

THE AGROECOLOGY POST

Amplifying Stories of African Journalists
and Communicators

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A POLICY SHIFT FOR
AGROECOLOGY COULD
BE THE SOLUTION TO
AFRICA'S FOOD CRISIS

Remarks from Editor in Chief:

Welcome to this special edition of the Agroecology Post highlighting various Agroecology stories.

In this collection, our contributing journalists explore agroecology not just as a set of practices, but as a powerful philosophy grounded in sustainability, equity, and resilience.

From in-depth investigations on regenerative farming to stories of grassroots innovations in rural communities, each article sheds light on the real-world impacts and potential of agroecological principles in a rapidly changing climate and food system.

Agroecology challenges industrial norms and champions local knowledge, biodiversity, and ecological balance. It raises essential questions about who controls our food systems, whose voices are heard, and how we can build a future that nourishes both people and planet.

We're proud to present a range of perspectives, from farmers and scientists to activists and policymakers that reflect

the complexity and urgency of this moment.

Warm regards,



Nancy Mugimba

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Agroecology Post

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ADJUMANI | UGANDA

Hazardous pesticides: The silent killer in Uganda



Civil society organizations in Uganda have raised the alarm over the unregulated use of hazardous pesticides, describing it as a growing threat to public health, biodiversity, and food security.

Advocates for sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and food sovereignty are urging the government to impose stricter regulations and ban particularly harmful chemicals like glyphosate and chlorpyrifos.

A joint statement issued by various organizations emphasized the dangers posed by pesticides to human health, ecosystems, and socio-economic well-being.

Read more:

<https://tndnewsuganda.com/2025/01/08/hazardous-pesticides-the-silent-killer-in-uganda/>

By Marko Taibot
TND News

NAIROBI | KENYA

New National Agroecology Strategy Set to Transform Uganda's Agricultural Sector



Uganda is in the final stages of formulating its National Agroecology Strategy, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming the country's agricultural and food systems.

This was revealed by Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Kyakulaga Fred Bwino, Uganda's State Minister for Agriculture, during the official opening of the **2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference** from 25th to 28th March 2025 at Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The new strategy will streamline coordination among agroecology stakeholders to promote sustainable agricultural practices. It aims to enhance climate resilience, strengthen food security, and improve nutrition by integrating long-term strategies that align with Uganda's agricultural policy framework.

Read more:

<https://famreports.com/new-national-agroecology-strategy-set-to-transform-ugandas-agricultural-sector/>

By Muhoozi Mourice
FamReports

LIRA | UGANDA

Lira University Creating Organic Farming Curriculum to Mitigate Environ- mental Impact of Chemicals



Lira University is currently developing a curriculum focused on organic farming to combat the environmental threats posed by excessive chemical use in agriculture. This initiative was announced by the university's Deputy Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Opio Okaka Dokotum, during a research project dissemination workshop on agroecology held at the university.

The research, conducted by the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) - Uganda, in collaboration with Lira University and Lund University in Sweden, aimed to identify solutions to the environmental challenges caused by the overuse of chemicals. The study focused on government and international agency interventions to promote sustainable agriculture while addressing the negative effects of industrial farming on the environment.

Read more:

<https://radiowa.org/lira-university-creating-organic-farming-curriculum-to-mitigate-environmental-impact-of-chemicals/>

By Steward Bua
Radio Wa

ADJUMANI | UGANDA

ESAFF to implement climate adaptation initiative in Adjumani District



The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum [ESAFF] Uganda is to launch an important project in Adjumani district focused on enhancing climate change adaptation and ensuring accountability in climate funding.

Funded by Bread for the World [BfdW] and sub-granted by ESAFF's Regional Office, the initiative, titled "*Campaigning for Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Accountable Climate Funding*", will also extend to other countries, including Tanzania, Madagascar, Lesotho, and South Africa.

ESAFF Uganda, which is dedicated to empowering small-scale farmers, will implement Participatory Research and Score Card to identify key issues in agriculture, climate change adaptation, and the effects of COVID-19. This collaborative effort will lead to the development of advocacy action plans and coalitions focused on food and nutrition security, combining traditional knowledge with modern weather forecasting techniques and promoting effective climate governance.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/esaff-to-implement-climate-adaptation-initiative-in-adjumani-district/>

By Taibot Marko
The Cooperator News

ADJUMANI | UGANDA

ESAFF Uganda to carry out a climate adaptation initiative in Adjumani District



The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) Uganda is embarking on an important project in Adjumani district to improve climate change adaptation and secure accountable climate funding.

