

THE AGROECOLOGY POST

Amplifying Stories of African Journalists
and Communicators

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 007



**AGROECOLOGY
IS PEOPLE'S ROUTE
TO AFRICA'S FOOD
SOVEREIGNTY**

Remarks from Editor in Chief:

We are really proud and excited to share this special edition of the Agroecology Post, which is a collection of articles written by journalists on the subject of agroecology, a subject that is becoming more and more important on a worldwide scale as we address issues like food security, climate change, and sustainable agriculture. Agroecology is essentially a holistic strategy that aims to balance agricultural operations with ecological principles, rather than merely being a farming system. It includes not just the production of food but also the welfare of farmers, the condition of our soils, the protection of biodiversity, and the strengthening of local communities. This edition is evidence of our journalists' commitment and breadth of knowledge regarding this important topic.

These pieces, however, convey the human tales at the core of agroecology rather than merely being a compilation of data and observations. You will hear the voices of women and indigenous groups advocating for sustainable practices, smallholder farmers regaining their traditional knowledge, and scientists collaborating with local communities to adapt to climate change. These individuals are revolutionizing agriculture from the bottom up, and their tales ought to be widely shared.

Agroecology is one of the many concerns that journalists are vital in bringing to public attention. How we decide to produce, share, and eat food will determine our common future. It is more important than ever to create resilient, sustainable food systems, and agroecology provides a way to get there. In addition to providing information, this Agroecology Post aims to motivate action by encouraging everyone to reconsider their connection with food and the environment.

We hope that this post will spark meaningful conversations and drive a deeper understanding of agroecology's potential to transform both agriculture and society.

Warm regards,



Nancy Mugimba

Editor-in-Chief, Agroecology Post

Editorial Team:

Rashida Kabanda
Andrew Adem
Nancy Mugimba

Get the latest edition of
The Agroecology Post on:

www.agroecology-school.org/post

Or send an email to:

study@agroecology-school.org

Inside this Edition:

Embracing agroecology to promote productive farming systems, food security and nutrition	Page 1
Rural Financing: Urgent Need For Finance and Investments To Support Agroecology Transition	Page 1
Agroecology enables Rubavu farmers to boost yields during dry season	Page 2
\$4.3t required for the global transition of agriculture to agroecology	Page 2
Activists Urge Global North to Pay US\$5 Trillion Climate Debt	Page 3
ZIMSOFF partners Parliamentarians in driving agro-ecology to address GBV and drug abuse	Page 3
Farmers reject plan to privatize country's sole supplier of seeds	Page 4
Strange disease leaves thousands of chickens dead in Masaka	Page 4
Agroecology Economies Can Halt the Pace of Hunger, Poverty	Page 5
Agroecology holds promise in Congo Basin — if funding woes can be overcome	Page 5
A Family's full conversion to organic farming	Page 6
Zimbabwe's Seed and Food Festival Uniting Small-scale Farmers	Page 6
Cancer-causing chemicals found in pesticides used in Kenya	Page 7
Farmers in Africa say their soil is dying and chemical fertilizers are in part to blame	Page 7
Mayuge Locals commend govt, ESAFF for sensitization on land rights	Page 8
Land Squeeze: The hidden battle for Africa's soils	Page 8
UCDA Reveals Uganda's Plans To Comply With EUDR Rules, To Register All Coffee Farmers In Less Than Five Months	Page 9
Peasant Farmers Association trains 50 farmers on agroecology	Page 9
Africa readies for food sovereignty in next Kampala Declaration	Page 10
Busoga Land Awareness Week: A Drive for Land Justice and Sustainable Development	Page 10
Government urged to intervene in sugarcane business as ESAFF sensitizes locals on land issues	Page 11
Agricultural Future Lies in Agroecology	Page 11
Agroecology is People's Route to Africa's Food Sovereignty, Rural Development and Innovation	Page 12
Using agroecology to correct misconceptions about African food systems	Page 12
The War on Food and the War on Humanity: Platforms of Control and the Unbreakable Spirit	Page 13
Kikuube district passes ordinance to protect food security amid sugarcane expansion	Page 13
ANSWERS TO AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 6	Page 14
AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 7	Page 15

MOROGORO | TANZANIA

Embracing agroecology to promote productive farming systems, food security and nutrition



AGROECOLOGY can contribute to transformation towards healthier and sustainable food systems, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Former FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva said during the 2nd International Agroecology Symposium in Rome that most food production has been based on high-input and resource-intensive farming systems at a high cost to the environment, and as a result, soil, forests, water, air quality and biodiversity continue to degrade.

