

Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa



**KCOA - KHEA
PHASE I STORY**
(AUGUST 2019 - JUNE 2022)



In cooperation with



Biovision Africa Trust & PELUM Uganda (2022). The KCOA-KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR EASTERN AFRICA PHASE I STORY. Biovision Africa Trust, Nairobi.

EDITORIAL

Through various interventions across the region (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project has enabled smallholder farmers to implement innovative technologies, approaches and solutions that contribute to the overall goal of the project.

The KCOA-KHEA Project goal is to ensure that Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) is integrated into various countries' agricultural systems thereby contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

This KCOA-KHEA Phase I Story booklet outlines the key achievements realized within the project implementation period of the first phase, August 2019 - June 2022.

The booklet contains three main sections with each section giving an overview of the innovations, approaches and technologies that were implemented by our farmers with support from our able master trainers, multipliers, and the project country implementing partners.

With the implementation of the first phase of the project, several interventions were conducted under the three strategic focus areas of; Knowledge Collection, Assembly & Validation; Capacity building & Knowledge Dissemination; and Market Systems Development and

Networking. Key to mention were; capacity enhancements for master trainers, multipliers, and farmers on different organic agriculture practices, boosted consumer awareness and promoting networking among the partners.

PURPOSE OF THE KCOA-KHEA PHASE I STORY:

AUGUST 2019 – JUNE 2022

The KCOA-KHEA Phase I Story (August 2019- June 2022) aims to showcase solutions to challenges faced by smallholder farmers and extended food systems, with demonstrated impacts on youth and women's employment, unlocking the challenges of rural financing, boosting farmers' yields, enhancing resilience, reducing rural poverty, and improving food and nutrition security, improving incomes through access to organic markets and above all disseminating validated knowledge under the KCOA-KHEA Project

The KCOA-KHEA Phase I Story offers practical solutions and lessons to governments, private sector entities, bilateral and multilateral donors to shape their response to challenges constraining smallholder agriculture and sustainable food systems, such as climate change and related disasters for example, recurrent droughts and floods, the COVID-19 pandemic, locust invasions, among others.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	Access Agriculture
ACF	Advocacy for Change Foundation- Kenya
ADP	Actions For Development Programmes - Mbozi Tanzania
AFIRD	Agency for Integrated Development -Uganda
ARCOS	Albertine Rift Conservation Society -Rwanda
AUC	African union Commission
A2N	Africa 2000 Network-Uganda
BIOGI	Bio-Gardening Innovations Kenya
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CAPCN	Center of Agroecology Practices and Conservation of Nature
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDP	Continental Digital Platform
CIDI	Community Integrated Development Initiative -Uganda
CIP	Country Implementing Partner
CSHEP	Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environment Program-Kenya
DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
EIPMA	Effective IPM Association Kenya
EOA-I	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
ESA	Ecologically Sensitive Areas
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FIBL	The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
G-BIACK	Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GMZ	Gene Management Zone
IFF	Indigenous/Traditional Food and Seed Fair
IFOAM	The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ICIPE	The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
IPM	Integrated Pest Management -Kenya
KCOA	Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa
KHEA	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa
KM	Knowledge Management
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
KP	Knowledge Product
MA	Ministry of Agriculture – Tanzania
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries – Uganda
MAALF	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries- Kenya
MAEP	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries - Madagascar
M&E	Mornitoring and Evaluation
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda
M.Os	Member Organizations
NAAS	National Agroecology Actors Symposium
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
NSC	National Steering Committee
OA	Organic Agriculture
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
POSADA	Promoting Sustainable Agriculture Development in Africa -Rwanda
RCID	Regional Research Centre for integrated Development -Rwanda
RIDEP	Rural Initiatives for Development Program
ROAM	Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement
RSP	Rural Service Providers
SAT	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TOAM	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement
ToToF	Training of Teams of Facilitators
UMU	Uganda Martyrs University
UNFFE	Uganda National Farmers' Federation
WAOC	West Africa Organic Conference

Acknowledgements

This KCOA-KHEA Phase I Story has jointly been prepared by the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) partners under the lead coordinating agency, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) in Kenya with PELUM Uganda as a Co-Host of the KCOA-KHEA Project.

The KCOA-KHEA Project team gratefully acknowledges the contributions from partners and the development team for their support during the development of the KCOA-KHEA Phase I story and their efforts in compiling the information needed to highlight outstanding achievements of the project.

Special thanks go to the different international partners: Access Agriculture, FiBL, ICIPE, IFOAM - Organics International who have contributed to the documenting of the key successes and achievements of the KCOA-KHEA Phase I Story.

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About the KCOA – KHEA Project

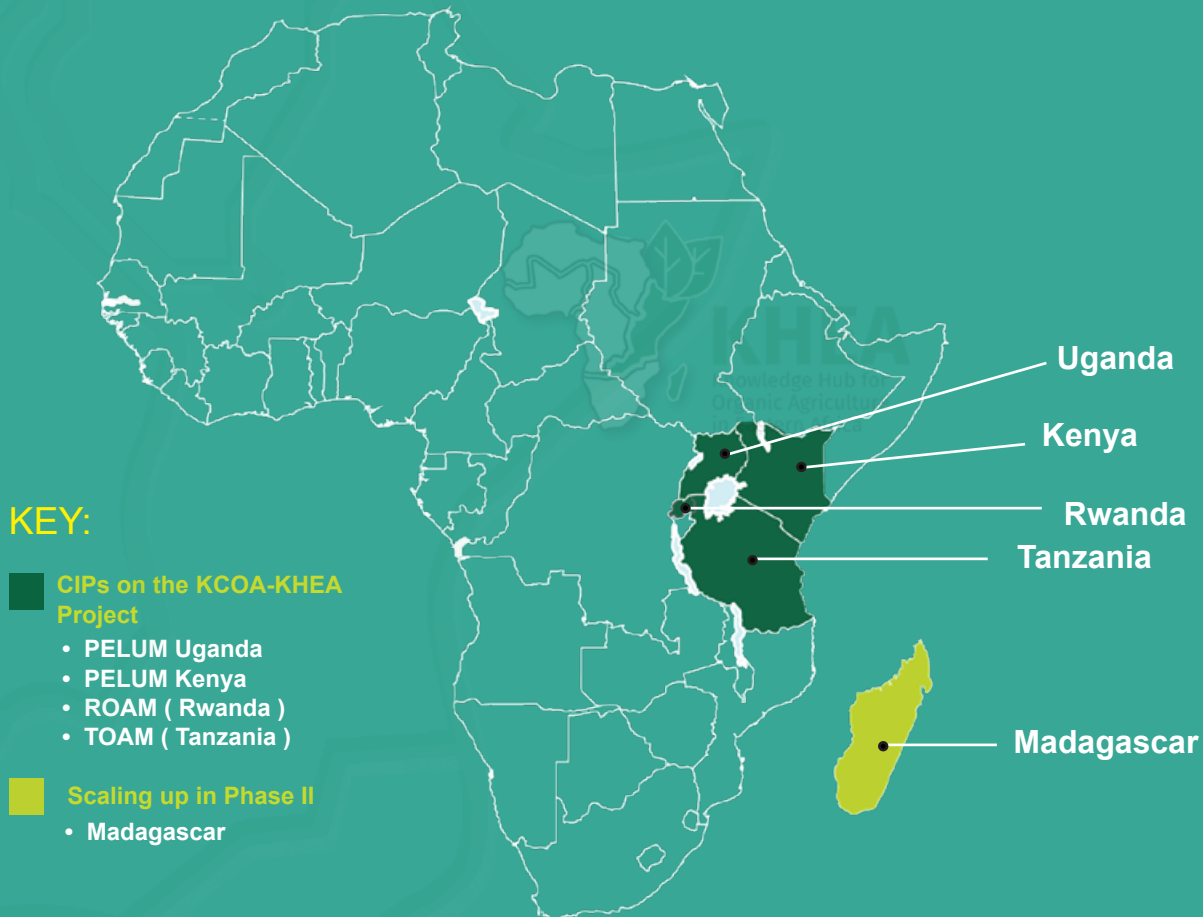
The KHEA Hub is one of the five Hubs of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) Project. It is part of the One World – No Hunger initiative by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its executing agency GIZ to support a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Eastern, Western, Northern, Central and Southern Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda is a Co-Host of the KCOA-KHEA Project.

The implementation of Phase I of the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project started in August 2019 and ended in June 2022.

The KCOA-KHEA Project aligns with the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I), an African Union-led continental undertaking with the oversight of the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE).

The overall objective of the KCOA Project is to introduce knowledge hubs successfully as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in the regions of Western, Eastern, Northern, Central and Southern Africa.

Countries Implementing the KCOA-KHEA Project



The overall goal of the KHEA Project is to ensure that Ecological Organic Agriculture is integrated into the various countries' agricultural systems.

One of the key project achievements was the development of the Continental Digital Knowledge Platform (CDP) which is part of the KCOA Project coordinated by GIZ as a major component of the initiative. This online resource will provide excellent learning materials and resources for multipliers, farmers and other value chain actors. The CDP will be launched in the Phase II on the KCOA-KHEA Project.

The KCOA-KHEA Project in Eastern Africa is currently implemented in 4 countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania and plans to upscale to Madagascar in Phase II are ongoing.

To know more about the project, please visit this link: <https://biovisionafricantrust.org/kcoa-project/>



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The Overall Goal of the KHEA Project is to ensure that ecological organic agriculture is integrated into the various countries' agricultural systems



KHEA
Knowledge Hub for
Organic Agriculture
in Eastern Africa



DID YOU KNOW ?

Organic agriculture contributes to increased biodiversity which enhances a range of production, social economic, nutrition and environmental benefits



Focus Areas of the KCOA-KHEA Project



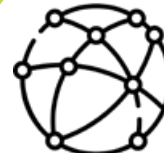
Collecting/ Preparing and Validating Organic Agriculture Knowledge

Validated technical and methodological knowledge for the promotion of organic agriculture, including processing, is prepared for the context of the participating countries and stakeholder groups made available through suitable knowledge products.



Capacity Building and Dissemination of Organic Agriculture Knowledge

Validated technical and methodological knowledge, strategies and good practices in the field of organic agriculture, adapted to the contexts of the countries participating in the Eastern Africa regional Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture, have been disseminated.



Networking within the Organic Agriculture Value Chains

Key actors in the organic agriculture value chains of the participating countries in Eastern Africa have networked in an exemplary manner to strengthen markets and consumption patterns for organic products.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Organic farming works with nature, not against it

KHEA Project Structure

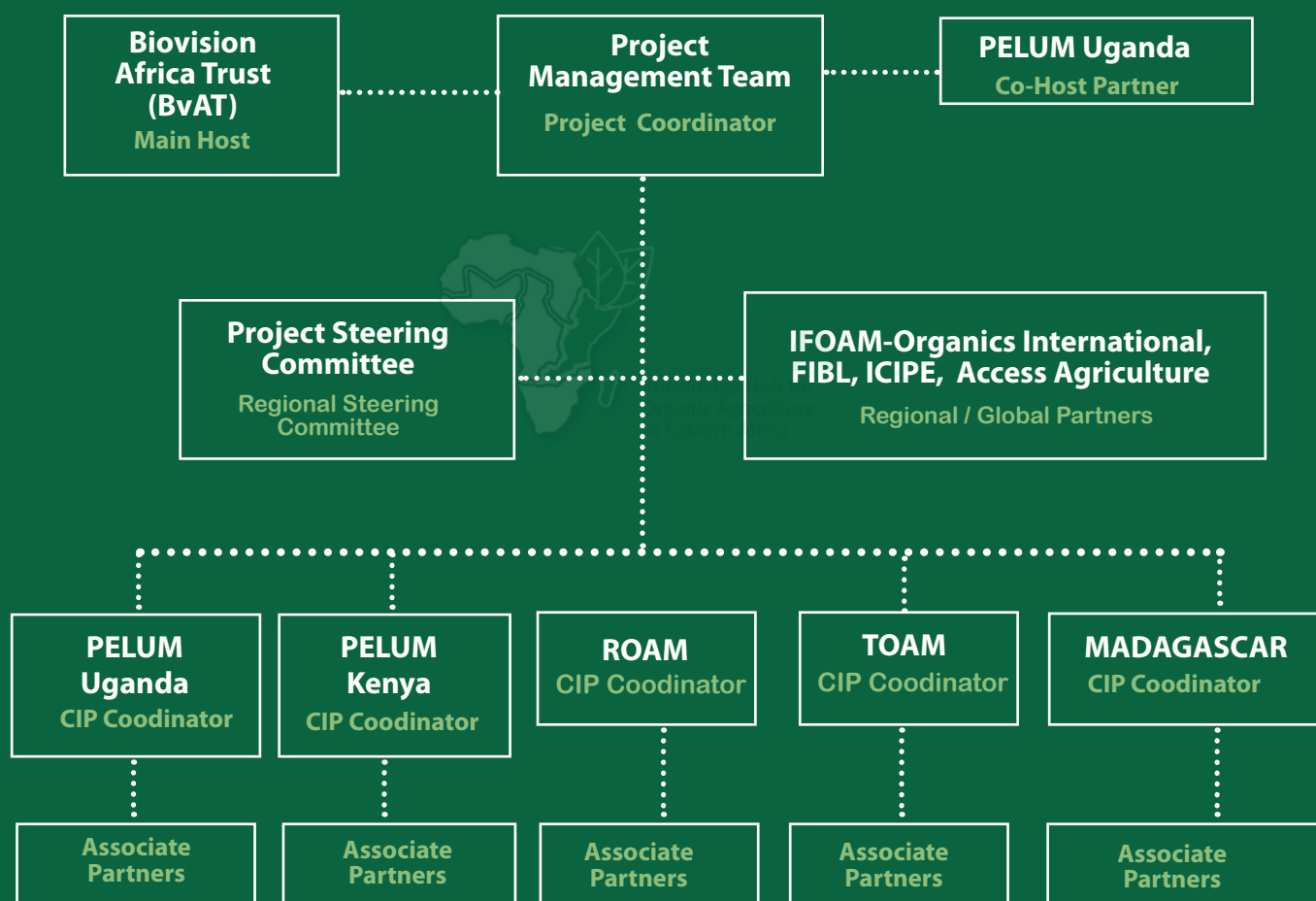




Illustration showcasing preparation of bio-fertilizers at ST Jude Family Projects in Masaka Uganda



A word from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Florian Peloschek
Digital Knowledge Platform and Market Development Advisor - KCOA

More than half of all people living in Africa base their livelihood on agriculture; yet, many farmers are impoverished and one-fifth of the population suffers from malnourishment. At the same time, ecosystems and resources must be used carefully.

