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Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa Newsletter



News from the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA)

A service of the project Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA)

2025: Consolidating Results and Strengthening Our Network

As we step into 2025, we reflect on a year of meaningful progress and set our sights on new opportunities. This year marks a phase of consolidating results and strengthening our network outreach, ensuring that agroecological knowledge and organic agriculture continue to thrive.

At BIOFACH 2025, KCOA partners emphasised that investing in people is key to quality in organic agriculture. While financing is important, capacity development and engagement remain essential in strengthening the organic value chain. Similarly, the KCOA 2.0 workshop laid the groundwork for governance, sustainability, and the next steps of the network, with a Transition Team now in place to guide the way forward.

Across all hubs, partners are driving impactful initiatives—from farmer-led training programs to market-access strategies—reinforcing the power of knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

Looking ahead, we invite you to tune into the **2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference**, a vital

platform for advancing agroecological solutions and policies in the region. Join the conversation!

[Learn more here >>>](#)

Finally, don't miss our latest blog stories, featuring inspiring journeys from across our network. These stories highlight the dedication and resilience of those shaping the future of agroecology.

Together, we continue to build a strong foundation for sustainable agriculture. Let's make 2025 a year of lasting impact!

Your KCOA team at GIZ

EAO-I Update: Event Highlight



Photo: BvAT

We are glad to report that the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference: 'Harnessing the Potential of Agroecology in Transforming and Sustaining Resilient Agri-Food Systems' will take place from **25th - 28th March 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya**. The conference theme is 'Strengthening Agri-Food System Transformation for Resilience, Sustainability, and Socio-economic Development'. The conference is being organized by Biovision Africa Trust, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, and over twenty partners.

The conference is leveraging on the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative implemented under the guidance and oversight of the AU-chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC) to establish an African organic agriculture platform based on available best practices and to develop sustainable agroecological food systems and improve seed quality.

Building on the first conference held in 2023 and bringing together about 600 participants, this second conference anticipates attracting over 700 participants from different sectors, connecting bio trade actors including investors, researchers, buyers, and innovators, and exploring how the bio trade sector is addressing quality, market access, regulatory compliance, and global competitiveness. It will be a hybrid event having physical attendance and livestreaming for on-line participants.

[Read more here >>>>](#)

Current Activities & Achievements

Knowledge Hub Southern Africa (KHSa)

KHSA Regional Media Programme

ISAN
MAGAZINE
FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

February 2025

Media perspectives
on climate change
in southern Africa

This edition is
proudly
sponsored by:



Photo: ISAN Magazine

This short-series journalist training on climate change reporting used online and in-person sessions, along with Food Jams, to support media in credible and meaningful reporting on climate change. The outcome was a collaborative ISAN Magazine special edition on journalists' perceptions of climate change in Southern Africa.

[Access it here >>>>](#)

Knowledge Hub North Africa (KHNA)

Closure Event of Phase II & Launching of Phase III



Photo: Haythem Elouaer

End of December 2024, the 2nd KHNA main phase in Tunisia was closed with a big event: Key stakeholders, including government and private sector representatives as well as multipliers were invited to attend and engage in the day-long contributions and discussions. One highlight was an exhibition showcasing posters created by multipliers who introduced their micro-interventions. The interventions were evaluated by a selection committee which chose the most innovative and impactful ones with the prospect of up-scaling. Achievements and lessons learned of the previous years were shared and the 3rd project phase was launched by e.g. presenting the Gender Guide and the KCOA platform.

Knowledge Hub Eastern Africa (KHEA)

KHEA at the Harvest Money Expo 2025



KHEA Multipliers and trained farmer on the KCOA Project pose for a group photo at the harvest money expo. Photo: PELUM Uganda

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KHEA) made a strong impact at the Harvest Money Expo 2025, held from February 14th–16th at Nambole Stadium, Uganda. Hosted within the PELUM Uganda Agroecology Village, KHEA engaged youth multipliers, farmers, women, and students in showcasing sustainable farming practices.

Under the theme “Value Addition and Cooperatives,” KHEA stakeholders participated in exhibitions, networking, and capacity-building sessions, highlighting agroecology’s role in resilient food systems. This aligned with KHEA’s three key focus areas: knowledge collection and validation, capacity building, and market systems development.

The Expo also amplified policy advocacy and consumer awareness through the KHEA-PELUM Uganda #KnowWhatYouEat campaign, emphasising sustainable food choices. KHEA remains committed to strengthening agroecological innovations and market linkages across Eastern Africa, driving the transformation towards sustainable agriculture.