He underscored the need to promote a transformative change in a way that people can produce and consume food through sustainable food systems that offer healthy and nutritious food and also preserve the environment.

Read more:

<https://ippmedia.co.tz/the-guardian/features/read/embracing-agroecology-to-promote-productive-farming-systems-food-security-and-nutrition-2024-07-03-182624>

By Zuwena Shame

The Guardian Newspaper

NAIROBI | KENYA

Rural Financing: Urgent Need For Finance and Investments To Support Agroecology Transition



As food insecurity and rural poverty deepen, there is a growing urgent need to scale agroecological solutions to protect the environment, preserve biodiversity, achieve food sovereignty, and accelerate rural development. However, standing in the way of these goals is a lack of financing to boost the production and distribution of agroecology organic products. *"Some of the strategies that we need is to fund grassroots organizations directly in order to improve production and distribution. We need capital and this could be in the form of money or equipment. Capital is simply any resource that aids the production process, marketing, and distribution. But before that, I think it is also important to understand how these agroecology farming systems function,"* Nancy Mugimba, National Coordinator of Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum Uganda explains.

Read more:

<https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/rural-financing-urgent-need-for-finance-and-investments-to-support-agroecology-transition/?s>

By Joyce Chimbi

Talk Africa

RUBAVU | RWANDA

Agroecology enables Rubavu farmers to boost yields during dry season



Farmers practicing vegetable and fruit farming in Rubavu District are pleased that learning how to farm using Agroecology techniques enables them to increase yields even during the dry season. Traditionally, farmers in Rwanda cultivated from September to June, with the dry season halting farming activities due to the lack of rain, forcing farmers to stop their work.

However, as the population grows, new techniques are being discovered that allow farmers to utilize the land even during the dry season and find ways to sustain themselves. In this context, vegetable and fruit farmers in Rubavu District say that learning how to use manure has enabled them to farm during the dry season and still achieve good harvests.

Read more:

<https://www.greenafrica.rw/agroecology-enables-rubavu-farmers-to-boost-yields-during-dry-season/>

By Kwizera Juvenalis
Green Peace

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

\$4.3t required for the global transition of agriculture to agroecology



The philanthropies are seeking approximately 4.3 trillion US dollars to fund the transition of global agriculture to agroecology over the next ten years. This was revealed at the conference on regenerative, agroecological, and food systems transformation, which concluded last week in Arusha, Tanzania.

Farley Sara, vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, stated that the transformation will cost 4.3 trillion US dollars, with 430 billion required annually.

Read more:

<https://tndnewsuganda.com/2024/06/17/4-3t-required-for-the-global-transition-of-agriculture-to-agroecology/>

By Marko Taibot
TND News

BAKU | AZERBAIJAN

Activists Urge Global North to Pay US\$5 Trillion Climate Debt



On Friday, climate activists participated in hundreds of actions worldwide, urging governments in the Global North to make an annual payment of US\$5 trillion as a down payment toward their climate debt. This debt is owed to the countries, people, and communities of the Global South, which bear the brunt of the climate crisis despite contributing the least to its cause considering the emissions.

This comes amidst a new global climate finance goal, the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), which is set to be a central focus during negotiations at the upcoming UN COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November. Earlier discussions ended in stalemate as the developed countries failed to chart a path forward that would ensure consideration of the plights of developing countries.

Read more:

<https://climate.co.ke/activists-urge-global-north-to-pay-us5-trillion-climate-debt/?s>

By Kwabe Victor
Climate Lens News

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

ZIMSOF partners Parliamentarians in driving agro-ecology to address GBV and drug abuse



In partnership with Parliamentarians, the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOF) is fighting gender-based violence (GBV) and drug and substance abuse in communities by implementing various agroecology mechanisms.

