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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 2019, the KCOA Networking Meeting took place in Egypt. This year, we will be able to meet in Germany. © GIZ

We hope that 2022 started well for you and your families.

This year has started off confirming the strategic importance of organic agriculture and agroecology. During the pandemic, we realised even more how conventional agricultural systems depend on chemical fertilisers and other external inputs. Now that Russia and Ukraine, both among the most important global producers of chemical fertilisers, are exporting less and less of these, this dependence becomes strongly evident once again.

Strengthened capacities in promoting and applying organic and agroecological practices are needed more than ever in order to reduce dependencies and assure the sustainable production of healthy food for all populations. In this newsletter you will discover how trainings and field visits have taken off across all Knowledge Hubs. More than 2,000 multipliers have been trained and started disseminating knowledge on organic agriculture and agroecology since the beginning of the project!

Kudos to you!

As the pandemic is slowing down and restrictions are being eased, face-to-face meetings finally become possible again. After more than two years of virtual encounters, we are happy to organise KCOA's Networking Meeting as a hybrid event with up to ten persons attending from each Knowledge Hub. It will take place in Germany from 29 July to 2 August – directly after this year's **BIOFACH**. We look forward to a fruitful exchange with you this summer!

Until we meet in person, we hope you take advantage of the existing and new exchange formats that are offered by the KCOA network.

For now, enjoy the read of this newsletter,

Your KCOA team at GIZ

Current activities & achievements

Knowledge Hub Southern Africa (KHSa)

Webinar on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)



Collage of social media posts on the first PGS webinar. © SI/PGS SA

KHSa hosted its first open webinar on PGS governance systems on 20 January 2022. The speakers represented PGS groups from Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa, Togo, Brazil and India, with an introduction to PGS from IFOAM-Organics International. The two-hour webinar had simultaneous English/French translation and was open to everyone. Close to 200 people attended. We hope that this will be the first in a series of webinars focused on the

different aspects of PGS, with the goal of encouraging PGS as an organic assurance system in the southern African region.

Knowledge Hub North Africa (KHNA)

Coaching of multipliers in Morocco

In the past weeks, numerous trainings of trainers have taken place in Morocco. The trainer Fettouma supports committed and talented multipliers to use their local and traditional knowledge in an economic and ecological way. Within the framework of the association Terre & Humanisme Maroc, Fettouma has a large network of trainers specialising in various agricultural techniques. These help the multipliers to complete their training and strengthen their skills. One example is Aziz Rami, a professional grafter trained many years ago by Maurice Chaudière, a friend of Pierre Rabhi. Aziz was a key to the success of the micro-intervention on the Atlas pistachio forest. Fettouma helps the multiplier to reflect on his micro-intervention, to develop it and make it last using sustainable and holistic approaches.



Multiplier Aziz Rami is working with KHNA to develop his micro-intervention. © Jamila Loukili

Knowledge Hub Eastern Africa (KHEA)

PELUM Uganda launches the Farmers' Caravan to share organic farming knowledge



One of the visited farms specialises in pineapple growing. © Pamella Magino

In Uganda, from 13 to 18 February, PELUM Uganda and Biovision Africa Trust organised the first KHEA Farmers' Caravan. The main objective of the Farmers' Caravan was to share organic knowledge and practices, which stimulate debate, understanding and appreciation of organic farming practices. This helps to further strengthen Uganda's food and agricultural systems towards resilient and sustainable productivity, better consumer health, and improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers.

The Farmers' Caravan targeted farmers and multipliers trained by KHEA. They visited ten different organic farms in various areas of the Central Region in order to learn, exchange and initiate a process for developing an inclusive strategy for scaling up the adoption of organic agricultural practices in Uganda and the entire KHEA region.

The learning visits of the Farmers' Caravan were climaxed with a knowledge sharing symposium, where agroecology actors and experts presented different papers. Different stakeholders ranging from farmers, multipliers, value chain actors, journalists, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), youths, model farmers, and entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector (especially from production, value addition, input supply and processing) attended the climax day.

The Farmers' Caravan had an important media reach with 30 media houses (see articles [here](#) and [here](#), and TV stream [here](#)) attending the press conference and high social media activity. The hash tag [#KCOAKHEAFarmersCaravan2022](#) trended number 1, twice on social media. Overall, there were 1,764 tweets created in a time frame of 15 days. 1,931 retweets were made and 158 replies were made by influencers. The Farmers' Caravan reached 5,779,123 people on social media, creating 49,679,566 impressions.