The initiative, titled *"Campaigning for Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Accountable Climate Funding,"* is funded by Bread for the World (BfdW) and sub-granted by ESAFF's regional office. It will also reach Tanzania, Madagascar, Lesotho, and South Africa.

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This collaborative effort will help to develop advocacy action plans and coalitions focused on food and nutrition security, combining traditional knowledge with modern weather forecasting techniques, and promoting effective climate governance.

By Marko Taibot
TND News

NAIROBI | KENYA

Stakeholders Urged to Boost Support for Agroecology SMEs in Zero-Waste Transition



The survival of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Africa's agroecology sector remains precarious, with financial constraints, policy gaps, and limited market adaptability posing significant challenges.

While these enterprises are crucial to advancing sustainable agricultural practices, they continue to struggle due to a lack of structured support systems. Speaking at the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference on March 26th at Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, Thomas Obiero Were, the Director Program and Enterprise Development at Agile Consulting Limited underscored the need for urgent intervention. Representing the O-Farms Project, Obiero proposed strategic solutions aimed at enhancing the resilience and scalability of SMEs within the zero-waste and circular economy sectors.

Read more:

<https://www.watchdoguganda.com/news/20250327/179382/stakeholders-urged-to-boost-support-for-agroecology-smes-in-zero-waste-transition.html>

By Muhoozi Mourice
The Watch Dog Uganda

NAIROBI | KENYA

How to ensure the success of EA's agroecology



The second East African Agroecology Conference convening in Nairobi this week from March 25 to 28th is not a mere regional gathering, it is a pivotal moment for the future of agriculture across the continent. This assembly of policy makers, farmer, academics and civil society underscores the burgeoning and increasingly critical recognition of agroecology's transformative potential.

Within the conference's diverse tracks, the subtheme: "*Empowerment of Youth and Women movements in Agroecology*" stands out as fundamentally indispensable. It acknowledges the crucial role of both women and youth in advancing agroecological practices.

Read more:

<https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/how-to-ensure-the-success-of-ea-s-agroecology-4979812>

By Keneddy Mugochi
Hivos East Africa

AMOLATAR | UGANDA

Amolatar's climate-smart agriculture revolution takes root as farmers adopt organic farming



At the age of 30, Odit Samson, hailing from Kampala Landing Site in the Amotatar District, exemplifies the transformative impact of agriculture in Uganda. Odit holds a degree in business administration from **Uganda Christian University**, but he encountered difficulties in the job market.

This experience prompted him to pursue farming as a viable career option starting in March 2024, where he dedicated himself to animal husbandry, goat farming, and crop cultivation, with a particular emphasis on vegetables.

Confronted with the challenges posed by intense draught and its effects on crop yields, Odit made a crucial decision to adopt irrigation.

By Ejang Sarah
Hot FM, Amolatar

NAIROBI | KENYA

Experts Push for Agroecology Policy Shift as Solution to Africa's Food Crisis



Climate-smart farming crusaders and stakeholders are challenging African governments to initiate and enact policies that will see the region cut over-reliance on conventional food production systems as a solution to the continent's food crisis.

Farmers, policymakers, researchers, civil society, and private sector leaders meeting in Nairobi from March 25-28, for the second Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference argue that Africa already has solutions to its food and nutrition crisis. Biovision Africa Trust Executive Director Dr. David Amudavi observed that a policy shift that focuses more on the farmer will be key to unlocking Africa's food potential.

Read more:

<https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/experts-push-for-agroecology-policy-shift-as-solution-to-africas-food-crisis/>

By Jackson Okata
Talk Africa

KAMPALA | UGANDA

CSOs raise alarm over the 'silent killer' in pesticides



Civil Society Organizations have raised concern over the continued use of dangerous pesticides that they say are slowly killing Ugandans.

Addressing journalists on Sunday, the CSOs said with agriculture being the mainstay of Uganda's economy employing around 70 percent of the working population, the persistent challenge of pest resistance, given Uganda's tropical climate favors pest diversity and faster multiplication rates.

This, they said means farmers use all sorts of pesticides to tackle the problem.

"We have observed that according to the official Uganda agrochemical register at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the National Drug Authority (NDA), the country had at least 115 active ingredients (ais) and 669 brands of synthetic pesticides legally registered for use in Uganda by the end of 2023," said Jane Nalunga, the Executive Director of SEATINI Uganda.

