

# THE AGROECOLOGY POST

Amplifying Stories of African Journalists  
and Communicators

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 008



**AFRICAN YOUTH  
CAN TRANSFORM  
OUR FOOD  
SYSTEMS**

## Remarks from Editor in Chief:

As we tackle issues like food security, climate change, and sustainable agriculture, agroecology is becoming a more significant topic globally.

We are thrilled and proud to present this special edition of the Agroecology Post, which is a compilation of journalists' articles on the Agroecology. Rather from being just a farming system, agroecology is essentially a comprehensive approach that seeks to combine agricultural activities with ecological principles.

In addition to the production of food, it also covers the wellbeing of farmers, the state of our soils, biodiversity preservation, and community development. Our journalists' dedication and depth of expertise on this significant subject are demonstrated in this edition.

Journalists play an important role in drawing public attention to a variety of issues, including agroecology. The way we choose to grow, distribute, and consume food will shape our shared future.

The need to develop robust, sustainable food systems is greater than ever, and agroecology offers a path to success. Apart from disseminating knowledge, this Agroecology Post seeks to inspire action by urging everyone to reevaluate their

relationship 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  
Ronald Bagaga  
Nancy Mugimba

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## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Uganda picks indigenous seeds over genetically modified organisms and breeds



Ugandan Government has been urged to establish mechanisms of preserving and promoting indigenous seeds and animal breeds, in a motion moved by Bufumbira East County representative, James Nsaba Buturo.

The Nsaba Buturo motion which was largely supported by legislators, calls on government to move fast in protecting, preserving and promoting the traditional seeds and breeds to counter the impending competition by multi-national organisations promoting genetically modified seeds and breeds (GMOs).

Read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/uganda-picks-indigenous-seeds-over-genetically-modified-organisms-and-breeds/>

**By Winnie Nakamatte**

UG Standard Media

## BUGIRI | UGANDA

## 16 Days of Activism: ESAFF Uganda, La Via Campesina partner to sensitize people on GBV



The Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF Uganda) in partnership with the La Via Campesina have sensitized local leaders, technical staff and farmers in Bugiri district on how to fight gender-based violence and have safer families with food and other basics of life.

This is part of their activities during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence which started on November 25, and ended on December 25, 2024, with a theme of; there is no excuse for violence against women and girls, time to act now. The sensitization meeting that was conducted on Tuesday at Kibimba primary school at Buyebe A village, Buwuni parish in Buwuni town council, was attended by local leaders and other technical staff like the district probation officer and farmers who are members of the ESAFF.

Read more:

<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2024/12/08/16-days-of-activism-esaff-uganda-la-via-campesina-partner-to-sensitize-people-on-gbv/>

**By Isabirye Simon Peter**

Daily Express



KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Agriculture Ministry Officials urges Students to Pursue Science Course as St. Joseph's Naama Student Nkwanga Wins National Agroecology Poem-Writing Competition



Agriculture ministry officials urges science education at Agroecology Poem – Writing Competition Awarding Ceremony. Sir Sande George Bob, Senior Agricultural Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, urged the students to pursue science courses, emphasizing their importance in solving global challenges. *"If you want money from employment, do sciences," he said. "Our president has increased salaries for scientists because he wants you to become problem-solvers. Strive to become scientists."*

Read more:

<https://trustednewsug.com/index.php/2024/11/16/agriculture-ministry-officials-urges-students-to-pursue-science-course-as-st-josephs-naama-student-nkwanga-wins-national-agroecology-poem-writing-competition/>

**By Kabuye Ronald**  
Trusted News

KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Farmers and Civil Society Organizations Protest Exclusion of Agroecology in CAADP Strategy



A coalition of farmers and civil society organizations has voiced strong opposition to the exclusion of agroecology and food sovereignty principles in the upcoming Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy for 2026–2035.

Represented by the Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda, Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organisations (COPACSO), FIAN Uganda, and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda, these groups argue that the current CAADP draft prioritizes industrial agricultural approaches, sidelining the interests of smallholder farmers, youth, and pastoralists across Africa.

Read more:

<https://ugandaradionetwork.net/a/story.php?storyId=243929>

**By Denis Kasule**  
Uganda Radio Network

## ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

## Rooted in Change: Empowering African Youth through Agroecology



As someone who spent six years as a high school teacher, I've always seen immense potential in youth. I was fortunate to stand in front of eager, fun-loving, and aspiring students. This opportunity drove me with a passion I could barely explain—dedicating myself fully to teaching and engaging in extracurricular activities that kept me close to my students. Perhaps it was my background in biology or the connection I built with nature during my visits to parks and natural areas, but my heart led me toward environmentalism.

Even though I grew up in the urban hustle of Merkato, I found myself starting environmental clubs, engaging thousands of students in planting seedlings on the hills of Entoto, and celebrating Ethiopia's biodiversity, foods, and cultures as a director and founder of MELCA-Ethiopia. This work later extended across Africa through the African Biodiversity Network, further intertwining my journey with youth and the environment.

Read more:  
<https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/42188/>

**By The Reporter**

## NEW YORK | USA

## Are Organic Foods Really More Nutritious?



The Department of Agriculture sets stringent guidelines for organic food producers. Certified organic produce, for instance, must be grown without the use of most synthetic pesticides and herbicides. And animal products such as meat, poultry, dairy and eggs must come from animals given year-round access to the outdoors and raised without growth hormones or antibiotics. Organic products can't use genetic engineering, either.