BVAT-ED & KHEA Coordinator. David Amudavi pose for a group photo with Dorith von Behaim - GIZ/KCOA Project Coordinator, GIZ KCOA-KHEA Coordinator – Florian Peloschek and other partners at

KHEA at BIOFACH 2025: Advocating for Agroecology on the Global Organic Stage

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KHEA) participated in BIOFACH 2025, the world’s leading organic trade fair in Nuremberg, Germany. A major highlight was seeing Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) and GSDM & Symabio from Madagascar showcase their organic products as countries alongside the Africa Pavilion, reinforcing Africa’s position as a supplier of high-quality organic goods.

the GIZ Headquarters, Eschborn, Germany.
Photo: BvAT

As Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) of the KCOA Project, ROAM, GSDM, and SYMABIO used this platform to expand market access, strengthen networks, and promote investment in organic agriculture. The Africa Pavilion and individual countries participating continue to build Africa's reputation in the global organic market. By engaging in BIOFACH, KHEA remains committed to scaling up organic agriculture, fostering partnerships, and driving policy advocacy to ensure a sustainable and resilient organic sector in Africa.

Ms. Rosinah Mbenya Joins IFOAM World Board to Boost African Representation

IFOAM – Organics International has welcomed Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator of PELUM Kenya, to its World Board.

Ms. Mbenya's engagement aims to strengthen African representation and ensure the continent's perspectives are integrated into global leadership decisions. As Africa plays a growing role in food security, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture, her expertise is vital to IFOAM's strategies. With extensive experience in organic advocacy, leadership, and agroecology, Ms. Mbenya brings valuable insights and a strong network. Her appointment follows a selection process from six African nominees.



Photo: PELUM Kenya

This highlights IFOAM's commitment to inclusive representation, ensuring diverse voices shape the future of the global organic movement. Stay tuned for updates as IFOAM and PELUM Kenya continue advancing the organic movement for a sustainable, resilient food system.

[Learn more about this step towards a more inclusive future >>>](#)

Knowledge Hub West Africa (KHWA)

Network event: Agroecology Mornings for the organisation of the network of actors in the agroecological value chain



Photo: AGRECOL Afrique

On February 7, 2025, AGRECOL Afrique organised the Agroecology Mornings. The event brought together 25 participants (13 men and 12 women) from various sectors: value chains, schools and training centers, NGOs, farmers' organizations and stakeholder groups.

The Agroecology Mornings are meetings that bring together actors in the value chain of Ecological and Organic Agriculture (EOA), researchers, academics and other stakeholders to discuss a topic chosen jointly by the actors according to their interests. They are organized by the networks, in partnership with schools, training centers, NGOs, farmers' organizations and community groups.

The main objective was to promote knowledge sharing, particularly around the theme: "KCOA knowledge sharing for better practice in sustainable, ecological and organic agriculture."

During this meeting, the promotion of ecological and organic agriculture was achieved through:

- Thematic discussions on good agricultural practices;
- The visualization of tutorials explaining registration on the KCOA digital platform
- Videos illustrating the different stages of production, processing and consumption of agroecological products.

The resolutions, points of attention and decisions taken were shared with the stakeholders present, in order to capitalize on the lessons learned and ensure a wide dissemination of knowledge.

Knowledge Hub Central Africa (KHCA)

GADD organises the local organic products and seeds fair in Nkongsamba in the litoral region of Cameroon



Photo: Armand Blaise Tagne

On Wednesday February 5, 2025, the Codas Caritas headquarters in Nkongsamba was the venue for a local organic produce and seed fair, organized by the NGO GADD.

The Nkongsamba organic seed fair was an ideal opportunity for actors in the region's organic and agroecological sector to meet, exchange ideas, share experiences and network. Producers, processors and consumers exchanged ideas on organic products and seeds. Participants were also able to discover and acquire seeds and products grown without synthetic chemical fertilisers, with respect for the environment and consumer health. "I never miss an opportunity to stock up on organic products for my health and that of my family, because food is everything", confided Mme Makouné, a consumer on site.

The event was an opportunity to promote alternative certification systems for organic products, such as Codas Caritas' PGS Egnime Di Bio, to consumers and value chain actors. Beyond the commercial aspect, the events strengthened ties between producers, who were able to share their experiences and best practices. The exchange of contacts between producers and consumers encouraged the development of networking, an essential element in the development of organic agriculture.

