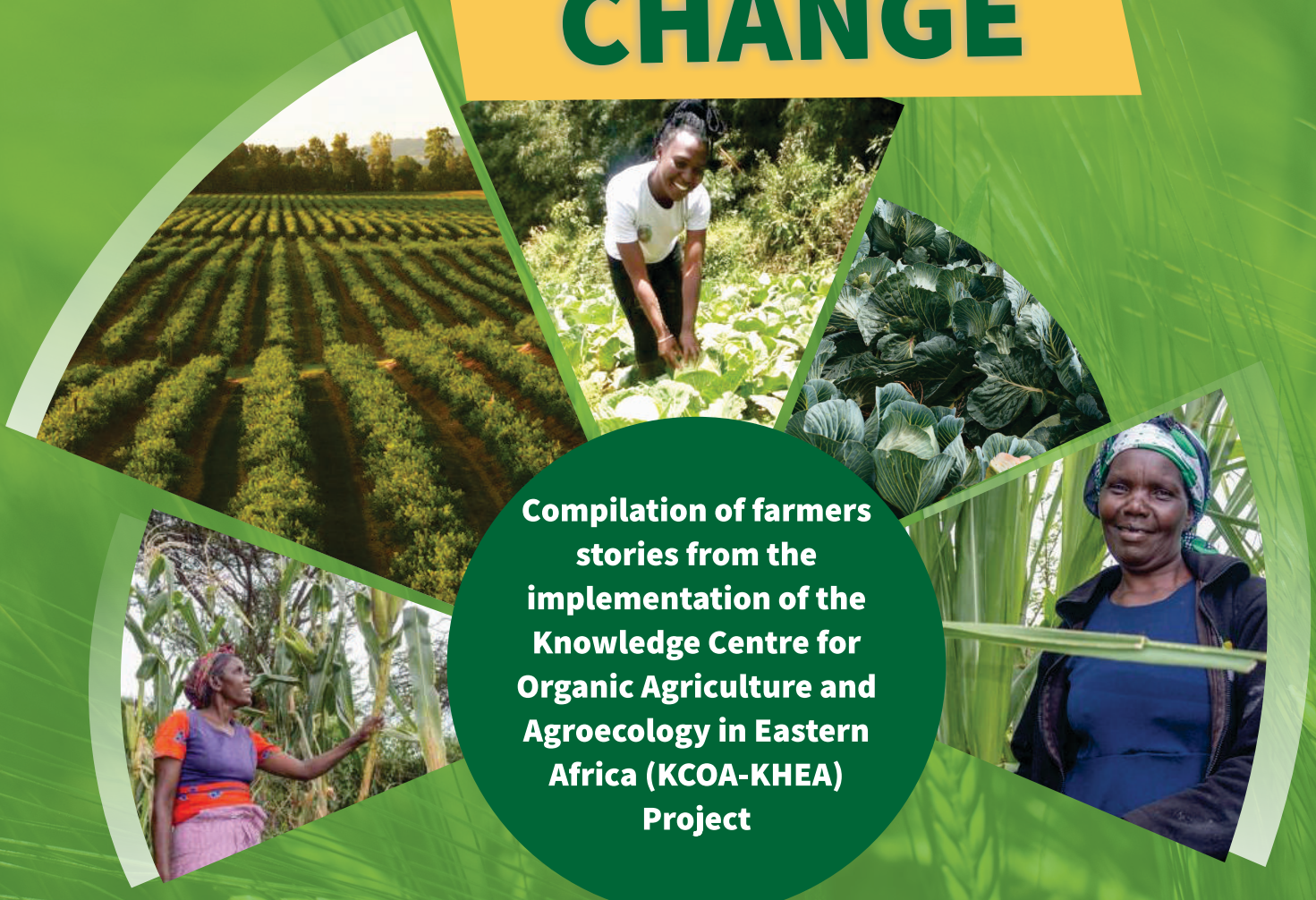
PELUM Kenya
Networking for a Greener Africa

KHEA
Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa

STORIES OF CHANGE



Compilation of farmers stories from the implementation of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KCOA-KHEA) Project

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
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TOAM
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PELUM Kenya sincerely acknowledges all farmers, Multiplier, PELUM Kenya Member Organizations, community members, and partner organizations whose experiences, commitment, and contributions made the development of this success stories booklet possible. Their journeys and efforts demonstrate the transformative impact of agroecology in improving livelihoods, strengthening resilience, and promoting sustainable food systems across communities.

Special appreciation goes to the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA - KHEA) Project for supporting knowledge sharing, capacity strengthening, and the documentation of farmer experiences that inspire wider adoption of agroecological practices.

We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders, partners, institutions, and collaborators working alongside PELUM Kenya to advance agroecology and promote sustainable livelihoods and resilient communities across Kenya.

This booklet is dedicated to the farmers whose stories remind us that knowledge, innovation, and collective action can transform livelihoods, restore ecosystems, and create lasting positive change for communities and the environment.

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PELUM KENYA AT A GLANCE

WHO WE ARE

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a National Network that currently comprising of 74 Member Organizations (M.O.s). Its members mandate PELUM Kenya to promote agroecological principles and practices through networking and capacity building, agro-enterprise and market development, information sharing, and advocacy.

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association is a network of Civil Society Organizations / NGOs working with small-scale farmers in East, Central, and Southern Africa. The Association membership has grown from 25 pioneer members (in 1995) to over 280 members. PELUM-Kenya is the Kenyan country chapter of the PELUM Association and has a membership of 68 Member Organizations (M.Os).