Organic agriculture promotes food systems that increase food security and improves living conditions, while also respecting the Earth's ecological limits. Currently, only 0.2 per cent of agricultural land in Africa is dedicated to organic farming. In the past, this has been due to limited knowledge of how

organic products are produced, processed and marketed. The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) is working to fill these knowledge gaps by establishing five knowledge hubs in Africa.

Objective

Throughout all the five African regions, these knowledge hubs intensively promote organic agriculture and agroecology.

Approach

The project is coordinated in Germany. Its measures are being implemented in the regions in cooperation with the following non-governmental organisations:

Eastern Africa:
Biovision Africa Trust

Southern Africa:
Sustainability Institute

West Africa:
Enda Pronat

North Africa:
SEKEM

Central Africa:
CIPRE, CPF, GADD, Inades Formation, SAILD

These organisations manage the five knowledge hubs and operate in three fields of action:

They expand access to knowledge on organic agriculture and agroecology by collecting, validating and converting it into suitable formats and languages, as well as making it available on a centralised database.

They boost the technical and professional skills of multipliers in the areas of organic agriculture and agroecology. To this end, they train master trainers and multipliers on how to disseminate the knowledge in a manner adapted to target groups.

For the purposes of networking across the continent, they strengthen the working relationships between representatives from the value chains, civil society, private sector and state organisations. Furthermore, they promote cost-effective and participatory certification alternatives.

Article Source , Please visit
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/80037.html>



A word from the Lead Coordinating Agency of the KHEA Project

Dr. David Amudavi
Executive Director - BvAT
and KHEA Project Coordinator

With a continental outlook, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is one of the key players in agroecology in Africa. It strives to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Africa through disseminating relevant agricultural information to them and supporting like-minded organizations and strengthening capacity of institutions to scale up the efforts. Through this, BvAT hopes to see a food-secure African continent with healthy people living in a healthy environment.

By 2050, planet earth will need to feed about 10 billion people. It is therefore paramount that we transform our agricultural food production systems to align them with and not against nature as an ecosystem. As hunger and malnutrition persist, we need to transform the way we farm to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 and the KCOA project is one of the initiatives working towards this by supporting a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Africa.

The KCOA-KHEA Project came at an opportune time when global attention is growing on how to address issues of climate change, declining food and nutrition security, slowing the pace of environmental destruction and loss of biodiversity. The project has become one of the most important initiatives in Africa expected to contribute to the aforementioned challenges and by so doing meet Africa Agenda 2063 aspirations and most of the Sustainable Development Goals. BvAT together with PELUM Uganda are providing the leadership needed to make the KCOA-KHEA Project goals become a reality. The two organizations are responsible for the overall coordination of the project involving the Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) and their associate partners and liaising with GIZ and international partners.

Looking back on the first phase of implementation, I can say our aspirations for having a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Africa are well on track. KCOA is going to be a world-class knowledge leader in Organic Agriculture with seamless knowledge sourcing

and sharing. During the first phase, the development of the digital knowledge platform which is the foundation of this was achieved 70%, the Training of Teams of Facilitators (TOTO) strategy was rolled out and the strategy for Markets Development and Networking as well as the Communication strategy were developed. All this work sets a good foundation for the second phase.

I am also glad that plans to bring Madagascar on board are progressing well and this will go a long way in contributing to scaling the project across the continent. Agroecology's profile is growing on the continent and to fully realize its potential, it is thus all the more important for concerned actors, practitioners, and civil society to maintain pressure and support for Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) and agroecology.

In the subsequent phases, I would wish to see more partners including government's line ministries come on board to bring ecological organic agriculture and agroecology to scale.



A word from the Co-Host partner of the KHEA Project

Mrs. Josephine Akia Luyimbazi
Country Coordinator, PELUM Uganda
and KHEA Project Co-Host Coordinator

Since 1995, PELUM Uganda has been working to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and the sustainability of rural communities, through fostering of ecological land use management. We share; skills and knowledge about good practices and techniques, through a broad network of like-minded organizations; undertake research and demonstration projects; and advocate for policies that better support small-scale farmers.

PELUM Uganda is part of a 12-country strong association of civil society organizations in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. It has a network of 66 member organizations acting together to promote agroecology among smallholder farming communities in 122 districts within Uganda.

In August 2019, PELUM Uganda was selected by Biovision Africa Trust, the executing/lead agency to be the Co-Host of the Knowledge Hub for Eastern Africa (KHEA) under the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Project.

As a Co-Host, PELUM Uganda Supports BVAT in overseeing and coordinating project implementation, monitoring and reporting with the 4 implementing countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. It supervises some of the KHEA staff. As a CIP, PELUM Uganda is responsible for coordinating partners in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the KCOA-KHEA project activities in Uganda

The whole focus of the project is to ensure integration of ecological organic agriculture into East African agricultural systems. This further entails introduction of knowledge hubs as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture among the actors within the region.

With the implementation of the first phase of the project (August 2019 to June 2022), a number of interventions were conducted under the three strategic focus areas of; Knowledge Collection; Assembly & Validation; Capacity Building & Knowledge Dissemination; and Market Systems Development and Networking. Key to mention were; capacity enhancements for master trainers, multipliers and farmers on different organic agriculture practices, boosted consumer awareness and promoting networking among the 4 country implementing partners.

Am optimistic that the knowledge hubs once fully completed will further showcase evidence, practices and science on agroecology. The hub will also facilitate discussion via forums related on key solutions to address challenges faced by the agroecology promoters.

As we move towards implementation of the phase two of the project, it's critical that both State and Non State actors such as government and private sector join us towards upscaling agroecology in Eastern Africa.

Commendable strides are being made in countries like Uganda and Rwanda towards development of agroecological related policy processes and strategies, however, a consolidated effort is required to achieve zero hunger by 2030.

Under the KCOA-KHEA Project, the 6 master trainers have trained a total of 304 multipliers and farmers (135 females and 169 males), 76% of these were youth. We anticipate with the continuation of this project, that different farmers will be impacted by PELUM Uganda's interventions on the KHEA Project and further appreciate organic agricultural principles.

Knowledge is a continuous cycle and we shall continue to disseminate even in the next phase of the KHEA Project.

Key achievements on the project ever since implementation in 2019

- More visibility of KCOA-KHEA Project and its interventions
- 60% increase of youth practicing OA farming
- 70% of trained farmers have adopted OA farming practices and technologies
- 6 like-minded organizations Influenced and have expressed need for collaboration with the project.
- 304 Multipliers, 324 Farmers trained
- Reached over 15 million people with information on organic agriculture in different countries
- Launched the "Know what you Eat Campaign: Organic Food Campaign".
- 5 Organic Farmer Groups developed (Kyesigwa Organic Farmers Association, Kakoni Organic Farmers Initiative, Rweshande Organic Farmer Association, Kongojje Farmers Group, Kakiri Organic Farmers' Association).
- Inter-Country Learning Event – documentary on Agroecological practices in Uganda

Uganda is privileged to have the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP, 2019), which guides implementation of the organic sub sector, however, this still lacks a legal framework to inform strengthening and financing policy implementation via collaboration with NGOs and donor partners. There is need for government collaboration with Civil Society Organisations like PELUM Uganda to upscale organic agriculture at farm level, strengthen investment into farmer led organic agriculture research initiatives and provide conducive supply chain and market development interventions that will translate into increased market shares of organic agriculture products at national, regional and international levels.

activities of the Master Trainers at country level. To date, our ToToF approach has been very successful and impactful at community level. Over 1,400 Multipliers have been empowered with organic agriculture knowledge, skills and capacity to transfer knowledge to farmers and other value chain actors at community level. These multipliers have directly empowered over 2,000 farmers across the 4 countries. The dissemination of the organic agriculture knowledge has however reached several other farmers and value chain actors through different channels including face to face interactions, newspapers, social media, radio, television among others.

The top 4 key achievements of the KHEA Hub include but are not limited to the following:

- The Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) approach has been greatly successful in Phase I in all the 4 CIPs. The Master Trainers have empowered and impacted over 1,400 Multipliers (including individuals and organisations), who have in turn empowered and impacted over 2,000 farmers across the region. These Multipliers, and organisations that have been impacted have started to produce the knowledge products that will be posted on the KCOA continental digital platform for wider dissemination.

- The intercountry learning event that was purely held and hosted online. This event demonstrated the resilience that the KHEA team & CIPs had amidst the wrath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Creating consumer awareness through the KHEA social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube as well as the traditional media (radio, television and newspapers) and new media alike! The farmers caravan, market days, school debates on agroecology, agricultural shows and exhibitions, #KnowWhatYouEat campaign, among other initiatives have all been innovative activities and engagements that all together reached over **15 million** people over the 3 years of Phase I.

- Influencing and working with policy actors in all the 4 CIPs, efforts of which have resulted into positive steps towards a favourable organic agriculture environment. In Uganda, the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP), and the implementation strategy have been approved and partners have particularly been engaged to implement the NOAP. The KCOA-KHEA Project is building and leveraging on this momentum to create greater awareness, empower and impact multipliers and farmers to embrace and adopt organic agriculture.

In Phase II, we are strategizing to build on what we started in Phase I. Innovation will be key in our implementation work in order to serve our intended audiences with relevant and timely organic agriculture knowledge.



A word from the KHEA Project Manager

Mr. Francis Nsanga
KHEA Project Manager,
BvAT and PELUM Uganda

The first phase of the KHEA Project, August 2019 – June 2022, was such a phenomenal period! In August 2019, we started the project on a clean slate and took on an incredible learning curve. KHEA was the first Hub to be established and start implementation of the activities out of all the 5 Hubs in Africa.

After the launch of KHEA, we set the pace, set systems and grew the team. The project goal was clear and the three focus areas were smart enough but it was not obvious that we knew everything we needed to do to achieve our goal. Innovation had to set in, coupled with team building to enhance our ingenuity together as a region - but within the context of the individual countries – started to implement the activities of the project. Our first biggest task was to identify and create a brand for the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project. The first three Hubs to be established and stabilise i.e. Eastern, Western and Southern had a lot to ponder about and put together in shaping the brand of the KCOA initiative that we know today. The project name, domain, logos and colour schemes, among other things were all inscribed during the first phase.

At the peak of the KCOA brand becoming a household name among all the Hubs, including the Northern Hub that had started by then, it was evident that the Hubs needed a differentiator. All Hubs were being referred to as KCOA and only differentiated by KCOA Eastern Africa, Western Africa, etc which was not rhyming well. The search for differentiators resulted in the code naming the regions as “Knowledge Hubs”. Thus for each region, the name in full became the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA), Western Africa

(KHWA), Southern Africa (KHSa), Northern Africa (KHNA) and Central Africa (KHCA).

Following the affirmation of names for the Regional Hubs, as the KHEA Hub, we embarked on operationalising our strategies. In line with the first focus area of collection, collation and validation of knowledge, we instituted a baseline study in the Eastern Africa region to assess the level of organic agriculture practice in the participating countries. The study was very successful. It helped us to identify the gaps & needs of the farmers, and facilitated the strengthening of the strategies we had set up. The baseline also informed our efforts in shaping the continental digital platform. As a Hub, we supported the design and formulation of the continental digital platform by conducting several needs assessments in the participating countries. Engaging the countries and supporting Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) to meet the growing demands for the project became central to our regional team. The CIPs were quickly set up and positions and roles of each team member became clear.

In line with focus area two, the KHEA Hub tasked the CIPs to identify suitable candidates for the Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF), which was instrumental in building capacity and dissemination of organic agriculture knowledge. Each of the 4 participating countries identified 6 candidates that later were trained as the Master Trainers for the KHEA Hub. Kenya had 7th Master Trainer that was seconded by GIZ to be part of the Master Trainers. This produced 25 Master Trainers. During the regional ToToF training of the Master Trainers, the CIP based Project Officers were involved as they were to be tasked with the roles of coordinating all trainings and

The KCOA-KHEA Project Team



Dr. David Amudavi

Executive Director BvAT and KHEA Project Coordinator

Prior to joining BvAT David was a senior lecturer at Egerton University in the Department of Agricultural Education and Extension.

David holds a Ph.D. in Adult and Extension Education with minors in Developmental Sociology and Natural Resource Management (NRM) from Cornell University in the USA; M.Sc. in Agricultural Science from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a B.Sc., in Agricultural Education and Extension from Egerton University, Kenya. Dr Amudavi did a postdoctoral fellowship with ICIPE's Push-pull project: 'Creating smallholder led growth through 'push-pull' technologies in Eastern Africa.



Josephine Akia Luyimbazi

Country Coordinator, PELUM Uganda and KHEA Project Co-Host Coordinator

Josephine Akia is a passionate social scientist with over 15 years of experience. She holds an Msc. in Agroecology, Master in International Development and a BA in Development Studies.

Prior to joining PELUM Uganda, she worked with the National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) and was very instrumental in the development of the National Organic Agriculture Policy for Uganda that was passed in 2019.

She is very passionate about development work that is equitable and inclusive in nature.



Francis Nsanga

KHEA Project Manager, BvAT & PELUM Uganda

Francis worked with Peer to Peer project in Uganda as a Project Manager.

He was also the Lead Innovator of The Icon Farm Technology (TIFAT). He was Head of Strategic Information and Innovations at Uganda Health Marketing Group. He worked as a Knowledge Manager at the Uganda Health Marketing Group and worked as a Data Manager at Infections Diseases Institute, Makerere University.