Read more:

<https://nilepost.co.ug/news/235607/csos-raise-alarm-over-the-silent-killer-in-pesticides>

By Kenneth Kazibwe
Nile Post

MITYANA | UGANDA

Women farmers champion sustainable agriculture



In Magongolo village, Mityana district, a group of six women farmers are working tirelessly to revive the soil, reclaim indigenous seed varieties grown by their ancestors and transfer knowledge of traditional farming practices to their communities. The Nutritional African Foods Initiative (NAFI) under the African Women Collaborative for Healthy Food Systems in partnership with ESAFF Uganda is implementing a project aimed at documenting the nutritional value of 8 selected crops: local mangoes, local bananas, amaranthus, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, Bambara nuts.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/magazines/farming/women-farmers-champion-sustainable-agriculture-4937452>

By Esther Bridget Nakalya

Daily Monitor

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Ugandan schools at the forefront of promoting agroecology through poetry



Every year, schools across the country participate in a challenge to restore environmentally friendly farming practices through art and creativity. The students engaged in an annual Schools Agroecology Poem writing competition organized by ESAFF Uganda in partnership with Humundi. The participating schools included Vision High School Mbale, St. Joseph's Naama Modern Secondary School, Paul Mukasa Secondary School among others competed in a genre of poetry under the theme: **Young Poets at the Epitome of promoting Agroecology.**

In its second edition, the competition focused on young poets across the nation to share creativity, passion for Agroecology, nature and sustainable farming practices through writing.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/education/ugandan-schools-at-the-forefront-of-promoting-agroecology-through-poetry-4969022>

By Esther Bridget Nakalya

Daily Monitor

NAIROBI | KENYA

Hidden Cost of Pesticides, Synthetic Fertilizers in Food Production



Agricultural production in Uganda is under increasing threat due to the rampant use of agrochemicals, raising concerns over human health, environmental degradation, and the sustainability of food production.

Experts warn that chronic toxicity caused by long-term exposure to these chemicals could lead to dire consequences, including soil degradation, water contamination, and declining yields due to pest resistance.

With the government aiming for a modern and prosperous Uganda by 2040 as stipulated in NDPIII through commercial agriculture, the unregulated use of hazardous agrochemicals could hinder the achievement of this vision. Recent assessments indicate that synthetic fertilizers and pesticides have led to alarming environmental consequences.

Water bodies and soils are increasingly contaminated, while beneficial organisms crucial to maintaining ecosystem functions are being eradicated. The overuse and misuse of pesticides have also resulted in pest resistance, forcing farmers to apply stronger chemicals, further compounding the problem.

Read more:

<https://www.watchdoguganda.com/news/20250331/179451/hidden-cost-of-pesticides-synthetic-fertilizers-in-food-production.html>

By Muhoozi Morris
The Watchdog Uganda

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Hazardous pesticides: The silent killer in Uganda



Civil society organizations in Uganda have raised concerns over the unchecked use of hazardous pesticides, describing the bad practice as an escalating threat to public health, biodiversity, and food security. Advocates for sustainable farming, environmental protection, and food sovereignty call on the government to enforce stricter regulations and ban dangerous chemicals, such as glyphosate and chlorpyrifos.

A joint statement released by various organizations highlighted pesticide risks to human health, ecosystems, and socio-economic well-being. "The World Health Organization [WHO] estimates that 385 million cases of unintentional pesticide poisoning occur globally each year, resulting in 11,000 deaths, the majority of

which are in low- and middle-income countries,” the statement revealed.

The statement said vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly, are at heightened risk, with children, for example, inhaling twice the pesticide dose of adults when exposed to aerial spraying.

Read more:
<https://thecooperator.news/hazardous-pesticides-the-silent-killer-in-uganda/>

By Marko Taibot
 The Cooperator News

KAMPALA | UGANDA

African countries adopt new 10-year agriculture strategy



The Kampala Declaration, a 10-year strategy adopted at an AU summit, shifts Africa’s agricultural policy to focus on sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, setting ambitious goals for resilience, investment, and governance by 2035.

African heads of state have adopted a new 10-year commitment to enhance food and nutrition security on the continent while transforming food systems to be more sustainable and supporting more equitable economic growth.

The Kampala Declaration and its associated action plan commit to increasing the continent’s agricultural output by 45% by 2035, by adopting sustainable agricultural practices that will meet the needs of a rapidly growing population.

Read more:
<https://www.devex.com/news/africa-n-countries-adopt-new-10-year-agriculture-strategy-109042>

By Ayenat Mersie
 Devex News

NAIROBI | KENYA

African Food Crisis Emergency Response Success Depends on Farmer-Managed Seed Systems



As Africa grapples with the need to feed its growing population amidst changing climate conditions, community-centred farmer-managed seed systems could prove to be a critical element in the continent’s emergency responses to food crises, experts have advised.