Speaking at a tour of their projects by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees (PPC) on Lands at the National Policy Dialogue recently, a Gutu small livestock farmer, Daizy Mandaza (42) highlighted that agroecology fosters freedom, herds hope, breaking the shackles of GBV.

Read more:

<https://spikedmedia.co.zw/zimsoff-partners-parliamentarians-in-driving-agro-ecology-to-address-gbv-and-drug-abuse/>

By Spiked Online Media

NAKURU | KENYA

Farmers reject plan to privatize country's sole supplier of seeds



Farmers from parts of Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western regions have opposed the privatization of the Kenya Seed Company. The farmers fear the proposed move would compromise their access to seeds, the country's seed sovereignty and food security.

Speaking in Nakuru during a traditional food fare, the group vowed to reject the privatization bid. Farmers might not access quality seeds once the company is privatized because the new owners would focus on profit making, hence increasing the prices.

"Government is the only entity that can offer subsidies to farmers. We have been buying seeds at very affordable prices from KSC, a situation that might change once the company is privatized," Francis Ngiri, a member of Makongeni Farmers Network in Nakuru, said.

Read more:
<https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/rift-valley/2024-07-22-farmers-reject-plan-to-privatise-countrys-sole-supplier-of-seeds/?s=08>

By Loise Macharia
The Star

MASAKA | UGANDA

Strange disease leaves thousands of chickens dead in Masaka



Masaka City authorities are seriously investigating a strange poultry disease that has hit the area killing thousands of domestic birds in a shocking video making rounds on social media. The short video recorded in the villages of Kako, Kayija, Kasooka, and Mitemula in Masaka City's Nyendo-Mukungwe Municipality has left residents in fear and panic, with some already counting losses.

Masaka City Health Officer, Dr Patrick Kasendwa, in an interview on Thursday, said veterinary authorities have now swung into action after thousands of dead chickens were found dumped at different sites within one city. *"We learned about this problem after thousands of carcasses were dumped at different locations in the city. We warn residents not to eat those birds and to stop buying roasted chicken from roadside markets for the time being,"* Dr Kasendwa said.

Read more:
<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2024/08/01/strange-disease-leaves-thousands-of-chickens-dead-in-masaka/>

By Reporter
Daily Express

HARARE | ZIMBABWE

Agroecology Economies Can Halt the Pace of Hunger, Poverty



Conventional food production models are increasingly vulnerable to climate change and their long commercialization channels often succumb to food waste, energy inefficiency and corporate concentration.

Food waste is a market failure where at least \$1 trillion worth of food is thrown away every year. Long commercialization chains, often dependent on shipping food around the globe, exacerbate climate change.

And yet, this industrial agriculture model does not, as it claims, feed the world. Up to 783 million people are affected by hunger each year, and 150 million children under the age of five suffer stunted growth.

Read more:

<https://news.sciencefranca.co.ke/agroecology-economies-can-halt-the-pace-of-hunger-poverty/>

By Joyce Chimbi
Science Africa

BATCHENGA | CAMEROON

Agroecology holds promise in Congo Basin – if funding woes can be overcome



Emmanuel Eku turned to agroecological techniques to revive the exhausted soil on a plot of land in his hometown in southwestern Cameroon. Over five long years, he worked to restore his yields, with the support of an NGO. Today, he devotes his time to finding resources to help other farmers around him make the same transition.

In 2011, Eku lost his job as a supermarket sales manager. He decided to return to his home of Kupe Muanenguba to try and make a living as a farmer. The town is close to three parks: Bakossi National Park, Banyan Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, and the joint Kupe and Muanenguba ecological reserves. These protected areas and other remaining forests are home to threatened species such as chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) and drills (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*).

Read more:

<https://news-mongabay-com.cdn.amp/project.org/c/s/news.mongabay.com/2023/09/agroecology-holds-promise-in-congo-basin-if-funding-woes-can-be-overcome/amp/>

By Elodie Toto
Conservation News

KISORO | UGANDA

A Family's full conversion to organic farming



William Byamugisha is a 56-year-old farmer who hails from Nombe ward, Rubugiri town council in Kisoro district and lives together with his 45-year-old wife Marinate Juliet, they have 9 children and 6 grandchildren. The family's livelihood depends on farming and it is always difficult to meet the needs of the family without family farming. These two small-scale farmers narrate their journey of transforming to better farming methods and their remarkable journey as successful farmers is not only improving their family's livelihoods but also inspiring the entire community.