Knowledge Hub West Africa (KHWA)

Collection of traditional knowledge & training of multipliers

In Senegal, since January, the collection of endogenous/traditional knowledge has started with the communities in Senegal. 52 knowledge holders were met, 65 pieces of knowledge were collected, 20 of which were summarised and documented so they can be submitted to the internal verification and external validation process. Once this knowledge is validated, it can be widely disseminated. In addition, from 26 January to 6 February, 18 multipliers were trained on the African Organic Agriculture Training Manual. They are now KHWa Master Trainers and will spread the training to 50 value chain actors.



Field visit in the framework of the training on the African Organic Agriculture Training Manual. © El Hadj Diouldé Diallo

In Nigeria, activities started off with multiplier trainings in March. Around 60 multipliers were trained in themes such as advocacy, leadership, marketing, processing & conservation of organic products, soil fertility management, access to finance, access to organic seeds etc.

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I)

The EOA-I gets integrated into the CAADP Biennial Review Process



The CAADP is Africa's agricultural policy framework. Its Malabo Declaration defines 7 commitments. © Flickr/Paul Kagame (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

The African Union has reported on the **Executive Council's Decision on Organic Farming** for the first time in the Biennial Review (BR) of its **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**, which is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation.

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), the EOA-Initiative Continental Secretariat, has developed indicators for tracking the implementation of the Decision on Organic Farming. These indicators are being piloted in all the five political regions of Africa for inclusion in the CAADP BR framework. This will allow to collect data and evaluate EOA/AE interventions, policies and plans in the member states.

The BR report ranks performance of all African Union member states according to the seven **Malabo Commitments on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation**. Among others, these include ending hunger and halving poverty by 2025, boosting intra-African trade in agriculture commodities, increasing financial investment in

agriculture and fostering resilience to climate viability.

The report shows that Rwanda was the only country to fulfil all commitments while Kenya was the only country to meet commitment 3: Ending Hunger! The Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) emerged as the best performing Regional Economic Community (REC).

Besides, the EOA-I has completed a study on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on organic and conventional farmers and mitigation strategies in Africa. Preliminary results indicate that both organic systems and farmers have proven to be more resilient and better able to respond to the shocks of

the Covid-19 pandemic. Policy briefs at regional and national levels have been developed and will be shared widely.

GIZ

KCOA at the heart of feminist change

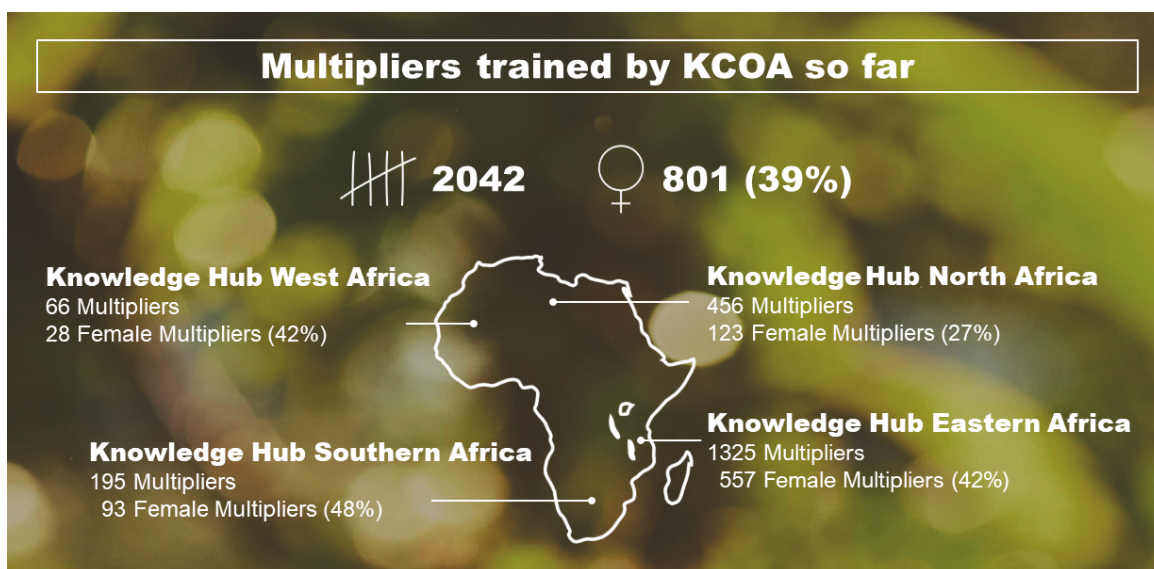
As we already informed you in our last newsletter, following the federal elections in September 2021 in Germany, the administration in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) changed. The new minister Svenja Schulze not only emphasised the importance of agroecology, but recently also defined the new development and foreign policy of Germany as feminist. The concept of a feminist development policy goes back to the 1970s. It focuses on promoting the active participation of women and their inclusion in decision-making processes.