KCOA at the BIOFACH 2025

KCOA Panel Session - Investing in People: The Key to Quality in Organic Farming



Photo: GIZ

At this year's BIOFACH Congress, the spotlight was on financing and the role of investment in shaping the future of organic agriculture. KCOA partners took centre stage in a dynamic panel discussion that reinforced a crucial message: Change is driven by people, and quality begins with investing in them.

The session explored innovative methodological approaches that enhance the quality of products from agroecological producers and actors along the organic value chain. Panelists showcased how non-conventional investment—specifically, economically oriented and attractive capacity development—can significantly scale up organic production and improve quality outcomes. The discussion underscored that successful organic agriculture is not solely about financing but about empowering individuals and communities.

The expert panel featured Angela Coetzee (KHSA), Sylvia Kuria (Master Trainer, KHEA), Jude Obi (KHWA), Patricia Flores (IFOAM), Dorith von Behaim (GIZ-KCOA Project Manager), and moderator Irene Kadzere (FiBL). Their insights addressed key challenges and opportunities in training, strategies for engaging stakeholders, the role of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) groups, and the critical importance of securing markets post-training. The session highlighted that sustainable investment in people drives long-term success in organic agriculture.

Watch the full session here! >>>>>



Photo: GIZ

KCOA 2.0: Advancing the Network's Sustainability



Photo: GIZ

Building on discussions from the 2024 Network Meeting in Cape Town, key KCOA partners convened for a strategic workshop to shape the next phase of the network's development. The session focused on governance, sustainability strategies, and roadmap planning. A significant milestone was the formation of the Transition Team, which is now spearheading efforts to drive forward KCOA's next steps in strengthening the network's long-term impact.

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?

Khalid Azim | Knowledge Manager Morocco | INRA (National Institute of Agriculture Research) | KHNA | joined the project in January 2020

1. Our KH excels in making organic and agroecological knowledge accessible, fostering strong networks, and empowering farmers with practical, innovative, and locally adapted solutions for sustainability.

2. Our KH would be an Argan tree: deep-rooted, resilient, and a source of nourishment. Like the Argan, we provide enduring knowledge, support communities, and foster sustainable growth in Africa.

3. KCOA-KH project helped me to knowing more about my continent and empowered me to promote sustainable agriculture and support farming communities effectively.



Photo: Khalid Azim

Louise Vaughan | KHSA Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Manager | Sustainability Institute | KHSA | joined the project in March 2021

1. KHSA has shown great commitment and dedication to holding multipliers and the communities they support at the heart of our work. Ensuring that what we do is inclusive, relevant and meaningful for the people we serve.
2. A chameleon because the KHSA also tries to change and adapt to its surroundings to meet context related needs.
3. To grow my skills and expertise, particularly in terms of gender and participatory knowledge collection and monitoring and evaluation approaches.



Photo: Louise Vaughan

Ngo Momha Marguerite | Focal Point of KHCA to the KCOA Digital Platform and also Editor of the knowledge promotion team | INADES Formation Cameroon | KHCA | joined the project 3 years ago

1. Thanks to its implementing partners, the KHCA is showing itself in its most beautiful light, bringing, training, accompanying and supporting men, women and young people in Cameroon and even Central Africa in the practice of organic farming and the adoption of good agroecological practices that respect the environment and health.
2. The Bee, synonymous with order and a job well done. Our KH invites us to act for our communities, and above all to work as a team. It invites us to be aware of the impact of our actions on the environment, to encourage behaviour that respects nature, to participate in the preservation of biodiversity and to adopt good agro-ecological practices. Like the bee, the KHCA contributes to the balance of the planet.
3. Working. Thanks to my role as editor, the KCOA/KH allows me to give a voice to important people and issues by writing articles and success stories for multipliers.



Photo: Marguerite Momha

Tahina Solofoniaina Raharison | Executive Director GSDM / Country Project Coordinator KCOA-KHEA GSDM | GSDM professional of Agroecology | KHEA | joined the project in February 2022

1. In the past, the actors involved in promoting Agroecology and Organic Farming were working separately. Agroecology stakeholders work at grassroots community level, while Organic Farming stakeholders work with the private sector in a market-oriented way. Through the intervention of the KCOA project in Madagascar, this vision of a sectoral



Photo: Raharison Solofoniaina

approach has been transformed into a dynamic of actors working in synergy towards an effective linking of agroecological and organic practices. This distinctive capacity of the KCOA project has made it possible to develop a common vision of these two essential themes for the development of sustainable agriculture in Madagascar.