One reason organic foods can be more expensive than their conventional counterparts is that producing them without synthetic pesticides or herbicides requires more labor, said Sean Svette, a dietitian and director of the nutrition and dietetics program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Read more:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/well/eat/is-organic-food-healthier.html>

**By Caroline Hopkins Legaspi**  
The New York Times

## NEBBI | UGANDA

## Nebbi farmers reap big from indigenous crops after enhancing skills



Twenty-five groups of small-scale farmers in Erusi and Ndhev sub-counties in Nebbi district are experiencing significant gains from organic farming, thanks to advanced training provided by Caritas Nebbi Catholic Diocese.

Since 2022, these groups, comprising about 750 farmers, have been actively growing traditional crops such as beans, groundnuts, Irish potatoes, bananas, sweet potatoes, and coffee, while also diversifying into poultry farming and piggery.

The project, codenamed "*Food and Economic Security*," aims to empower small-scale farmers through organic farming and agroecology, with support from "*Bread for the World*," based in Germany.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/nebbi-farmers-reap-big-from-indigenous-crops-after-enhancing-skills/>

By Cooperator News Reporter

## NAROK | KENYA

## Why youth hold the key to future of Sustainable Food Systems in Africa



Africa is facing a food crisis and it is getting worse! The undeniable effects of climate change are profoundly affecting Africa, severely compromising its food systems through disruptions in agricultural production, storage, distribution and market systems.

Africa's youth, who make up a significant portion of the population, are particularly vulnerable to these crises. They face the brunt of climate impacts, from job insecurity in climate sensitive sectors to heightened food insecurity and health risks.

Read more:

<https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/why-youth-hold-the-key-to-future-of-sustainable-food-systems-in-africa-4787614>

By Simon Bukenya  
AFSA



## PADER | UGANDA

## Farming for the Future: Pader's Farmers and Their Quest to Preserve Tradition



In the heart of northern Uganda, where the earth meets the sky in a vivid tapestry of green and gold, the Acholi people have nurtured a rich agricultural legacy for generations. The fertile soils of Pader District, bursting with maize, beans, and millet, stand testament to a way of life deeply woven into their cultural fabric. Yet, as the winds of modernization sweep across this vibrant landscape, this delicate heritage hangs in the balance, threatened by a world that prioritizes efficiency over tradition. At the forefront of this struggle are the resilient farmers of Pader, champions of a cause that is as much about survival as it is about identity.

Read more:

<https://www.radiocomnetu.org/rapafmpader/2024/10/15/524/>

**By Lakareber Kasline Gladys**  
RAPA FM

## ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

## African Youth United for Agroecology: Leading Africa's Food System Transformation



We, the African Youth, gathered from 47 countries at the First Thousand African Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology, proudly declare our united mission to transform Africa's food systems. Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14-16 October 2024, this Summit of Solutions brought together over 300 youth in person and more than 1,000 participants virtually, offering a powerful platform for deep discussions on the future of Africa's food systems.

Together, we have deepened our understanding of agroecology's transformative power in building food sovereignty across our continent. We renew our commitment to being part of a growing movement for people-powered food sovereignty, where our voices and actions shape the future of Africa's food systems.

Read more:

<https://afsafrica.org/addis-ababa-declaration-first-thousand-african-youth-summit-on-food-systems-and-agroecology/>

**By Kirubel Tadele**  
AFSA



## NAIROBI | KENYA

## How the US agrochemical lobby is meddling in the future of Kenyan farming



Kenya has responded to rising food prices and climate shocks with a drive for intensive farming, but environmentalists warn that weak pesticide regulation and pressure from the US agrochemical lobby are putting the health of farmers and the wider public at risk.

President William Ruto has said that Kenya needs to become agriculturally self-reliant to save millions of dollars in food imports, and has backed this goal with a farmer-support programme he says is aimed at "*putting the shame of hunger behind us once and for all*".

Read more:

[https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/investigations/2024/09/27/how-us-agrochemical-lobby-meddling-future-kenya-farming-pesticides-paraquat?utm\\_content=bufferd418c&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer&s=08](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/investigations/2024/09/27/how-us-agrochemical-lobby-meddling-future-kenya-farming-pesticides-paraquat?utm_content=bufferd418c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&s=08)

**By Obi Onyadike**  
The New Humanitarian

## SERERE | UGANDA

## Serere farmers equipped with knowledge in agroecology



Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's economy, contributing approximately 24 percent to the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] and employing about three-quarters of the population. However, the current food system and livelihoods are under threat due to the adverse effects of climate change, necessitating the adoption of mitigation measures in food production, such as agroecology, a sustainable type of farming that works with nature.

Julius Engwedu, an agricultural extension worker at the Eastern and Southern African Small-scale Farmers Forum [ESAFF] Uganda, emphasised that agroecology enhances farmers' ability to plan for climate risks, promotes climate-resilient food production, and encourages diversification.