Women farmers in Uganda
©GIZ/Cinelab Akademie Initiative

In this context, the development and implementation of gender strategies has become even more important. Meanwhile, the development of the KCOA gender strategy is progressing. Last year, we surveyed the KCOA partner organisations on the topic of gender. We are currently preparing the results of this survey and finalising a literature study on the gender situation in 15 KCOA countries. The next step is to share and discuss the results of our analysis with all partners. On this basis, we plan to develop a joint KCOA gender strategy by the end of this year.

Did you know that?



Multipliers are organisations or individuals who convey knowledge, concepts and good practices about organic agriculture and agroecology to potential users. The figures presented here refer to multipliers who have already participated in training and competence strengthening measures to convey their respective knowledge.

Examples of multipliers: master trainers, innovators, model farmers, farmer organisations, extension agents, training institutes, entrepreneurs, value chain operators with services for farmers, opinion leaders, etc.

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?

Eddie Mico | M&E Officer | Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) | Kigali, Rwanda
joined the project in October 2020

1. To me KHEA is the leading driving force in the organic sector in Eastern Africa with ambitious, committed and innovative personnel. KHEA is a voice for change in the organic sector and a definite force to reckon with.
2. To me KHEA would be a tiger because it is very strong, smart and yet gentle in its approach. Tigers have a powerful eyesight especially at night which is a sign of vision. Having a vision ensures proper direction and proper direction ensures effectiveness.
3. I've always envisioned myself making a difference in the world in my time and working with KHEA project gratifies my desire of being a change maker. KHEA makes life better for millions of people through promoting organic agriculture in distinct regions. Being part of the change that is happening in the organic sector matches my personal goals.



Eddie Mico from KHEA.
© Jennifer Mutamuliza

Fettouma Ben Abdenbi Al Jerrari | ToT Trainer | Terre & Humanisme Morocco and other environmental associations | Morocco
joined the project in November 2020

1. Bringing people together through networking and transferability of knowledge.
2. A source of water that irrigates the world and fertilises the earth to feed humanity.
3. My aim is to identify and enhance the know-how and make it available to people for their sustainability.



Fettouma Ben Abdenbi Al Jerrari from KHNA. © Jamila Loukili

Baye Yoro Diallo | Project Manager of output C of KHWA | Agrecol Afrique | Thiès, Senegal
joined the project in November 2019

1. A very diversified KH through the use of both the French and English language. It also has the particularity of bringing together several implementing organisations, with a very good synergy of interventions.
2. I would say a Baobab. The trunk materialises the KHWA as a whole, whereas the different branches are the outputs and the leaves constitute the different activities.
3. It is to make a great advance in the field of organic agriculture through the provision of knowledge, its strengthening and the networking of actors.



Baye Yoro Diallo from KHWA.
© Agrecol Afrique

Mareike Voigts | Namibian Project Manager | Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation | Windhoek, Namibia
joined the project in December 2020

1. We are a group of people who deeply care for our planet and who want to make the world a better place. We know that most of the time, the easy way is not the best way.
2. A beehive, everyone works on their tasks, but knows that only together can we make a difference for the organic sector in the region.
3. I want to bring about change in food systems and support more consciousness of our planetary boundaries, especially biodiversity. I want to induce this change in the country and environment where I live.



Mareike Voigts from KHSA. © C. Voigts

Success story

Senegal: Shaping the country's agro-ecological transformation by creating networks

"Not a day goes by that I don't receive an order," Binta Ndèye says happily. The farmer has specialised in the commercialisation of agroecological products. She comes from the small village of Landou in the Thiès region. Landou is located in Senegal - a country that is committed to agroecological transformation at the national level. In May 2019, the newly elected president Macky Sall declared agroecology and the associated restructuring of agriculture to be a priority of his five-year term. Representatives from agriculture, local grassroots organisations, municipalities, non-governmental organisations, academia and the private sector then joined forces to form the alliance "Dynamics for an agro-ecological transition in Senegal" (in French: Dynamique pour une Transition AgroEcologique au Sénégal, DyTAES). The alliance is shaping political dialogue, drawing up action plans and, through this networked approach, has made Senegal a prime example of a successful agroecological transition in Africa. The alliance is coordinated by ENDA Pronat, the managing organisation of the Knowledge Hub West Africa.



