



PRESS STATEMENT

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

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project is part of the global Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA). Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) based in Nairobi Kenya is the lead coordinating agency and with co-hosting arrangement with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda. The Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) approach is a capacity building strategy that is being implemented by the project to empower change agents – multipliers - to effectively train and empower smallholder farmers in application of knowledge, skills and innovation for better and sustainable food systems. Under the arrangement, we have Master Trainers intensively trained by our International partners and who then cascade the trainings to the rest of change agents, the Multipliers, and who eventually reach out to farmers and other stakeholders in various food chains.

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

The main objective of the workshop is to jointly reflect and deepen on the narrative and metrics of process and outcome principles for quality assurance in training processes of the KHEA hub, which were jointly identified during the online in-country workshops. It is also intended to share with participants key inputs and frameworks, including those related to innovation and transformation of local food systems, generate an inspiring space for knowledge exchange among Master Trainers of the region. Recommendations that contribute to Quality Assurance will be identified for improvements during the second phase of the project 2022-2024. The workshop is being facilitated by Ms. Yasmin Jalil, a consultant, assisted by Patricia Flores the Global Academy Manager and Francia Berger the Academy Coordinator of IFOAM – Organics International.

This Quality Assurance workshop for Master Trainers is intended to stimulate debate, understanding and appreciation of the ToToF approach in impacting small holder farmers and other value chain actors– added Francis Nsanga, the KHEA Project Manager.

During the opening remarks, Dr. David Amudavi – the BvAT Executive Director reiterated the importance of Master Trainers in the project architecture. He said that they have an important role in strengthening our food and agricultural systems and making them resilient and sustainable with increased productivity, better consumer health, improved income and livelihoods for smallholder farmers in the region.



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Quoting IFOAM - Organics International, Ms. Francia Berger said that 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. She added that IFOAM – Organics International, working with KHEA, intends to equip Master Trainers with Quality Assurance processes, tools, values, systems in a bid to promote ecological organic agriculture among different stake holders.

Magino Pamella the KHEA Communications Officer at BvAT said that the project is also partnering with like-minded organizations like Access Agriculture, IFOAM - Organics International, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), and country implementing partners like Rwanda Organic Agricultural Movement (ROAM), Tanzania Rwanda Organic Agricultural Movement (TOAM), PELUM Kenya and now SYMABIO & GSDM in Madagascar to ensure that the organic agriculture agenda is taken to another level. Participation in this workshop has been drawn from all these partners to ensure that they all benefit from the outputs of this workshop.

According to Joseph Nyamesegere – Monitoring & Evaluation Officer BvAT reporting on status of project implemented commented that, “to-date, the KCOA-KHEA project has across the region trained 24 Master trainers, 1,355 Multipliers (572 Female, 738 Male) from across the region (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda). So far this is 90% with 43% youths. A total of 1,748 (1,107 female and 641 male) farmers trained with 31% youths. These are expected to be the game changers in the organic agricultural sector. The project is set to continue with capacity building sessions in phase 2 (2022-2024) and targets to reach 1,500 multipliers and 22,500 farmers with an overall targeted outcome which is; the actors of the knowledge hub and their networks in the Eastern region are strengthened in their role of promoting organic agriculture and agroecology.

ABOUT KCOA – KHEA PROJECT

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project is in its first phase of implementation that started in August 2019, expected to end June 2022) in 4 countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. The KHEA Hub is one of the five Hubs of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project. It is part of the One World – No Hunger initiative by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its executing agency GIZ to support a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Eastern, Western, Northern, Central and Southern Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa 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 Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE).



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

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 now Madagascar.

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

IFOAM-OI is one of the international partners on the KCOA-KHEA project with a role of capacity building. To know more about IFOAM -Organics International see link: <https://www.ifoam.bio/about-us>

KCOA KHEA SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- FACEBOOK: Kcoa_khea
- TWITTER: @KcoaKhea
- LINKEDIN: Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in EA
- YOUTUBE: KCOA KHEA

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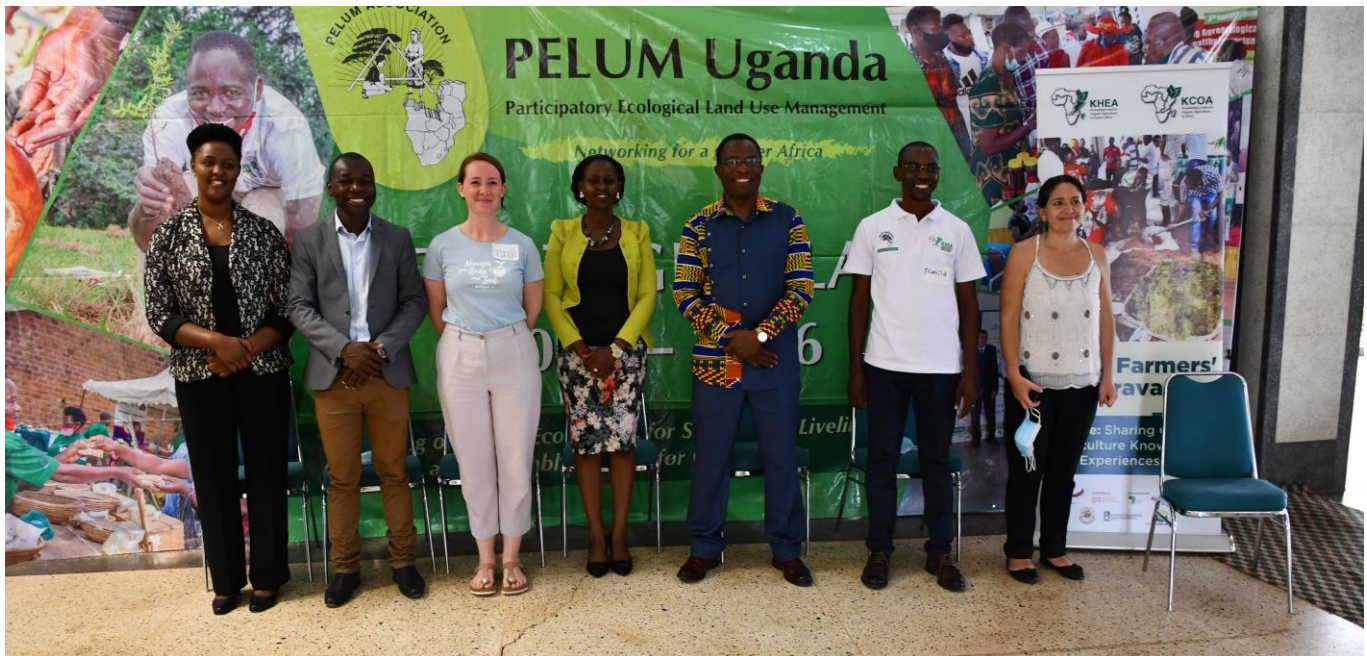


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Dr. David Amudavi- Executive Director Biovision Africa Trust and Josephine Akia Country Coordinator PELUM Uganda share a light moment



Dr. David Amudavi- Executive Director Biovision Africa Trust, Josephine Akia Country Coordinator PELUM Uganda, IFOAM – Organics International team-Francia Berger and Yasmin Jalil, Francis Nsanga- KHEA Project Manager –, Joseph Nyamesegere - M&E Officer BvAT, and Diane Uwimpaye, one of the Master trainers from Rwanda pose for a group photo.