74
Member Organizations (M.O.s)

47
Counties

VISION

Empowered, prosperous and healthy resilient communities

MISSION

To champion Agroecological principles and practices for sustainable and resilient livelihoods among small holder farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks

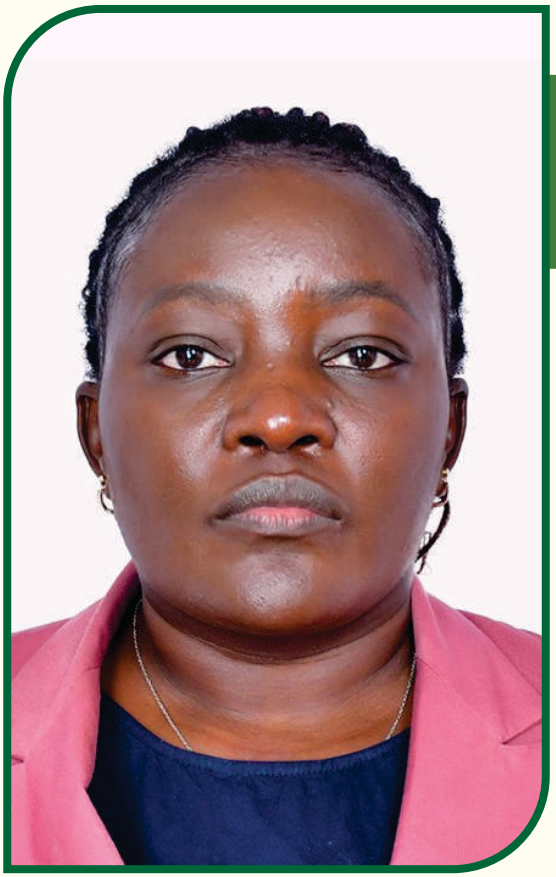
THEMATIC AREAS

- Advocacy and Policy Influence
- Women and Youth in Agroecology
- Climate Action
- Market Development
- Institutional Capacity Strengthening

CORE VALUES

1. Commitment to partnership, participation, and networking.
2. Commitment to gender equity and social inclusion.
3. Transparency and accountability.
4. Quality service delivery.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR, PELUM KENYA

ROSINAH MBENYA

Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya

It is with great pleasure that I share this Stories of Change Booklet, a collection of experiences that reflect the commitment, resilience and innovation of farmers, agripreneurs, women, youth and communities working to transform Kenya's food systems. At PELUM Kenya, we believe that meaningful change is not created by projects alone. It is created by people who are willing to learn, experiment, collaborate and champion solutions that respond to the realities of their communities. The stories captured in this booklet demonstrate what is possible when farmers and other food system actors are supported with the knowledge, skills, networks and opportunities they need to thrive.

Across different counties and value chains, we have witnessed farmers adopting agroecological practices, improving their production and value addition, strengthening their access to markets, conserving local seeds, embracing Participatory Guarantee Systems and creating new opportunities for women and young people. These changes may begin with a single farmer, a small group or a simple innovation, but their impact can extend far beyond the individual.

These stories also remind us that transformation takes time. It requires partnerships, continuous learning, investment and policies that place farmers and communities at the centre of sustainable development. They show that local knowledge, when combined with appropriate technical support and collective action, can provide practical pathways towards resilient and inclusive food systems.

As you read these stories, I invite you to celebrate the achievements of the people behind them, learn from their experiences and reflect on how we can collectively build on these successes. Their journeys are not only stories of what has changed; they are stories of what can change when people are empowered to lead solutions for themselves.

On behalf of PELUM Kenya, I extend my sincere appreciation to all farmers, partners, staff and stakeholders whose dedication continues to advance agroecology and sustainable livelihoods.

Together, we can nurture a food system that is resilient, inclusive, just and sustainable for present and future generations.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUCCESS STORIES BOOKLET

This booklet presents inspiring stories of change, resilience, and transformation emerging from farmers, Multipliers/Farmer trainers, and communities supported through the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA-KHEA) Project. Through these stories, readers will gain a glimpse into the experiences shared by multipliers and farmers whose lives and livelihoods have been transformed through practical agroecological knowledge, mentorship, and community-based learning. The stories highlight how agroecology is contributing to improved livelihoods, strengthened resilience to climate challenges, enhanced food security, and sustainable natural resource management across Kenya. The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA-KHEA) Project is in its second phase of implementation for the 3rd Phase. The implementation of Phase I and II of the KCOA Project in Eastern Africa (https://khea-africa.org/ started in August 2019 and ends in July 2025. The approach incorporates different dynamics across the different agroecological regions, and PELUM Kenya is the Country Implementing Partner for Kenya. KHEA Project Phase III 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 Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa, with a co-hosting arrangement with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda. PELUM Kenya is the County Implementing partner of the project in Kenya.

The **expected outcome** of the hub stakeholders involved in value chain processes, including agricultural production, processing, marketing and consumption do better harmonize these processes and maintain balance in natural resource use through ecological intensification of their actions and improved consumption behaviours.

THE FIVE (5) KEY FOCUS AREAS ARE;

1. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION
2. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT.
3. NETWORKING AND LINKAGES
4. POLICY AND ADVOCACY
5. CAPACITY BUILDING

The project's focus areas are intertwined. They include knowledge collection & validation, capacity building & dissemination, market development & networking, and advocacy on organic agriculture and agroecology. Through the 7 KHEA Master Trainers of PELUM Kenya, 427 Multipliers (trainers of farmers) were trained across 47 counties of Kenya. The Multipliers reached more than +1,158 farmers directly. Multipliers include but are not limited to extension officers, field officers, agronomists, and model farmers. The Multipliers are also mentored by Master Trainers, who provide technical backstopping, as the Agroecology field is dynamic and evolves frequently.

The stories captured in this booklet reflect the impact of the **Multiplier Approach**, showcasing how localized knowledge sharing and community driven solutions are increasing adoption of Agroecology. Readers will discover stories of farmers overcoming challenges, multipliers strengthening community capacity, and local innovations driving the adoption of organic agriculture and agroecology. These experiences demonstrate that empowering communities with practical agroecological knowledge can lead to lasting transformation for farmers, food systems, and the environment.