2. The Knowledge Hub is compared to the vine and the octopus. The octopus is distinguished by its unrivalled ability to cover space while promoting the same dynamic around its body. The vine, on the other hand, has the power to produce fruit from each branch. These specificities contribute to the common objectives of the knowledge hub.

3. The GSDM aims to form a coalition of stakeholders committed to promoting agro-ecology and organic farming in Madagascar. In this perspective, the knowledge hub is helping to achieve this objective, enabling capitalization documents to be compiled and, above all, mobilizing various stakeholders in the implementation of the project.

Mouhamed SECK | Responsible for the implementation of Output B | Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture biologique (FENAB)| KHWA | joined the project in 2020

1. KHWA is characterized by understanding and social cohesion with supportive organizations, always putting forward the synergy of action and the interest of the hub.

2. Our KH is a Malinois shepherd because of its contextual intelligence and adaptability.

3. KCOA helps me to pursue my international career with this opportunity to work with other countries and international partners.



Photo: GIZ/Caro Kadatz

Blog Stories

Check out our selection of multiplier and success stories posted on the Multiplier Network!



treatments.

Empowering Change: Hadhemi Salem's Vision for Sustainable Agriculture

Discover how a passionate and visionary young woman from Tunisia raises awareness among small farmers and rural women of the importance of good agricultural practices and ecological alternatives to phytosanitary

[Read the full story >>>](#)



The secrets beneath your feet...

Find out why understanding soil formation is critical for farming success. Healthy soils have certain characteristics that boost productivity.

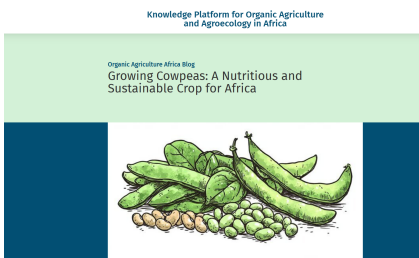
[Read more here >>>>](#)



Yene Zacharie Herve, a major player in the production and marketing of bio-fertilizers

Yene Zacharie is a young man trained in Cameroon in the framework of the Knowledge Hub Central Africa, who has adopted agroecology and specialized in the manufacture of organic inputs.

[Read the full story >>>](#)



Growing Cowpeas: A Nutritious and Sustainable Crop for Africa

Cowpeas are a vital crop in Africa, known for their nutritional value and resilience in diverse environments. They are rich in protein, fiber, and essential vitamins, making them a staple in many African diets. Growing

cowpeas is simple! The Cowpea Production Guide provides essential steps to boost yields, contributing to sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa.

[Read the full story >>>](#)



Community-based development of traditional knowledge

Indigenous/Local knowledge in the context of promoting agroecology and organic farming in Senegal (West Africa)

[Read the full story >>>](#)

[Click here to discover more stories »](#)

Resource Tips

The SEKEM story: a miracle in the desert became reality

Experience the SEKEM story in 8 minutes: The story of how a miracle in the desert became reality brilliantly told by the great filmmaker John D. Liu. Share the SEKEM story and join our mission for a sustainable future!

Watch the video here >>>>>

Guide and Course: Grassroots evidence for agroecology

Stats4sd & agroecology fund publication providing case studies in support of agroecology

Access the guide here >>>>>

Course: A free, self-paced, online course describes the process developed by stats4sd and the agroecology fund to create evidence-based cases for agroecology for grassroots organisations.

Access the course here >>>>>

Gender analysis in farming systems and action research: a training manual

A training manual developed for Africa rising, a research-for-development programme that recognizes gender mainstreaming as key for achieving its overall research and development objective.

Access the training manual here >>>>>

Upcoming events



Want to know more about upcoming events?

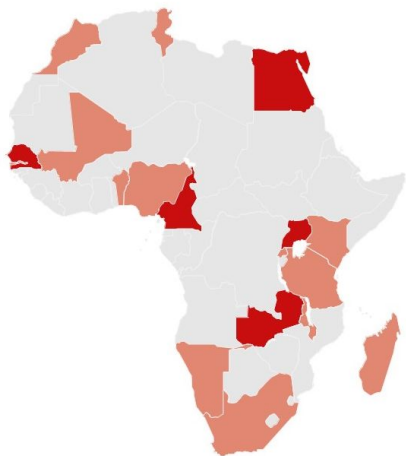
Or are you a registered multiplier and want to share your next event?

Access the Multiplier Network and check out our event calendar! >>>>>

About the project

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA) aims to scale up adoption of organic agriculture and agroecology 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 18 countries across Africa. The project runs from 2019 to 2028.



Learn more >>>>>

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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