

THE AGROECOLOGY POST

Amplifying journalists and communicators
voices on agroecology in Africa

APRIL - JUNE 2023 | ISSUE 002



The East African Community (EAC) should invest more funds towards the transition to Agroecology.

Remarks from Editor in Chief:

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Agroecology Post, where we delve into the transformative world of Agroecology and explore the incredible potential it holds for revolutionizing our agricultural systems. As the Editor-in-Chief, it is my pleasure to present to you a collection of thought-provoking articles, insightful and inspiring stories that shed light on the path towards sustainable and regenerative agriculture written by our journalists from the Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators.

Agroecology emphasizes the complex interdependence of agriculture, ecology, and human well-being, and it marks a paradigm shift in our approach to food production. It acknowledges that our globe is a complex, linked system in which every action taken in the agricultural landscape has an ecosystem-wide effect, affecting biodiversity, soil health, water supplies, and people's lives.

As you embark on this reading journey, I invite you to critically reflect on the challenges that lie ahead. We must confront the barriers that hinder the widespread adoption of Agroecology, from policy gaps and financial constraints to the need for capacity building and market access. By identifying these hurdles, we can work together to overcome them and create an enabling environment that facilitates the transition towards sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

I extend my gratitude to the dedicated journalists and contributors who have poured their expertise and passion into this edition. Their collective wisdom and tireless efforts are a testament to the global movement towards Agroecology and inspire us all to take action.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our readers for joining us

on this remarkable journey. Your engagement and commitment to a sustainable future are vital as we continue to explore the frontiers of Agroecology and advocate for its integration into agricultural policies and practices worldwide.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions or feedback. We endeavour to make the Agroecology Post the best publication devoted to promoting the work of Agroecology journalists and communicators.

Warm regards,



Nancy Mugimba
Editor-in-Chief,
Agroecology Post

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KAMPALA | UGANDA

Government's budget doesn't solve our issues

- Small-scale Farmers



A section of small scale farmers under their umbrella body of the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda have castigated the government for ignoring vital issues during the budgeting processes.

Finance minister Matia Kasaija last month read a Shs.52.7 trillion FY2023/24 national budget intended to fully monetize Uganda's economy through commercial agriculture, industrialization, expanding and broadening services, digital transformation and market access.

However, small scale farmers say this won't be realized unless the government revise this budget and include issues that will help them directly.

Read more:
<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/govt-s-budget-doesn-t-solve-our-issues-small-scale-farmers-4289662>

By Busein Samilu,
Daily Monitor

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Small-scale farmers urged to embrace Agroecology



Eastern and Southern Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) joined the rest of the world in celebrating World Food Safety Day on June 7, 2023, in which small-scale farmers in Uganda were urged to embrace the use of available materials for food production.

It has been noted that the use of chemicals to boost the faster growth of plants has led to many populace getting infected due to the high consumption of chemicals used during production.

Read more:
<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2023/06/11/small-scale-farmers-urged-to-embrace-agroecology/>

By David Anyanzo,
Daily Express

MASAKA | UGANDA

Embrace Organic Farming to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change



Shadoof or shaduf is a device used in Egypt and other Eastern countries for raising water, especially for irrigation, consisting of a long suspended rod with a bucket at one end and a weight at the other, but for a 62-year-old local farmer in Kasaana Cell, in Masaka City –Southern Uganda, it is an opportunity, he uses it to irrigate his gardens to mitigate the effects of climate change.

A shadoof or shaduf is an irrigation tool. It is highly efficient and has been known since 3000 BCE. The shadoof is used to lift water from a water source onto land or into another waterway or basin. The mechanism comprises a long counterbalanced pole on a pivot, with a bucket attached to the end of it.

Read

<https://choicefm.co.ug/2023/05/28/embrace-organic-farming-to-mitigate-the-impacts-of-climate-change-e-saff-uganda/>

By Chowoo Willy,
Choice FM

MASAKA | UGANDA

Masaka cooperatives sweet-talk farmers on Agroecology



MASAKA-Farmers' cooperatives in the greater Masaka region have begun mobilizing small-scale farmers to build sustainable and nutritious food systems based on Agroecology.

According to agricultural scientists, Agroecology is the application of sustainable agricultural practices that are environmentally friendly.

With this, cooperatives want farmers to adopt Agroecological farming practices so that they can produce healthier foods which are highly demanded in regional and global markets.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/masaka-cooperatives-sweet-talk-farmers-on-agroecology/>

By Issa Aliga,
The Cooperator News

GULU | UGANDA

NUMEC - ESAFF partnership empowers journalists in Agroecology reporting



Northern Uganda Media Club (NUMEC), in collaboration with Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), has equipped 20 journalists from various media houses across northern Uganda with skills and knowledge on communicating Agroecology content.

