



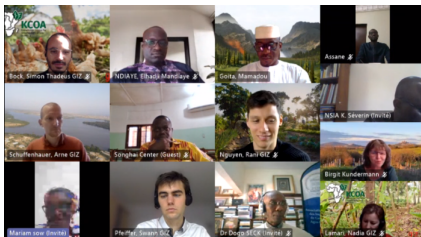
Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa Newsletter



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,



Virtual review and appraisal mission in
West Africa. ©GIZ

We are delighted to present you the first issue of our continental KCOA newsletter. This newsletter aims to update the project's stakeholders about the work being done in all Knowledge Hubs. Apart from the activities that are currently carried out, it features relevant events, resources, success stories, as well as short profiles of Knowledge Hub staff members. In times of COVID and related travel restrictions, the latter will allow all of us to get to know better the people that are pushing forward this project every day.

The past months were quite intensive with the review and appraisal missions in Eastern, Southern and West Africa between May and October. Upon finishing the numerous exchanges, the mission team wrote an updated offer and submitted it to the BMZ. We are happy to announce that this offer has been accepted at the beginning of December. This results in a budget increase of up to 10 million euros and a project duration until March 2026.

Projects like ours might receive even further attention and importance in the future. As some of you might know, federal elections took place in Germany at the end of September. The new government

recently took office. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is now headed by Svenja Schulze, the former minister for the environment, nature conservation, nuclear safety and consumer protection. Furthermore, the new BMZ strategy “Sustainable Agri-Food Systems – A World without Hunger” has been launched. This strategy replaces the former special initiative “One World No Hunger” (SEWOH) to which our project belonged. In the area of “Rural Development”, the new strategy places agroecology as one of four priority fields of activities and aims “to pursue an agroecological and sustainable development path”. This puts agroecology further on the political agenda. The year 2022 and the upcoming years hence promise a dynamic development for agroecology and organic agriculture.

Concluding with these good prospects, we thank you for your dedication and commitment during this eventful and challenging year 2021. We wish you happy holidays, a peaceful time with family and friends, and a Happy New Year.

Enjoy the read!

Your KCOA team at GIZ

Current activities & achievements

Knowledge Hub in Southern Africa (KHSA)

Co-hosting the Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival



Seeds at the Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival 2021.
©GIZ/PELUM, Rebecca Mwila

On 16 October 2021, PELUM Zambia, KHSA's in-country partner, collaborated with 13 food and farming-focused NGOs to host the Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival. This annual festival celebrates farmers' knowledge and aims to raise public awareness of the contribution that traditional seeds and food – and knowledge about them – makes to food and nutrition security, community cohesion and social wellbeing. The festival followed on from farmer dialogues and a networking meeting for organic stakeholders in the country. The 20 participants of the stakeholder meeting mapped organic sector actors and identified varied knowledge products related to organic agriculture.

Knowledge Hub in North Africa (KHNA)

First physical meeting of all KHNA partners

In October 2021, the KHNA team was finally able to meet face to face for the first time. 26 colleagues came together in Tunisia. For four days, the group worked together intensively, went on excursions and enjoyed the team building. They discussed project content, reflected on what has already been done, and elaborated a roadmap for the future. One highlight was the micro-

intervention bazaar: 15 multipliers presented their planned actions, events and trainings with which they will spread their knowledge about organic agriculture. The workshop was a great enrichment and has boosted everyone's motivation enormously.



The project team from all 3 countries.
©GIZ\CTAB, Haythem El-Ouaer

Knowledge Hub in Eastern Africa (KHEA)

Co-organisation of 3rd Annual National Agroecology Actor's Symposium (NAAS) and the 11th Annual Indigenous/Traditional Food and Seed Fair (IFF) 2021



Stand at the 11th Indigenous/Traditional Food and Seed Fair.
©GIZ\PELUM, Ezra Kalule

On the 27th and 28th October 2021, KHEA took part in the 3rd Annual National Agroecology Actor's Symposium (NAAS) and the 11th Annual Indigenous/Traditional Food and Seed Fair (IFF) 2021 at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The IFF welcomed farmers from across the country to exhibit local food products, while the NAAS featured panel discussions, lectures and side events on agroecology, finance, climate change and advocacy.