As a family among other community members that have been part of the Vanishing Treasures project being implemented by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), a project designed to respond to human-wildlife conflict, promote alternative livelihoods, and mitigate the impacts caused by climate change and socio-economic pressures has supported the community's livelihood, food security, and climate-smart agriculture but most importantly mentored farmers' transition to organic farming.

Read more:

<https://www.thekampalareport.com/money/farming/2024080339953/a-family-s-full-conversion-to-organic-farming.html>

By Sharon Muzaki
The Kampala Report

HARARE | ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's Seed and Food Festival Uniting Small-scale Farmers



Held every year in Harare's Botanical Gardens, the National Good Seed and Food Festival is increasingly occurring against a backdrop of debilitating shocks such as intensifying conflict, climate change and high domestic food prices that are worsening Africa's food crises.

A list of 10 countries and territories with the largest number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2016 to 2023, included four African countries. According to the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises, these countries are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia. By mid-2024, the food crises had worsened in 18 countries including Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi and Chad as they all had at least one million more people facing high levels of acute food insecurity than during the 2023 peak.

Read more:

<https://news.scienceafrica.co.ke/zimbabwe-seed-and-food-festival-uniting-small-scale-farmers/>

By Joyce Chimbi
Science Africa

NAIROBI | KENYA

Cancer-causing chemicals found in pesticides used in Kenya



Nine active ingredients in pesticides registered for use in Kenya have been linked to at least six types of cancer - leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, bladder, colon, lung, and pancreatic cancers. All these ingredients are contained in pesticides regulated by the Pest Products and Control Board (PCPB).

The active ingredients include glyphosate, present in Roundup, Atrazine, Boscalid, Dimethomorph, Dicamba, Dimethonamid, Dinotefuran, Imazethapyr, and Metolachlor. They are present in pesticide and pest control products used in the production of maize, onions, broccoli, tomatoes, French beans, melons, sugarcane, tea, wheat, barley, common beans and roses.

Read more:

<https://nation.africa/kenya/health/cancer-causing-chemicals-found-in-pesticides-used-in-kenya-4715936>

By Mercy Chelengat

Nation

NAIROBI | KENYA

Farmers in Africa say their soil is dying and chemical fertilizers are in part to blame



When Benson Wanjala started farming in his western Kenya village two and a half decades ago, his 10-acre farm could produce a bountiful harvest of 200 bags of maize. That has dwindled to 30. He says his once fertile soil has become a nearly lifeless field that no longer earns him a living.

Like many other farmers, he blames acidifying fertilizers pushed in Kenya and other African countries in recent years. He said he started using the fertilizers to boost his yield and it worked — until it didn't. Kenya's government first introduced a fertilizer subsidy in 2008, making chemical fertilizers more accessible for smaller-scale farmers.

About 63% of arable land in Kenya is now acidic, according to the agriculture ministry, which has been recording a decline in the production of staples such as maize and leading exports of horticulture and tea. The production of maize declined by 4% to 44 million tons in 2022, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, which didn't say why.

Read more:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/nigeria-hoping-to-avoid-anti-government-protests/7712112.html?s=08>

Voice of Africa

MAYUGE | UGANDA

Mayuge Locals commend govt, ESAFF for sensitization on land rights



Residents of Bukatube Sub County in Mayuge district have commended the government of Uganda and their partners from Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF Uganda) for sensitizing them on the acquisition of land title, land ownership and other land rights.

During a community dialogue in Bukatube Sub County on Thursday, August 29, officials from ESAFF along with their lawyers and district lawyers sensitized the community and their leaders on land rights, especially on the acquisition of various categories of land ownership like freehold and customary land titles.

Read more:

<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2024/08/30/mayuge-locals-commend-govt-esaf-f-for-sensitization-on-land-rights/>

By Simon Peter Isabirye

Daily Express

GNOUNGOUYA | GUINEA

Land Squeeze: The hidden battle for Africa's soils



In recent years, Africa has been at the epicentre of an alarming global trend: the land squeeze. The 2007-8 global financial crisis unleashed a huge wave of land grabbing across Africa and the world. Though the crisis eased, the pressures on farmland never went away. Now 15 years on, global land prices have doubled, land grabbing is back with a vengeance, and farmers are being squeezed from all sides.