Dr. Goudian Gwademba, a food systems expert at Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, argues that farmer-led Indigenous seed propagation, preservation and sharing is a

perfect emergency response tool to Africa’s growing food and nutrition needs.

"Farmer-managed seed systems provide a viable solution for efficient, sustainable and resilient food systems, which African countries need," said Gwademba. The experts spoke at a side event jointly organized by the Seed Savers Network and Swiss Aid during the second Eastern African Agroecology Conference in Nairobi from March 25-28.

Read more:

<https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/african-food-crisis-emergency-response-success-depends-on-farmer-managed-seed-systems/>

By Jackson Okata
Talk Africa

KAMPALA | UGANDA

CSOs push for ban on highly hazardous pesticides on Ugandan market



A coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Uganda has petitioned the government to regulate and ban hazardous pesticides, citing their detrimental effects on health, agriculture, and the environment.

These pesticides, the CSOs argue, are silently undermining the country’s potential for agricultural growth and sustainability, and further warn that they are compromising long-term viability of a productive sector that employs around 70% of the working population and accounts for about 24% of Uganda’s GDP.

In a joint statement dated January 5, 2025, and signed by at least 10 member organizations, the group detailed the adverse impacts of these pesticides, including declining soil fertility, over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture, increased vulnerability to climate change, and pest resistance fueled by Uganda’s tropical climate.

Read more:

<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2025/01/11/csos-push-for-ban-on-highly-hazardous-pesticides-on-ugandan-market/>

By Simon Peter Isabirye
Daily Express

KAMPALA | UGANDA

Why MPs want govt to enforce strict post-harvest measures



Legislators on the agricultural committee of parliament want government to enforce strict post-harvesting standards on all agricultural produce as a means of

ensuring Uganda’s output penetrates deeper into the global market. The committee argues that the proposal is endorsed and adequately funded, the government will not only arrest food insecurity but also enable Uganda’s produce to be competitive on the global stage.

Read more:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/why-mps-want-govt-to-enforce-strict-post-harvest-measures-4892782>

By Arthur Arnold Wadero
Daily Monitor

NAIROBI | KENYA

Agroecological Innovations Steering Conservation and Prosperity Across Africa



In a world where environmental degradation and economic inequality are growing concerns, a transformative shift is happening across Africa. This shift is being led by a new generation of entrepreneurs who are integrating agroecology into their business models, creating small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that balance the pursuit of profit with ecological preservation and social progress.

These agroecology-driven SMEs are showing that profitability does not have to come at the cost of the environment, and, in fact, sustainable practices can serve as powerful engines for growth and development. While the global landscape of SMEs is dominated by conventional business models, Africa’s emerging agroecological enterprises are challenging the status quo, offering sustainable, culturally appropriate solutions that address the continent’s most pressing challenges.

Read more:

<https://famreports.com/agroecological-innovations-steering-conservation-and-prosperity-across-africa/>

By Muhoozi Mourice
Fam Reports

ADJUMANI | UGANDA

SIDA invests US\$ 4.1bln to empower rural women in fight against climate change



The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency [SIDA] has allocated US\$ 1.12 million [about Shs 4.1 billion] to support a project aimed at addressing inequalities in food systems, tackling

climate change, and promoting responsible land governance.

The initiative, named "*Cultivating Change in a Warming World*", will be implemented over five years in the districts of Adjumani, Amuria, Apac, and Soroti, targeting more than 4,000 small-scale farmers.

The Eastern and Southern African Farmers Forum [ESAFF] Uganda, in collaboration with Oxfam Uganda and a consortium of partners, including Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Uganda, Integrated Development Initiatives [CIDI], Climate Action Network Uganda, and the Women's Land Rights Movement, will spearhead the project. The goal is to empower rural women and their communities, equipping them with the tools to thrive in a fair, green, equal, and safe environment.

Read more:

<https://thecooperator.news/sida-invests-us-4-1bln-to-empower-rural-women-in-fight-against-climate-change/amp/>

By Marko Taibot

The Cooperator News

Stakeholders representing smallholder food producers, civil society organisations, researchers, and policymakers in Africa have called on governments to invest in agroecology to advance food sovereignty across the continent.

The stakeholders, led by the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) Chairperson Hakim Baliraine, urged African states to prioritise agroecology by developing and funding policies that support farmers, seed sovereignty, and sustainable food production.