KHEA was responsible for media and public relations in the organising committee. We coordinated and worked closely with the social media influencers, media and publicity on traditional and online media as well as the live stream team. We also engaged in media monitoring, looking out for articles and information published in different media houses. We coordinated the content design as well as the exchange with the social media influencers team. We also organised a press conference for the two events, talk shows on UBC TV, NTV, NBS TV, CBS Radio, SMART 24 TV. As a sponsor, KHEA appeared on all branding materials.

Knowledge Hub in West Africa (KHWA)

Visit to Songhai Centre in Benin

From the 15th to the 19th November 2021, Enda Pronat, FENAB and Agrecol Afrique visited the Songhai Centre, the institutional focal point (or country implementing partner) of KCOA in Benin. During the visit, the Songhai Centre team learned about the entire project, including the methodological approaches already developed, as well as the project's tools and achievements, and the communication strategy. We were also able to identify multipliers for Benin, plan activities at national level and visit the centre to learn about the integrated Songhai system.



Guided tour through the Songhai Centre.
©GIZ\Enda Pronat, Papa Laye Dieng
Diagne

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I)

Launch of EOA-I and Knowledge Hub in Central Africa



Launch of EOA-I in Central Africa.
©GIZ\SAILD, Pauline Voufo

On December 2, the EOA-I secretariat in cooperation with KCOA and under the guidance of the African Union (AU), organised the joint launch of the new EOA-I cluster and the new Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Central Africa (KHCA).

The launch workshop took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon and was followed by a field trip during which members of the EOA-I Continental Steering Committee visited ecological organic practitioners and exchanged with representatives of the KHCA partner organisations in Cameroon.

By promoting organic agriculture in Africa, KCOA supports the EOA-I in achieving its overall objective, which is to mainstream ecological organic agriculture into agricultural production systems, policies and practices in order to improve productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

The EOA-I is based on a decision of the African Heads of State and Government. So far, the initiative has been implemented in West and Eastern Africa. The AU is committed to launching regional clusters in all African regions in close collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities.

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Advancing with the development of the digital knowledge platform

At the end of October, a two-day platform sharing workshop took place. All Knowledge Hubs shared their ideas of how they imagine the continental KCOA website. The ideas were very diverse, but the wish for social elements allowing for interaction and networking stood out clearly.

Afterwards, the technical team at GIZ together with the platform representatives analysed and discussed the different platform profiles presented during the workshop and elaborated an updated website concept uniting the different aspects. The concept suggests creating a multiplier network featuring multiplier profiles, multiplier stories, social media, an event calendar, and the integration of the KCOA knowledge product database. This suggestion is now being discussed in every Knowledge Hub.

Meanwhile, users from all Knowledge Hubs are asked to continue uploading knowledge products onto the KCOA database and give feedback on the functionality in order to find and eliminate technical bugs. Uploading can happen before the validation and verification process has been completely defined. The last component of this process – the fast track validation – is in the final discussion stage. The validation and verification of uploaded knowledge products can then start.



Multipliers want to use the KCOA website interactively. ©GIZ\Agricomm

3 questions to a colleague

Jouhaina Riahi | Multiplier Coach | Technical Centre for Organic Agriculture (CTAB) | Sousse, Tunisia
joined the project in September 2020

When and how did you hear about KCOA / your KH for the first time?

I read an announcement of the KHNA project on CTAB's website in July 2020.

From your very personal point of view, what does your KH stand for?

KHNA is more than a data set for organic knowledge. It's an interactive community throughout Africa enhancing learning in organic agriculture and improving life realities.

What do you like about your work?

As a multiplier coach, I like the trustful connection that I'm building progressively with multipliers who then create an empowering space to improve the current situation of the organic sector.



Jouhaina Riahi from KHNA.
©GIZ\CTAB, Jouhaina Riahi

Ezra Kalule | KCOA-KHEA Project Field Officer | PELUM Uganda | Kampala, Uganda
joined the project in 2019

When and how did you hear about KCOA / your KH for the first time?

I got to know about KCOA in 2019 through the PELUM network. Biovision Africa Trust suggested the idea to the management of PELUM Uganda to host the KHEA and I was part of the meeting.

From your very personal point of view, what does your KH stand for?

A knowledge repository for information on organic agriculture.

What do you like about your work?

I like the interaction with farmers who are well versed with indigenous knowledge on organic farming and from whom I can learn at the end of the day.