Binta Ndèye markets organic produce. © ENDA Pronat/Felix Vigne

Networking is also the keyword for Binta Ndèye from Landou. In the field of marketing, she is actively involved in shaping agro-ecological agriculture. She pursued her interest in sustainable agriculture early on and joined the Sell Selall cooperative. This cooperative trades and farms exclusively on the basis of agro-ecological principles. Together with Sell Selall, Binta Ndèye succeeded in raising awareness for organic products and set up four sales points for organic products in the capital Dakar. A total of about three tonnes of local and organically produced food is sold there every month. The products are certified through participatory guarantee systems and come from a total of 120 producers who have joined the cooperative.

The day before the markets, Binta Ndèye collects the products from the farmers to sell them to the consumers at fair prices. She sees active dialogue with consumers to educate them and raise their awareness as an important part of her work. Only through this can a long-term demand for healthy, high-quality and safe food be guaranteed. The numbers prove her right. Through her successful initiative, Binta Ndèye achieves a monthly turnover of 3,000,000 FCFA, the equivalent of about 4,500 euros.

In her mission, Binta Ndèye also participates in the Organic Weekends organised by the NGO Agrecol Afrique. This initiative brings together the various actors in the entire value chain and also serves as a stage for their commercialisation

and networking. Agrecol Afrique is not only a member of DyTAES, but also a partner organisation of the Knowledge Hub West Africa. The Organic Weekends create a direct link to action field C of the project, which wants to strengthen the networking of organic actors. A total of four Organic Weekends have been organised so far, with 142 exhibitors and around 3,700 visitors. A total of 23 tonnes of organic products were sold.

Binta Ndèye particularly appreciates the Organic Weekends. Not only can she make new contacts, but she can also draw attention to the issue of agroecology. Because even though her unprecedented efforts are already bearing fruit and she is often contacted due to the good quality of her products, her mission is not over yet.

Resource tips

Video: Awareness-raising video on organic farming in the Souss Massa region

Country: Morocco | Publication date: 09/2021 | Language: French / Arabic

The Chamber of Agriculture's video shows the benefits and production techniques as well as the opportunities that organic farming offers to producers and other operators. [Link to video in French »](#) | [Link to video in Arabic»](#)

Video: The KHEA Farmers' Caravan 2022 climax streamed live on UBC TV

Country: Uganda | Publication date: 02/2022 | Language: English

PELUM Uganda Secretariat and the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) came up with the first KCOA-KHEA farmer's caravan 2022 held from 13 to 18 February, 2022, which aimed at sharing knowledge about organic agriculture. The climax day was streamed live on UBC TV – a government owned TV station. [Link to video »](#)

Upcoming events

**Event title & content****Where & when?****Organised by****Launch of collection activities in the other KHWA countries**

The first collection of documented knowledge will allow countries to enter the process of selection, validation and dissemination of knowledge.

Benin, Gambia, Mali,
Nigeria
From March

ENDA Pronat,
Awa Lo

School debates

These are intended to create awareness and bring onboard youth in schools where we want to inculcate organic farming practices.

Uganda
March / April

PELUM, Ezra
Kalule

FIARA International Agricultural and Animal Resources Fair

FIARA welcomes nearly 500 participants annually and builds capacities related to production and commercialisation through various exhibitions and debates.

Dakar, Senegal
26th May – 22nd June
2022

FIARA, Pape
Abdou Fall

Organisation of and participation in organic weekends

"Organic weekends" are sales exhibitions and discussions on the positive effects of organic farming on the population and the environment. The aim is to promote the participation of organic and agro-ecological actors in small fairs (organic weekends). These will take place in The Gambia, Benin, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal.

Senegal
4 and 5 June 2022

Agrecol
Afrique, Assane
Gueye

KHNA Face2Face Event 2022

KHNA staff reunion and workshop

Morocco
Summer 2022

SEKEM, Tanja
Reischl

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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