As a major report by IPES-Food reveals, today's land squeeze is escalating dangerously in new and varying forms – including for carbon and biodiversity offsetting schemes, financialisation and speculation, resource grabs, expanding mines and mega-developments, and ever-more industrial food systems. We are seeing a new rush for land that is displacing small-scale farmers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, and rural communities – or removing their control over their land. The consequences are dire, exacerbating rural poverty, food insecurity, and land inequality across the continent – and putting the future of small-scale farming at risk.

Read more:

https://africanarguments.org/2024/06/land-squeeze-green-grabs-hidden-battle-for-africas-soils/?utm_source=sustack&utm_medium=email

By Susan Chomba and Million Belay
African Arguments

KAMPALA | UGANDA

UCDA Reveals Uganda's Plans To Comply With EUDR Rules, To Register All Coffee Farmers In Less Than Five Months



On 5th December 2022, the European Union (EU) Parliament approved the EU Regulation for deforestation-free products (EUDR) to ensure supply chains remain free from products that cause deforestation or forest degradation.

The EUDR which takes effect on 1st January 2025 requires that exporters of commodities such as coffee, cocoa and their derivatives must submit specific documents to export to the EU market. EUDR will be implemented retrospectively and commodities like coffee that were planted on deforested land from 2021 will not be given access to the EU market.

Considering the fact that coffee is one of the leading foreign exchange earners for Uganda, farmers and other stakeholders along the entire coffee value chain are concerned about whether Uganda will comply with the EU regulation within less than five months. The EU market buys over 60% of Uganda's total coffee exports. Uganda's coffee exports for Financial Year

2023/24 totaled 6.13 million bags worth US\$ 1.14 billion compared to 5.76 million bags worth US\$ 846.02 million in the previous year (Financial Year 2022/23).

Read more:

<https://businessfocus.co.ug/qa-ucda-reveals-ugandas-plans-to-comply-with-eudr-rules-to-register-all-coffee-farmers-in-less-than-five-months/>

By Taddewo William Senyonyi
Business Focus

BONO | GHANA

Peasant Farmers Association trains 50 farmers on agroecology



Fifty farmers in Bono East region have undergone two day capacity training on agroecology and sustainable farming, to improve quality crop yields and soil fertility. The Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana with support from the 11th hour, an international NGO organized the workshop held at Techiman. 11th hour works with farmers and food systems workers to develop technology that is responsive to the needs of smallholder producers.

Read more:

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1334994/peasant-farmers-association-trains-50-farmers-on-agroecology.html>

By Dennis Peparah
Modern Ghana

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Africa readies for food sovereignty in next Kampala Declaration



The next Kampala Declaration which will drive the post-Malabo Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) agenda has promised to focus on food sovereignty as a key aspect of the continent's agricultural transformation.

Speaking to Spiked Online Media on the sidelines of the post-Malabo Validation Workshop of the Ten-Year Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035) for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) running from 21-23 August 2024 in Kampala, Uganda, H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, African Union Commission (AUC)'s Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, highlighted the importance of embracing food sovereignty for the continent's agricultural development.

Read more:

<https://spikedmedia.co.zw/africa-readies-for-food-sovereignty-in-next-kampala-declaration/>

By Spike Media

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Busoga Land Awareness Week: A Drive for Land Justice and Sustainable Development



On the 23rd of August, 2024, Hon. Dr. Sam Mayanja, the Minister of State for Lands, launched the Busoga Land Awareness Week at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala. This initiative is spearheaded by the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development in collaboration with over 30 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as PELUM Uganda, COCAPSO, and UCOBAC. The event is set to take place from the 26th to the 30th of August 2024, targeting several districts within the Busoga region including Jinja, Luuka, and Iganga.

The primary focus of this awareness week is to tackle critical land issues that have been plaguing the region, such as land rights, inclusiveness, sustainable development, and environmental conservation. The event aims to empower local communities, including women, the youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and communal land users, who face increasing challenges in securing their land rights and sustaining their livelihoods.