This booklet celebrates the experiences and achievements of farmers, KCOA Multipliers, and PELUM Kenya Member Organizations who continue to champion Agroecology, proving that sustainable farming practices can transform lives while safeguarding the future of food systems in Kenya.

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FROM LEARNER TO COMMUNITY CHANGE AGENT: EMMANUEL'S AGROECOLOGY JOURNEY



For many years, Emmanuel Kileti, a multiplier from CSHEP Kenya, Kiserian in Kajiado North, Kajiado County, had limited knowledge of agroecological practices and training approaches needed to effectively support farmers within his community. Although passionate about agriculture, inadequate exposure to sustainable farming methods and weak community engagement skills limited his ability to influence wider adoption of resilient farming practices in a region affected by dry conditions and climate challenges.

Everything began to change through support from the KCOA Project, where Emmanuel participated in agroecology training designed to strengthen the capacity of multipliers. Through practical learning sessions, he gained improved knowledge on organic farming principles, sustainable agricultural practices, and effective approaches for training and supporting farmers at the community level. The training equipped Emmanuel with new skills and confidence to share agroecological knowledge with farmers, promote sustainable production practices, and support communities in adopting approaches that improve resilience while conserving natural resources.

“The training gave me more knowledge and practical skills in organic farming, which I can now pass on to other farmers in my community. I have gained confidence to train and support farmers in adopting sustainable practices says Emmanuel.”

The impact has extended beyond personal learning. With improved understanding of agroecology and strengthened community engagement skills, Emmanuel is now better positioned to serve as a multiplier, transferring knowledge and supporting farmers to improve productivity using sustainable farming methods. His increased capacity contributes to wider awareness and adoption of agroecological practices within Kajiado County.



Without the intervention, Emmanuel believes he would have continued with limited knowledge and fewer opportunities to effectively support farming communities facing climate and production challenges. Instead, his journey demonstrates how investing in capacity building for multipliers creates a ripple effect, enabling knowledge transfer that reaches more farmers and strengthens sustainable food systems. Today, Emmanuel’s story reflects the important role of CSHEP Multipliers in bridging knowledge gaps, empowering communities, and accelerating the adoption of agroecology as a pathway toward resilient livelihoods and sustainable agriculture in Kajiado County.

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100 KG TO 350 KG: THE COMPOST REVOLUTION THAT RESTORED ISABELLA'S HOPE



Isabella Kagwiria in her sugarcane plantation which she sells to the nearest market.



Elizabeth in her demo plots

Today, Isabella's story is proof that agroecology not only improves harvests but also empowers farmers to become champions of sustainable agriculture within their communities.

For years, Isabella Kagwiria, a farmer from Thau in Tigania West, Meru County, relied on conventional farming methods without knowing alternative approaches to improve productivity. Over time, declining soil fertility, high input costs, poor market access, and unreliable water availability reduced production and threatened household livelihoods. Farming became increasingly difficult, with low harvests and limited income creating uncertainty for the future.

Everything changed when Isabella participated in agroecology training facilitated through CIFORD Kenya with support from PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project. Through a five-day training and continuous learning, she gained practical skills in compost preparation, biopesticide production, establishment of food forests, and sustainable soil fertility management. Initially uncertain whether agroecological practices would work, Isabella decided to apply the new knowledge on her farm. She began producing and using compost and boma compost, reducing reliance on expensive external inputs while improving soil health.

"I had never used compost in my farm before, but after receiving the training and starting to use it, I have seen tremendous change in my garden," says Isabella.

The transformation has been remarkable. Improved soil fertility and sustainable farming practices significantly increased productivity. Isabella reports that harvests of leafy vegetables including cowpeas, kale, and spinach increased from approximately 100 kg to over 350 kg from the same piece of land. Increased production has translated into improved household income while reducing production costs through use of homemade organic inputs.

Beyond improved yields, Isabella gained confidence in agroecology and became an advocate within her community. She now trains group members and neighboring farmers who visit her garden to learn sustainable farming practices. Peer learning among farmers continues encouraging wider adoption of agroecology across the community.

Without the intervention, Isabella believes she would have continued using conventional farming methods that depleted soil fertility and reduced productivity. Instead, her journey demonstrates how access to practical knowledge and community learning can restore hope, increase incomes, and strengthen resilience for smallholder farmers.

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EYES WIDE OPEN: A YOUNG KAJIADO FARMER'S LEAP INTO SUSTAINABLE FARMING



For years, Nancy Cherwon, a youth farmer from Kandisi Village in Kajiado North, Kajiado County, practised farming mainly for household consumption with limited knowledge of agroecological practices. As a member of NOOA PGS, she faced numerous challenges, including low awareness of sustainable farming methods, inadequate market access, destruction caused by livestock and wildlife intrusion, and limited understanding of climate-resilient farming systems. These challenges affected productivity and hindered opportunities to improve her livelihood through farming.

Everything began to change when Nancy participated in agroecology training and mentorship facilitated by CSHEP Multiplier Emmanuel Kileti through the KCOA Project. Through practical training sessions, peer learning, and exposure opportunities, she gained knowledge on organic farming practices, compost preparation, soil fertility management, biodiversity conservation, mulching, seed saving, farm record keeping, and climate-smart agriculture approaches aimed at improving productivity while protecting the environment. Motivated by the training, Nancy began applying agroecological practices on her farm. She adopted improved soil management techniques, diversified farming systems, strengthened record keeping, and embraced sustainable production methods that enhanced resilience against climate-related challenges.

> **The training opened my eyes to better farming practices that protect the environment while improving production.**
>
> **I now understand how to manage my farm sustainably and plan for the future SAYS NANCY.**

The impact has been transformative. Nancy has improved her knowledge and confidence in managing her farm as a sustainable enterprise while strengthening household resilience through diversified farming practices. Better planning through record keeping and the adoption of agroecological approaches has enhanced her ability to make informed decisions and improve farm productivity. Beyond benefiting her own household, she has become more confident in sharing experiences with fellow farmers and participating in farmer learning networks.