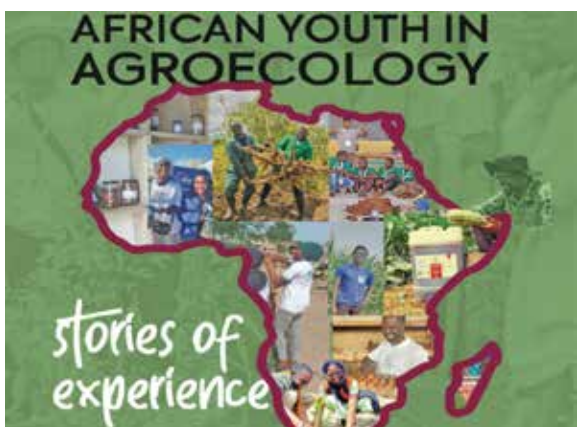
Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/serere-farmers-equipped-with-knowledge-in-agroecology/amp/>

**By Alexander Okori**  
The Cooperator News

## ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

## AFSA Launches New Book: African Youth in Agroecology: Stories of Experience



During the historic First Thousand African Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology, held in Addis Ababa from October 14-16, 2024, AFSA officially launched a groundbreaking new book titled African Youth in Agroecology: Stories of Experience. This inspiring publication highlights the initiatives and success stories of young people from 17 African countries who are leading the way in agroecology and sustainable food systems.

The summit, which brought together over 200 youth from across Africa in person and more than 1,000 participants virtually, provided the perfect platform for the launch. With its focus on youth-led solutions to food sovereignty and agroecology, the summit showcased the energy, passion, and commitment of young Africans who are determined to transform the continent's food systems.

Read more:

<https://afsafrika.org/afsa-launches-new-book-african-youth-in-agroecology-stories-of-experience/>

**By Kirubel Tadele**  
AFSA

## LIRA | UGANDA

## Farmers in Lango Discouraged from Replanting Seeds Harvested from Gardens



Farmers in the Lango sub-region have been urged to refrain from replanting seeds harvested from their gardens. This recommendation comes in light of the low and poor yields experienced by farmers in the region, particularly during the last season.

During a discussion in Lira City with Laban Turyagyenda, the Executive Director of NARO NGETTA ZARDI, it was emphasized that replanting seeds, especially hybrid varieties, is often unnecessary as the seeds tend to lose their viability and may not germinate effectively.

Walter Alele, an agronomist at Shalak Agro Input in Lira City, highlighted the detrimental effects of replanting these seeds. He explained that doing so can significantly reduce both yield and quality, as these seeds lack the resilience needed to withstand drought and disease, making them more susceptible to various ailments and resulting in inferior produce.

Read more:

<https://www.radiowa.org/farmers-in-lango-discouraged-from-replanting-seeds-harvested-from-gardens/>

**By Annet Bongonyinge**  
Radio Wa

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Experts want climate change campaigns to include agriculture



As the world faces the rising effects of climate change, there is an urgent need to rally the population and governments towards promoting environmentally friendly farming practices (agroecology). The challenge is pressing in developing countries, where industrial agriculture characterized by monocultures and the heavy use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides poses significant threats to the environment, soil and ecosystems. These are part of the recommendations contained in the recently released Actionaid Internationals 2024 report.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/experts-want-climate-change-campaigns-to-include-agriculture-4789360>

**By Sylvia Katushabe**  
Daily Monitor

## HOIMA | UGANDA

## Hoima farmers seek gov't help in fight against coffee wilt disease, others



Coffee farmers in Hoima district are calling for government assistance following an outbreak of coffee disease that could force some farmers in the district to abandon growing the perennial crop that is being promoted by government across the country.

According to Yoram Kato, a coffee farmer from Marongo Village in Bombo Sub-county, Kigorobya County, the coffee wilt disease is causing premature drying and ripening of the green beans, causing the farmers to incur losses. With one acre of coffee plantation, Kato says he has already lost a quarter of his crop to the disease that attacks during the dry season.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/hoima-farmers-seek-govt-help-in-fight-against-coffee-wilt-disease-others/>

**By Peter Kugonza**  
The Cooperator News



## GULU | UGANDA

## Journalists called to expose plights of small-scale farmers



The small-scale farmers in Northern Uganda have called upon journalists in the region to pick interest in agricultural reporting with a special lens focusing on the plight of small-scale farmers in the sector. Speaking to DailyExpress in an interview earlier this week at the National Organic Week annual campaign organized by Eastern and Southern Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda, Mr Nyeko Ronald Reagan, a small older farmer in Amuru district, says they are bogged down with real-time challenges of access policies, inputs to climate-induced challenges.

Read more:

<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2024/10/06/journalists-called-to-expose-plight-of-small-scale-farmers/?s>

**By Daily Express Reporter**

## KANSAS | AMERICA

## Researchers make stunning discovery after examining farmland treated only with organic fertilizers for decades: '[Will] help us to move forward'



Sustainable farming is making headlines after researchers discovered a unique connection between organic farming and carbon storage in soil, according to an article posted on Phys.org. As more polluting carbon ends up in the atmosphere and global temperatures continue to rise, scientists are trying to find ways to increase carbon absorption. This will help decrease the carbon in the atmosphere, creating a healthier planet for everyone. Researchers at Kansas State University have been studying how different farming practices impact the amount of carbon stored in the soil. After comparing their results, the researchers concluded that soil treated with manure or compost fertilizer stores more carbon than soil treated with chemical fertilizers or no fertilizer.

Read more:

<https://www.thecooldown.com/green-tech/organic-farming-soil-carbon-storage-study/>

**By Juliana Marino**  
The Cool Down

ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

## Why youth and technology are key in ensuring sustainable agriculture



As a young technologist attending the first thousand Africa youth summit on food systems in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, I witnessed first hand how the convergence of traditional farming wisdom and modern technology could revolutionize agriculture in Africa.

Read more:

<https://nation.africa/africa/opinion/why-youth-and-technology-are-key-in-ensuring-sustainable-agriculture--4804204>

**By Christabel Kisang**  
Kabarak University

ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

## AFSA to launch the "Thousand African Youth Summit" on food systems and agroecology



The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa [ AFSA ] is excited to hold the Thousand African Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology 2024 from October 14–16, 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Over 250 youth will gather in person, with more than 2,000 young leaders joining virtually, to explore agroecological solutions and lead Africa's response to the climate crisis.