The Regional Agro-ecology Media Workshop, which took place at the NUMEC premises in Gulu city, is part of the efforts aimed at building a network of journalists in Uganda – and Africa – who are working with small-scale farmers to contribute to the national and continental transition to Agroecology through disseminating information.

The workshop covered various topics including an introduction to the concept of Agroecology; Agroecology practices and technology; challenges faced by journalists in relation to Agroecology reporting; developing stories that promote Agroecology.

Read more:

<https://numec.org/numec-esaff-partnership-empowers-journalists-in-agroecology-reporting/>

By NUMEC Secretariat

MBALE | UGANDA

Government Unveils Sh448b Irrigation Plan



The Government has unveiled sh448b irrigation project to mitigate effects of climate change and increase productivity in the agricultural sector. Phase one of the project is located in Namalu, Nakapiripirit district, Unyama Irrigation Scheme in Amuru and Sipi in Bulambuli district. These will supplement the eight irrigation schemes in place.

Under the five-year project, there will be 96 solar-powered small-scale irrigation schemes around the country. This will be implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment together with the agriculture ministry, the Microfinance Support Centre and respective local governments. The medium irrigation schemes have a total of 2,900ha of land each and the solar-powered small-scale schemes have about 10ha of land.

Read more:

<https://www.harvestmoney.co.ug/go/vt-unveils-sh448b-irrigation-plan/>

By Lawrence Mulondo,
Harvest Money

GULU | UGANDA

IUCN supports Gulu locals with fund worth 200m to conserve nature



Local communities of Bardege – Layibi division in Gulu city have received funding from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The support, TDN understands is a revolving fund worth shs.202 million to help them undertake different ventures while conserving nature.

The fund will be shared among local farmers in over four wards among them Oitino, Paminano, For God cell and Oturu Oloya cell.

Read more:

<https://tndnewsuganda.com/2023/03/16/iucn-supports-gulu-locals-with-fund-worth-shs200m-to-conserve-nature/>

By Okot Lil Romeo,
TDN News

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Small-scale Agroecology farmers call for increased investment in agriculture extension services to boost productivity, tax revenue

Small scale Agroecology farmers under their umbrella Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) Uganda has decried the small allocation towards agriculture extension services in the just read national budget FY2023/2025 which they will undermine their production and productivity leading to food insecurity.

The annual national budget for Financial Year (FY) 2023/24 was read to the citizens by the Minister of Finance on June 15, 2023, as required by the Public Finance Management Act 2015, Section 13(3). The budget was read under theme "*Full Monetization of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access*". During a press conference held on Friday 30th June 2023 at Eureka place hotel in Kampala the Chairman ESAFF Uganda Baliraine Hakim said if the investment is focused towards extension services targeting Agroecology farming, the productivity will increase and in return increase the tax revenue collection at various value chains.

Read more:

<https://eabusinessmagazine.wordpress.com/2023/07/03/small-scale-agroecology-farmers-call-for-increased-investment-in-agriculture-extension-services-to-boost-productivity-tax-revenue/>

By EABP Reporter

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Over 7 million farmers to miss extension services in next financial year



About 7 million households in farming will miss out on extension services after the government's decision to scrap the sh39bn extension services grant in the next financial year. Speaking to New Vision in an exclusive interview during the Agriculture Extension week held at Kabira country club in Bukoto last week, Masudio Maragret Eberu, the publicity secretary of Eastern and Southern Africa Small scale farmers' forum (ESAFF) Uganda, said extension services are highly needed by small scale farmers, especially in the areas of technology.

Read more:

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/over-7-million-farmers-to-miss-extension-serv-161603>

By Aloysius Kasoma,
New Vision

MASAKA | UGANDA

Conventional farming has worsened food insecurity in Uganda – experts



Conventional farming, the practice of applying synthetic fertilizers and chemicals in gardens to increase crop yields, control pests and weeds has contributed to food insecurity in Uganda, experts say.

A section of Ugandan citizens do not know that they are directly responsible for the acute food shortages that they are experiencing. Essentially, they are their own worst enemy. Smallholder farmers regularly apply chemicals and synthetic fertilizers to control weeds, pests and multiply crop yields respectively.

Read more:

<https://observer.ug/businessnews/78124-conventional-farming-has-worsened-food-insecurity-in-uganda-experts>

By Muhoozi Mourice,
Observer

MBALE | UGANDA

World Environment Day: CSO, Mbale Schools join battle against plastics



Schools in Mbale district together with ESAFF Uganda are calling for collective action to reduce the pressing environmental and health challenges posed by plastic waste. Learners from Vision High school and Divine Power primary school want Government to intensify the enforcement on the ban imposed on the use of plastics.