Without the intervention, Nancy believes she would have continued using traditional practices with a limited understanding of sustainable alternatives and climate adaptation strategies. Instead, her journey demonstrates how practical agroecological knowledge and mentorship provided by CSHEP Multiplier Emmanuel Kileti can empower farmers to adopt sustainable farming systems, strengthen resilience, and improve livelihoods.

Today, Nancy's story illustrates that investing in farmer knowledge through agroecology not only transforms individual farms but also contributes to building resilient communities and sustainable food systems in Kajiado County.

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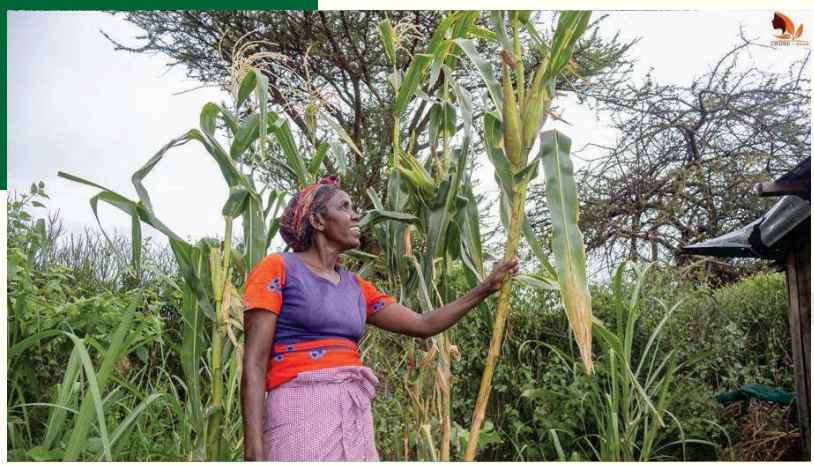


The farmer captured the photos below before she trained on organic and agroecology



The farmer captured the photos after she trained on organic and agroecology. Far right: This is the photo of the farmer checking her Brocoli. She has manage to produce and save 1.5kgs of brocoli seeds in a small area if the farm

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DOUBLING DOWN ON HOPE: HOW COMPOST TURNED KSH 2,500 INTO KSH 5,500

For many years, Elizabeth Karito, a 56-year-old farmer from Kairakai in Tigania West, Meru County, practiced conventional farming without knowledge of alternative approaches to improve productivity. Over time, declining soil fertility reduced harvests, while drought, inadequate irrigation water, and poor market access made farming increasingly difficult. Although compost manure was available on her farm, she lacked the knowledge to use it effectively.

Everything changed when Elizabeth participated in a five-day agroecology training facilitated through CIFORD Kenya with support from PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project. Through training and farmer exchange visits, she gained practical knowledge on compost preparation, bio-pesticide production, soil fertility improvement, and establishment of food forests for sustainable food production. Motivated by the training, Elizabeth set aside a small section of her arm to test agroecological food practices. She adopted compost and boma compost application, bio-pesticides for pest control, and diversified production through a food forest system.

The impact has been significant. Improved soil fertility increased crop production and strengthened resilience against climate challenges. Most notably, income generated from her garden increased from approximately Ksh 2,500 to between Ksh 4,000 and Ksh 5,500, more than doubling her earnings through sustainable farming practices. Beyond improving her own livelihood, Elizabeth has become a champion of agroecology within her community, sharing knowledge with fellow group members and family. Her increased confidence in organic farming continues to inspire others to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

Without the intervention, Elizabeth believes she would have continued practicing conventional farming methods that negatively affected soil fertility and reduced productivity. Instead, her journey demonstrates how practical agroecological knowledge can restore soils, increase income, strengthen household food security, and build resilient farming communities.

"I didn't know how to make compost and boma compost or understand their importance, but now I can confidently prepare and use them in my garden," says Elizabeth.

"With the establishment of a food forest, I now have enough vegetables and crops for home consumption."



Today, Elizabeth's story is proof that small changes in farming practices can create lasting transformation for both livelihoods and the environment.

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FROM BARE LAND TO RENEWED PURPOSE: ONE FARMER'S JOURNEY BACK TO THE SOIL

For many years, Joseph Joakim Muli, a farmer from Matasia in Kajiado North, Kajiado County, faced challenges that limited his ability to actively engage in farming. Due to water scarcity, expensive labor, and family-related constraints, his farm remained largely unused and unproductive. With limited access to practical knowledge on sustainable farming approaches, the potential of his land remained untapped.

Everything began to change when Joseph participated in organic farming training facilitated by CSHEP Multiplier Emmanuel Kileti through the KCOA Project.

The training introduced him to agroecological practices aimed at improving productivity while promoting sustainable natural resource management. Through practical learning sessions, Joseph gained knowledge on organic farming techniques and approaches that can help farmers adapt to environmental and economic challenges.

Motivated by the training, Joseph began viewing farming differently. He developed a renewed interest in utilizing his land productively and adopting sustainable practices that improve soil health, strengthen resilience, and reduce dependence on expensive external inputs. The knowledge gained provided him with practical solutions to improve farming while working within the realities of water scarcity and limited resources.

The impact has been significant in restoring motivation and confidence toward farming. With improved understanding of agroecological approaches, Joseph is better positioned to transform previously idle land into a productive farming space while improving household food security and resilience. The training has also strengthened his awareness of sustainable farming as a pathway toward long-term livelihood improvement.

Without the intervention, Joseph believes his farm would likely have remained underutilized due to persistent challenges and limited knowledge of alternative farming practices. Instead, his journey demonstrates how access to practical agroecological training and mentorship through CSHEP Multiplier Emmanuel Kileti can inspire farmers to re-engage with agriculture, rebuild confidence, and pursue more sustainable livelihoods.