Dr. Million Belay, AFSA General Coordinator, remarked on the critical timing of this summit: "*The Thousand African Youth Summit is not just an event; it is a movement that empowers African youth to develop and share solutions for building climate-resilient food systems. It's an opportunity for young leaders to take center stage in shaping our food and climate future.*"

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/afsa-to-launch-the-thousand-african-youth-summit-on-food-systems-and-agroecology/>

**By Cooperator News Reporter**

## HARARE | ZIMBABWE

## Why Africa Should Embrace Territorial Markets to Withstand Climate Shocks and Crises



African policymakers, local leaders and the private sector have been asked to create an enabling environment that will help African traders and farmer folks build reliable systems for food security and resilience through territorial markets. During a week-long 2024 Africa Agroecological Entrepreneurship and Seed Festival in Harare, Zimbabwe, experts observed that persistent crises have shown the importance of resilient close-to-home 'territorial' markets that feed billions of people every day—from public markets and street vendors to cooperatives, from urban agriculture to online direct sales, and from food hubs to community kitchens.

*"For instance, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, global food prices spiked by 15 percent, forcing policymakers around the world to question how to reduce dependency on volatile global markets and strengthen food self-sufficiency,"* said Dr. Million Belay, the General Coordinator at the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA).

Read more:

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/10/why-africa-should-embrace-territorial-markets-to-withstand-climate-shocks-and-crises/>

**By Isaiah Esipisu**

Inter Press Service News Agency

## AMURU | UGANDA

## Amuru Schools Embrace Practical Organic Farming Lessons



A section of primary schools in Amuru District has embraced practical teaching of agroecology as part of an initiative to preserve traditional farming practices and promote sustainable food systems. The schools involved in the pilot project include Pagak Primary School and Olwal Mucaja Primary School in Lamogi Sub County.

These schools have established agroecology clubs where pupils learn hands-on lessons about organic farming, organic manure production, and indigenous seed preservation. The learning modules were developed with assistance from the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF), an organization led by smallholder farmers.

The practical lessons commenced in the first term of 2024, allowing students to explore a variety of organic seeds, and study their characteristics, growth conditions, storage methods, and nutrient content. The clubs also provide opportunities for inter-school debates on best agronomic practices related to organic farming.

Read more:

<https://ugandaradionetwork.net/a/story/amuru-schools-embrace-practical-organic-farming-lessons->

**By Simon Wokorach**

Uganda Radio Network



**ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA**

**African youth call for sustainable food systems as Kenyans push for seed sovereignty**



At least 1,000 young people from 50 African countries, including Kenya, met this week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to brainstorm and propose innovative solutions to address challenges facing African food systems in the changing climatic conditions.

*"Apart from the climate crisis, one of the major challenges the continent is facing is interference by foreign cooperate entities that have captured and commercialised African food systems, and are seeking to interfere with seed sovereignty of the continent,"* said Kirubel Tedele, a youthful Ethiopian Pan-African who is committed to environmental, social justice, and human rights causes in Africa.

His sentiments were echoed by Claire Nasike, an agroecologist and the founder of the Humming Bird Foundation, who quoted the former Burkina Faso Prime Minister Thomas Sankara: 'He who feeds you, controls you.'

Read more: <https://nation.africa/kenya/health/african-youth-call-for-sustainable-food-systems-as-kenyans-push-for-seed-sovereignty-4795738>

**By Isaiah Esipisu**  
The Nation

**DAR ES SALAAM | TANZANIA**

**Tanzania urged to incorporate agroecology-based food system**



THE Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) has urged the Ministry of Agriculture to incorporate agroecology-based food system transformations to ensure food sovereignty and resilience in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) strategy and action plan for 2026-2035. Joe Mzinga, ESAFF Regional Coordinator, made this call during a virtual meeting discussing of the draft document for the CAADP strategy and action plan, which engaged officials from the Ministry of Agriculture in Dar es Salaam. He stated that the strategic objective of intensifying sustainable food production, industrialization, and trade includes several strategic interventions written in the draft strategy section but fails to promote farmer-managed seed systems and African food systems.

Read more: <https://ippmedia.com/the-guardian/news/local-news/read/tanzania-urged-to-incorporate-agroecology-based-food-system-2024-10-21-200341>

**By Mary Kadoke**  
The Guardian

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Agroecological practices support climate change resilience



Agroecology emphasizes the use of natural processes and resources to create sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. It is a response to modern intensive agricultural systems that focus on maximizing production, sometimes at the expense of ecological and environmental health. A number of common agricultural practices are aligned with agroecology. For example, planting legumes alongside other crops – a centuries-old practice that is still widely used today – can improve soil fertility and water infiltration into the soil, thereby enhancing the health of the soil ecosystem and ultimately leading to increased crop yields.

Critics question the ability of agroecology to meet food security needs in a world that is increasingly at risk of climate change-induced threats that place pressure on natural systems, humans and economies.[1] However, scientific support does exist for agroecological practices in enhancing resilience through energy efficiency, ecosystem services, food security and economic outcomes.