Read more:

<https://netizenposts.com/world-environment-day-cso-mbale-schools-join-battle-against-plastics/>

By Ayubu Kirinya,
The Publisher

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

Small-Scale Farmers want East African Community (EAC) Governments to stop allocating funding to chemical fertilizers and agro-chemicals



Small-scale farmers are appealing to East African Community[EAC] member states to stop funding conventional agriculture systems and swiftly transit to Agroecology. Farmers are urging the EAC states to focus more on supporting the promotion of organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Farmers say that the conventional Agriculture production system has various impacts on the region's Economy since it focuses mainly on commercial farmers yet the majority of the farmers are smallholder ones.

The farmers aired out their views during the 6th EAC Agriculture Summit in Arusha, Tanzania. The summit was organized by East African Civil Societies and Small Scale Farmers under their umbrella Association Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers Forum [ESAFF] and it was attended by policymakers from the region, Farmers, and the Media. The focus of the summit was "Agriculture and Climate Change." Key to the discussion was the financing of the agriculture sector in the region.

Read more:

<https://inkmedianews.com/2023/05/10/small-scale-farmers-want-east-african-community-eac-governments-to-stop-allocating-funding-to-chemical-fertilizers-and-agro-chemicals/>

By Ink Media Reporter

MASAKA | UGANDA

Earthworm Rearing: A New Farming Venture for Organic Fertilizer



As the demand for organic products continues to grow, many small-scale holder farmers are looking at alternative ways to produce organic crops that suit the needs of health-conscious consumers in the country. About 16 kilometers outside Masaka city in Busense village, such farmers are getting their answers to a new and rather odd farming practice, involving red earthworm rearing to tap the market opportunities.

Also known as vermiculture, the farming practice involves the rearing of red earthworms with the purpose of converting organic wastes into nutrient-rich compost for plants. Duncan Ssenoga, an assistant Agricultural Trainer at St. Jude Family Project in Masaka city has been training farmers and students in this area for the past two years on earthworm rearing.

Read more:

<https://earthjournalism.net/opportunities/fellowships-for-journalists-to-cover-the-seventh-global-environment-facility-gef?s=08>

By Julius Ocungi

Business Focus

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Integrate Organic Farming Practices in The National Agricultural Extension Services, Farmers Tells Government



The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries has been supporting farmers to adopt modern ways of farming practices this has been through the provision of Agricultural Extension Advisory Services.

Through the Extension services farmers at the lower local government levels across the country have been equipped with modern farming practices such as how to apply fertilizers, and select the based farming inputs such as seeds among other modern practices this has supported many farmers to shift from being Smallholder farmers to Commercial ones.

Read more:

<https://inkmedianews.com/2023/05/31/integrate-organic-farming-practices-in-the-national-agricultural-extension-services-farmers-tells-government/>

By Namwanga Sylvia,
Ink Media

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

East African Countries Have Been Required to Increase the Agricultural Budget



East African countries have been asked to increase the funds of the agricultural budget in order to increase food production among those Member countries that are facing food shortages due to the effects of drought along with changes in the country's behavior.

Speaking at the Sixth Sectoral Meeting and the Agriculture budget for East African countries organized by ESAFF, the Chairman of the East and South African Farmers' Network (ESAFF) Hakim Balirane said that it is now appropriate for African countries to allocate sufficient funds to the agricultural budget if it is the implementation of the international agreement of Malabo. The budget will help to improve the agricultural sector and increase the availability of food in the continent of Africa which is facing drought

and hunger in some countries.

The Chairman of the Network of Farmers and Breeders' Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA) Apollo Chamwela has said that farmers should be educated on the effects of climate change and given natural methods to deal with these changes that do not damage the environment.

Read more:

<https://www.msumbanews.co.tz/2023/05/nchi-za-afrika-mashariki-zimeta-kiwa.html?m=1>

By Ferdinand Shayo,
Msumba News

KAMPALA | UGANDA

How Farmers' Field Schools Can Ease Access to Agricultural Extension Services, Transform The Sector



Farmers' access to Agricultural Extension Advisory Extension services in Uganda is still limited and this has affected the growth of the sector. The poor access to the technical services from the professionals has been attributed to the limited number of Extension Service providers and limited resources that the central Government allocates to the Local Governments to support Agricultural

Extension services especially at the Sub county level.

Extension workers play a vital role in imparting information to farmers especially on issues related to quality inputs, pest control, good harvesting practices and controlling post-harvest losses among other technical issues.

Read more:
<https://businessfocus.co.ug/how-farmers-field-schools-can-ease-access-to-agricultural-extension-services-transform-the-sector/>

By Business Focus Reporter

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Small-scale farmers call for the use of less harmful inputs to restore ecosystem functionality



Small scale farmers still struggle to access proper roads for product transportation and storage facilities that guarantee food safety, ranging from roads to storage and electricity supply. The most affected are women and children, populations affected by conflict and migrants.