Ezra Kalule from KHEA.
©GIZ\BvAT, Pamella Magino

Anna Mendes Tavares Veillon | Monitoring & Evaluation Manager | Enda Pronat | Dakar, Senegal
joined the project in Juin 2021

When and how did you hear about KCOA / your KH for the first time?

I have been with Enda Pronat since 2015 and first heard about KCOA in 2019 when Enda Pronat was preparing to join KHWa.

From your very personal point of view, what does your KH stand for?

KCOA makes it possible to promote agroecology among practitioners and decision-makers at different levels, and to strengthen the links between regional agroecology actors within the hubs.

What do you like about your work?

I have a broad view of the project, being in contact with both field colleagues and leaders of the different KHWa organisations, with the other hubs, and with the partner GIZ.



Anna Mendes Tavares Veillon from KHWa.
©GIZ\Enda Pronat, Papa Laye Dieng
Diagne

Rabecca Mwila | Communications Officer | PELUM Zambia | Lusaka, Zambia
joined the project in February 2021

When and how did you hear about KCOA / your KH for the first time?

I heard about KCOA in October 2020 from a dairy farmer who noted the dairy industry could provide organic manure. When this position arose, I grabbed the chance to contribute positively to the project.

From your very personal point of view, what does your KH stand for?

Our Knowledge Hub stands for freedom and care. It provides knowledge for farming that doesn't damage animals, plants or humans. It appreciates indigenous seed and knowledge, connecting Africans to our heritage.

What do you like about your work?

I can creatively present info in a way that will be 'heard' by the audience. I meet lots of people and have different experiences. I now appreciate how we must unite to make the world a better place.



Rabecca Mwila from KHEA.
©GIZ\PELUM, Saboi Nyambe

Success story



Asiimwe Onesmus on his farm. ©GIZ\BvAT, Pamela Magino

A Boost for Beans

The story of a farmer from Uganda trained by KHEA

Asiimwe Onesmus was one of many farmers participating in the ten concluded KHEA farmer trainings across the region. The trainings taught him not only to use less external inputs but also to avoid synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. “I have incorporated organic farming practices including crop rotation, composting manure, spraying with organic pesticides such as biochar, ash mixed with water, and local herbs”, he proudly says.

Asiimwe is a farmer and trained multiplier of Rukiga district in Western Uganda. He specializes in organic bean production. After he implemented what he had learned in the trainings, he didn't have to wait long to see positive results. “This has greatly improved production. I manage a small farm of 2 acres, and I now harvest 2 tons of beans, something I never achieved while I used artificial methods of farming.”

Asiimwe's conversion to organic also has economic benefits for him and his community. “Because of the produce, I get an income and deploy people and educate them to the farming needs of bean production required to increase yields.”, he adds cheerfully.

The KHEA farmer trainings aim to disseminate knowledge and good organic farming practices among the local communities across the whole region. Asiimwe is one of numerous trained farmers making use of the positive effects of organic farming. By farming organically, he both contributes to an intact environment and to less food contamination.

Resource tips

Publication: [The Future of Agriculture in Egypt. Comparative Full Cost Accounting Study of Organic and Conventional Food Production Systems in Egypt](#)

Country: Egypt | **Publication date:** 05/2020 | **Language:** English

This study compares costs between organic and conventional agriculture in Egypt, by using the “Full Cost Accounting” methodology. Full cost accounting measures and values in monetary terms the external costs of environmental impacts of food wastage. [Link to publication»](#)

Video: KCOA-KHEA PELUM Uganda Documentary

Country: Uganda | Publication date: 07/2021 | Language: English

This documentary describes organic farming practices that Ugandan farmers are using both on family farms and at larger scale. [Link to video »](#)

Video / publication: Desert Locust Biology and Control Documentary

Country: Kenya | Publication date: 08/2021 | Language: English

Description of the importance of desert locusts for human nutrition and ways to control desert locusts in Kenya. [Link to publication »](#) | [Link to video »](#)

Video: Testimony of multipliers within the project "Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in North Africa, KHNA"

Country: Tunisia | Publication date: 11/2021 | Language: Arabic

Testimony of the multiplier Mohsen El Fkir about the training sessions on communication techniques, leadership and production techniques in organic agriculture systems. [Link to video »](#) | [Link to Facebook post »](#)