“The training helped me understand that farming can be done differently using sustainable methods. I now have more confidence to utilize my land and apply practices that improve productivity while conserving resources, says Joseph.”



Today, Joseph’s story reflects how knowledge, even at the early stages of adoption, can become the foundation for transforming farms, strengthening resilience, and building sustainable food systems in Kajiado County.

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TURNING WASTE INTO WEALTH: HOW WRIGGLING WORMS CUT PIUS'S COSTS BY 75%

For years, Pius Ikamba, a youth farmer from Choke B Village in Wundanyi Sub County, Taita Taveta County, struggled with declining soil fertility, low crop yields, pest infestations, and the high cost of synthetic farm inputs. Like many smallholder farmers, farming was becoming increasingly difficult and expensive, threatening both household income and food security.

Everything changed when Pius joined trainings supported by PELUM Kenya and implemented by Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum under the KCOA Project. Through practical sessions on soil health improvement, water management, organic farming, and vermicomposting, he discovered sustainable alternatives that could restore productivity while reducing production costs. Motivated by the training, Pius adopted vermi composting, a process that uses earthworms to produce nutrient-rich organic manure. The technology transformed how he viewed farming and soil management.

The impact has been remarkable. By replacing expensive synthetic inputs with organic manure, Pius significantly reduced farming costs while improving soil fertility and crop performance. He reports that production costs reduced by up to 75%, making farming more affordable and sustainable. Improved productivity has translated into increased household income, better living standards, and stronger environmental conservation on his farm.

Beyond improving his own livelihood, Pius has become a resource person within his community, training and encouraging other farmers to adopt vermicomposting and organic farming practices. His experience is helping spread awareness that healthy soils are the foundation of sustainable agriculture. Reflecting on his journey, Pius believes that without the intervention, he would have continued relying on costly synthetic inputs and possibly abandoned farming altogether.

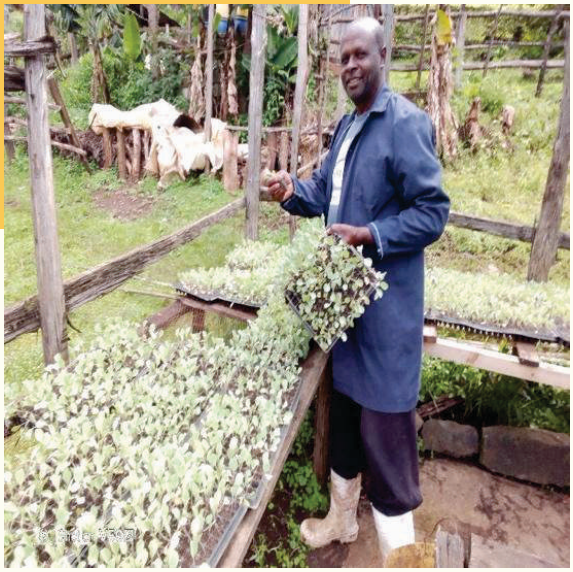
Pius' journey is proof that when farmers are empowered with knowledge and sustainable solutions, agriculture can once again become a source of resilience, income, and hope.

"Since I understood how to rear the vermines and utilize their products, there has been a great change in production on my farm," says Pius.

Today, his story demonstrates how practical agroecological knowledge and low-cost organic technologies can restore degraded soils, reduce production costs, improve livelihoods, and inspire community transformation.



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FROM 58% TO 90%: AN ORGANIC FARMING BREAKTHROUGH IN KERICHO

For years, Stephen Soi, a member of the Sogobet Agripreneurs Group in Chepseon, Londiani Sub County, Kericho County, faced the challenge many smallholder farmers know too well; rising production costs, declining yields, and heavy dependence on synthetic farm inputs. Excessive use of chemicals not only reduced farm productivity but also contributed to environmental degradation, low food production, and reduced household Income.

Everything changed when Stephen joined trainings facilitated through the KCOA Project by PELUM Kenya multiplier Jeniffer Rono. Through practical demonstrations and continuous mentorship, farmers gained skills in composting, bokashi preparation, manure aging, crop rotation, intercropping, agroforestry, water conservation, seed saving, and preparation of biopesticides such as apichi, ash brew, and plant teas for pest management. Farmers were also introduced to table banking to strengthen investment in farm enterprises.

Motivated by the knowledge gained, Stephen adopted agroecological practices including production of biofertilizers and biopesticides, agroforestry, microbial multiplication technologies, and improved seed sharing systems. These changes increased confidence in organic food production while reducing over reliance on synthetic inputs. Greater participation across genders and stronger collective action within the community accelerated adoption of sustainable farming practices.

The results have been transformative. Farm productivity increased from 58% to 90%, while improved soil fertility has been achieved through widespread use of compost and bokashi.

Reduced chemical use has lowered environmental risks, and improved access to healthy foods has contributed to reduced malnutrition and lifestyle-related illnesses within households.

The economic benefits have also been significant. Stephen now generates additional income through selling compost and bokashi and has established a nursery that uses compost for propagation instead of cocopeat. What was once a struggle with low yields has evolved into a more diversified and resilient farming enterprise. “Organic farming is much better than conventional farming since it uses no synthetic inputs.”

Today, the impact extends beyond individual farms. Farmers continue sharing knowledge within the community, and many are pursuing organic certification to sustain and scale the benefits of agroecology. Stephen’s journey demonstrates how organic farming can restore soils, strengthen livelihoods, reduce production costs, and build healthier, more resilient communities.



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ORANGES INTO OPPORTUNITY: HOW MARGARET TURNED FRUIT INTO DAILY INCOME

For years, Margaret Gacheri, a farmer from Kithuene Village in Buuri East, Meru County, faced the challenges common to many farmers in semi-arid regions. Limited knowledge on organic farming, poor marketing skills, and water scarcity reduced her farm's potential. She relied on local markets to sell her oranges and struggled to balance production costs with returns, while paying for irrigation water increased farming expenses.