Read more:
<https://tndnewsuganda.com/2023/06/09/small-scale-farmers-call-for-use-of-less-harmful-inputs-to-restore-eco-system-functionality/>

By Okello Jesus Ojara,
 TDN News

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

Farmers Want Agroecology Farming System Adopted in EAC



Small Scale farmers from the seven member states of the East African Community (EAC) want governments in the region to invest the largest portion of their Agriculture budget to fund Agroecological farming system.

The farmers argue that although most African Countries signed the Malabo Declaration which calls for African states to allocate 10 percent of their budget to Agriculture sector, majority of the Countries including those in the EAC Economic block have not respected the protocol and where funds have been allocated to the sector, the largest portion goes to support the practices of Conventional Agriculture practices which is more expensive to small scale farmers in the region.

Read more:

<https://businessfocus.co.ug/farmers-want-agroecology-farming-system-adapted-in-eac/>

By Business Focus Reporter

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Journalists Undergo Agroecological Training



Journalists are often not well informed about Agricultural reporting and are failing to exploit the opportunities that lie within Agroecology in particular. They lack the required knowledge to disseminate such information. So, when Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators in partnership with Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ASAFF) sent out a call for journalists to apply for second cohort of the Agro ecology school of journalists and communicators training on March 6, about 30 applied but only 20 made it through for the second cohort.

The successful applicants have been undergoing five-day training at Eureka Place Hotel in Kampala. The training, which ended on March 17 was premised on helping journalists to appreciate agriculture in general but advocate for Agroecology because they have the capacity and knowledge where they play a critical role in increasing comprehensive awareness and

appreciation among policy makers, consumers and small-scale farmers as they are the main pillars in building a sustainable food system and ensuring food security hence shaping the food systems towards Agroecology.

Read more:

<https://www.harvestmoney.co.ug/journalists-undergo-agroecological-training/>

By Victoria Nampala Bugembe,
Vision Group

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

Report lauds Tanzania on Malabo Declaration goals



Tanzania is largely on track in implementing its commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), known as Malabo goals. The country scored higher points than its partners in the bloc in the benchmark on its commitment to cut by half the share of its population that is poor. "Tanzania and Rwanda stayed on track," said Mr Furaha Marwa, the principal agricultural economist with the East African Community (EAC).

Read more:

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/report-lauds-tanzania-on-malabo-declaration-goals--4227082>

By Zephania Ubwani,
The Citizen

MASAKA | UGANDA

Kizza's legacy lives on in farm project



Welcomed by the green lush environment one would have never guessed that behind the tall green scenery was an actual farm. With well-maintained short grass and with sound of birds chirruping in the air it felt like home, this farm sits on about 3.5 acres of land and not only centers on farming and different agricultural practices but is also serves as a training center for students who are interested in learning about organic agriculture, animal husbandry as well as metal works.

From small kitchen gardening, piggery, goat rearing, poultry, rabbit rearing and others St Jude family project has become a source of knowledge and expertise for those who seek to more about understanding how to 'Feed the soil, so that the soil can in return feed you' St Jude Family project which is located in Masaka District, founded by Josephine Kizza and her Late husband John Kizza.

The main focus of this project is practice Agroecology which simply means good and healthy farming practices. The farm sits on about 3.5 acres of land.

Read more:

<https://news247.co.ug/2023/06/09/kizzas-legacy-lives-on-in-farm-project/>

By Shivan Auma,
News 24/7

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Small holder farmer association calls for Agricultural database prior to taxation plans



As government moots plans to tax agriculture in the spirit of growing the tax base, the Eastern and Southern African small holder farmer association thinks a database preceding any government efforts to tax agriculture would make the process more practical.

Watch full story here:

<https://www.ntv.co.ug/ug/news/national/small-holder-farmer-association-calls-for-agricultural-database-prior-to-taxation-plans-4292316>

By NTV Reporter

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

ESAFF yajadili masuala ya kilimo EAC



SOME representatives from the East and Southern African Small Farmers Network (ESAFF), have said that according to the research conducted, it has been revealed that only 30 percent of the land is used for agricultural activities in the countries of the Eastern African Community (EAC).

This was said by the Group Leader from the Association of Women in Agriculture in Kenya (AWAK), Julius Mundia, during the first conference of the Association of East African Civil Organizations, held for three days in Arusha.

Mundia, says the research, has revealed that 70 percent of the land in those countries is not used and is idle while 30 percent is used by farmers for food production.

Read more:

<https://issamichuzi.blogspot.com/2023/05/esaff-yajadili-masuala-ya-kilimo-eac.html>

By Jane Edward, Mchuzi Blog

KAMPALA | UGANDA

World Animal Protection: Uncertainty of factory farms



Factory farming and industrialized animal slaughtering have been cited as dangerous for consumers' health, potential causes of the next pandemic and environmentally unsustainable.

In the recent launch of Pecking Order in April 2022, need to get away from factory farms was encouraged in support of sustainable environmental sensitive production.