Francis is a Certified Knowledge Manager (CKM) from the Knowledge Management Institute in Washington D.C. He holds a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) and a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA), a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and a Diploma in Education.

The KCOA-KHEA Project Team



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Obed Ateka

KHEA Project Accountant, BvAT

Obed holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business & Secretarial studies, Certified Public Accountant (CPA K), Certified Public Secretary (CPS K), Diploma in Purchasing and Supplies Management (DPSM) and Certificate in Computerized Accounting Systems.



**Joseph
Nyamesegere**

KHEA Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, BvAT

Joseph was a Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in charge of 23 counties with Research Triangle Institute International – RTI (Tusome Project). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Statistics. He is currently pursuing an Msc in Statistics.



Hudson Wereh

KHEA Regional Knowledge Manager, BvAT

Hudson is an Environmentalist, Rural Development and ICT for Development professional. He holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science Degree and he's pursuing a masters in the same area.



Magino Pamella

KHEA Communications Officer, BvAT & PELUM Uganda

Pamella has over 8 years of experience as a Communications and Marketing professional in the area of Public Relations, Business Development and Marketing and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication, major in Public Relations.



Margaret K. Arwari

KHEA Market Development and Networking Officer, BvAT

Margaret is an Agricultural Economist with over 4 years of vast experience in small-scale agricultural and livelihood development. She holds a Master of Science, in Agricultural Economics from South Africa.

Country Implementing Partner Teams



UGANDA (PELUM Uganda)

Josephine Akia Luyimbazi
Country Coordinator, PELUM Uganda and KHEA Project Co-Host Coordinator

Role: Responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of country-level KCOA-KHEA Project activities.



Joshua Aijuka
Head of Programmes
Role: Review and approval of country hub plans and technical reports

Ezra Kalule
Project Officer / Knowledge Manager

Role: Direct implementation of the project interventions/ activities



Grace Payesu
Finance & Administration Manager
Role: Projects fund management (Receives and disburses funds).

Michael Orau
Accountant

Role: Preparation of financial reports of the Project



Prisca Nabachwa
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Role: Monitors programmes and project activities, and reports on the findings.



KENYA (PELUM Kenya)



Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator
Role: Responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of country-level KCOA-KHEA Project activities.



Manei Naanyu
Head of Programs
Role: Review of the workplans and progress of the Project Activities

Kariuki Alice
Finance Officer
Role: Budget Reviews and approvals for the Project Activities



Ndiki Ndungu
Head of Finance and Administration
Role: Projects fund management (Receives and disburses funds).

Harrison Yego
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Role: Develops data collection and tracking tools for effective use by Project officer and other teams



Ratemo Bathseba
Project Officer,
Role: Direct implementation of the project interventions/ activities.

Country Implementing Partner Teams



**R W A N D A
(ROAM)**



**Lise Chantal Dusabe
Country Coordinator**

Role: Responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of country-level KCOA-KHEA Project activities.

**Berchimas Habumugisha
Project Officer**

Role: Carry out regular field visit to ensure smooth implementation of the project.



**Dieudonne Sindikubwabo
Head of Programs/ Master trainer**

Role: Organizing programs and activities in accordance with the result matrix of the Project.

**Jennifer Mutamuliza
Communications Officer**

Role: Dissemination of information/ raising awareness on the project activities



**Eddie Mico
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer /
Country Knowledge Manager**

Role: Design and implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the project activities

**Bienvenu Semushi
Administrative and Finance Manager**

Role: Manages financial activities to achieve the project goal



**Eric Nelly NIYIGENA
Accountant**

Role: Developing consolidated financial reports of the project

KHEA
Knowledge Hub for
Organic Agriculture
in Eastern Africa

**T A N Z A N I A
(TOAM)**



**Bakari Mongo
Country Coordinator**

Role: Responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of country-level KCOA-KHEA Project activities.



**Valentine Kyage
Project Officer / Country Knowledge
Manager**

Role: Direct implementation of the project interventions/activities



**Paul Chilewa
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer**

Role: Monitoring of the project activities.

**Anatory Gabriel
Communications Officer**

Role: Documentation of success stories and sharing with media.



**Eliezer Shimwela
Head of Programs**

Role: Monitors programmes and project activities, and reports on the findings.



Why go Organic?

For a food product to be labelled as organic, every step in the supply chain, from farmers and packers to food processors and shops that sell organic products, must meet organic standards and prove it to an organic certification body

The organic movement in Africa

Organic farming helps to protect both groundwater and biodiversity, which is of major importance to the people and animals living nearby the production. According to the World Health Organization, between 20,000 and 40,000 people die every year due to use of pesticide.

By purchasing organic products, you can be sure that production does not harm local communities.

"The health of soil, plant, animal and man is one and indivisible"
~~ Albert Howard ~~



Reasons why we support organic farming

The word 'organic' has become one of those buzzwords you are hearing everywhere.

Organic lifestyle not only brings positive effects to your health, but also to the planet. But what is so great about going organic?

We have gathered 4 of the most obvious reasons.

01: Avoid chemicals and pesticides

Organic farming is based on natural methods of keeping weeds and pests down, and no synthetic pesticides are used.

When you buy organic, you therefore save yourself from health risks associated with residues of pesticides.

We are all surrounded by chemicals in our daily life that potentially could harm our health. This is a way to minimize that risk.

02: Protect the environment

Organic farming ensures that nature stays clean and rich.

Visit an organic farm and you will notice something; a buzz of animal, bird, and insect activity. Research shows that there are around 30 percent more wildlife and plants near ecological production fields compared to conventional farming. This is due to the fact that there are no pesticides, and fertilizer is used.

According to the World Health Organization, between 20,000 and 40,000 people die every year due to foods contaminated with pesticides.

03: Benefit from more nutrients

It is proven that you can gain more nutrients and vitamins from ingredients grown from organic farming than conventional farming.

In 2014, British Journal of Nutrition found that organic ingredients have substantially higher concentrations of antioxidants and other beneficial compounds. Consumption of these compounds is linked to a variety of benefits, including anti-inflammatory effects.

04: Support local farmers and protect their surroundings from toxic chemicals

Organic farming helps to protect both groundwater and biodiversity, which is of major importance to the people and animals living nearby the production. By purchasing organic products, you can be sure that production does not harm local communities.

Article Source:

<https://www.natulique.com/organic-farming/>



Organic lifestyle not only brings positive effects to your health, but also to the planet"

~~ Magino Pamella
KHEA Communications Officer,
BvAT and PELUM Uganda



KHEA Master trainers pose for a group photo during the Quality Assurance Workshop conducted by IFOAM -Organics International in Uganda

KHEA Master Trainers

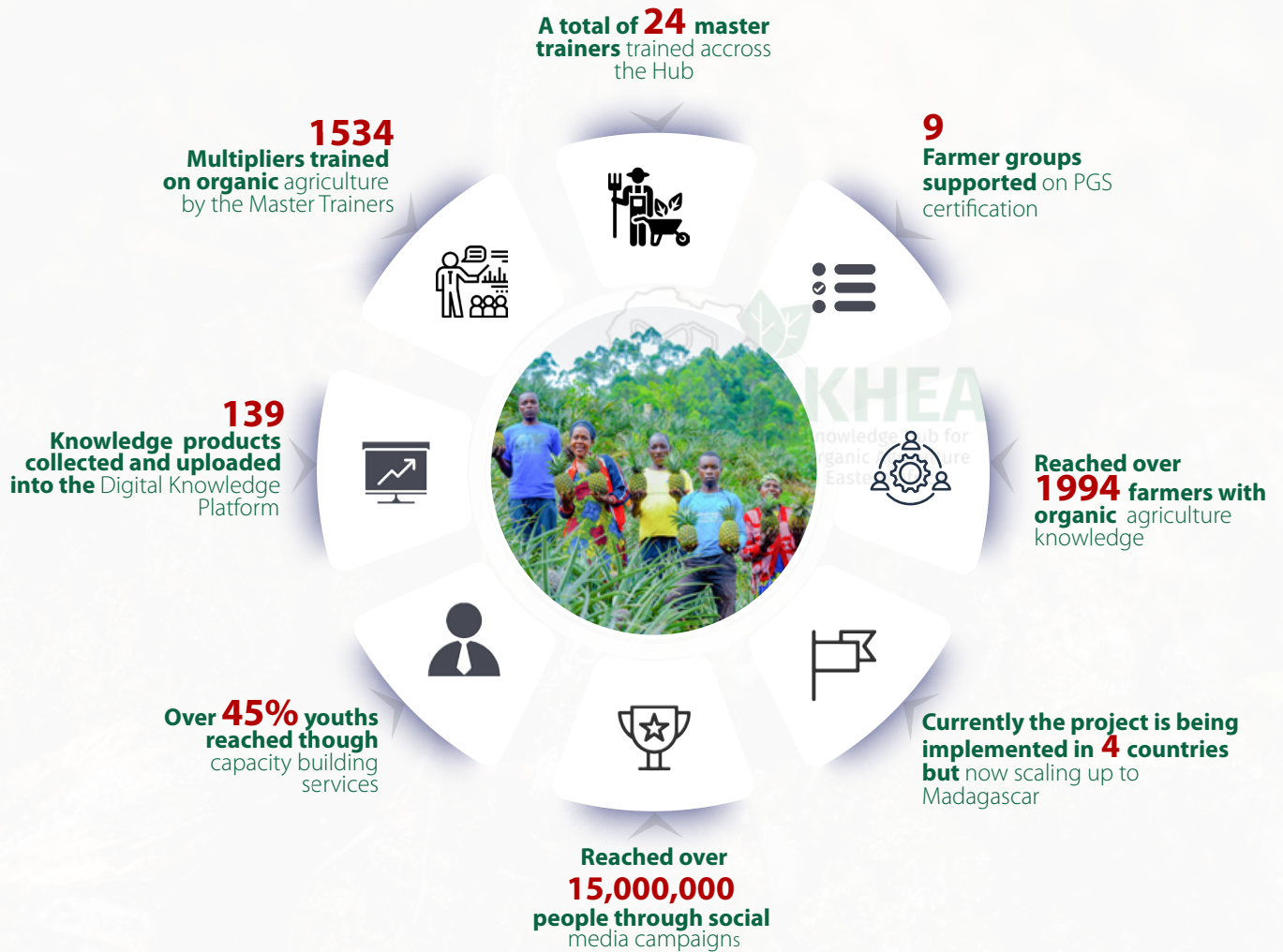
CIP	Name of Master Trainer	Email Address	Parent Organization
PELUM Uganda	Margaret Kabuye Faizo Wasswa Florence Ddumba Aringo James Hill Daniel Aliddeki Ssajjabi Robert Guloba	margie.k2011@gmail.com greenculture@gmail.com flobena2@gmail.com aringohill.j@gmail.com ssajjadaniel@yahoo.com rguloba@gmail.com	A2N AFIRD Kulika Uganda CIDI St. Jude Family Projects PELUM Uganda
Tanzania TOAM	Brigitha Didas Yohana Malecela Godfrey Mwakitwange	brigithadidas@gmail.com yohana.malecela@kilimo.org mwakitwange@yahoo.com	TOAM SAT ADP
PELUM Kenya	Esther Kiruthi Samuel Nderitu Ferdinand Wafula Samuel Ndungu Grace Misoi Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo Sylvia Kuria	cshepkenya@gmail.com growbiointensivecenterkenya@gmail.com fwafula@gmail.com ndungus@koan.co.ke misoi.grace@gmail.com n.mihindo@africaipmalliance.org sylviakuria@gmail.com	CSHEP G-BLACK BIOGI KOAN ACF Effective IPM Association Sylvia's Basket
Rwanda ROAM	Dieudonne Sindikubwabo Jules Kazungu Jean Marie Irakabaho Felicien Ndagijimana Divine Icyimpaye Diane Uwimpaye	sindikubwabod@gmail.com kjules455@gmail.com jmirakabaho@gmail.com ndagifeli@yahoo.fr icyimpayedivine7@gmail.com uwimpayed@gmail.com	ROAM RCID POSADA SINA ROAM ARCOS

Roles of the KHEA Master trainers;

- i). They train at country level after receiving training at regional level based on a specific curriculum
- ii). Build capacity of practitioners, farmers, and other actors
- iii). Set standards for capacity building
- iv). Promote knowledge generation and sharing in the community

KHEA Project Achievements

Phase I: August 2019 - June 2022



“ *For any project it’s worth recognising outstanding achievements* ”

~~ Magino Pamella
KCOA-KHEA Communications Officer, BvAT and PELUM Uganda



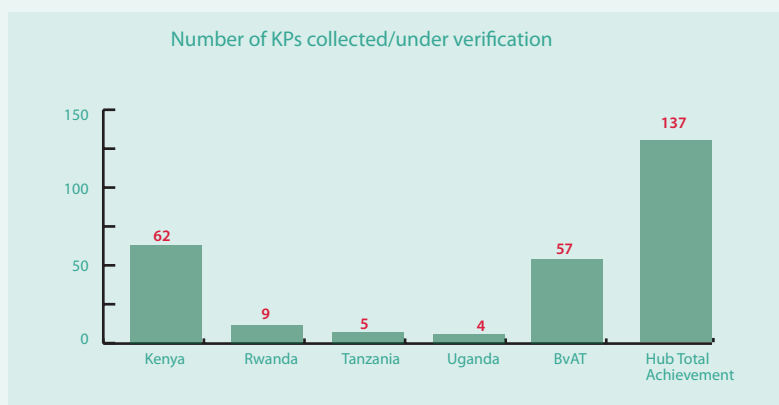
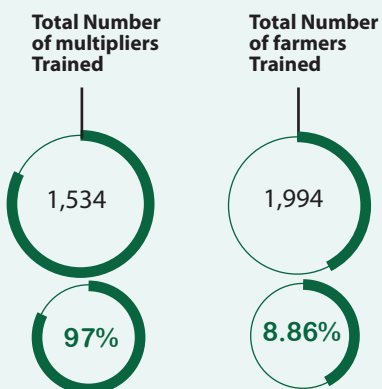
Joseph Nyamesegere
KHEA Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, BvAT

Numbers Reached through the KCOA-KHEA Project

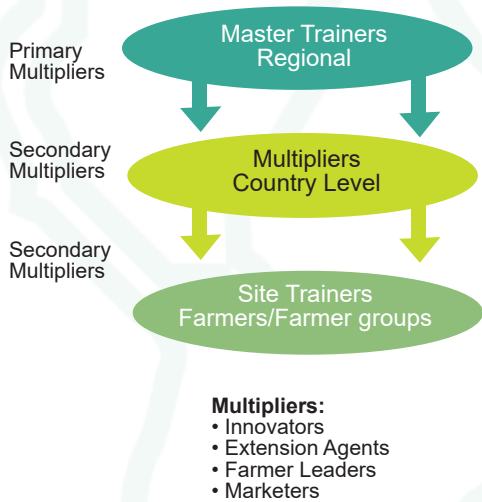
The KCOA- KHEA Project aims at disseminating knowledge on organic agriculture to different potential users such as the Master Trainers, Multipliers and the Farmers at different levels. As at the end of Phase I , the project had disseminated this knowledge to the various latter users physically.

