

THE AGROECOLOGY POST

Amplifying journalists and communicators
voices on agroecology in Africa

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**Agroecology – the only
way to protect our food
sovereignty**

Welcome:

Welcoming you to the inaugural issue of the Agroecology Post. This edition is published during a period of crisis in the global food system. The Agroecology Post is a product of the Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators, an initiative of small-scale farmers who are members of ESAFF Uganda. This issue contains informative articles on various agroecological practises and the use of agroecology to repair the current food system.

As the world struggles with disease, natural environmental disasters, and food and nutritional insecurity, it is abundantly evident that agroecology has a role to play in the long-term resolution of these problems if it is purposefully prioritised.

Through the Agroecology Post, we aim to reach individuals from all walks of life with information about agroecology.

Please enjoy your journey with us through these fascinating stories and experiences of how agroecology is transforming the world, one life at a time.

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.

Welcome, and please enjoy reading!



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LUWEERO | UGANDA

Meet Carol Zawedde Sanyu an Agri-tourism Business-woman and the CEO of MLinza Farm



Women like Carol Zawedde have been a critical part of farm and ranch operations across the country and around the globe for centuries. But now, as women in agriculture, they have a unique opportunity to be the change we want to see in the agriculture industry.

To Zawedde as a young girl, it seemed to her as though nearly all leaders in the agricultural industry were male. Though she knew that our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other women in agriculture worked hard, yet they weren't front and center. They worked tirelessly behind the scenes, supporting many of the farm's operations.

Today, however, we are starting to see a major shift in the industry. Not only are more women directly involved in agricultural operations than ever, but quite a number of female principal operators say the number of people who run the farm and make day-to-day management decisions has also risen.

Click to read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/meet-carol-zawedde-sanyu-an-agri-tourism-businesswoman-and-the-ceo-of-mlinza-farm/>

Or scan to read more:



By Sharon Muzaki, UG Standard Media

MUKONO | UGANDA

How organic farming will fix climate change concerns



It goes beyond the monetary value. The conventional system has created an illusion which is delusional to create a specific figure of how farmers can earn from their land using conventional seeds.

Many times farmers do not get these results. When you are buying a

conventional maize seed, they show you the output per hectare which farmers do not actually achieve because it is an illusion to convince farmers to take up this. But in Agroecology we talk about facts, running a system that is based on so many crops and resources that you can harvest throughout the year even during the dry season.

From the farmer’s experience, there is no time in the year that we have ever lacked something to harvest

Click to read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/business/prosper/how-organic-farming-will-fix-climate-change-concerns-4157720>

Or scan to read more:



By Racheal Nabisubi, Daily Monitor

NAIROBI | KENYA

Six Agroecology practices are being promoted in Western Kenya



Nairobi, Kenya- Western Kenya has been a sugar growing zone for a while now and sugarcane being a heavy feeder, there has been a lot of inorganic fertilizer use in the region. So the soils are actually depleted.

The Welthungerhilfe organization under Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) saw the need to help small scale farmers in these areas cultivate higher yield, more nutritious crops to fight hunger and poverty while saving natural resources. With a program also designed to sustainably strengthen resilience to climate change effects by sharing knowledge on climate adapted cultivation and harvesting methods with climate resistance crops.

GIZ also participated at the first Eastern Africa Agroecology conference. In a conversation with the country coordinator George Otieno Onyango one of the implementers of the prosilience project to promote Agroecology in western Kenya shared the intentions of the project.

Click to read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/six-agroecology-practices-are-being-promoted-in-western-kenya/>

Or scan to read more:



By Sharon Muzaki, UG Standard Media

ADJUMANI | UGANDA

Adjumani farmers ask government to regulate sunflower price



More than 500 sunflower growers in Adjumani District under the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), an organization that is piloting the growing of oilseed crops, are crying foul over the low price of sunflower. The farmers claim, they buy the sunflower seeds expensively and yet they sell cheaply which does not cover the cost of production.

Click to read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/magazines/farming/adjumani-farmers-ask-govt-to-regulate-sunflower-price-4085558>

Or scan to read more:



By Marko Taibot, Daily Monitor

MBALE | UGANDA

Agroecology remains a myth amongst farmers in the Elgon sub region amidst climate change effects.



Agriculture being the backbone of Uganda and providing a livelihood to more than three-quarters of the population and mostly to small-scale farmers. Agriculture and its related industries depend immensely on climate. Crop production and livestock are the largest global food industries that are highly sensitive to climatic change effects. Increases in temperature, changes in rainfall patterns often significantly affect food production.