According to Dr. Victor Yamo, of World Animal Protection, there is need to do away with these farms in Africa and look for alternative sensitive production system that is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/world-animal-protection-uncertainty-of-factory-farms/>

By Sharon Muzaki,
UG Standard

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

EAC starts campaign to create awareness on Agro trade opportunities



EAC starts campaign to create awareness on Agro trade opportunities
The East African Community (EAC) has launched a campaign aimed at creating awareness on the agri-export trade opportunities that have been created through the EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP). Through the campaign, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agricultural value chain, co-operatives and farmers, as well as government entities in the EAC will access information and tools on agri-export trade.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign, Ms. Flavia Busingye, the Acting Director of Customs at the EAC Secretariat, said that MARKUP had created numerous trade opportunities for agri-SMEs in the region.

Read more:
<https://thereportersug.com/eac-start-s-campaign-to-create-awareness-on-a-gro-trade-opportunities/>

By Samuel Nabwiso,
The Reporter News Uganda

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

Farmers call for EAC Agriculture Commission



Small scale farmers and civil society organizations from the East African Community are challenging the regional organs to expedite discussions on the formation of the Agriculture and Food security commission.

The commission would go a long way toward monitoring engaging and providing timely and coordinated information about the current status of food in the region.

Read more:
<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/farmers-call-for-eac-agriculture-commission-160587>

By Aloysious Kasoma,
New Vision

LAMWO | UGANDA

Youths receive vocational training with both hands



For years, Mr Bruno Moses Olanya from Lamwo has been languishing in the trading centers, playing cards and gambling to make a living. He dropped out of school after completing Primary seven due to financial challenges at home.

However, he joined Amelo Technical Institute and among others learnt about piggery. After two months of training, Mr. Olanya said he acquired skills in identifying the different breeds of pigs.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/youths-receive-vocational-training-with-both-hands-4228460>

By Taibot Marko,
Daily Monitor

GULU | UGANDA

Youth Urged to fight climate change and take lead in tree planting for green city statuses



Climate change is the leading cause of low crop productivity and drought not only in Uganda but across different nations. Akong Jackie is the youth director at Action and Community Transformation, a community-based organization in Gulu city. She said human activities in the city are causing environmental destruction which is diverting Gulu from being green.

This Needs a massive effort from all the youth to combat the behaviors of people to understand the importance of making the environment green.

Read more:

<https://tndnewsuganda.com/2023/06/19/youth-urged-to-fight-climate-change-and-take-lead-in-tree-planting-for-green-city-statuses/>

By Okot Lil Romeo,
TDN News

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

EAC partner states must do more to achieve the Malabo Commitments

East African legislators have been urged to expedite the domestication of the Malabo Declaration by putting in place a regional legally binding protocol or instruments to ensure the realization of Malabo's goals. Without domesticating it at the regional level, it will hinder the full implementation of the Declaration which stakeholders in the agriculture sector see as a vital protocol that can transform the agriculture sector among the East African Community (EAC) member states.

Although the EAC member states signed the Declaration, its implementation has been a big challenge since none of the member states has respected the protocol which they endorsed on their signature in Equatorial Guinea.

Read more:

<https://earthfinds.co.ug/index.php/en/tourism/environment/item/3825-eac-partner-states-must-do-more-to-achieve-the-malabo-commitments>

By Earthfinds Reporter

MOROTO | UGANDA

Is Uganda helping Africa's goal of ending hunger by 2025?



With a 3,48 score out of a possible 10, this has prompted the domestic private sector to be solely dependent on food investment production. This is with a 6.14 score, despite declining foreign private sector investment in the sector.

The Africa Union observes that the country's access to finance is insufficient and with very limited access to agricultural inputs and technologies, agriculture productivity has plummeted to 3.78 points.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/is-uganda-helping-africa-s-goal-ending-hunger-by-2025--4234066>

By Deogratius Wamala,
Daily Monitor

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

ESAFF Summit Urges EAC Member States to Prioritize Agricultural Investment to Combat Food Insecurity



The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) has called on East African Community (EAC) member states to increase their agricultural budgets to boost food production and address food shortages resulting from drought and climate change. The call was made during the 6th EAC Agriculture Budget Summit, which focused on sustainable solutions to tackle food insecurity and climate change in the region.

Hakim Baliraine, the Chair of ESAFF, said that African countries must allocate sufficient funds to their agricultural budgets as part of the implementation of the Malabo Declaration. He emphasized the need to improve the agricultural sector and increase food availability in Africa to overcome famine and address poor nutrition and food issues.

He said an increased budget, to 10 per cent or over of the national budget for agriculture, would help improve the agricultural sector and increase food availability in Africa, which is facing drought and hunger in some countries.