Read more:

<https://johnkusolo1.wixsite.com/my-site/post/busoga-land-awareness-week-a-drive-for-land-justice-and-sustainable-development>

By John Kusolo

Wixsite.com

MAYUGE | UGANDA

Government urged to intervene in sugarcane business as ESAFF sensitizes locals on land issues



A section of locals in Mayuge District have commended the government for initiating an awareness week on land and also asked them to intervene in the sugarcane business especially the fluctuating prices of the crop in the region.

The farmers want the government to set a minimum price for a ton of sugarcane arguing that they have made losses after cutting down some crops to opt for sugarcane growing but they have since realized losses. The farmers who were speaking at the sensitization meeting on land issues during the ongoing 8th National Land Awareness Week (LAW) held at Imanyiro sub-county headquarters on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, say they expected to earn much from the business but they blame a number of sugarcane millers who have taken the cane farmers for granted by cutting prices.

Read more:
<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2024/08/28/mayuge-govt-urged-to-intervene-in-sugarcane-business-as-esaff-sensitizes-locals-on-land-issues/>

By Daily Express Reporter

ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

Agricultural Future Lies in Agroecology



A premise which has its roots in traditional knowledge and ecological principles, some people may find the term agroecology mysterious or esoteric. However, far from being an abstract concept, agroecology can be a lifeline for long-lasting food systems, providing a route that links the welfare of people with the health of the land.

Agroecology is not just about farming and growing food; it means combining social justice, ecological science, and indigenous knowledge. Overall, it is a holistic system in which ecosystems and agriculture work in harmony to produce food that is both environmentally sustainable and safe for consumption. As an approach, agroecology prioritises not just yields of crops, but the health of ecosystems, the well-being of communities, and people`s sovereignty over their food systems.

Read more:
<https://indepthnews.net/africa-agricultural-future-lies-in-agroecology/?s=08>

By Million Belay
AFSA

HARARE | ZIMBABWE

Agroecology is People's Route to Africa's Food Sovereignty, Rural Development and Innovation



Gone are the days when certain types of birds would fly around in cycles across rural villages, and the smell of the rain would be in the soil and in the air, and the farmer would look at the skies to see the clouds gathering and it would be time to put the seed into the ground. For not long after, the rains would fall and the seasons were, without fail, predictable.

Today, peasant farmers say the sun is too close to their farms, and with nearly 94 percent of Africa's agricultural activities being rainfed, accounting for an estimated 80 percent of staple food production, Africa's food basket is getting lighter from one harvesting season to the next.

Read more:

<https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/agroecology-is-peoples-route-to-africas-food-sovereignty-rural-development-and-innovation/>

By Joyce Chimbi

Talk Africa

HARARE | ZIMBABWE

Using agroecology to correct misconceptions about African food systems



MORE than 500 proponents of agroecology from across the world gathered in Harare, Zimbabwe, from September 11 to 14, 2024 to push the momentum for positioning agroecology at the centre of food and nutrition initiatives across the African continent.

Under the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, the conference deliberated on a wide range of strategies, including how to cultivate mindset change among African policymakers and consumers.

Read more:

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/opinion-analysis/article/200032432/using-agroecology-to-correct-misconceptions-about-african-food-systems?s=08>

By Charles Dhewa

News Day

ENGLAND | UK

The War on Food and the War on Humanity: Platforms of Control and the Unbreakable Spirit



Traditional authority derives its power from long-standing customs and traditions, while charismatic authority is based on the exceptional personal qualities or charisma of a leader.

According to Weber, the legal-rational authority that characterises Western capitalist industrial society is based on instrumental rationality that focuses on the most efficient means to achieve given ends. This type of rationality manifest in bureaucratic power. Weber contrasted this with another form of rationality: value rationality that is based on conscious beliefs in the inherent value of certain behaviour.

While Weber saw the benefits of instrumental rationality in terms of increased efficiency, he feared that this could lead to a stifling "iron cage" of a rule-based order and rule following (instrumental rationality) as an end in itself. The result would be humanity's "polar night of icy darkness."