Achievement

- To-date, the KCOA-KHEA Project has across the region (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda) trained 24 Master trainers, 1,534 Multipliers (646 Female, 888 Male). So far this is 97% with 43.59% being youths.
- A total of 1,994 (1,259 female and 735 male) farmers trained with 31.09% being youths. These are expected to be the game changers in the organic agricultural sector. The project is set to continue with capacity building sessions in Phase II (2022-2024) and targets to reach 1,587 multipliers and 22,500 farmers. The game changer in this case are the actors of the knowledge hub and their networks in the Eastern region strengthened in their role of promoting organic agriculture and agroecology.

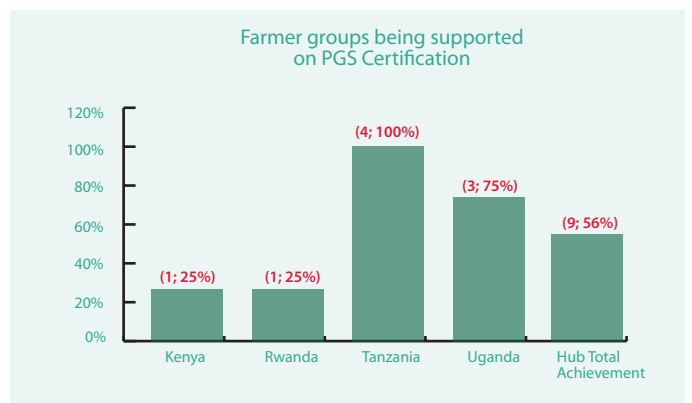
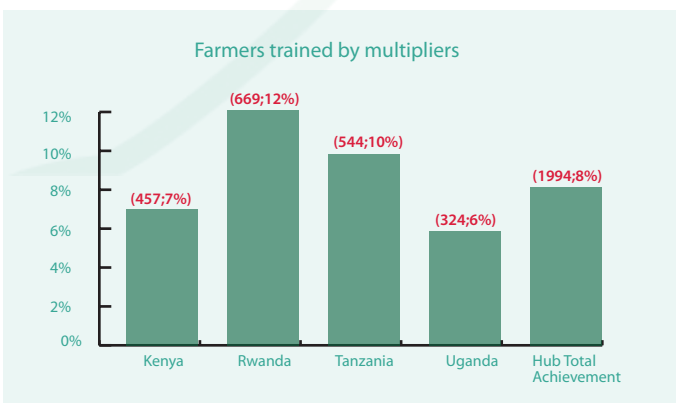
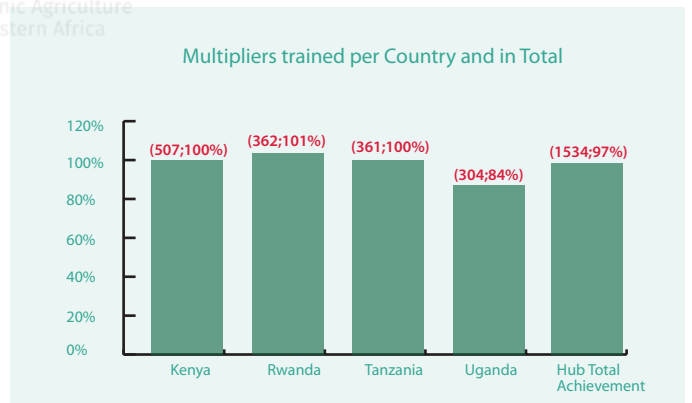
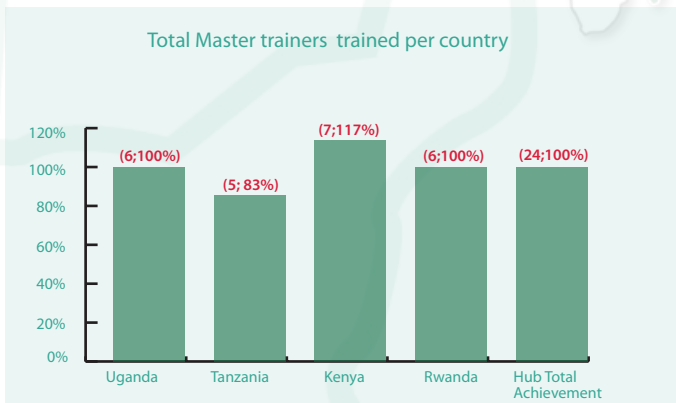


The Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) Approach



The second strategy of knowledge dissemination and capacity building involves the development of a holistic, context specific and gender sensitive extension system for knowledge sharing with various target groups along the value chain based on the target groups' needs and constraints. Under this approach various multipliers are trained on how to access and use knowledge of the repositories, how to use the various tools to disseminate the knowledge to other diverse target groups and how to catalyze and strengthen local markets supported by local affordable certification systems. These multipliers include: rural service providers (RSPs), innovators, entrepreneurs, model farmers, among others, known for mobilizing community action within the organic sector.

The ToToF approach has 2 main levels of capacity building as well as a monitoring and post training levels. The 1st level involves training of Master Trainers nominated by the sub-hub partners from each of the four countries at the regional level. The Master Trainers roll out the multiplier effect approach. These are officers already working in the ecological organic sector under the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative. The second level training involves selection and training of field officers working with Ecological Organic Agriculture partners under the project. They are capacitated by Master Trainers with knowledge and skills to apply the multiplier effect of reaching out to hundreds of farmers and other key actors across the promoted value chains.





KHEA Country Implementing Partners

- PELUM Uganda
- PELUM Kenya
- ROAM Rwanda
- TOAM Tanzania
- **Madagascar (Scaling up in Phase II)**

CIP ADDRESSES

PELUM Uganda

Plot 37/37 A, Martyrs Way, Ntinda
P.O. Box 35804, Kampala - Uganda
Tel: +256 414 533973, +256 751 785602
pelumuganda@pelumuganda.org
pelumuganda@yahoo.com
Contact person: Josephine Akia Luyimbazi
Project CO-Host Coordinator /
Country Coordinator
Tel: +256772829505
Email: josephineakia@pelumuganda.org

PELUM Kenya

P.O. Box 6123 – 01000,
Off Thika Superhighway exit 14, along Kenyatta
Road, KU Boma Estate, House Number 114
Tel: +254 709 746 939
Email: pelumkenya@pelum.net
Contact Person: Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator
Tel: +254 718371293
Email: rosinah@pelum.net

Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)

Gikondo, Kigali City, KK 4Ave
Kicukiro District, Kigali City
P.O Box 6886 Kigali - Rwanda
Contact Person: Lise Chantal Dusabe
Country Coordinator
Tel: +250 788 848 454
Email: lisechantal@roam.org.rw

Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)

Skyways Building, 3rd Floor
Ohio/ Sokoine Drive
P.O Box 70089, Dar es Salaam
TEL: +255710267652
Email: toam@kilimohai.org
Contact Person: Bakari Mongo
Country Coordinator
Tel: +255 684 441 790
Email: mongobr66@gmail.com



Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda

Some of the indigenous foods exhibited during the annual food fair

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda is a network organization with 66 member organisations with presence in 122 districts of Uganda reaching over 3 million small holder farmers, It is affiliated to the PELUM Association, a regional network of over 280 like-minded organizations in 12 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Association works to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and sustainability of rural communities by fostering ecological land use management.

Professionalism:

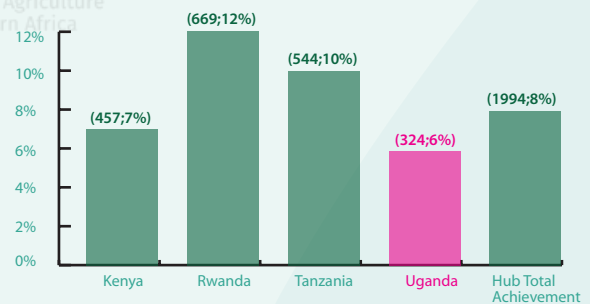
The professionalism we expect from our team is a collection of traits that when put together make up an exceptional employee, and in turn, a successful organization. These traits include; reliability, competence, dependability, respect and integrity.

Innovation:

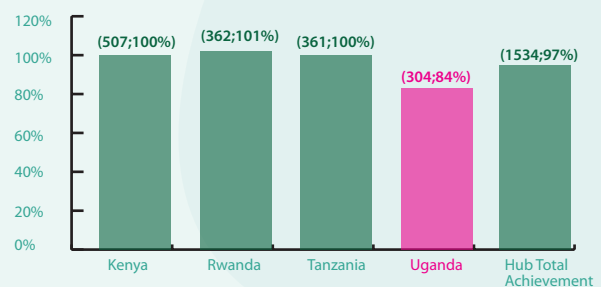
Finding effective solutions requires innovative thinking combined with a programmatic approach.



Farmers trained by multipliers



Multipliers trained per Country and in Total



Uganda



Our Identity

PELUM Uganda is network of stakeholders acting together to promote agroecology among small holder farming communities in Uganda



Our Vision:

Empowered and resilient smallholder farming communities in Uganda sustainably utilising their natural resources



Our Mission:

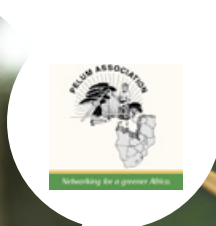
To enhance the effectiveness of smallholder farming communities practicing agroecology through capacity building, research and innovation, networking and advocacy for equitable improvement in their livelihoods.



Our Core Values :

Accountability:

Accountability and transparency are central to all of our actions and use of resources



Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya

Marketing linkages by PELUM Kenya

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network comprising 56 Member Organizations (M.O.s). PELUM Kenya works with its Member Organizations to promote agroecological principles and management practices for improved livelihoods among small-scale farmers and pastoralists in Kenya. Its members mandate PELUM Kenya to promote Ecological Land Use Management (elum) practices and principles in Kenya through networking and capacity building, information sharing, and advocacy.

The members of PELUM Kenya are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and other networks working with small-scale farmers in agroecology.



Vision: Empowered, prosperous and healthy communities in Kenya



Mission: To Promote agroecological principles and practices through member organizations for sustainable livelihoods

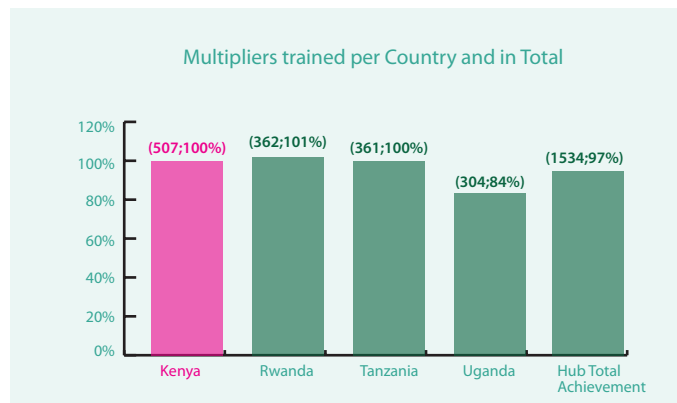


CORE VALUES

01. Commitment to partnership, participation, and networking
02. Commitment to gender equity and social inclusion
03. Transparency and accountability
04. Quality service delivery of smallholder farmers and pastoralists communities in Kenya.

PELUM KENYA STRATEGIC FOCUS 2021-2025

- i. Institutional Strengthening, Networking & Capacity Development
- ii. Policy Influence & Advocacy on Agroecological Practices
- iii. Agro-enterprise and Market Development
- iv. Climate change resilience and Natural resource management
- v. Gender and Youth Inclusion in Agroecology



 Kenya



Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)

ROAM farmers conduct a practical session on compost making

The Rwanda Organic Agricultural Movement (ROAM) is a National Umbrella Organization for producers, farmers, processors, exporters and importers involved in organic agriculture and other related value chain development in Rwanda.

ROAM was established in 2007 and started to operate as a legally registered non-governmental organization in 2014. ROAM has at least 1000 members who work in organic production, processing and marketing of organic coffee, tea, fruit and vegetables, potatoes, beans, cassava, the essential oil, etc.



Vision
Develop and Promote the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) as a Farming Method that Sustains the Health of Soils, Ecosystems and People



Mission
Vibrant and Sustainable Organic Agriculture Systems that contribute to a healthy environment, better livelihood, food security, safe nutrition and a growing consumer market.