Read more:

<https://kilimokwanza.org/esaff-summit-urges-eac-member-states-to-prioritize-agricultural-investment-to-combat-food-insecurity/>

By Kilimo Kwanza reporter

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Digesting the Allocation of Funds to Small-scale Farmers in The 2023/24 Budget



Uganda's food security and rural development depend on its large number of small-scale farmers. The 2023/2024 national budget shows relative support for citizens, notably small-scale farmers recovering from COVID-19. This budget supports the transition from a raw materials-based economy to a manufacturing and knowledge-based one, but allocation to human development is constrained. Agroecology investment is needed to promote value addition, business growth, and employment creation for youth, women, and all Ugandans. To achieve its aspirations in this national budget, there is need to extensively address persistent corruption, late fund disbursement, and limited balanced-community partnership.

Watch full story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtCUUs8Smqc>

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Integrate Agroecology in National Agricultural Extension Services Systems



Uganda's economy is highly dependant on the Agriculture sector which is a combination of crops, Livestock, poultry and fisheries, making it the largest employer of many Ugandans especially Women, Youth and the elderly. For the sector to play its role, farmers need much support from both government and Non State actors to offer Agricultural Extensions Services which play a key role in supporting Small Holder farmers to improve on Agricultural productions in all the Agricultural sub sectors.

According to farmers especially the Smallholder farmers, most of the services being offered at the local governments are identifying good Agricultural inputs, how to prepare the garden and the applications of modern technologies in the Agriculture Sector.

Read more:

<https://thereportersug.com/integrate-agroecology-in-national-agricultural-extension-services-systems/>

By Samuel Nabwiso

The Reporter News Uganda

ARUSHA | TANZANIA

Allocate more funding for Agriculture, EAC partner states told



PARTNER States within the East African Community (EAC) have been challenged to allocate more funds on agriculture. This is in a bid to cushion the sector from the pangs of persistent drought caused by climate change.

Speaking on the sidelines of the sixth EAC Budget Summit hosted by the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) here midweek, the forum's chairperson Hakim Baliraine noted that it was high time the partner states started allocating sufficient budget on agriculture in the spirit of Malabo Declaration.

Read more:

https://www.youtube.com/live/yU_25B9opGw?feature=share

By Edward Quorro,

Daily News

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Farmers urge Gov't to invest in post-harvest handling



The farmers want the Government to allocate more funding to seed management by supporting the farmer- managed seed system and community seed banks.

According to the farmers, many people involved in farming have faced losses, especially during bumper harvests, due to a lack of proper storage facilities for surplus produce.

"We urge the Government to consider investing more resources in post-harvest handling and storage facilities for better management of their produce." Hakim Baliraine, the Chairperson of the Eastern and Southern Africa small scale farmers' forum, said.

Read more:

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/farmers-urge-govt-to-invest-in-post-harvest-h-164502>

By Henry Sekanjako,
New Vision

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Capital Funds to support Agroecological enterprises in Uganda and Kenya launched



Capital funds to support Agroecological enterprises in Uganda and Kenya launched. Agroecological enterprises will have access to funds to help them in their operations across the agricultural value chain and create new jobs for communities in the region.

Agroecology is a sustainable and social approach to agriculture that promotes the production of healthy and nutritious food while regenerating soil fertility, improving biodiversity (animals, plants and microorganisms), and strengthening the livelihood of farmers and their communities.

Read more: :

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/capital-funds-to-support-agroecological-enter-163151>

By Aloysius Kasoma,
New Vision

KAMPALA | UGANDA

PELUM Uganda, GIZ Root for Organic Agriculture Investment Promotion



Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), on Friday held a one-day engagement workshop with stakeholders in organic Agriculture Investment and Land use policy to promote organic Agriculture Investment in Uganda.

The workshop, held at Skyz Hotel in Kampala, brought together representatives from the Ministry of Lands, Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Makerere University, Uganda Investment Authority and Farmers' Organizations among others.

The primary objective of the workshop, according to a joint communique by PELUM Uganda and GIZ, was to popularize the Investor Compliance Monitoring Tool (ICMT) to the identified Government Authorities (Ministries, Departments and Agencies) that were previously not engaged on the tool yet their role is vital in up calling the use and adoption of the ICMT.

Read more:

<https://www.watchdoguganda.com/business/20230617/155379/pelum-uganda-giz-root-for-organic-agriculture-investment-promotion.html>

By **Ambrose Gahene**,
Watchdog Uganda

KAMPALA | UGANDA

PELUM urges government on food security, greenhouse gas emissions



Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda, an NGO operating in Uganda has urged the government of Uganda to design strategies that promote food security amongst communities while also ensuring that the environment is protected.

This is in relation to the May 14 – 16, 2023, stakeholders' validation workshop for the Agricultural Sector Long-term Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Development Strategy 2050 (Agric LTS) that was organized by Food and Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of Agriculture where stakeholders including PELUM Uganda took part.