Bugisu and Sebei areas located in the Eastern Region depend on farming for food and income but these have especially been vulnerable to climate change effects. Farmers now depend on predictable rainfall patterns and are harvesting lower yields due to poor soil quality, pest invasions, droughts, floods and waters are drying up in many communities.

Click to read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/agroecology-remains-a-myth-amongst-farmers-in-the-elgon-sub-region-amidst-climate-change-effects/>

Or scan to read more:



By Sharon Muzaki, UG Standard Media

KAMPALA | UGANDA

ESAFF graduates first cohort Agroecology journalists and communicators



The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda early this year passed out the first cohort of 20 journalists who completed training on how to report on Agroecology practices for sustainable agriculture. The journalists selected from the various media houses across the country were passed out after undergoing a three-month training facilitated by the Agroecology School for Journalists and Communicators.

Click to read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/esaff-graduates-first-cohort-agroecology-journalists-and-communicators/amp/>

Or scan to read more:



By Marko Taibot, The Cooperator

KALIRO | UGANDA

How Agroecology is benefiting farmers, communities in Kaliro



Historically, Ugandans have had a great regard for nature. Living in a symbiotic relationship with nature is stressed and cultural totems amongst the Ugandan peoples have meant that Ugandans grow up relating to their role within the natural order of things. This has contributed to their predisposition toward the practices of organic agriculture (OA).

However organic agriculture has grown outside public support and in some cases despite government opposition. The major organic products include dried and fresh fruits, cotton, and coffee, vanilla, cocoa, shea butter, black pepper, dried herbs, coffee, sorghum, cassava, soybeans, and bananas among others. These crops are

either grown with backing from the farmers group or individually.

Production is still very low to meet increasing export and local demand for organic products. Policy implications results from various studies show that organic agriculture has great potential to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Uganda. Organic production allows access to new markets for farmers to obtain premium prices for their produce (export and domestic) but also to use extra incomes for extra foodstuffs, education or healthcare.

Click to read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/how-a-groecology-is-benefiting-farmers-communities-n-kaliro/>

Or scan to read more:



By Sharon Muzaki, UG Standard Media

MUKONO | UGANDA

Legal tools and Human Based Rights Approach (HRBA) promote Agroecology



Applying to use legal tools and HRBA to promote Agroecology is a way forward when planning, supporting and monitoring initiatives related to sustainable rural livelihood systems, with an emphasis on agriculture, food security, market development and natural resource management.

That is why there can never be separation of land and women because land to women is the foundation for security, shelter, and livelihood, supports their dignity and creates pathways to empowerment and economic opportunity.

However, Women’s rights are embedded cultural and social systems, regulated through marriage and kinship ties. Women are excluded from land ownership in both the natal and matrimonial estates.

The Ugandan Government and Africa at large, yet to improve on land rights where there is lack of clear laws to address equality in land ownership which affects women’s capacity to enjoy equal rights with men, this has affected women’s health, economic and social rights. Consequently, women continue to be disadvantaged by prevailing gender inequalities as a result of persistent negative and discriminatory practices which affect their economic and social well-being.

Click to read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/legal-tools-and-human-based-rights-approach-hrba-promote-agroecology/>

Or scan to read more:



By Sharon Muzaki, UG Standard Media

ADJUMANI | UGANDA

Over 200 Adjumani farmers to benefit from government irrigation equipment



More than 200 farmers comprising of refugees and nationals in Adjumani District will benefit from small scale irrigation equipment from the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer program (UGIFT) to adapt to the climate change challenges.

The program is funded by the Government of Uganda with support from the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries as the lead ministry, coordinated by its Department of Agricultural Infrastructure Mechanization and Water for Agricultural Production (DAIMWAP) and implemented by the Production and Marketing department at the District level.

Click to read more:
<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/over-200-adjumani-farmers-to-benefit-from-govt-irrigation-equipment-4099930>

Or scan to read more:



By Taibot Marko, Daily Monitor

NAIROBI | KENYA

Research is much needed for the development of organic agriculture



With increased recognition of limitations of fossil fuels, fresh water, and available farmland, educators from Uganda Martyrs University have pioneered Agroecology education through research and are changing focus from strategies to reach maximum yields to those that feature resource use efficiency and resilience of production systems in these changing climate times.

Dr. Simon Peter Musinguzi an agroecologist and the dean at the faculty of agriculture Uganda Martyrs said that this particular University is a leader in Agroecological solutions related to climate change and livelihood systems and has trained top notch agroecologists on the African

continent and beyond through its top rated programs in organic agriculture and Agroecology. **"Uganda Martyrs university itself is Agroecology,"** he said.

Therefore, Uganda hosts the African Centre of Excellence in Agroecology and Livelihood Systems (ACALISE) at the university being funded by the World Bank through the Government of Uganda.