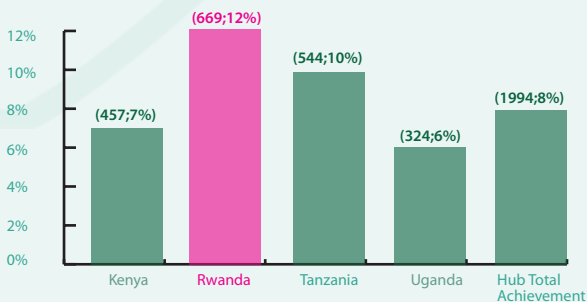


Core value:
01. Professionalism
02. Integrity
03. Accountability
04. Creativity



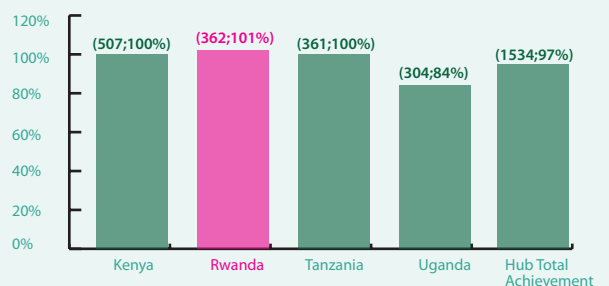
The vision of the National Agricultural Policy is for Rwanda to become "a nation that enjoys food security, nutritional health and sustainable agricultural growth from a productive, green and market-led agricultural sector."

Farmers trained by multipliers



Rwanda

Multipliers trained per Country and in Total





Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)



TOAM Multiplier conducts a participatory practical session of making bio pesticides

Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) is a membership based NGO registered on 14th May in 2005 under the NGO Act of 2002. As a National umbrella organization, TOAM aims at providing leadership and coordination in developing and promoting the organic agriculture sector in Tanzania.

TOAM has 115 members comprising of different institution including; farmers organizations (associations and cooperatives), no-government organizations (NGOs), organic operators, companies, distributors, researchers and traders.

TOAM works under the following thematic areas

- Food, Nutrition and Health
- Food and Seed Sovereignty
- Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity
- Gender and Youth Empowerment
- Value Chain and Market Development
- Advocacy



Vision

TOAM envisage a Vibrant Ecological Organic Agriculture sector that provides opportunities for sustainable and mutually beneficial livelihoods to all people in Tanzania.



Mission

TOAM is an umbrella organization that coordinates and promotes the development of Ecological Organic Agriculture sector in Tanzania, through networking and information dissemination for the benefit of ecological biodiversity, resilience, food security, and the health of producers and consumers.



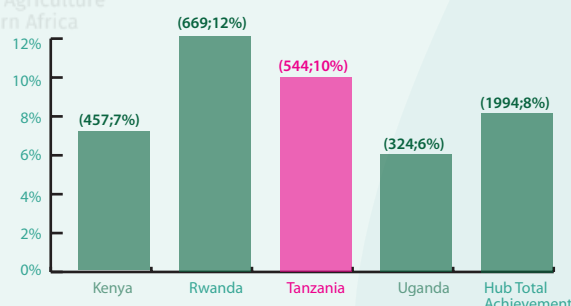
Core Values

- Encourage gender equity
- Responsive to demands
- Fair representation
- Trust, integrity and reliability
- Transparency
- Teamwork
- Cost effectiveness
- Innovative
- Evidence based
- Independent

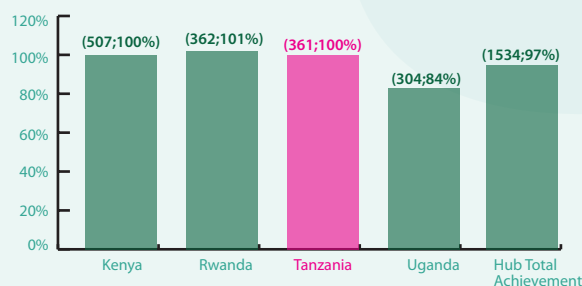
KHEA

Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa

Farmers trained by multipliers



Multipliers trained per Country and in Total



Tanzania

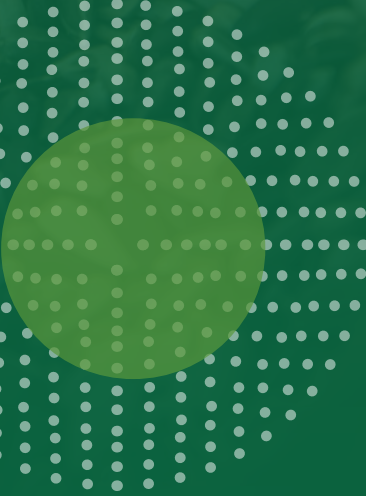


Highlights of the KCOA-KHEA Project Phase I

(August 2019 - June 2022)

Focus Area One

Collecting/Preparing and Validating Organic
Agriculture Knowledge





Hudson Werah

KHEA Regional Knowledge Manager, BvAT

Organic Agriculture Knowledge Management

Agricultural knowledge exchange, learning and innovation are rapidly evolving. Inevitably, all the involved people – farmers, advisors, researchers, and trainers are facing challenges in adjusting to this paradigm shift.

Indigenous knowledge, along with western-based knowledge, helps create development solutions that are culturally acceptable to the farmers. However, the advent of the information era has in some way overwhelmed farmers. It is imperative that traditional knowledge and the scientific innovations and technologies developed are systematically accessed in suitable formats to aid them.

Below is what the KCOA – KHEA Project achieved during the first phase to support this.

A) Knowledge Product Collection

The project has put together knowledge products in different formats addressing different topics on organic agriculture. A total of 139 Knowledge Products (KPs) were collected across the 4 countries by the different CIPs. These KPs were mostly from the CIPs themselves, Associate Partners, Member Organizations, Master Trainers, and Multipliers. All KPs collected were kept in a regional repository, awaiting verification and validation on the digital platform.

The knowledge products collection draws from both traditional and scientific expertise. Some of the outstanding KPs are those that are about desert locust menace prepared by ICIPE and a series of manuals by BvAT on how to organically cultivate the different crops.

B) Knowledge Quality Assurance

(i) KHEA Knowledge Management Strategy;

This is a critical document that will provide guidance on the entire knowledge management process in the region. The KM Strategy was developed with key guides and tools for different KM processes at the country level-tools for constituting the country validation committees, reporting on knowledge products collected, developing new knowledge products, Knowledge Management flow at the hub level, etc.

(ii) Country Validation Committee;

All the 4 CIPs identified experts to make up the Country Validation Committees (CVCs). The CVCs are composed of experienced and practicing individuals with expertise ranging across the different thematic areas covered by the knowledge products. There was a regional induction meeting for all the CVC members from the 4 CIPs, followed by a country specific induction meeting for CVC members in each country to ensure that everyone understands their role.

(iii) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) trainings;

These trainings were conducted for all the four-country implementing partners (CIPs) and other partners at the country level. These trainings are key in building the capacities on issues governing both legal and social aspects of dealing with the knowledge from third parties as well as protecting that generated from within the project.



C) Digital Knowledge Platform for Organic Agriculture

In promoting timely access to, and use of data, information, and experiences in organic agriculture, the KCOA project is developing a digital knowledge platform – a repository of knowledge products in different formats across the continent on different aspects of organic agriculture. The platform will offer a unique space for self-promotion, networking, and inspiration for the multiplier network. During the first phase, database integration for knowledge management was successfully completed and now other features for the multiplier network are being developed.

The KCOA Digital Knowledge Platform Functionalities



Kenya's Country Validation Committee Members

“

Growing up, I was dazzled by my grandmother’s knowledge of the land whenever we visited her back in the village in western Kenya. “She could tell it was going to rain by merely reading the clouds and listening to the wind. By observing the birds’ migration, tree leaves and or their fruits and flowers she could predict the onset of rains or lack of it

~~ Says Hudson Shiraku.

”

Desert Locust (DL) Awareness Campaigns

The Desert Locust (DL), *Schistocerca Gregaria* (Forsk.) is arguably the most destructive agricultural pest globally. Favourable ecological and weather conditions can lead to rapid desert locust development, migration and spread across multiple countries, making this a major transboundary pest of great importance. The causes of sporadic developments and migrations of swarms of this magnitude are not fully understood, but it is widely agreed to be linked to favourable climate conditions and limited ability to implement early preventive interventions in far-to-reach

primary breeding areas. Different CIPs across the KHEA region conducted study findings and awareness campaigns which revealed that the DL invasion had both positive and negative effects on farmers – agriculturalists and pastoralists. This was to ensure that key stakeholders are prepared for the likely invasions. The different IEC materials provide information for use by frontline extension officers and farmers and to assist them to understand the desert locust developments, migration, and the most useful actions to be introduced. The document also helps to correct some misconceptions about this insect.

Some of the different promotional materials that the different CIPs prepared for the DL awareness campaign



TOAM brochures on Desert locusts campaign were distributed to different stakeholders during the validation workshop of the DL report

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Policy Makers:

Mobilization of resources to implement key policies and plans relevant to promotion of healthy agroecosystems and the mapping of key ecologically sensitive areas in all sub regions that are recipient to desert locusts. Integrate any existing policy interventions in the national planning frameworks and processes.

To Development Partners [FAO, BMZ, etc.] :

There is need to support Governments to mobilise resources for implementing key policies, implement programmes and projects and plans that aim to promote healthy agroecosystems in desert locust prone areas – healthy agroecosystems are effective desert locust control measures.

To Local Governments:

In order to enable future targeted pests' prevention and control, there is need to undertake a mapping of all the agroecosystems in their areas of jurisdiction, emphasizing those that lie in ecologically sensitive areas. In order to reduce the harmful effects of chemical spraying of desert locusts, there is need to benchmark all the pre-existing (traditional) desert locust prevention and control measures and integrate the activities in the District Disaster management plans. Formulate and enforce agroecosystems ordinances and bylaws with a view of building healthy and sustainable agroecosystems functions and services capable of managing future pest invasions.



PELUM Uganda abridged version of the Desert locusts report were distributed to different stakeholders during the validation workshop of the DL report



PELUM Kenya posters on Desert locusts campaign were distributed to different stakeholders during the validation workshop of the DL report

Access Agriculture Videos

Access Agriculture, an international partner on the KCOA-KHEA Project supports organic farming and agroecology. By translating videos to local languages, this enables global and local access to quality training videos and above all showing impacts on rural livelihoods.

The role of AA on the project is to build capacity of actors by translating and disseminating videos on organic farming across Africa into local languages by focusing on three areas, namely; Outreach, Network and knowledge sharing and monitor video distribution and use.

Through these videos AA mobilises platforms, media, social networks and partners across Africa to build the capacity of farmers and integrate organic farming into society as a whole.

Key achievements in terms of videos translated per country

- **Uganda:** 100 videos translated: 45 in Ateso and 55 in Luganda
- **Rwanda:** 100 videos translated in Kinyarwanda
- **Kenya:** 35 videos translated: 21 in Kikuyu and 14 in Dholuo
- **Tanzania:** 30 videos translated in Kiswahili

With support from AA, a total of 265 videos have been translated across the KHEA region. During farmer trainings, these videos are used to exhibit the different organic farming practices.

We call upon different stakeholders that e-extension is the way to go. Farmer training videos will fill in the knowledge and skills gaps if used consistently.

Our next plan especially for phase II is to translate an additional 25 videos for each common language of Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar, Tanzania and Rwanda. The objective is to increase the library of translated videos for young entrepreneurs.

~~ Jane Nalunga
Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERA)
Team Facilitator/Coach, Access Agriculture



Knowledge for
Organic Agriculture
in Eastern Africa

Highlights of the KCOA-KHEA Project Phase I

(August 2019 - June 2022)

Focus Area two

Capacity Building and Dissemination of Organic
Agriculture Knowledge

Organic Agriculture Demo Plots Webinar for KHEA organized by FiBL, NRC Malawi, BvAT

Irene Kadzere from FiBL takes participants through an overview of the webinar series on demo plots

The webinar 'Designing, establishing and managing organic demonstration plots: Module 1 – background, designing and field establishment and Module 2 – field establishment and management' was held on 20th and 21st April 2022.

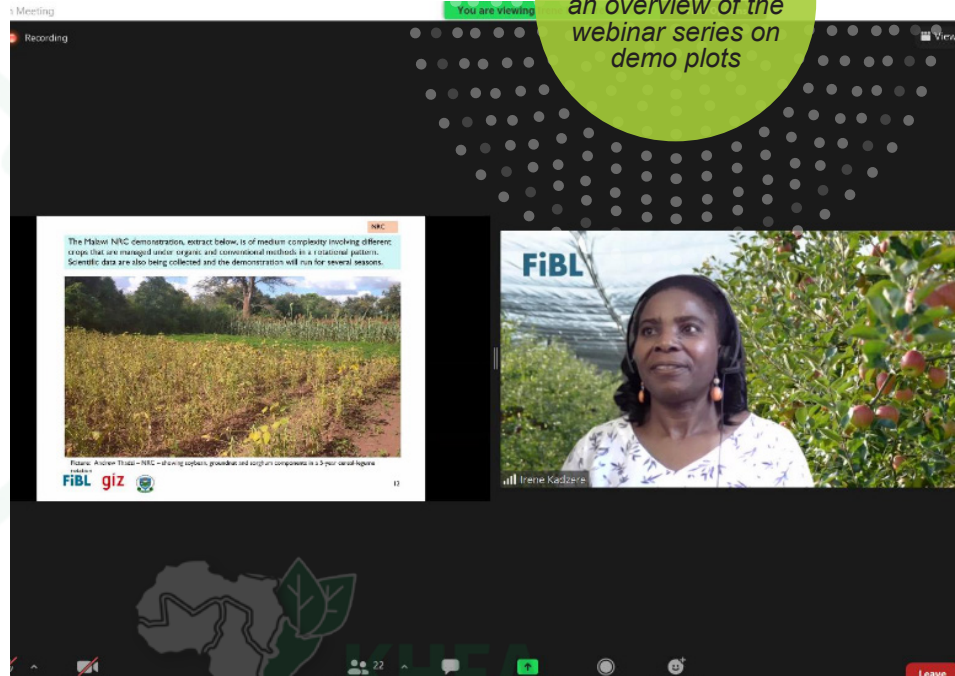
Through a partnership with FiBL, the KCOA-KHEA Project has been implemented since August 2019- June 2022. In East Africa, demonstration farms and Centers of Excellence at strategic sites are an important component of the programme and offer visual hands-on ways to effectively introduce and raise awareness on organic agriculture (OA) and its benefits. Proper planning, design, establishment and management of such learning centres are often underestimated with some critical considerations overlooked.