Read more:

<https://www.independent.co.ug/pelum-urges-government-on-food-security-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>

By The Independent Reporter

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Private sector roots for inclusion in agroecology in climate change fight



As government moves closer to finalization of drafting Uganda's Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Agricultural Development Strategy 2050, the private sector led by the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda is routing for inclusion of Agroecology if the intended objectives are to be achieved.

The strategy which is being developed by Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries aims at reducing the negative impact of climate change in addition to reducing the production and absorption of carbon emissions.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/private-sector-roots-for-inclusion-in-agroecology-in-climate-change-fight-4250378>

By Moses Ndhaye,
Daily Monitor

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Conservationists identify 165 bird species in Luweero forest



When the Church under Kasana- Luweero Diocese through Bethany Land Institute embarked on the restoration project for one of the natural forests in Nandere village, it did not project that it would become home to more than 160 bird species.

The tropical natural forest, covering 244.7 acres of land, almost became extinct as encroachers targeted its indigenous trees for timber and charcoal.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/conservationists-identify-165-bird-species-in-luweero-forest-4246938>

By Dan Wandera
Daily Monitor

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Kenya benchmarks Uganda's organic farming, Agroecology



The Kenyan government has sent a team of agriculture experts to Uganda's agriculture ministry. The visit by the officials is for them to learn how best the country can develop a joint national Agroecology Strategy.

Agroecology promotes and enhances sustainable food systems that can build resilience in agrarian communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve food security and nutrition.

Read more:

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/kenya-benchmarks-ugandas-organic-farming-agro-162351>

By Henry Sekanjako

New Vision

GULU | UGANDA

Experts Task Gov't on Regulation of Dangerous Pesticides Usage



Agricultural experts have tasked the government to employ stringent measures to regulate the importation, supply, and use of dangerous pesticides for agricultural productivity citing its dangers to food safety.

The concerns come amidst reports of high levels of pesticide residues being detected in fresh vegetables and water sources which is threatening food security and human health.

Last week, the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH) in its survey report revealed that selected districts in northern Uganda had a higher proportion of pesticide residues in vegetables and water sources than other regions.

Read more:

<https://www.ugandaradionetwork.net/story/experts-task-govt-on-regulation-of-dangerous-pesticides-usage>

Julius Ocungi

Uganda Radio Network

MASAKA | UGANDA

A Farmer in Masaka Uses Shadoof Irrigation to Tussle Climate Change



Shadoof or shaduf is a device used in Egypt and other Eastern countries for raising water, especially for irrigation, consisting of a long suspended rod with a bucket at one end and a weight at the other, but for a 62-year-old local farmer in Kasaana Cell, in Masaka City –Southern Uganda, it is an opportunity, he uses it to irrigate his gardens to mitigate the effects of climate change.

A shadoof or shaduf is an irrigation tool. It is highly efficient and has been known since 3000 BCE. The shadoof is used to lift water from a water source onto land or into another waterway or basin. The mechanism comprises a long counterbalanced pole on a pivot, with a bucket attached to the end of it.

Mr. Ggwayambade Fred Musaka, who has spent three-quarters of his life in farming, sees this as an opportunity to respond to drought as a result of climate change currently affecting farmers. He uses shadoof to generate the underground water for his six-acre gardens and as well supplies his neighbor with it.

Mr. Ggwayabade was inspired by the training done by VI agroforestry organization which is now not in operation which trained them on organic farming and

later ESAFF Uganda trained them on Agroecology practice.

Read more:

<https://choicefm.co.ug/2023/05/28/a-farmer-in-masaka-uses-shadoof-irrigation-to-tussle-climate-change>

By Willy Chowoo,
Choice FM

MASAKA | UGANDA

Practising Agroecology in the greater Masaka Region



As a farmer, Mukasa Fred Gwayambadde has practiced Agroecology since the early 1990s with the support of the Eastern Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum ESAFF which has also enabled him improve his livelihood and his colleagues.

Agroecology is often described as the application of ecological concepts and principals in farming, practicing Agroecology tends to promote farming practices that; Mitigate climate change - reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritizing local supply chains.

Watch video here:

<https://youtu.be/I0Inv9Vw724>

By Suhail Mugabi,
SEE TV

MASAKA | UGANDA

Agroecology works perfectly in restoring lost green cover - environmentalists



The practice of growing crops and rearing animals in a way that is considerate of the existing ecosystems is the most effective approach to restore Uganda's lost green cover, environmentalists say.

Uganda has lost its green cover over the years, at an alarming rate. According to statistics from Global Forest Watch, Uganda lost 967 kilohectares of tree cover from 2001 to 2021, equivalent to a 12% decrease in tree cover since 2000. This leads to biodiversity loss, endangering complex interactions between plants, macro and microorganisms, for which agriculture is entirely dependent. Such unprecedented loss of green cover has raised alarm amongst high-end conservationists, saying this state of affairs is likely to plunge the country into worst climatic disasters, putting human life in serious danger.