"I knew very little about organic farming techniques and only depended on local markets for my produce," Margaret recalls.

Her journey changed through trainings facilitated by PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project in partnership with CIFORD Kenya. Through continuous mentorship, Margaret gained practical skills on agroecological farming, marketing strategies, savings and credit systems, and sustainable soil fertility management.

Motivated by the knowledge acquired, Margaret adopted organic farming practices including use of compost manure, biofertilizers, and biopesticides. She established a nutritional garden and improved management of her orange farm while integrating savings through her farmer group to strengthen access to credit when needed.

The impact has been remarkable. On her quarter-acre orange farm, Margaret now earns between Ksh 700 and Ksh 1,000 per day for up to three consecutive months during peak production periods. Improved soil fertility through biofertilizers has increased productivity, while planting indigenous trees has contributed to environmental conservation and climate resilience.

Beyond income generation, Margaret has gained confidence in planning and managing her farm while supporting her family through agriculture. Her influence extends beyond her household as she trains her children and mentors neighbors who visit her farm, encouraging wider adoption of agroecological practices.

"I have grown a nutritional garden using compost manure and cultivate my oranges using organic inputs. The extra income I earn strengthens my savings and makes it easier to access credit. says Margaret."



Today, Margaret's story demonstrates how practical knowledge, sustainable farming techniques, and farmer support systems can transform agriculture into a resilient source of income, even in water-scarce environments. Her journey is proof that agroecology not only improves production but also strengthens livelihoods and community learning.

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BACK TO EDEN:
A BUSIA FARMER'S RETURN TO NATURE'S WAY

For years, Amos Sore, a farmer from Msafiri Village in Matayos Sub County, Busia County, relied on synthetic fertilizers and agrochemicals to manage his one acre maize farm.

Despite his efforts, market opportunities remained limited, production challenges persisted, and he lacked knowledge on value addition. Organic farming was often dismissed within the community, with many believing it was outdated and incapable of feeding families.

Everything changed after Amos received training on organic farming practices through Transcom with support from PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project, facilitated by multiplier Belitah Cheng'oli. The training introduced him to agroecological practices including composting, mulching, crop rotation, organic fertilizers and pesticides, biodiversity conservation, seed saving, raised beds, tree nursery establishment, land management, record keeping, and market linkages.

Inspired by the concept of natural soil regeneration, Amos embraced what he calls "Back to Eden Farming," where nature restores and nourishes the soil to sustain productive farming systems. Through patience and continuous learning, he transitioned fully into organic farming.

Today, Amos is recognized as a resource person in his community, supporting other farmers to adopt agroecological practices. He has become known for propagating indigenous maize varieties including yellow, red, and purple maize, valued for their nutritional benefits, especially among people managing diabetes and blood pressure.

The impact has been significant. Soil acidity levels have reduced, resulting in improved crop yields and lasting soil fertility. Amos now enjoys reliable market access for organic produce, uses digital tools to access weather information and market updates, keeps farm records, develops business plans, and continues expanding his farming knowledge.

His success has inspired neighboring farmers to embrace agroecology, strengthening community learning and promoting sustainable farming systems beyond his own farm. Learning through Participatory Guarantee Systems and farmer exchange forums has further increased confidence, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among farmers.

Amos' story demonstrates that agroecology is more than farming without chemicals. It is about restoring soil health, preserving indigenous knowledge, strengthening livelihoods, and creating resilient farming communities for future generations.



"Through trainings on organic farming practices facilitated by PELUM Kenya, I am now a purely organic farmer. Composting requires patience, but the results are worth waiting for," says Amos.

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TRADITION FOR LIFE: THE FARMER BUSIA NOW TURNS TO FOR ADVICE

For many years, Charles Barasa, a 65-year-old farmer from Okame Village in Teso South, Busia County, practiced subsistence farming using synthetic fertilizers mainly to meet family food needs. Although he grew pumpkins, limited knowledge on organic farming, value addition, and market access meant farming generated little opportunity beyond household consumption.

When Charles joined Pumpkin Farmers SHG and received training through Transcom with support from PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project, his perspective on farming changed completely. Through continuous learning, farm visits, and mentorship, he gained knowledge on composting, mulching, crop rotation, organic fertilizers and pesticides, tree nursery establishment, biodiversity conservation, seed saving, record keeping, and sustainable land management practices.

Today, Charles is recognized as a resource person within his community, supporting fellow farmers on organic crop management and tree nursery practices. His group has established a thriving tree nursery supported through PELUM Kenya, strengthening awareness on environmental conservation and sustainable land use.

The transformation has been significant. Charles and his group are now practicing value addition, accessing markets more sustainably, and promoting tree planting to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion. Through the project, Charles also gained digital literacy skills and can now use a smartphone to access information and strengthen farming activities.

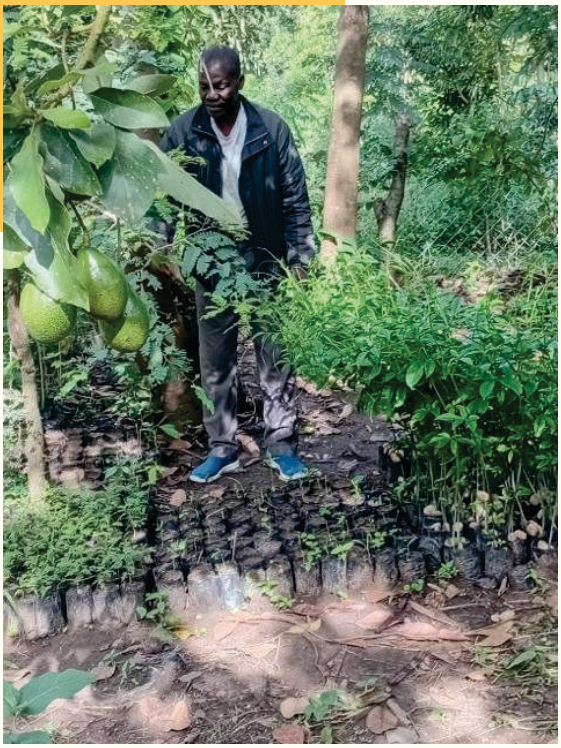
Beyond his own farm, Charles is sharing knowledge with neighboring farmers, encouraging adoption of agroecological practices and supporting group learning. Participatory Guarantee System learning has further increased confidence, collaboration, and information sharing among farmers.

