatoes again in the next crop year – expanding the possibilities for her farm, production, and community.

Resource tips

Video: [News bite captured during the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology in Kenya](#)

Country: Kenya | **Publication date:** March 2023 | **Language:** English

News bite on KBC TV- showcasing EOAI Project Manager, Venancia Wambua, opinion on the importance of organic farming interventions. [Link to video»](#)

Facebook Post: [Launching campaign of the 2nd phase of KHNA project in Tunisia](#)

Country: Tunisia | **Publication date:** May 2023 | **Language:** French

The launching of the second phase of KHNA project was held on May 24th, 2023, on Kairouan region. More than 90 representatives from public and private sectors attended the event. [Link to post»](#)

Resource Pool: [PGS Online Resources Website](#)

Country: South Africa but applicable elsewhere | **Publication date:** ongoing | **Language:** English

PGS SA's repository of resources related to PGS.

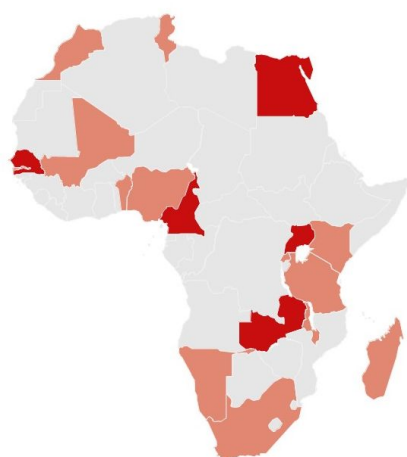
[Link to website»](#)

Upcoming events



Event title & content	Where & when?	Organised by
Follow up visits to assess and strengthen PGS farmer groups Follow up visits to assess and strengthen PGS farmer groups towards certification.	Uganda May – June 2023	Ezra Kalule, KHEA Project Officer
PGS Webinar: Sharing experiences and best practice in Africa PGS SA in collaboration with Ghana PGS, supported by KHASA, will host PGS industry experts to discuss experiences, best practice and PGS initiatives from various countries..	Online Every two weeks from 14 June to 16 August 2023	PGS SA, info@pgssa.org.za
Training of Master Trainers in Madagascar Selected master trainers in Madagascar are to be trained by IFOAM-Organics International during the onboarding phase.	Madagascar June – dates to be defined	Francis Nsanga, Project Team Madagascar and IFOAM
The 35th International Agricultural Exhibition Sahara Sahara is the commercial heart and crop production hub for Egypt and the MENA region. Under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Sahara helps create the networks needed to expand your business.	Cairo, Egypt 10 – 12 September, 2023	Exhibition Manager Rania Salah El-Din

About the project



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

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 30 non-governmental organisations in 17 countries across Africa. The project runs from 2019 to 2026.

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



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