Read more:

<https://zerocarbon-analytics.org/archives/food/agroecological-practices-support-climate-change-resilience>

**By Zero Carbon Analytics**

## ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

## African youth root for nature-based solutions to climate woes



Young people from 47 countries have endorsed Agroecology as a sustainable food system during a landmark summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, saying the worsening climate crisis calls for a return to nature based solutions. The first thousand African youth summit on food systems and Agroecology dubbed the summit "summit of solutions", brought together over 300 youth in person and more than 1,000 virtual participants.

Read more:

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/markets/commodities/african-youth-root-for-nature-based-solutions-to-climate-woes-4798978>

**By Brian Ambani**  
Nation Media Group

## SERERE | UGANDA

## Organic farmers raise concerns over policy failures and certification costs



Farmers affiliated with the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum [ESAFF] have expressed frustration over poor policy implementation, high certification costs, and a lack of value addition machinery, all of which hinder the growth of organic farming in Uganda. In September 2020, government, through the Ministry of Agricultural Animal Industry and Fisheries [MAAIF], launched the National Organic Agricultural Policy [2019] to recognise the significant potential of organic farming for sustainable food production and improved farmer incomes. However, Margaret Masudio Eberu, National Vice Chairperson of ESAFF-Uganda recently criticised the government for failing to operationalise the policy meant to boost organic farming in the country, and improve farmers' incomes.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/organic-farmers-raise-concerns-over-policy-failures-and-certification-costs/>

**By Alexander Okori**  
The Cooperator News

## KIGALI | RWANDA

## ESAFF Rwanda Pushes for Agroecology in Africa's Agricultural Strategy



ESAFF Rwanda, part of the Eastern and Southern African Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), presented a powerful argument for the inclusion of agro ecology in Africa's future agricultural strategies. During a meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035, ESAFF Rwanda, alongside other ESAFF member organizations from 17 countries, called for agro ecology to be prioritized as a core element in Rwanda's and Africa's agricultural development.

In their presentation, ESAFF Rwanda emphasized the potential of agro ecology, an approach deeply rooted in traditional African farming practices, to tackle food insecurity while promoting sustainability. Agro ecology prioritizes ecological balance, soil health, biodiversity, and resilient farming systems. According to ESAFF Rwanda, placing agro ecology at the forefront could transform Rwanda's and Africa's agriculture, ensuring food security and improving local food systems and nutrition.

Read more:

<https://deepnews.org/?p=1337>

**By Eric Twahirwa**  
Deep News



## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Think tank calls for farmers' contributory social security schemes



The government should facilitate the formation of farmer-focused contributory social security schemes to help farmers save for unforeseeable shocks. Dr. Brian Sserunjogi, a research fellow at Economic Policy Research Centre [EPRC], said the "schemes would provide monetary support to farmers in the event of shocks and vulnerabilities such as illness, injury, disability, death, and old age."

The issue was the subject of debate at the recent 12th Annual Forum on Agriculture and Food Security at Gold Hotel in Kampala organized by the EPRC. Farmers remain one of those categories that lag on social security with no coverage from either the National Social Security Fund [NSSF] or any other contributory scheme. Majority of Ugandan households are farmers, and it means that most Ugandans have no fallback in terms of social security in case of shock or in old age.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/think-tank-calls-for-farmers-contributory-social-security-schemes/>

**By Caesar Mukasa**  
The Cooperator News

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Farmer Leaderships Stage Protest Against AU and AU Commission's bill of Kampala Declaration for Missing Amendments.



Farmer organizations and CSOs in Uganda are calling upon His Excellence the president, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and his Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to review, together with other African governments, the Kampala Declaration plan of 10 years for Africa, under Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The Kampala Declaration, yet to be formalized by the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan, 2026-2035 with strategic framework is designed to revolutionise Africa's agriculture by fostering resilient and sustainable foodsystems aims to delineate Africa's agricultural development priorities for the next decade. It will also be adopted by Heads of State during their meeting in Kampala in January 2025.

Read more:

<https://nilechronicles.com/farmer-leaderships-stage-protest-against-african-union-and-african-union-commission-bill-of-kampala-declaration-for-missing-amendments>

**By Benjamin Mwibo**  
Nile Chronicles News

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Farmers want African leaders to include agroecology in CAADP framework



Small-scale farmers, youths and civil society organizations have urged the government through the Ministry of Agriculture to mobilize African governments to include Agroecology in the next CAADP summit to be held in Kampala in January 2025 to declare 2026-2035 new African Agriculture Strategy.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/farmers-want-african-leaders-to-include-agroecology-in-caadp-framework-4817924>

**By Tom Brian Angurini**  
Daily Monitor

## GULU | UGANDA

## Smallholder Farmers in Acholi Join Hands in Protecting Local Seed Varieties



Representatives of smallholder farmers in the Acholi sub-region have rallied their members to protect and preserve the local seed varieties from going extinct. The call comes in the wake of increased investments by global and national seed companies in the promotion of improved seed varieties to farmers in the community.

Christine Okot, the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Chairperson in Gulu District says the preservation of local seeds will help farmers achieve seed sovereignty and protect them from exploitation. Okot notes that many farmers who are using improved seeds are subjected to exploitation through the consistent purchase of seeds every farming season, and agro-inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides from agro-input dealers.

Read more:

<https://ugandaradionetwork.net/story/small-holder-farmers-in-acholi-join-hands-in-protecting-local-seed-varieties>

**By Julius Ocungi**  
Uganda Radio Network

## KIGALI | RWANDA

## Small-Scale Farmers in Rwanda Advocate for Agro ecology in Africa's Agricultural Future



On October 21, 2024, in a pivotal moment for Rwanda and African agriculture, the Eastern and Southern African Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), together with Appui aux Paysans Vulnérables et Protection de l' Environnement (APPE) and other small-scale farming organizations, presented a collective position on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035. These organizations, hailing from 17 countries, united under ESAFF, aim to reshape Africa's agricultural landscape by placing agro ecology at the forefront of development initiatives.