Charles' journey demonstrates that preserving traditional knowledge while embracing agroecological innovation can restore soils, improve livelihoods, strengthen environmental stewardship, and build resilient farming communities for generations to come.

"When I joined Pumpkin Farmers Group and attended trainings facilitated by PELUM Kenya, I became aware that synthetic fertilizers are harmful to the soil and that tree planting helps address climate change," says Charles. "The knowledge and training I received improved my farming skills and transformed how I view agriculture."



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ROOTS OF PROSPERITY: FROM SUBSISTENCE FARMING TO A THRIVING TREE NURSERY

For many years, Eliud Oteng'e, a farmer from Okame Village in Teso South, practiced subsistence farming using synthetic fertilizers mainly to support his family. Although he cultivated pumpkins and other crops, limited knowledge on organic farming, value addition, and market access restricted opportunities for growth and income generation.

Everything changed when Pumpkin Farmers SHG received training through Transcom with support from PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project. Through continuous training, farm visits, and farmer learning forums, Eliud gained skills in composting, mulching, crop rotation, integrated pest management, soil health improvement, biodiversity conservation, seed saving, value addition, tree nursery management, and record keeping. He also learned how to use digital tools, including smartphones, to access information and opportunities.

Today, Eliud is recognized as a resource person in his community, sharing knowledge on organic crop management and agroecological practices. Together with his group, they manage a thriving tree nursery established through PELUM Kenya, generating income through the sale of trees and fruit seedlings while promoting environmental conservation.

The impact has been transformative. The group is practicing value addition, accessing sustainable markets, and improving soil fertility through organic farming methods. Eliud has expanded production to crops such as cassava and sweet potatoes and understands the role of trees in reducing soil erosion and restoring ecosystems. Increased participation in farmer forums has also strengthened his confidence, networks, and leadership within the community.

Beyond improving his own livelihood, Eliud is training neighboring farmers and encouraging collective adoption of agroecological practices. His journey demonstrates how indigenous knowledge, farmer groups, and continuous learning can restore soil health, create income opportunities, strengthen food systems, and build resilient communities.

For Eliud, the greatest lesson has been the power of learning together: "Through the group, I have gained confidence, exposure, and knowledge that I can now share with other farmers."

His story is proof that preserving indigenous foods and embracing agroecology can create healthier farms, stronger livelihoods, and sustainable futures.

"When Pumpkin Farmers SHG was introduced to PELUM Kenya through TRANSCOM, we adopted organic farming practices and attended training. I now understand that synthetic fertilizers are harmful to the soil and that tree planting helps address climate change," says Eliud.



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Since I started applying Apichi, most pests died and I harvested good yield while others harvested nothing, says Felestina.

50 KG TO 450 KG: HOW ONE BIO-PESTICIDE REWROTE FELESTINA'S HARVEST STORY

For years, farming was becoming increasingly difficult for Felestina Wanyika, a farmer from Mambasa Village in Wundanyi Sub-County, Taita Taveta County. Declining soil fertility, persistent pest infestations, and the rising cost of synthetic inputs reduced productivity and threatened her household's food security and income. Despite her efforts, she harvested only 50 kg per acre, making farming less profitable and unsustainable.

Everything changed when Felestina was reached through training supported by PELUM Kenya and implemented by Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum under agroecology initiatives. Through continuous learning, she gained practical knowledge on integrated pest and disease management, soil health improvement, and composting techniques aimed at restoring soil fertility and reducing dependence on costly synthetic inputs.

Among the practices introduced, Felestina adopted Apichi, an organic bio-pesticide used to manage pests naturally. The results were immediate and transformative.

Her confidence in organic farming grew as she witnessed significant changes on her farm. Pest pressure reduced, soil health improved, and production increased remarkably. Harvests rose from 50 kg to 450 kg per acre, representing a major shift in productivity while reducing reliance on expensive synthetic inputs.

Beyond improved yields, the transition strengthened household resilience by lowering production costs and improving food availability. Felestina's success has also inspired neighboring farmers, many of whom have started adopting organic farming practices after seeing the results from her farm.

Today, Felestina is an example of how agroecology can restore degraded soils, increase productivity, and strengthen livelihoods. Without the intervention, continued losses could have forced her to abandon farming altogether. Instead, she has become part of a growing movement demonstrating that sustainable farming practices can improve both livelihoods and resilience.

Her story is proof that when farmers access the right knowledge and practical solutions, small changes can create transformative impacts for households and communities.

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A SEED OF HOPE: HOW AMARANTH GAVE A YOUNG FARMER HIS FUTURE BACK



Hassan Bakari, a youth farmer from Vanga in Lunga Lunga Sub County, Kwale County, had almost lost hope in farming. Despite his efforts, low yields, declining soil fertility, and limited knowledge meant farming generated little income and offered few opportunities for a better future. What should have been a source of livelihood increasingly felt like a burden.

"I was farming, but I did not see progress. Sometimes I felt like giving up," Hassan recalls. Everything changed when Hassan was reached through youth engagement initiatives under the KCOA Project implemented by PELUM Kenya. Through training and mentorship facilitated by multiplier Humprey Kanyau, he gained practical skills in organic farming, compost making, soil fertility improvement, natural pest management, and climate resilient agriculture.