While launching the MTN Uganda's reforestation campaign at Kyewaga Forest Reserve, the Executive Director for National Forestry Authority (NFA) Tom Obong Okello hinted on the need to embrace Agroecology as a way to restore Uganda's lost green cover.

He said that in order to save the country

from losing all of its forest cover by 2040, Ugandans need to embrace agroforestry, which is one of the many practices of Agroecology.

Read more:

<https://famreports.com/2023/06/14/agroecology-works-perfectly-in-restoring-lost-green-cover-environmentalists/>

By Muhoozi Mourice,
Famreports

MASAKA | UGANDA

Food misery in Uganda exacerbated by synthetic farming - Expert



It is terribly sad that a section of Ugandan citizens do not know that they are responsible for the acute food shortages that they are experiencing. Essentially, they are their own worst enemy.

This has only served to extend their period of misery, like a farmer who eats their seeds during the planting season. High illiteracy levels has plunged a section of the citizenry into a dark cloud of food insecurity. Absolutely pathetic! These small holder farmers regularly apply chemicals and synthetic fertilizers to control weeds, pests and multiply crop yields respectively. Little do they know that

this practice is 'agriculture suicide' and ideally shooting oneself in the foot.

Application of chemicals in gardens to kill weeds and pests not only has disastrous effects for human life on exposure, but also exhibits zero tolerance to living organisms in the soil, notably earthworms, bacteria and fungi, which serve to improve aeration and a natural source of soil nutrients.

Read more:

<https://www.watchdoguganda.com/business/20230602/154571/food-misery-in-uganda-exacerbated-by-synthetic-farming-expert.html>

By Muhoozi Mourice,
Watchdog Uganda

MASAKA | UGANDA

Farmers' cooperatives partner to promote food safety in Greater Masaka



Farmer's cooperative societies and local government authorities in Greater Masaka area have partnered to ensure a proper food supply chain and food safety, this publication understands.

According to Sowed Sserwadda, the chairman of Kibinge Coffee Farmers' Co-operative Society [KCFCS], the

corporate food systems have negatively impacted people's health as most of the processed foods come from farmers who use fertilizers.

Corporate food systems are defined as the dominant food systems which are characterized by the agro-industrial model and increasingly globalised value chains and serve the interests of a few powerful countries and large corporations.

Sserwadda says KCFCS is encouraging farmers to embrace organic farming, adding that they are also training farmers in pre-harvest and post-harvest handling, as they put emphasis on agroecology which is a way of farming that works with nature, not against it, and considers the social and ecological aspects of food production.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/farmers-cooperatives-partner-to-promote-food-safety-in-greater-masaka/amp/>

By Issa Ssenyonga
The Cooperator News

AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 1

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

1. **Answer:** TRUE, Agroecology includes all the value chain of the product and concerns all its participants.
2. **Answer:** TRUE and FALSE: Agroecology includes most of organically certified practices but is wider than practices in the field.
3. **Answer:** FALSE, but Agroecology doesn't exclude use of improved seeds.
4. **Answer:** TRUE because Agroecology promotes as much as possible the use of organic fertilizers.
5. **Answer:** TRUE AMONG OTHER THINGS, because a reforestation plan is in principle a good thing (biodiversity, microclimate) and because multi-players debate is essential.
6. **Answer:** FALSE, because this model leads to a specialization that often comes with negative effects in terms of biodiversity and resistance to diseases. However we can specialize in a smart way in Agroecology.
7. **Answer:** RATHER TRUE, when this is possible because it enables to give an added value and to create employment
8. **Answer:** RATHER FALSE because export crops are the cause of pollution/climate change but can also give rise to « monoculture ». However we can combine Agroecology with some export crops thanks to labels like Fair trade and Agriculture biologique.
9. **Answer:** TRUE if possible because the type of input we use and the way we use them has an impact on my neighbour and/or on what the organisation produces (if she markets as a group).
10. **Answer:** TRUE because erosion is a crucial factor for soil management and fertility.

AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 2

1. Agroecology is to buy cheap corn and resell it when prices are rising?
 True False
2. Agroecology is to be present in the markets and to know your clients?
 True False
3. Agroecology is to encourage the production of different crops in one region?
 True False
4. Agroecology is to find outlets in the main chains of distribution?
 True False
5. Agroecology is the rejection of the industrial approach to food production?
 True False
6. Agroecology embraces a science, a set of practices and social movement?
 True False
7. Chemical pesticides or fertilizers aren't necessary in Agroecological farming?
 True False
8. Agroecology is just a set of agricultural practices?
 True False
9. Agroecology focuses on building food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities?
 True False
10. Agroecology directly contributes to the achievement of goal 7 and goal 16 of the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 True False

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



**Eastern and Southern Africa
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