The objectives of the webinars were to: share and exchange on key aspects of OA demonstration plots like designing and successful implementation and management, data and information collection, and dissemination of knowledge and lessons.

The training content was drawn from the experiences and lessons from collaborative initiatives such as the Kenya SysCom project and Malawi NRC College demo plots on organic agriculture.

The training was jointly prepared and delivered by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and the Natural Resources College of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANR – NRC), Malawi.

The KCOA-KHEA Project organised the event including inviting the participants and moderating the event and up to 24 participants attended the webinar during the two days.



In the upcoming Phase II of the KCOA-KHEA Project as a build up from these webinars, there is scope in integrating some of the key components of the webinar into the existing and future demonstration farms and Centers of Excellence at strategic sites in the East Africa KCOA Hub. If needed, and planned for, FiBL will be happy to support the process in possible technical ways.

Demo plots can be an important tool for introducing innovations, learning and disseminating knowledge and information on organic agriculture.

However, they need to address contextual local challenges/problems and be open for modification depending on the demands and emerging needs of the target group(s). At the beginning, the main objectives and expected duration of the demo plots need to be decided upon in order to assure that the necessary support mechanisms are available and that the land can be available for this duration too.

The main questions/comments raised by the participants are as follows:

1. How to motivate farmers into implementing or hosting demo plots on organic agriculture – can it be monetary, or compensation through production inputs, etc.
2. How can farmers/stakeholders be stimulated to better appreciate the benefits of demos?
3. Facilitating exchange visits – use of farmers' caravan, participation in practical sessions at the demos, etc.
4. Demos where farmers can see the value of organic by observing and learning about the whole or full value chain of organic.
5. Demo plots webinars as a tool for organic master trainers and supported with online platforms of information e.g. FiBL booklets (also other platforms such as INFONET).

KHEA Farmers' Caravan in Uganda

In Uganda, from 13 to 18 February 2022, 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.



KHEA Multipliers and farmers board the bus set up for the caravan



KHEA Project team briefs the press ahead of the farmers' caravan

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 the KHEA team. 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, KHEA Project 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.

Achievements

- The Farmers’ Caravan had an important traditional main stream media reach and high social media activity.
- #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. #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.



One of the director at Nguru farm briefs participants



Participants doing practical session of bio fertilizers at St jude family projects



One of the caravan participants weeding the pineapple farm at Mlinza



PELUM Uganda, Some of the KHEA project team pose for a group photo on the caravan climax day



Lise Chantal Dusabe – Country Coordinator ROAM, briefs the media team after the concluded Media Envisioning workshop

Media Envisioning Workshop In Rwanda

For generations, Media has proven to be one of the most powerful game changers influencing social (cultures and lifestyles), economic and political aspects of the world. Over the year's media evolved from different outlets namely from newspapers, magazines, etc. to the present age of social media as the most prominent and effective communication tool in our time.

With the evolving use of social media especially among the youth, influencers (social lites, artists, media personnel's, etc.) are the most effective means of communication to the public mass in the present age where they are estimated to reach over 50,000 people by a single post on their social media platforms.

On component 3 of the KCOA-KHEA project: Networking within Agricultural Value Chains, (i.e. Awareness and Networking), there was need to link its activities with the most powerful tool for mass communication which is social media and the use of influencers for effective communication as regards to Organic Agriculture information dissemination and the networking of different value chain actors. Rwanda organic Agriculture Movement as the CIP for the

KCOA-KHEA Project in Rwanda organized a Stakeholders and Media Envisioning Workshop on agro-ecology/ organic agriculture at Century Park Hotel Nyarutarama on 3rd March, 2022 where different stakeholders and media houses were invited.

The objective of this event was to raise awareness of Organic Agriculture information to the public masses and mobilize media personnel in dissemination of organic agriculture information to the public.

The other objective of the workshop was to create networks and synergies amongst different stakeholders and media for the promotion and development of organic sector in Rwanda. This event was live streamed on social media of Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement and was followed by 87 people on line and 26 participants attended physically.

The Chairperson of the National Steering committee (NSC) welcomed the participants to this workshop and requested the stakeholders to work closely with media to show what is being done in the organic sector, raise awareness and advocate for an

organic policy framework to create an environment that supports the organic sector in Rwanda.

The Country Coordinator of ROAM Lise Chantal Dusabe presented an overview of ROAM as an umbrella organization that drives the organic sector at National level. The Chair of NSC thanked all the participants for attending this workshop and recommended to partner with media house in promoting organic agriculture in Rwanda to provide enough information to the audience and ensure that the message reached many and various recipients.

He invited personnel in media in such events to equip them with enough information which can help them to create needed quality content message to convey to different stakeholders and this should be governed by the passion for organic agriculture. He mentioned also that the population deserves quality organic products on local market not necessarily targeting export market. He encouraged all the participants to work together in this journey of promoting organic agriculture.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The organic sector has a number of challenges and to chieve the KHEA projected goal, media are key stake holders and play a major role in dissemination of information

#KnowWhatYouEat

Media Campaign Launched By PELUM Uganda

27th June 2022, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda a Co-Host of the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) under the lead coordinating agency Biovision Africa Trust Kenya on the KCOA-KHEA Project launched a 1 month #KnowWhatYouEat campaign with the objective of raising awareness on the dangers of consuming inorganic products among consumers.

Despite the vast amount of information available today, the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables and the benefits of healthy eating are still being ignored by the public and for that reason, we want the general public to be aware of the risks of consuming inorganic foods.

KCOA-KHEA Project Manager, a farmer, and parent– Francis Nsanga, a healthy living enthusiast is supporting this campaign. “I’m excited to be part of this campaign. Adolescents have more food options nowadays. Parents can influence and help build lifelong healthy eating habits of their children. But we need to start as early as possible to build this foundation,” he said during the launch at PELUM Uganda offices at Plot 37 & 37A Martyrs’ Way, Ntinda Kampala.

Along with the PELUM Uganda staff, KHEA Project team, the campaign was being supported by the Nation Media Group. As we know media are key stakeholders in the awareness of such campaigns, the Nation media group in particular NTV, Spark Tv, Monitor Publications, Dembe FM, KFM, The East African News paper, UBC TV, BBS TV, Smart 25 Business, Urban Tv, CBS FM, Akaboozi FM, Radio Sapientia, Bunyoro TV and many other across all regions in Uganda joined us in the drive to encourage the public to avoid consuming inorganic products.

The UN and its partners in Uganda work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. According to Sustainable Development Goal 3; Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, we have launched this campaign to solve health challenges.

#KnowWhatYouEat campaign through the KCOA-KHEA Project reached over 3,500,000 people on social media

DID YOU KNOW ?

Because of this campaign, the public is now aware and starting to adopt good organic farming practices, and consumption of health organic foods.



KHEA Farmers' caravan participant enjoys eating pineapples at Mlinza Farm

Multiplier – Farmer Engagements

Through training, farmers learn how to better manage both the business and agricultural aspects of their farms, earn more income. With significant yield increases, farmers can earn more at harvest without straining their household's cash flow and improve the local economy.



Farmers in Uganda discussing about the PGS certification



PELUM Kenya staff conducting a value chain workshop



PELUM Kenya staff conduct a farmer level monitoring visit checking progress of implementation of organic farming practices



ROAM Farmers in a practical session of compost making



ROAM Farmers pose for a photo with a complete heap of compost



Practical session in Uganda on making organic pesticides using 'omululuza'



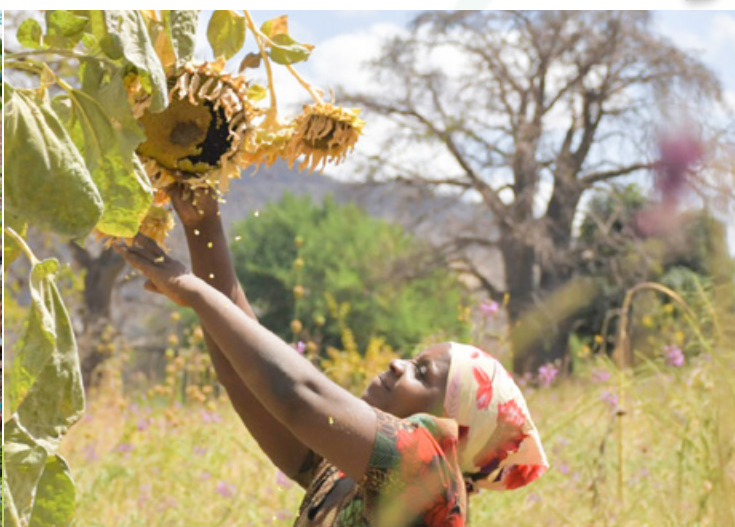
PELUM Uganda farmer practical session on making bio-slurry pellets



PELUM Kenya multipliers under going practical session on farm preparation ready for planting



Vegetable growing - an urban farming concept at St Jude family Projects Masaka

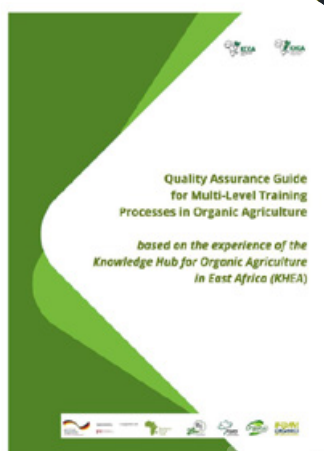


Maria Gongwe an Organic Farmer of Nzali Village-Dodoma in Tanzania harvests Sunflowers ready for oil extraction



Organic Farmers, Mahama Village-Dodoma in Tanzania, in the harvesting and production process of sun flower

KHEA & IFOAM - Organics International Quality Assurance Workshop In Uganda



Quality assurance guide

Country Specific KHEA master trainers pose for a photo with the KHEA project & IFOAM teams

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) and IFOAM - Organics International conducted a Workshop on Quality Assurance in Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) Approach under the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa

The Master Trainers under the project attended a Quality Assurance workshop by IFOAM - Organics International based in Germany, one of international partners on KCOA - KHEA Project, charged with the role of capacity building and supported by the coordinating organizations. The 3 days' workshop from 25th - 27th May 2022 took place at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe Uganda. It brought together KHEA Master trainers from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, the KHEA project management team, and IFOAM - Organics International team.

This Quality Assurance workshop

for Master Trainers stimulated debate, understanding and appreciation of the ToToF approach in impacting small holder farmers and other value chain actors.

At the closing ceremony of the workshop, Mr. Lodungokol John - Assistant. Commissioner from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Uganda gave his closing remarks and noted that, "Master trainers have the power to transform the agricultural sector in the different respective countries and across the globe."

He further stated that, "we look forward to a transformed nation adopting the organic agriculture systems."

To know more about the workshop, please visit;

biovisionafricatrust.org/the-knowledge-hub-for-eastern-africa-khea-and-ifoam-organics-international-conduct-a-workshop-on-quality-assurance-in-training-of-teams-of-facilitators-totof-approach-under-the-knowledge-centre/

Achievement

- The key success to be noted from this workshop is that a quality assurance guide for multiplier level training processes in organic agriculture is being produced based on the experiences of the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa

“**The demand for Organic products and organic markets are increasingly growing. Therefore, smallholder farmers are participating in organic value chain and agro-enterprise development.**”

~~ Annie Murimi
Fundraising & Corporate
Communications Officer, BvAT



Kenya Horticulture
Exporters Association
KHEA

Highlights of the KCOA-KHEA Project Phase I

(August 2019 - June 2022)

Focus Area Three

Networking within the Organic Agricultural
Value Chains





Participants attending the 3rd National Agroecology Actors Symposium 2021 at Silver Springs Hotel Bugolobi



The 3rd National Agroecology Actors' Symposium (NAAS) 2021 and the 11th Annual Indigenous Traditional Food and Seed Fair (IFF) 2021 in Uganda

On the 27th and 28th October 2021, PELUM UGANDA through KCOA-KHEA Project took part in the 3rd Annual National Agroecology Actors' 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.

The KHEA Project team was responsible for media and public relations in the organising committee.

KHEA Project Team coordinated and worked closely with the social media influencers under the hash tags #NAASymposiumUg as well as the #FoodSeedFairUg, 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.

KHEA
Knowledge
Organic Agriculture
in Eastern Africa

Achievement

- The KCOA-KHEA Project Team 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 with reach of over 500,000 people. As a sponsor, the KCOA-KHEA appeared on all branding materials.

Investment in agriculture is the best weapon against hunger and it has made life better for billions of people

~ By Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Agricultural Society of Kenya

- Eldoret show



An exhibitor showcases some of the organic products during the Agricultural Society Kenya Eldoret show



It is worth noting that the PELUM Kenya exhibition tent was the only one advocating for the production and consumption of organic foods among stakeholders promoting conventional agriculture.

~~ From Ratemo Bathseda ~~
KHEA Project Officer Kenya

PELUM Kenya and Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) through the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) organized farmers and Multipliers to participate in the National Agriculture show in Eldoret from 2nd to 5th March 2022 under the theme "Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade." The National event was graced by Ms. Anne Nyaga, Chief Administrative Secretary; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, H.E. Jackson Arap Mandago Governor of Uasin Gishu.

More than 627 stakeholders, pupils, and Eldoret residents visited the farmers and exhibitors. They learned about Bokashi, Folio, Composting, Seed saving, On-farm Agroforestry through fruit trees, etc. In addition, the exhibitors displayed value addition organic products not limited to ground spices (artemisia, moringa, turmeric, oranges), mursik milk, peanut butter, honey, bee wax body cream, bee wax lip balm, reed salt from River Nzoia, cassava crisps & krakies, cassava jam, millet flour, Amaranth flour, Avocado seed powder, etc.