It aims at stream-lining the production of high level, well-motivated and ethically conscious critical mass of Agroecology and livelihood systems experts through collaborative high quality postgraduate education as well as applied research that will contribute to sustainable livelihood and food systems transformation.

Click to read more:

<https://www.ugstandard.com/research-is-much-needed-for-the-development-of-organic-agriculture/>

Or scan to read more:



By Sharon Muzaki, UG Standard Media

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Women who farm on a small-scale are pushing for a fairer deal. How can we remedy the gender disparities that exist in the agricultural sector?



In commemoration of the International Women Day 2023, small-scale farmers especially women in Uganda are saying that it is possible to enhance crop yields by as much as 30 percent by providing women farmers with the same access to productive resources like land, technologies, and capital as males in order to help feed a growing population.

Click to read more:

https://www.esaffuganda.org/publications/?link=women_who_farm_on_a_small-scale_are_pushing_for_a_fairer_deal._how_can_we_remedy_the_gender_disparities_that_exist_in_the_agricultural_sector?

Or scan to read more:



By Laurine Musoki

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Agroecology Can Restore Our Lost Forest Cover



The International Day of Forests is observed on March 21 each year to promote awareness of the need of preserving and safeguarding forest cover. Small-scale farmers joined the rest of the globe in observing this day under the theme of **"Forests and Health"** this year. They called upon different stakeholders to take various measures as part of the celebration in an effort to preserve forests.

Click to read more:

https://www.esaffuganda.org/publications/?link=agroecology_can_restore_our_lost_forest_cover

Or scan to read more:



By Rashida Kabanda

MUKONO | UGANDA

THE WEALTH IN HUMAN WASTE (PART I): Human Pee is Liquid Gold!



Your bladder's loss could be your vegetable garden's gain since urine makes for a surprisingly good organic fertilizers and pesticide - so why are we wasting our pee? Ignorance or social taboos?

For Nasozi Kezia a small-scale farmer from Mukono district in Uganda, who exclusively practices organic farming, unlike her neighbors who use chemical pesticides and fertilizers there is no drop wasted of this liquid gold collected from her household. She says, **"I mix tobacco, herbs, pepper, ash, garlic and spring onions in both Human and animal urine which mixture I keep in a tightly covered container for two months before it is ready for use. I apply it to my matooke and vegetables every two months acting both as an organic fertilizer and pesticide. My crops are vibrant as you can see and their yields more bountiful"**. Kezia says in this interview:

<https://youtu.be/uYGyAMSp0KU>

Human waste refers to waste products of the human digestive system, menses and metabolism which includes urine and faecal matter. Human urine is one of the fastest-acting, most excellent sources of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and trace elements which happen to be the three macro nutrients required by plants

and delivered in a form that's perfect for assimilation. Not only that, we all have a constant, year-round supply of it (with each human producing an average 1-1.5 litres per day) - and it's free!

Click to read more:
<https://eu.docs.wps.com/module/common/loadPlatform/?sa=e1&st=1t&id=sIG6KoKtkkJDlnQY&v=v2>

Or scan to read more:



By Sylvia Basemera

ADJUMANI | UGANDA

Farmers decry low prices of soya beans



Hundreds of farmers in Adjumani District have hoarded tonnes of soya beans, citing low market prices. More than 200 groups and individual farmers growing soya beans say they are stuck with close to 50 tonnes of soya beans.

The farmers embarked on soya bean planting under the Development Initiative in Northern Uganda (DINU) pilot project. The 26 million euro (about Shs101 billion) project run from 2017 to 2022 in 33 districts, focused on nutrition and food

security, road infrastructure, and good governance.

Click to read more:
<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/farmers-decry-low-prices-of-soya-beans-4123172>

Or scan to read more:



By Taibot Marko, Daily Monitor

AGROECOLOGY QUIZ

- 1.** Agroecology promotes integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles.

True False
- 2.** Agroecology is like organic agriculture.

True False
- 3.** Agroecology means to use improved seeds.

True False
- 4.** Agroecology is to ask technical services to have easier access to cheap fertilizer.

True False
- 5.** Agroecology is the implementation of a communal reforestation plan discussed by concerned parties.

True False
- 6.** Agroecology is to specialise in one or two crops or breeding activities with the aim of producing a high yield.

True False
- 7.** Agroecology is to process products locally.

True False
- 8.** Agroecology favours export crops.

True False
- 9.** Agroecology is to decide together, at the heart of the organisation, what type of agricultural inputs we want to use in the region.

True False
- 10.** Agroecology protects soils from erosion.

True False

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



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