Read more:

<https://thegreenrwanda.com/en/small-scale-farmers-in-rwanda-advocate-for-agro-ecology-in-africas-agricultural-future/>

By The Green Rwanda

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## African CSOs push for agroecology in revamped CAADP strategy



As African leaders prepare for the 2025 Kampala Summit to adopt a revamped Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) strategy, civil society and farmer organizations are pressing for agroecology to be integrated into the continent's agricultural framework. They argue that agroecological practices—emphasizing local, sustainable, and biodiversity-friendly farming—could address Africa's food insecurity more effectively than the industrial agriculture approaches currently dominant in policy.

Read more:

<https://www.256businessnews.com/african-csos-push-for-agroecology-in-revamped-caadp-strategy/>

By Business News Reporter



## BULAMBULI | UGANDA

## Bugisu Farmers Call for Streamlined Cross-Border Trade to Boost Agriculture



Farmers in Bugisu subregion have urged the government to streamline policies enabling cross-border trade in agricultural produce, especially maize, which faces restricted access to markets in neighboring Kenya.

Masitula Nangwali, a prominent maize farmer from Namisindwa District, laments the inability to sell her produce across the border despite harvesting 20,000 tonnes of maize each season. She notes that while maize prices in Uganda range from UGX 500 to UGX 1,000 per kilogram, prices in Kenya are significantly higher, between UGX 2,500 and UGX 3,000.

Read more:

<https://ugandaradionetwork.net/story/bugisu-farmers-call-for-streamlined-cross-border-trade-to-boost-agriculture>

**By Denis Wanyoro**  
Uganda Radio Network

## OMORO | UGANDA

## In Northern Uganda Face Barriers to Land Ownership



In Northern Uganda, particularly, women often face significant barriers to land ownership, especially following the death of their husbands.

In the village of Wigweng, Awor parish located in Lakwana Sub-County of Omoro District, a poignant story unfolds. Akidi Esther, a widow who lost her husband 13 years ago, shared her painful experience of grappling with her in-laws over the land her husband left behind, recounting that *"as soon as my husband was laid to rest, the family convened a meeting and stripped me of all the land. I was left with nothing to provide for my five children. In desperation, I knelt before my in-laws, pleading for at least a few hectares to cultivate so I could feed my children, even if I wouldn't own it outright."*

Read more:

<https://www.radiowa.org/widows-in-northern-uganda-face-barriers-to-land-ownership/>

**By Annet Ayero**  
Radio Wa

## PADER | UGANDA

## Sowing seeds of change: UNDROP's vision for Uganda's agriculture



In the rolling green hills of Pader district, where agriculture is not just a livelihood but a way of life, a quiet revolution is taking shape. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) has emerged as a beacon of hope, advocating for small-scale farmers' rights to land, seeds, water, and biodiversity. For Uganda, a nation heavily reliant on agriculture, this initiative offers not just a roadmap but a lifeline to sustainable development.

According to the World Bank, agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's economy, contributing approximately 25% of the national GDP and employing over 70% of the population. Despite its significance, small-scale farmers like Bosco Olum in Latanya sub-county grapple with the disconnect between global agricultural initiatives and harsh local realities. "I've attended more than five training sessions on promoting agriculture, but we've never received actual support to regulate market prices after harvest," Olum laments, his hands calloused from years of tilling the soil. For him and many others, the open market economy undervalues their hard work, leaving their harvests devalued and their futures uncertain.

Read more:

<https://www.radiocomnetu.org/rapafmpader/2024/11/19/610/>

By Kasline Gladys Lakareber

## MUSANZE | RWANDA

## Modern Bridge transforms farming and livelihoods in Musanze and Shingiro



Farmers in Musanze and Shyngiro sectors, Musanze District renowned for cultivating potatoes, pyrethrum, and maize express optimism about a promising harvest, thanks to a newly constructed bridge that will simplify access to their fields for fertilizing and weeding.

Anonciata Mukamwiza, a resident of Kivumu Cell, highlighted the bridge's significance: "Previously, farmers from Shingiro crossing over to cultivate in Musanze or vice versa faced challenges due to poor pathways. Fertilizing fields was difficult, and weeding became nearly impossible during the rainy season. Now, with this bridge, accessing fields is seamless at any time, enabling us to add fertilizers or weed efficiently, which significantly boosts crop yields."

Read more:

<https://www.greenafrica.rw/modern-bridge-transforms-farming-and-livelihoods-in-musanze-and-shyngiro/>

By Kwizera Juvenalis  
Green Africa

## BULAMBULI | UGANDA

## Bugisu farmers urged to adopt organic farming for improved yields



Feed the Future Uganda has called on farmers in the Bugisu subregion to adopt organic fertilizers as a means to improve crop production and restore soil fertility. The call was made today, Tuesday, by Dr. Ambrose Wabyoona, Senior Crop Husbandry Officer with Feed the Future Uganda, during a three-day workshop on improved agronomic practices at the Buginyanya Zonal Agricultural Research Institute (BUZARD) in Bulambuli District.

Dr. Wabyoona explained that soils on the Mount Elgon slopes lose fertility rapidly due to the increased use of inorganic fertilizers, which can also negatively affect crop quality. Farmers attending the workshop acknowledged that the continuous use of inorganic fertilizers has led to declining soil fertility, making it increasingly difficult to grow crops without them.