The different organic products showcased at the exhibition tent generated public interest,

with the majority of the KHEA project multipliers and farmers selling all their products. The farmers and multipliers gained new connections and opportunities by participating in the National Show. The prices of conventional fertilizers and pesticides have risen in Kenya, creating an opportunity for organic biofertilizers and biopesticides.

The stakeholders exhibiting were: CocaCola, Kenya Seed Company, Rivatex, Western Seed Company Limited, Ikonik, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, KARLO, National Cereal Produce Board, Lesere Feeds, KEPHIS, Director of Agriculture, Eldoret National Polytechnic, KEFRI, University of Eldoret, Moi University, Mount Kenya University, K.C.C, A.F.A., Kenya Prisons Service, Kenya National Bureau of Standards, Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Uasin Gishu County), K.C.B. Bank Eldoret, Kenya Rural Roads Authority, Sayare Radio and TV, Ukulima SACCO among others.

Achievements

- Value chain actors networked and gained information that can lead to access of business development services (BDS)
- Winning the Chairman's recommendation Trophy

- There was representation from different counties under the umbrella of PELUM Kenya.
- The exhibitors were showcasing organic products, including indigenous foods.
- Teamwork.
- The MC/ DJ and music were good, and he attracted visitors to our tent.
- The event was educative with networking across various actors.
- The County Government of Uasin Gishu was impressed with Organic Agriculture, especially biopesticides and biofertilizers.
- Learned some good marketing skills and stakeholder engagements.
- The value chain actors built network that can potentially lead to market linkages and partnerships that can help in developing organic markets.
- Interested stakeholders wished to join PELUM Kenya.
- Invited to Kenya Prisons- Ngeria Farm Farmers' Show on July 2022.



1st National Agricultural Education Show at Jinja Show Grounds in Uganda

Secondary school students visiting the PELUM UGANDA & KHEA stall

UNFFE collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and other public and private sector partners to organize the 1st National Agricultural Education Show intended to bring together over 500,000 people on average and it is designed as a learning platform for learners and farmers at different levels, showcasing innovative technologies that suit the prevailing farming conditions in the country, unveiling current agricultural research, national policy advocacy platform and buying and selling agricultural goods and services. KHEA Multipliers through this show were sponsored and able to exhibit the different organic products

In addition, several schools and participants interfaced with different staff of PELUM too intrigued to understand the organic agriculture principles and agro ecology principles and best ways of implementing these practices.

The symposium was dubbed under the theme; “Transforming Food Systems with Agroecology. Unlocking the Business Opportunities for Youth” was also conducted in which the KHEA

Project team and PELUM Uganda participated during the National Agricultural Education Show 2022 with the aim of advocating and lobbying policy makers and development partners to support young people to participate in the agricultural sector.

The main objective of the show was to increase consumer awareness of organic products and knowledge through showcasing the different agroecological innovations, technologies, produce and services and also provide a platform for sharing and learning for young people (students) in organic agriculture as well as create space for the students to network with other stakeholders and be motivated about agriculture.

The expo and symposium targeted various schools, research institutions, Universities, Government agencies, departments, civil society organizations, farmers, the media, private sector, development among others as well as the multipliers under KHEA as exhibitors and schools that participated in the Inter school debate competitions.

Achievements

- The 1st National Agricultural show had an important media reach with live stream on Baba Tv see link to follow proceedings and other media houses but with high social media activity. The hash tag #AgricEducShow2022 trended number 1, twice on social media. Overall, there were 1,764 tweets created in a time frame of 5 days. 1,931 retweets were made and 158 replies were made by influencers. The show reached 5,779,123 people on social media, creating 49,679,566 impressions.
- Increased consumer awareness.
- Marketability of organic products, technologies, innovations as well as services by KHEA selected Multipliers and the KCOA Project across the region.
- Increased visibility of the KCOA-KHEA Project and its interventions but above all Multipliers & Farmers linked to potential markets for their organic produce.

Participatory Guarantee Systems

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is a low-cost, locally focused system of quality assurance of organic production with a strong emphasis on social control and knowledge building.

The PGS system certifies organic producers based on the active participation of group members and other stakeholders, such as consumers. It is built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange.



Achievements

- Recently PELUM Uganda in partnership with her member organisation ESAFF with support and funding from the KCOA-KHEA Project conducted a PGS write shop to draft a guide for farmers on how to set up PGS groups and what their requirements are to have one fully set up. This and many other successes have been registered as PGS interventions on the project.
- We have successfully supported a number of farmers to set up PGS groups across the region.
- A Farmer group selection tool for support on PGS certification was developed and CIPs are implementing.
- The KCOA-KHEA Project successfully supported a PGS group called 3000 Nooya Farmer PGS Group situated in Rongai, Kiserian, Kajjado County in Kenya, with the certificates being issued to all farmers in the Group in October 2021.

The PGS group is supported by CSHEP. They have specialized in small-scale vegetables and herbs depending on the members' interest, not limited to indigenous vegetables (saga, managu), kales, spinach, cabbage, cherry tomatoes, French beans, grapes, herbs (rosemary, lavender, jade) etc. Two members visited from the group are multipliers and have also been trained on the value chain and market development.

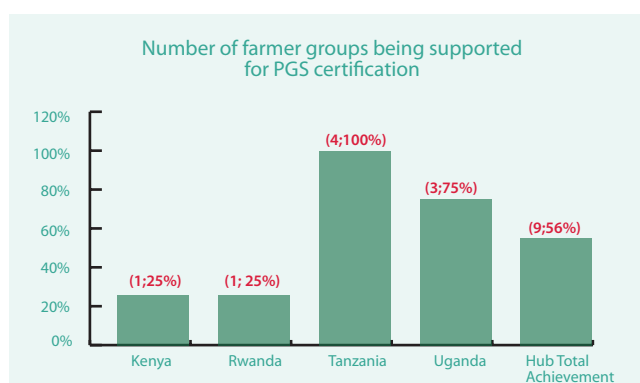
During the training of multipliers by the KCOA-KHEA Project team, the two PGS group members learned facilitation skills, Kitchen gardening, Integrated Pest Management, and Manure (Apichi, Bokashi, etc.). They have disseminated the information to fellow members on Fridays during their market day and social media through personal accounts. The group has liaised with two Master Trainers, Esther Kiruthi and Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo, on technical backstopping on various organic agriculture topics.

The PGS Group has formed various committees to manage the group;

- Peer review
- Market development
- Production
- Welfare
- Executive and
- Disciplinary

The Review Committee has four members and is vital for checks on organic production. They conduct their inspections/ spot checks once a year, but they informally meet frequently.

Country	Number of farmer groups being supported for PGS certification	Target	% Achievement
Kenya	1	4	25
Rwanda	1	4	25
Tanzania	4	4	100
Uganda	3	4	75
Hub Total	9	16	56



These groups are being trained on PGS and marketing and are taken through a process that can enable them attain certification.

Inter Country Exchange Learning videos with CIPS



Information Sharing Session on Organic Agriculture and debate at College Fondation Sina Gerard in Rwanda with Young Men & Ladies

An intercountry learning event was purely held and hosted online. This event demonstrated the resilience that the KHEA team & CIPs had amidst the wrath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

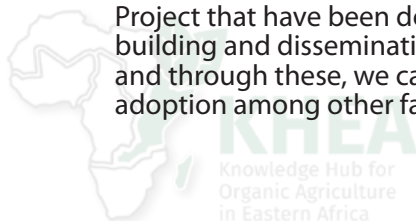
Different countries across the KHEA region conducted inter country exchange learning videos.

In these videos different countries interviewed farmers who have been trained on the project and show cased the best organic farming practices implemented as trained on the project and different results have been noticed.

For more information please visit these links;

- PELUM Uganda - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eoM08X8uUY>
- PELUM Kenya - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqbA3EW5sLQ>
- ROAM – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqbA3EW5sLQ>
- TOAM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PahpUVMq-TU&t=377s>

These are some of the many interventions on the KCOA – KHEA Project that have been done under the focus area of Capacity building and dissemination of the organic agricultural knowledge and through these, we can see knowledge exchange and adoption among other farmers.



Rwanda International Trade Fair at Gikondo EXPO ground



ROAM Communication Officer, Jeniffer Mutamuliza explains to one of the visitors at the stall about the project

ROAM the CIP Partner for the KCOA-KHEA Project participated in the Rwanda International Trade Fair Exhibition edition 2021 from 9th to 30th December 2021 at Gikondo Expo Ground Kigali with the aim of raising consumer awareness on the benefits of organic products, creating market linkages, sharing information on business opportunities available in the organic sector in Rwanda, increasing the visibility of ROAM and partners in promoting organic sector.

Achievement

- During the exhibition, different promotion materials were distributed to the visitors at ROAM's stand such as flyers and booklets that describe well the KCOA-KHEA Project and its areas of intervention. 105 people visited ROAM's stand and learned about the benefits of organic agriculture to their health and the globe at large.

My Success Story



Asiimwe Onesmus (Multiplier) Uganda

Asiimwe Onesmus was one of many farmers participating in the ten concluded KHEA farmer trainings across the region. The trainings taught him not only how to use less external inputs but also how to avoid synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

"I have incorporated organic farming practices including crop rotation, composting manure, spraying with organic pesticides such as 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," he says.



Asiimwe conducts a farmer training on good Organic agriculture practices

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.

Rebecca Musyoka a farmer located in Kithimani-Machakos while working for the Ministry of Health, Rebecca was trained in Organic Agriculture and generated interest in organic farming.

Water comes once a week from an initiated project though unreliable. During the interview, she was joined by Shadrack Brigidia, an official of Machakos Organic Farmers. It has 10 clusters in Kondo, Sophia, Matuu, Mamba, Ithango, Matungulu, Tala, Mbiyuni, Kisukioni etc. The group seels organic crops only; vegetables, fruits, and cereals. They have collection centers in Makutano, Sophia, Matuu, and Matungulu, selling as a group.

In sporadic cases, they sell direct as individual farmers. The main buyers are B&B, brokers, etc. The group already has a market, but they require more sensitization on organic agriculture.



Rebeca Musyoka (Farmer) - Kenya

My Success Story



Dorothy Kasyoka (Farmer) - Kenya

Dorothy Kasyoka a farmer from the Wendo Farmer Group located in Kitui Central, Kithambongi Village. Wendo group has 30 farmers who produce vegetables not limited to dhania, kales, spinach, manage, mchicha, pepper, mrenda, etc.

Dorothy produced on a small scale before the training on the value chain and market development, but she has now enhanced. She and her husband have now adopted organic farming through manure folio in their crops. Her husband was previously a watchman but left his job and now entirely relies on income from their farm. In addition, she learned and adopted planting cabbages, record keeping, sourcing for market before production, etc.

She and her husband now sell their produce to local markets and schools. They sell 4 sacks per day of vegetables to Kalundu Market at Kshs 4,000 per sack on Mondays and Thursdays. Daily, customers buy from their farm around Kshs 500

per day. They keep their records and have used their income to educate their children, including taking care of one disabled child.

The couple is lucky to have dug a shallow well on their farm to ensure a constant water supply. However, the water is pumped through a diesel pump which requires them to purchase the fuel at Ksh 300 daily. It can be expensive, but they use their profits to buy. The spinach and tomatoes are not doing well since pests and diseases frequently attack them. However, plans are underway for Dorothy and her husband to be trained organically through the KCOA-KHEA Project farmer-level training. Access to organic information online is a challenge since the couple does not have a smartphone.

Rebecca has disseminated the information to her husband and farmers around. She has trained over 200 farmers, and around 120 have adopted kitchen gardening to ensure food security. One of the farmers is Martha Ngina from her Wendo Group. She has now diversified and planted various crops on her farm, not limited to kales, manage, Kunde, etc. She has adopted organic practices like compost manure. The produce from her farm is mainly for household consumption, and she sells the excess to her neighbours.

She is experiencing water scarcity which is common in Kitui as she has to rely on harvested water from the rains for farming. However, she has planted drought-resistant crops and pest-resistant crops like onions, dhania, mchicha, etc.



Joseph Muli (Multiplier) - Kenya

Joseph Muli a KHEA Multiplier from Kaewa, Kathiani Sub County

The farmer participated in the training of multipliers and the training on the value chain and Market Development. He was not familiar with how to be an organic farmer. From the KHEA training conducted, I have converted to organic farming and practices such as crop diversification on my farm. I have learnt marketing skills and I can now sell my commodities.

He has adopted integrated pest management practices that he learned during the multipliers' training, ash brew, cowdung smoke, use of pepper, onions, etc. Regarding farm diversification, he now has a kitchen garden where he has started growing herbs and indigenous vegetables.

My Success Story



Nshuti Grace (Farmer) - Rwanda

Nshuti Grace is a farmer trained by ROAM on the KCOA-KHEA Project farmer's training on organic agriculture. She grows maize and beans in the eastern province of Rwanda, Ngoma District. Before the training of farmers, Grace used chemical inputs in her farm.

After learning the negative impacts of using chemical pesticides through the training she got, Grace decided to use organic inputs in her farm.

Among the positive impact of practicing organic agriculture, she learned includes: reduction of costs of chemical inputs, increased savings and that organic agriculture sustains the health of her family and the soil of which she believes her children will inherit in the future.



Yohana Chamwino (Farmer) - Tanzania

Yohana Chamwino from Chamwino distrit in Dodoma region Tanzania trained on the KCOA -KHEA project on the good organic farming pratcies especially use of bio fertisers, pesticides and seed production.

Having been a previous conventional farmer, due to the KCOA-KHEA Project, he is now an organic farmer practitioner, because of the knowledge he has received, there is improved food security. He says because of the trainings, " we have improved the health of our plants and soil health. We have also been trained on doing crop rotation as an organic farming practice."



Mrs. Salama (Multiplier) -Tanzania

Mrs. Salama was one of identified KCOA-KHEA Project multipliers in Zanzibar. She attended a training organized by TOAM under the KCOA Project which enabled her to acquire organic knowledge on, seed source, soil and plant health management, PGS and marketing which she believes will transform her agriculture practice through reducing cost of production (inputs), easy access to inputs, and produce vegetables which will be healthier and access potential markets.

