



PELUM UGANDA'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE

KCOA-KHEA FARMERS' CARAVAN 2022

Theme:

*Sharing Organic
Agriculture Knowledge and
Experiences*

VENUE: ESELLA COUNTRY
HOTEL NAJJERA



In cooperation with





PRESS STATEMENT

The management of PELUM Uganda secretariat and the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project team on this day Sunday/ 13th/ February/2022 would like to notify the public about the first KCOA-KHEA Farmer's Caravan 2022 to be held on 14th-18th February, 2022 where we shall be touring different organic farms such as ; Kwagala Farm, Nguru Farm, The Organic Products Market at Abaita Ababiri along Entebbe Road , Balimisa Organic farmers – Kayunga, YARD - Buikwe , Sulma Organic Farm (Sulma Foods) – Luwero, Mlinza Farms at Busika-Kikyusa zirobwe, Kapeeka Agro & Livestock farm, St. Jude Family Projects and climax at Esella Country Hotel Najjera under the theme; ***“Sharing Organic Agriculture Knowledge and Experience.”***

The main objective of the KCOA-KHEA Farmers' Caravan is to stimulate debate, understanding and appreciation of organic farming practices for further strengthening Uganda's food and agricultural systems towards resilient and sustainable productivity, better consumer health, improved income and livelihoods for smallholder farmers. Furthermore, the caravan follows the overall objective of gaining practical knowledge, skills, and approaches through peer-to-peer exchanges and learning from farmer-led enterprises and all this will be climaxing with the launch of the Continental Digital Knowledge platform.

The caravan will bring together various stakeholders ranging from farmers, multipliers drawn from all the 4 regions of Uganda, media team, a representative from MAAIF, youths, modal farmers, KHEA trained multipliers and progressive entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector especially those involved in production, value addition, agro-input supply and agro-processing in organic agriculture.

For Purposes of this press conference, Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation, and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and good quality of life for all involved. This is the official International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM-Organics International) definition of organic agriculture, one of the international partners on the KCOA-KHEA project.

Today we are gathered here to flag off this event as it involves a number of activities such as touring different organic farms in different areas i.e Kampala- Wakiso, Kayunga , Buikwe , Masaka, Luwero, Nakaseke and the Meet Africa's Farmers campaign where we shall be gathering the voices of the farmers speaking about the organic farming practices they have employed as a result of the KHEA trainings under the KCOA-KHEA project and profile on the Continental Digital Platform and other networks.

Several activities have been undertaken by PELUM Uganda besides farmer trainings to this effect including participation in national and regional food fairs, gathering and documentation of validated knowledge products, Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) trainings and certification. Like many other projects, we have partnered with like-minded organizations like; International partners-Access Agriculture, IFOAM-Organics International, ICIPE- International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology., The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture-FiBL, Country implementing partners like Rwanda Organic Agricultural Movement, Tanzania Rwanda Organic Agricultural Movement, PELUM Kenya and will soon be joined by Madagascar. PELUM Uganda and other CIP's also work closely with associate partners like Kulika Uganda, St Jude Family projects and Uganda Martyrs University on the project to foresee that the organic agriculture agenda is taken to another level.

Due to the current COVID19 pandemic restrictions, the event physical attendance is by invitation and virtual attendance is open to all. The event will be streamed live on KHEA's and PELUM Uganda's social media platforms i.e Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

This major event requests you members of the press to ask all the necessary questions related to these events so as to be able to help us popularize them.

ABOUT KCOA – KHEA

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project is in its first phase of implementation for a period of 32 months (August 2019- March 2022) in 4 countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. The KHEA Hub is one of the five Hubs of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project. It is part of the initiative by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its executing agency GIZ to support a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Eastern, Western, Northern, Central and Southern Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa with co-hosting arrangement



with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda.

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

The overall objective of the KCOA project is to introduce knowledge hubs successfully as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in the regions of West, East, North, Central and Southern Africa. *For Eastern Africa, the overall goal of the KHEA project is to ensure that Ecological Organic Agriculture is integrated into the various countries' agricultural systems.*

The Continental Digital Knowledge Platform is part of the KCOA project coordinated by the GIZ as a major component of the initiative. This online resource will provide excellent learning materials and resources for the project.

The KCOA Project in Eastern Africa is currently being implemented in 4 countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania and is expected to later bring on board Madagascar.

The project is based on three main objectives namely; Collecting / preparing of knowledge in organic agriculture, Capacity building and dissemination of organic agriculture knowledge to many users and Networking within agricultural value chains

To-date, the KCOA-KHEA has so far trained 1194 Multipliers (509 Female, 685 Male) which is 80% of the targeted number and 192 farmers (131Female, 61 Male) in its 1st phase expected to be the game changers in the organic agricultural sector and hope to continue capacity building sessions in phase 2

ABOUT PELUM UGANDA

Since 1995, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda has been working to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and the sustainability of rural communities, through the fostering of ecological land use management. PELUM shares skills and knowledge about good practices and techniques, through a broad network of like-minded organizations; undertakes research and demonstration projects; and advocates for policies that better support small-scale farmers. PELUM Uganda is part of a 12-country strong association of civil society organizations in Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa. PELUM Uganda has grown to a 66-member strong network of like-minded agricultural NGOs operating in over 122 districts of Uganda, and reaching approximately 3,000,000 smallholder farmers, 60% of whom are women. PELUM promotes agricultural systems that address food security, incomes, environmental sustainability, and operate in an enabling policy environment.

PELUM Uganda is holds a co-hosting arrangement with Bio vision Africa Trust on the KCOA Project and is a Country Implementing Partner on the KCOA – KHEA Project.

Official Hash tags are: #KCOAKHEAFarmersCaravan2022

<p>KCOA KHEA SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS</p>	<p>FACEBOOK: Kcoa_khea TWITTER: @KcoaKhea LINKEDIN: KCOA KHEA YouTube: KCOA KHEA</p>
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