Read more:

<https://www.thekampalareport.com/latest/community/2024111243754/bugisu-farmers-urged-to-adopt-organic-farming-for-improved-yields.html>

**By Denis Wanyoro**  
The Kampala Report

## VIHIGI | KENYA

## Virtual Tour Showcases Novel Agroecology Innovations for Food Sovereignty



Smallholder farmers are the backbone of food systems everywhere. But increasingly confronted by multiple, complex challenges including the triple threat facing humanity today – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, these farmers can barely put food on the table.

To educate them on best practices in natural farming anchored on agroecology, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) took participants in a Zoom meeting through a virtual tour of Bio Gardening Innovations (BIOGI) in Vihiga, Western Kenya. The technology's use is a cost-effective way to promote knowledge-sharing principles across Africa and beyond.

Read more:

<https://news.scienceafrica.co.ke/virtual-tour-showcases-novel-agroecology-innovations-for-food-sovereignty/>

**By Joyce Chimbi**  
Science Africa



## BULAMBULI | UGANDA

## Bugisu farmers advised to embrace organic farming for improved yields



Feed the Future Uganda, a non-governmental organisation operating in Uganda, has urged farmers in the Bugisu Subregion to adopt the use of organic fertilisers/manure on their farms to boost crop production and soil fertility. The call was made recently by Dr. Ambrose Wabyoona, Senior Crop Husbandry Officer with Feed the Future Uganda, during a three-day workshop on improved agronomic practices at the Buginyanya Zonal Agricultural Research Institute [BUZARD] in Bulambuli district. Wabyoona emphasised that soils in the Mount Elgon slopes lose fertility rapidly due to increased use of inorganic fertilizers, which negatively affect crop quality.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/bugisu-farmers-advised-to-embrace-organic-farming-for-improved-yields/>

**By Denis Wanyoro**  
The Cooperator News

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Govt to support small-holder farmers in crop value chain



About 10 food crop enterprises have been selected by the Ministry of Agriculture to spearhead the climate smart agriculture in 69 rural districts across the country. The crops which include hass ovacado, mangoes, cassava, coffee, cocoa, cashewnuts, oranges, sorghum, soya bean and maize are listed under the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/govt-to-support-small-holder-farmers-in-crop-value-chain-4827900>

**By Esther Bridget Nakalya**  
Daily Monitor

## NAIROBI | KENYA

## Kenya unveils new strategy for sustainable food system



The global call for sustainable food systems is growing louder, with experts emphasizing the urgent need to adopt practices that protect the environment, build resilience and ensure food security. The ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with various state departments and the intersectoral forum for agroecology and biodiversity is leading the development of the National Agroecology Strategy for food system transformation.

Read more:

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/star-farmer/2024-12-03-kenya-unveils-strategy-for-sustainable-food-system>

By Agatha Ngotho  
The Star

## ARUA | UGANDA

## Government urged on Policy to address interests of PWD farmers



Angela Apolot, a farmer with a physical disability at Driwala Ward in Arua city is struggling to fend for herself and her family due to the lack of a government policy to address the unique agricultural needs of peasants under the special interest group. **"I urge the government to support me to access enough land which is registered in my name. This would help me to productively engage in a sustainable agriculture to pay school fees for my children and provide other needs for the family".**

Read more:

[https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/govt-urged-on-policy-to-address-interests-of-NV\\_199795#google\\_vignette](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/govt-urged-on-policy-to-address-interests-of-NV_199795#google_vignette)

By Jonathan Driliga  
New Vision

## KISUMU | KENYA

## Empowering farmers through seed security and food sovereignty training



"When I came back from Qatar in 2016, I thought to myself that farming would be a great retirement plan but did not know where I could find good seed. I had to go and buy all three varieties of beans from the market. This opened my eyes to the possibility of starving if not to consider seed banking on my farm for the next planting season." Shares Fred Wanyama.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/magazines/farming/empowering-farmers-through-seed-security-and-food-sovereignty-training-4834002>

**By Esther Bridget Nakalya**  
Daily Monitor

## MUKONO | UGANDA

## Farmers embrace human urine as fertiliser, pesticide



The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum [ESAFF] Uganda has unveiled a practical guide titled "*Human Pee is Liquid Gold*" that advocates for the use of human urine as an organic fertiliser and pesticide. This groundbreaking initiative follows extensive research on human urine's efficacy in enhancing crop growth and protecting plants.

According to Julius Engwedu, ESAFF's Field Assistant Extension Officer, the reliance on industrial fertilisers poses significant risks, including health concerns, environmental pollution, and ecosystem damage.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/farmers-embrace-human-urine-as-fertiliser-pesticide/>

**By Taibot Marko**  
The Cooperator News



## PADER | UGANDA

## Government urged to embrace agroecology for sustainable agriculture



As global agricultural challenges intensify, the need to balance food security, environmental sustainability, and economic growth has never been more urgent. Agroecology, which integrates ecological principles with agricultural practices, offers a promising solution to these challenges.

Agroecology focuses not only on maximising yields but also on enhancing biodiversity, improving soil health, and promoting resource efficiency. It reduces reliance on synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, mitigates climate risks, and fosters ecological balance, providing a more sustainable alternative to conventional farming.