After training she prepares BOKASHI Bio fertilizer and use in her plot, 0.5 acre for producing vegetable. She decided to use BOKASHI fertilizer among other biofertilizers due to its effectiveness compared to others; she said it takes short period to be ready for use. (Only 12-13 days).

Regional Organic Markets

“

The demand for organic products and markets is increasingly growing both at the local and regional levels. This has made more farmers to participate in the organic agriculture value chains, businesses and agro-enterprise development”

”



Margaret K. Arwari
Market Development and
Networking Officer,
KCOA-KHEA Project, BvAT

Markets are important. They give businesses access to cash. Markets are critical in price formation, liquidity transformation and allowing firms to service the needs of their clients.

Name of the organic market	Location (Village/District/County)	Agro commodities	Contact
I am Organic Shop	Dar es salaam (Masaki) Tanzania	Horticulture products, leguminous products, cereal crop products	Johanna Omere +255768782821
Kilimo Hai Shop	Morogoro Tanzania	Horticulture products, leguminous products, cereal crop products	Janet Maro +255754925560
Kwetu Kwenu Market	Zanzibar Tanzania	Horticulture products/spices	Miss Bernadeta +255764523530
South - East Cost Market -	Zanzibar Tanzania	Horticulture products/spices	Khamis Mohamed +255773167779
Kirwarwa Market	Gatanga, Muranga' Kenya	Vegetables Fruits Tubers (Sweet potatoes, arrowroots) Kienyeji eggs	Lawrence Gitonga +254723669212
Githumu Market	Githumu centre, Muranga' - Kenya	Vegetables Fruits Tubers (Sweet potatoes, arrowroots) Kienyeji eggs	Lawrence Gitonga +254723669212
Kangari Market	Kangari, Muranga' Kenya	Vegetables Fruits Tubers (Sweet potatoes, arrowroots) Kienyeji eggs	Lawrence Gitonga +254723669212
Garden city Market	Nairobi Kenya	Vegetables, spices, Honey, and cereals.	Esther Kiruthi +256727977009
Kiserian Market	Kiserian Kenya	Vegetables, spices, and cereals.	Esther Kiruthi +256727977009
Kiserian Market	Kiserian Kenya	Vegetables, spices, and cereals.	Esther Kiruthi +256727977009
Meru herbs shop	Tunyai, Meru. Kenya	Herbal teas, hibiscus, lemon grass, lemon	Makaris Kathanya +254722515328
Kikuyu Market	Kikuyu Kenya	Vegetable, spices and honey	Esther Kiruthi +256727977009
Garden Picks farm produce Shop	Eldoret Uasin Gishu County - Kenya	Vegetables, value added farm products	Julie Barmasai +254726054710
Sylvia's Basket Shop	Ngong Road Kenya	Vegetables, Cereals, Condiments, Flours, Fruits, Herbs & Spices, Juices, Kienyeji Eggs, Roots & Tubers etc.	Sylvia Kuria +25438211687
Foodlinx	Rugando/Gasabo Rwanda	Vegetables, value added farm products	Olexa Heshima +250 782112692
Pride Farms	Masaka Rwanda	Vegetables, value added farm products	Dani Kwizera +250 784442406
Organic Products Market	Abayita Ababiri Entebbe - Uganda	Herbal teas, hibiscus, lemon grass, lemon	Prof. Charles Ssekya +256702616988
Organic Farmers Market	Nsmya, Caritas Kampala - Uganda	Vegetable, spices and honey	Kizito Gerald Anthony +256 772 494277



KHEA
Knowledge Hub for
Organic Agriculture
in Eastern Africa



KCOA
Knowledge Centre for
Organic Agriculture
in Africa

Meet Africa's Organic Farmers



Knowledge Hub for
Organic Agriculture
in Eastern Africa

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) works with five knowledge hubs including Northern, Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa to scale up the adoption of organic agriculture in Africa over a six-year period. It has set outputs and indicators related to the performance of the hubs.

Relevant to this proposed collaborative communications campaign is Output C: Key actors in the organic agriculture value chains of the participating countries in the five regions are networking in an exemplary manner. Achieving this output rests, to some degree, on elevating the status

and recognition of organic agriculture on the continent to make visible existing organic practitioners and networks and encourage them to collaborate further in support of organics.

Meet Africa's farmers campaign aims to capture stories of change of the African organic/ agroecological smallholder farmers telling what and where they farm, and what support they need from their governments.

This campaign is currently running across Eastern Africa to raise the profiles of smallholder farmers that practice ecological organic agriculture. The campaign will serve three

primary purposes:

1. Raise awareness of KCOA across the continent.
2. Provide farmers with a platform to say what policy support they need to farm sustainably.
3. Enable us to capture statistical data on farmer needs, which can be used to support calls for policy change in each country and on the continent.

“
When it comes to biodiversity in nature, Africa is a continent that embraces it all. From the variety in soils, animals, and plants, to the climate and cultures, the continent's wealth in biodiversity is undeniable. With it being largely an agricultural continent where about 70% of the population is employed within the sector, Africa has a long history in organic and agro-ecological farming practices.”
”



Name: Mukasa Muhawiya
Speciality: Rabbitry & Fruits
Country: Uganda



Name: Dr. Diana Nambatya Nsubuga
Speciality: Urban Farmer - Vegetables
Country: Uganda



Name: Jemimah Ngina
Speciality: Organic Vegetables. Country: Kenya



Name: Kanini Farmer Katangi
Speciality: Compost manure
Country: Kenya



Name: Uragiwenimana Pelagie
Speciality: Pineapple growing
Country: Rwanda



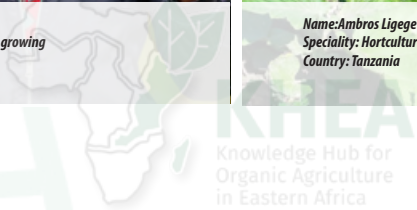
Name: Leonidas Joridi
Speciality: Strawberry growing
Country: Rwanda



Name: Ambros Ligege
Speciality: Horticulture
Country: Tanzania



Name: Rangi ya Kijani Group
Speciality: Avocado
Country: Tanzania



Through the farmers' voices, we want to generate public debate around the type of agricultural systems we have in Africa can influence policymakers to adopt and/or implement legislation and programmes that support sustainable agriculture.

There are an estimated 33 million smallholder farmers in Africa making them an influential voting block – in

many countries they are also responsible for producing most of the food consumed.

The hubs are already generating communication materials and are, through the process of training and of gathering knowledge for validation, interacting regularly with large groups of farmers. This provides an opportunity to gather farmer 'voices' and also to collate their calls for support into a data-rich

report that can be submitted to decision makers at the country and African Union levels.

This provides us with a unique opportunity to gather their voices and opinions on what policy support they need.

“

The overall goal of the campaign is to generate a combined call for policy support for organic agriculture – at the country and African Union levels, targeting consumers, policymakers, advocacy groups, and relevant non-governmental organisations that can influence governments to adopt ecological organic agriculture in their agricultural systems “

”



~
Magino Pamella
KCOA-KHEA-Communications
Officer, BvAT and
PELUM Uganda

A Call to the Line Ministries

Organic agriculture has grown outside public support and in some cases with limited government support.

Legislations are nowadays formulated in many developing countries to facilitate exports of organic products to developed countries that have strict organic legislations. Technical barriers to trade are feared.

Lucrative markets and high demand for organic food do however stimulate government efforts to promote organic trade. Much needs to be done in establishing conditions that give equal opportunities for producers and equivalency among different national standards.

The focus on certified organic products (and attendant costs and risks) has distracted attention on this system's potential to contribute to local food security, especially in low-potential areas in developing countries. Market-driven organic agricultural policies need to be complemented with organic agriculture policies that target local food security. For both certified organic agriculture and non-market organic production, the major benefit to be derived from government and international organizational support is



“The willingness of farmers to experiment and of consumers to pay premiums on organic food represents a major private investment in the sector. IFOAM has been instrumental in nurturing the movement through voluntary standards.”

from adequate research and education. This would entail a shift of capital investments from hard to soft technologies - that is, from agricultural inputs (private goods) to knowledge building (a public good). This is a major challenge.

Governments are called upon to support the growth of the organic agriculture sector and proper structures put in place that can support increased consumer awareness and consumption and trade of the organic products even through

budget allocations and policy formulation.

Many NGOs are today active in promoting organic agriculture in Eastern Africa. Growing environmental consciousness and fears of health hazards of conventional food has spawned domestic consumption of organic food.



Mr. Lodungokol John-Assistant Commissioner from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Uganda gives his remarks during the KCOA-KHEA Farmers' Caravan-PELUM Uganda



Lessons Learned

- i. For impact, farmers need to be supported effectively and consistently by multipliers.
- ii. Proper planning on activity implementation by the implementing partners and coordinating partners brings about smooth and effective implementation of relevant activities.

Key Resources

These include publications, newsletters, and media presence

KCOA Newsletters



Issue 1- Dec 2021:

<https://biovisionafricatrust.org/giz-knowledge-centre-for-organic-agriculture-in-africa-newsletter-issue-no-1-december-2021/>

Issue 2 - Apr 2022:

<https://biovisionafricatrust.org/giz-knowledge-centre-for-organic-agriculture-in-africa-newsletter-issue-no-2-april-2022/>

Some of the Media Publications

01. <https://www.biovision.ch/en/news/biovision-africa-takes-lead-for-knowledge-hub-for-organic-agriculture/>
02. <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/the-impact-of-the-khea-farmer-trainings-on-good-organic-agriculture-productivity-in-uganda/>
03. <https://cioafrica.co/pelum-uganda-kickstarts-farmers-caravan-for-cdk-platform/>
04. <https://www.secondopinion.co.ug/pelum-to-skill-organic-farmers-to-improve-on-agricultural-practices/>
<https://chimpreports.com/farmers-organic-agriculture-caravan-kicks-off-today/>
05. <https://softpower.ug/khea-holds-agroecology-debate-in-schools-to-promote-organic-farming/>
06. <http://trustednewsug.com/index.php/2022/02/14/pelum-khea-launch-a-caravan-to-boost-organic-farming-knowledge-market-access/>
07. <https://www.pmldaily.com/oped/2021/10/stella-lutalo-pelum-uganda-and-partners-promoting-organic-food-and-farming-for-better-production-better-nutrition-a-better-environment-and-a-better-life.html>
08. <https://www.ntv.co.ug/ug/features/kickstarter-promoting-organic-agriculture-in-eastern-africa-3717232>
09. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/magazines/farming/farmers-hold-organic-farming-caravan-3745310>
10. PELUM Uganda, partners promote organic food, farming for better production, nutrition, environment, life - <https://www.xclusive.co.ug/pelum-uganda-partners-promote-organic-food-farming-for-better-production-nutrition-environment-life/>
11. Organic agriculture offers viable options against COVID through improved nutrition, poverty reduction [http://www.sunrise.ug/news/202110/organic-agriculture-offers-viable-options-against-covid-through-improved-nutrition-pover ty-reduction.html](http://www.sunrise.ug/news/202110/organic-agriculture-offers-viable-options-against-covid-through-improved-nutrition-pover-ty-reduction.html)
12. <https://www.pmldaily.com/oped/2021/10/stella-lutalo-pelum-uganda-and-partners-promoting-organic-food-and-farming-for-better-production-better-nutrition-a-better-environment-and-a-better-life.html>



**PHOTO
GALLERY**

KNEA

Kenya National Extension Agency
Promoting Agricultural Extension in Eastern Africa

Gallery



ROAM Farmers weeding the pineapple farm



Illustrations being conducted on compost preparation to the participants of KHEA farmers' caravan in Uganda



Value chain workshop in Nanyuki - PELUM Kenya

Farmer-Level monitoring visit in Teso North Sub- County to Farmers' Group who were trained by ADS Western Multipliers in Kenya

Gallery



Tanzania farmers doing practical session on preparing biochar a soil fertiliser



KHEA Farmers from Uganda doing practical session on bokashi a soil fertiliser



KHEA Multiplier and a participant from Uganda enjoy a light moment consuming organic jack fruits at Mlinza farm during the KHEA Farmers Caravan



Participants visit the exhibition desk of PELUM Kenya during the Ask Eldoret Show in Eldoret



Participants visit the different exhibition desks during the Forum on Market Linkages in Kenya



KHEA Multiplier exhibits decomposed organic matter at the permaculture centre at ST Jude Family Projects -PELUM Uganda



Grace High School students showcase the organic vegetables they have grown just after the concluded inter school debate competitions on agro ecology and organic farming - PELUM Uganda



Biogas plant at the KHEA multiplier's farm. Slurry got from cowdung is used in production of biofertilisers



Participants visit the exhibition desk of PELUM Kenya during the ASK Eldoret show in Kenya



High school students visit the exhibition tent of KHEA during the 1st National Agricultural Education Show-PELUM Uganda

Farmer exhibits some of the rabbits he rears - PELUM Uganda during the KHEA Farmers Caravan



Pineapple drying; Value addition/use of technology in organic agriculture seen during the farmers' caravan.



Press Conference about the farmers' caravan held by some members of the PELUM Uganda KHEA Project team



Some participants learn about decomposting at balimisa Vanilla farmer during the farmers' caravan in Uganda

Gallery



Pambanua Group, from Chamwino District-Dodoma in Tanzania prepare compost manure ready to be applied to the farm



Participatory practical session of farmers doing bio-pesticides in Tanzania

Our Partnerships

We are moving places with your support. Thank you

Implemented by



Coordinated by



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Feel free to reachout to the KHEA Project team should you have any futher inquiries.

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International Partners

PARTNER				
ROLE ON THE KHEA PROJECT:	Ensuring quality training	Collect, organize, and validate organic agriculture information and knowledge	Collect, organize, and validate organic agriculture information and knowledge	Video translation

Associate Partners

(These work hand in hand with CIPs)



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Associate Partners

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SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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