Podcast: Citron vert. Organic agriculture

Country: Tunisia | Publication date: 11/2021 | Language: Arabic

Podcast with the Multiplier Coach Jouhaina Riahi about the importance of the organic agriculture. [Link to podcast »](#)

Video: Protect your Harvests With Predators

Country: Egypt | Publication date: 11/2021 | Language: English

Learning video produced by Organic Egypt project showing the usage of different natural enemies used for pest control. [Link to video »](#)

Video: KCOA Project in Rwanda Documentary

Country: Rwanda | Publication date: 11/2021 | Language: English

The video describes the project as well as organic farming principles applied by Rwandan farmers. [Link to video »](#)

Video: Knowledge Practices Part 1 in Rwanda used by Farmers - ROAM

Country: Rwanda | Publication date: 11/2021 | Language: English subtitles

This video describes the project and the organic farming practices in Rwanda used by family farms and at large scale. [Link to video »](#)

Video: Ramadan Sylla (CNOP) : KHWa for the socialisation of agroecological practices

Country: Mali | Publication date: 12/2021 | Language: French

According to Mr. Sylla, the KHWA can help address some of the major challenges of the agro-ecological transition: socialisation of agro-ecological practices, achieving successful results, and policy coherence. [Link to video »](#)

Upcoming events

Event title & content

Where & when?

Rwanda International Trade Fair 2021

The fair facilitates market linkages of organic products and creates awareness on their benefits.

Kigali, Rwanda

9th - 30th Dec

Call for proposals by the International Climate Initiative

Are you a member of an organisation working to address climate change or conserve biodiversity? And do you have an effective, innovative, or creative non-profit project idea? Then please take a look at the [IKI Small Grants call](#). Selected proposals are funded with 60,000 to 200,000 euros.

Globally

15th Dec - 15th Apr

Training of project multipliers

TOAM trained 360 multipliers (216 males, 144 females) on organic technologies and practices, organic markets and certification. These trainings will enable multipliers to cascade the knowledge to smallholder farmers in selected value chains of avocado, sunflower, vegetable and spices.

Dodoma, Njombe, Songwe, Mtwara,
Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar / Tanzania
Dec - Feb

Up-scaling and strengthening RIDEP's dryland agro-ecological demonstration farm for the KHEA Project

The Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP) proposes to up-scale and strengthen its dryland farm through embracing the principles and practices of bio-intensive agriculture, organic agriculture and agro-ecological practices.

Kenya
Jan

Two multiplier trainings by Master Trainers in Kenya

PELUM Kenya is organizing two 5-day workshops with multipliers by seven master trainers in January and February 2022. The multipliers will come from Nairobi & Central Zone, Lower Eastern & Coast Zone and Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone.

Kenya
Jan

PGS governance webinar

This PGS webinar will host six speakers from Africa, India and Brazil to talk about governance of PGS in their countries. They will also speak to successes and challenges they have faced in scaling up PGS.

Africa
20th Jan

Regional KHSa meeting

The KHSa meeting aims to reflect on this past year and plan for 2022/23. It includes a re-introduction to the project objectives and indicators, reports on successes and obstacles and sessions on various topics.

Stellenbosch, South Africa

24th - 28th Jan

Two capacity building workshops on value chain and market development

PELUM Kenya collaborates with KOAN to facilitate two workshops on value chain and market development with multipliers, farmers, marketers and food processors. The workshops take place in Baraka-Molo and Nanyuki.

Kenya

24th Jan - 18th Feb

KHWA planning workshop

Enda Pronat is organising a workshop in order to plan the year 2022 with all implementing organisations in KHWA.

Senegal

Late Jan / early Feb

Training of trainers in Senegal and the Gambia

FENAB is organising a 12-day training session for 18 trainers in Senegal and a 12-day training session for 8 trainers in the Gambia.

Senegal & The Gambia

Jan - Feb

Biofach 2022

The world's leading trade fair for organic products is held as a **hybrid event in 2022** (physical + digital).

Nuremberg, Germany

15th - 18th Feb

Networking of multipliers from the KHWA database

Networking sessions for the multipliers are organised by FENAB

KHWA

End of Feb

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

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) is a collaborative country-led partnership commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and currently 22 non-governmental organisations in 17 countries across Africa. The KCOA aims to scale up adoption of organic/agroecological farming practices through a network of five Knowledge Hubs in Africa. The project runs from 2019 to 2026.

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