Read more:

<https://www.radiocomnetu.org/rapafmpader/2024/12/13/628/>

**By Gladys Kasline Lakaraber**  
RAPA FM

## KAMPALA | UGANDA

## Sustainable Food Nutrition in Uganda, Tapping Into Indigenous Wisdom



Uganda, a nation endowed with rich cultural traditions, varied ecosystems, and fertile soils, is located in the center of East Africa. Indigenous communities in Uganda have developed generations' worth of expertise in growing, preparing, and preserving food.

Generations of people have relied on this knowledge to support their households and ensure food security. Uganda is now rediscovering its traditional methods as a means of achieving sustainable food nutrition in the face of the dual global concerns of malnutrition and climate change.

Susan Nakate, Hawa Ndagire, Christine Nabwami, Daisy Nakiribira, Joyce Naziwa and Florence Nakiwala share tales of resilience, and a value chain in crop yield through observing agroecological farming practices, which they intend to preserve for generations. *"Traditional farming is inherently sustainable,"* says Nabwami.

Read more:

<https://nilepost.co.ug/agriculture/231599/sustainable-food-nutrition-in-uganda-tapping-into-indigenous-wisdom>

**By Catherine Namugerwa**  
Nile Post

# ANSWERS TO AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 7

Here are the responses to the quiz in the seventh 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 primarily focuses on large-scale, industrial farming practices to maximize crop yields.  
**Correct Answer**  **False**  
*Agroecology prioritizes sustainable farming that works in harmony with nature, not large-scale industrial agriculture.*
2. Agroecological practices help to enhance biodiversity on farms by promoting diverse crop species and natural pest control.  
**Correct Answer**  **True**  
*Agroecology promotes biodiversity through crop diversification, habitat preservation, and natural ecosystem functioning.*
3. The adoption of agroecology can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which aims to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture.  
**Correct Answer**  **True**  
*Agroecology plays a key role in achieving SDG 2 by promoting sustainable agricultural practices that can improve food security and nutrition.*
4. Agroecology discourages the use of traditional farming knowledge, preferring modern technological solutions.  
**Correct Answer**  **False**  
*Agroecology values and integrates traditional farming knowledge with modern science to create more resilient systems.*
5. Agroecological systems emphasize the importance of recycling nutrients and organic matter within farming ecosystems.  
**Correct Answer**  **True**  
*Recycling organic matter and nutrients is a core principle of agroecology, helping to maintain soil health and fertility.*
6. One of the goals of agroecology is to reduce reliance on external chemical inputs, such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.  
**Correct Answer**  **True**  
*Agroecology encourages reducing reliance on external chemical inputs by fostering natural ecological processes.*
7. Agroecology only focuses on environmental sustainability and has no impact on social or economic dimensions of sustainability.  
**Correct Answer**  **False**  
*Agroecology addresses environmental, social, and economic sustainability, improving livelihoods, food sovereignty, and environmental health.*
8. Agroecological practices can support SDG 13, which focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.  
**Correct Answer**  **True**  
*By promoting sustainable land use and reducing emissions, agroecology contributes to SDG 13 and climate change mitigation.*
9. Agroecology is primarily about preserving the aesthetic beauty of landscapes, rather than improving food security and resilience.  
**Correct Answer**  **False**  
*While agroecology can preserve landscapes, its main goals are food security, ecosystem health, and resilience to environmental challenges.*
10. The use of agroecological practices can empower small-scale farmers and contribute to reducing inequalities, aligning with SDG 10.  
**Correct Answer**  **True**  
*Agroecology empowers small-scale farmers, promotes fairer access to resources, and can contribute to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)*

# AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 8

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.

**What is the main goal of agroecology?**

- A) Maximizing crop yields
- B) Preserving ecological balance while producing food
- C) Increasing the use of synthetic fertilizers
- D) Expanding agricultural land

2.

**Which of the following is an example of an agroecological practice?**

- A) Monocropping
- B) Integrated pest management
- C) Heavy use of chemical pesticides
- D) Clearing forests for farmland

3.

**How does crop rotation benefit the soil?**

- A) It depletes nutrients quickly
- B) It reduces soil fertility
- C) It helps prevent soil erosion and restores nutrients
- D) It increases reliance on fertilizers

4.

**What role does biodiversity play in agroecology?**

- A) It reduces food production
- B) It enhances ecosystem services and resilience
- C) It makes farming more expensive
- D) It is not important in farming systems

5.

**Agroecology promotes the use of synthetic fertilizers.**

- A) True
- B) False

6.

**Which of the following is a key principle of agroecology?**

- A) Dependence on external inputs
- B) Ecological intensification
- C) Focus on global supply chains
- D) Prioritizing short-term profits

7.

**What is agroforestry?**

- A) Planting only trees on farmland
- B) Combining trees, crops, and/or livestock on the same land
- C) Clearing forests for agricultural expansion
- D) Farming only in forested areas



8.

**How does agroecology address climate change?**

- A) By increasing emissions through mechanization
- B) By sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gases
- C) By promoting deforestation for agriculture
- D) By encouraging monoculture

9.

**What is the primary focus of agroecology in terms of social impact?**

- A) Supporting large agribusinesses
- B) Empowering farmers and local communities
- C) Reducing farm labor needs
- D) Ignoring local traditions and knowledge

10.

**Which practice helps control pests naturally in agroecology?**

- A) Spraying chemical pesticides
- B) Introducing natural predators
- C) Using genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- D) Burning fields after harvest

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



**AGROECOLOGY SCHOOL**  
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COMMUNICATORS

@ study@agroecology-school.org

f @AgroecologySchool

X @Agroecology\_Sch

ig @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