Read more:

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/war-food-war-humanity-control/5866768>

By Colin Todhunter
Global Research

KIKUUBE | UGANDA

Kikuube district passes ordinance to protect food security amid sugarcane expansion



Kikuube District Council has approved the Sugarcane Farmers' Protection and Food Security Ordinance 2023. The ordinance was approved during the District Council meeting at the District Headquarters in Kikuube Town, with all council members endorsing it. The ordinance aims to protect the population from food and nutritional insecurity by ensuring that sugarcane cultivation does not prevent farmers from growing food to avert shortages.

Read more:

https://www.ntv.co.ug/ug/news/national/kikuube-district-passes-ordinance-to-protect-food-security-amid-sugarcane-expansion-4744240#google_vignette

By NTV Uganda

ANSWERS TO AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 6

Here are the responses to the quiz in the sixth issue. Please let us know how many you got right. If you don't have the questions, please download the sixth issue of the Agroecology post from the website

1.

Agroecology is an ever-changing, science-based approach to sustainability.

Correct Answer A: True

Explanation: *Agroecology has guidelines but within them, are a constantly-changing array of solutions, principles, and suggestions all servicing the goal of a sustainable relationship between agricultural crops and the environment.*

2.

Agroecology only applies to organic farming operations.

Correct Answer B: False

Explanation: *According to IAFN, "Agroecology applies to all types of farms and farming systems in all countries." Because the relational practices of agroecology tie together farming and the environment, those principles can be applied both to organic and non-organic farming operations.*

3.

Agroecology is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?

Correct Answer A: True

Explanation

Agroecology can be used as a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals — "a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity."

4.

Agroecological approaches can be applied globally but must be adapted to local conditions.

Correct Answer A: True

5.

Cover cropping is a technique commonly used in agroecological farming systems to improve soil health.

Correct Answer A: True

6.

Agroecological farming systems consider socio-economic factors, including fair labor practices and community well-being

Correct Answer A: True

7.

Agroecological farming systems focus solely on maximizing crop yields regardless of environmental impacts

Correct Answer B: False

8.

Agroecological farming systems are designed to work with natural processes, such as nutrient cycling and energy flow.

Correct Answer A: True

9.

Agroecology is widely recognized as the only solution for future sustainable agriculture.

Correct Answer B: False (It is one of the solutions, but not the only one; it should be part of a broader sustainable strategy.)

10.

Consumer choices can support the growth and adoption of agroecological practices.

Correct Answer A: True

AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 7

The Agroecology Quiz sessions aim to create awareness and build knowledge of agroecology. We challenge you to take some time to answer these quiz questions and look for the right answers in the next issues of the Agroecology Post.

1.

Agroecology primarily focuses on large-scale, industrial farming practices to maximize crop yields.

True / False

2.

Agroecological practices help to enhance biodiversity on farms by promoting diverse crop species and natural pest control.

True / False

3.

The adoption of agroecology can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which aims to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture.

True / False

4.

Agroecology discourages the use of traditional farming knowledge, preferring modern technological solutions.

True / False

5.

Agroecological systems emphasize the importance of recycling nutrients and organic matter within farming ecosystems.

True / False

6.

One of the goals of agroecology is to reduce reliance on external chemical inputs, such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

True / False

7.

Agroecology only focuses on environmental sustainability and has no impact on social or economic dimensions of sustainability.

True / False

8.

Agroecological practices can support SDG 13, which focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

True / False

9.

Agroecology is primarily about preserving the aesthetic beauty of landscapes, rather than improving food security and resilience.

True / False

10.

The use of agroecological practices can empower small-scale farmers and contribute to reducing inequalities, aligning with SDG 10.

True / False

NOTE: Look out for the correct responses to the quiz in our next issue of the Agroecology Post



AGROECOLOGY SCHOOL
FOR JOURNALISTS AND
COMMUNICATORS

@ | study@agroecology-school.org

f | [@AgroecologySchool](https://www.facebook.com/AgroecologySchool)

X | [@Agroecology_Sch](https://twitter.com/Agroecology_Sch)

ig | [@agroecology_sch](https://www.instagram.com/agroecology_sch)



Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum
ESAFF - UGANDA



| coordinator@esaffuganda.org



| www.esaffuganda.org

X | @ESAFFUG

in | ESAFF Uganda

YouTube | ESAFF Uganda TV

f | ESAFF Uganda

ig | esaff_agroecology