Speaking during an agroecology workshop in Sagana, Baliraine expressed concern over the persistent disconnects between policy directives and the real needs of small-scale farmers, pastoralists and rural communities

Read more:

<https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/african-states-urged-to-implement-agroecology-policies/>

By Anita Omwenga

Kenya News

SAGANA | KENYA

African states urged to implement agroecology policies



Florida | USA

US-funded 'social network' attacking pesticide critics shuts down after Guardian investigation



A US company that was secretly profiling hundreds of food and environmental health advocates in a private web portal has said it has halted the operations in the face of widespread backlash, after its actions were revealed by the Guardian and other reporting partners.

The St Louis, Missouri-based company, v-Fluence, said it is shuttering the service, which it called a "stakeholder wiki", that featured personal details about more than 500 environmental advocates, scientists, politicians and others seen as opponents of pesticides and genetically modified (GM) crops.

Among those profiled was Robert F Kennedy Jr, President Trump's controversial pick for secretary of health and human services.

Read more:

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/10/v-fluence-pesticide-critics?CMP=share_btn_url

By The Guardian

NAIROBI | KENYA

New National Agroecology Strategy Set to Transform Uganda's Agricultural Sector



Uganda is in the final stages of formulating its National Agroecology Strategy, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming the country's agricultural and food systems.

This was revealed by Hon. Maj. (Rtd) Kyakulaga Fred Bwino, Uganda's State Minister for Agriculture, during the official opening of the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference at Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The new strategy will streamline coordination among agroecology stakeholders to promote sustainable agricultural practices. It aims to enhance climate resilience, strengthen food security, and improve nutrition by integrating long-term strategies that align with Uganda's agricultural policy framework.

The three-day conference, themed "Strengthening Agri-Food System Transformation for Resilience, Sustainability, and Socio-Economic Development," brought together policymakers, government representatives, consumer associations, academia, research institutions, farmers, agroecology practitioners, private sector players, and donor agencies from within and outside Africa.

Read more:

<https://www.watchdoguganda.com/business/20250326/179357/new-national-agroecology-strategy-set-to-transform-ugandas-agricultural-sector.html>

By Muhoozi Mourice
The Watchdog Uganda

ANSWERS TO AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 8

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

1.

What is the main goal of agroecology?

Answer B

Preserving ecological balance while producing food

2.

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

Answer B

Integrated pest management

3.

How does crop rotation benefit the soil?

Answer C

It helps prevent soil erosion and restores nutrients

4.

What role does biodiversity play in agroecology?

Answer B

It enhances ecosystem services and resilience

5.

Agroecology promotes the use of synthetic fertilizers.

Answer False B

6.

Which of the following is a key principle of agroecology?

Answer B

Ecological intensification

7.

What is agroforestry?

Answer B

Combining trees, crops, and/or livestock on the same land

8.

How does agroecology address climate change?

Answer B

By sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gases

9.

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

Answer B

Empowering farmers and local communities

10.

Which practice helps control pests naturally in agroecology?

Answer B

Introducing natural predators

AGROECOLOGY QUIZ 9

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 climate change?

- A) A seasonal variation in temperature
- B) Long-term changes in Earth's average temperature and weather patterns
- C) Changes in ocean currents
- d) Rapid shifts in atmospheric pressure

2.

Which of the following is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change?

- A) Oxygen (O₂)
- B) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- C) Nitrogen (N₂)
- D) Hydrogen (H₂)

3.

What is the primary source of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions?

- A) Deforestation
- B) Industrial processes
- C) Agriculture
- D) Burning fossil fuels

4.

How does deforestation contribute to climate change?

- A) It increases the number of trees, which absorb carbon dioxide
- B) It reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- C) It releases carbon stored in trees into the atmosphere
- D) It has no impact on climate change

5.

Which of the following is a consequence of climate change?

- A) Decreased sea levels
- B) More frequent and severe heatwaves
- C) Reduced rainfall and droughts
- D) Cooler global temperatures

6.

How do scientists measure past climate changes?

- A) By analyzing tree rings
- B) By counting the number of clouds in the sky
- C) By studying volcanic eruptions
- D) By observing the color of the ocean

7.

What is the main driver of rising sea levels due to climate change?

- A) Increased rainfall
- B) Melting ice caps and glaciers
- C) Stronger ocean currents
- D) Decreased evaporation

8.

What is the term for the gradual increase in Earth's average temperature due to human activities?

- A) Global cooling
- B) Global warming
- C) Climate stability
- D) Seasonal variation

9.

How can individuals help combat climate change in their daily lives?

- A) By using disposable plastic products
- B) By driving gas-guzzling vehicles
- C) By conserving energy and reducing waste
- D) By increasing water usage

10.

Which international agreement aims to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

- A) Kyoto Protocol
- B) Paris Agreement
- C) Rio Declaration
- D) Copenhagen Accord

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



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