"I did not know that such a small crop like amaranth could change my life. Now I farm with knowledge and confidence, he says."



With new knowledge and confidence, Hassan adopted organic amaranth farming, using compost and organic manure to improve soil fertility while reducing dependence on expensive chemical inputs. What seemed like a small crop soon became a turning point in his life.

The impact has been remarkable. Hassan shifted from subsistence farming to a more business-oriented approach, increasing his weekly income from little or none to approximately Ksh 1,100–2,600 while reducing production costs by more than 50%. Improved yields, healthier soils, and increased confidence have transformed both his livelihood and outlook on farming.

Today, Hassan sees farming not as a struggle but as an opportunity. He continues to improve his practices using locally available resources and is sharing knowledge with other young farmers, inspiring them to embrace agroecology and view agriculture as a pathway to income and resilience. His journey demonstrates that with the right knowledge, mentorship, and support, young people can transform agriculture into a source of hope, enterprise, and sustainable livelihoods.

"Young people should not fear farming. With the right knowledge, it can change your life and give you a future."



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FROM HIGH COSTS TO HIGHER PROFITS: AN OKRA FARMER'S ORGANIC TURNAROUND



Maisha David, a youth farmer from Vanga, Lunga Lunga Sub County, Kwale County, was already working hard to build a future through farming.
Yet despite investing heavily in chemical fertilizers and pesticides for his okra farm, the returns remained low. High production costs, declining soil fertility, and unpredictable yields meant that each planting season came with uncertainty, often leaving little or no profit.

"I was spending a lot of money on chemicals, but my harvest was still low. Sometimes I would not even make a profit," Maisha recalls.

"I realized I don't need expensive chemicals to get good yields. With organic methods, my soil is healthier and my costs are much lower," he says.



His turning point came through youth engagement initiatives under the KCOA Project implemented by PELUM Kenya, where multiplier Humprey Kanyau introduced him to organic and agroecological farming practices. Through practical training and mentorship, Maisha learned compost preparation, organic manure use, natural pest management, and improved farm management techniques that provided affordable alternatives to expensive synthetic inputs.

Motivated by the new knowledge, Maisha transitioned to organic farming methods. He adopted composting, natural pesticides, and sustainable soil management practices, gradually reducing dependence on chemicals while restoring soil health.

The transformation has been remarkable. Production increased from 1–2 bags to 4–5 bags per season, while significantly reducing production costs. Improved harvests and lower input expenses translated into better profits, with healthy produce earning approximately Ksh 650 per bag.

Beyond income, healthier soils and the elimination of harmful chemical use have strengthened the sustainability of his farming system. Today, Maisha is no longer practising survival farming. He is building a profitable and sustainable farming enterprise while inspiring other young farmers within the community to embrace organic agriculture. By sharing his experiences and encouraging others, he is contributing to a growing movement of youth-led agroecology.

Maisha's story demonstrates that with practical knowledge, mentorship, and access to sustainable farming techniques, young farmers can transform agriculture into a profitable enterprise while protecting the environment.

"Organic farming is the way to go. It saves money, improves the soil, and gives better profits."

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PLANTING TREES, RESTORING HOPE: HOW AGROFORESTRY DIVERSIFIED A FARMER'S INCOME



Since I started integrating crops with fruit trees, I realized an increase in income and crop yields. So I got encouraged and planted more fruit trees,
says Pamphil.



For years, Pamphil Mwazumbi, a youth farmer from Mwambalo Village in Wundanyi Sub County, Taita Taveta County, struggled with declining crop yields, poor soil fertility, and rising production costs. Like many smallholder farmers, he relied heavily on mono-cropping and expensive synthetic inputs while depending solely on crop farming for income. Persistent pest and disease attacks, coupled with unpredictable weather patterns, made farming increasingly difficult and threatened his household livelihood.

Everything changed when Pamphil joined training sessions supported by PELUM Kenya and implemented through Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum under the guidance of multiplier Collins Mwashumbe. The training introduced him to integrated pest and disease management, composting, soil health improvement, conservation agriculture, and sustainable farming practices.

Motivated by the new knowledge, Pamphil adopted conservation agriculture and integrated crops with fruit trees through agroforestry. This shift transformed not only his farming practices but also his outlook on agriculture.

The results have been significant. His farm moved from monocropping to diversified production systems, creating multiple income streams while improving soil fertility and reducing dependence on expensive farm inputs. Lower production costs, increased resilience, and improved productivity have strengthened his household income and overall living standards.

Beyond his own farm, Pamphil has become a source of knowledge within his community, sharing experiences with fellow farmers who have also started adopting conservation agriculture practices. Reflecting on his journey, Pamphil says, “I would have continued using my old farming methods, my living standards would have remained low, and maybe I would have given up on farming.”

Today, his story demonstrates that conservation agriculture and agroforestry can restore degraded soils, diversify incomes, and transform farming into a more resilient and profitable livelihood. His experience is proof that with knowledge and practical skills, farmers can move beyond survival farming toward sustainable prosperity.

“I would like to thank PELUM Kenya for the knowledge and skills.”

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FROM TRADITION TO TRANSFORMATION: JULIA'S THRIVING AGROECOLOGICAL ENTERPRISE

For years, Julia Wanjiku Ng'ang'a, a youth farmer from Mirithu in Ndeiya, Kiambu County, struggled with low farm productivity, poor land utilization, and limited knowledge of sustainable farming practices. Farming relied heavily on traditional methods, monocropping, and external Inputs, while unpredictable weather patterns and rising operational costs made production increasingly difficult. Without water conservation systems, record keeping, or crop diversification, the farm remained vulnerable to climate shocks, pests, and unstable market conditions.

Through the KCOA Project implemented by PELUM Kenya and supported through CSHEP under the guidance of multiplier Sylvia Wangui Njonjo, Julia participated in a five-day practical agroecology training program followed by continuous mentorship and technical support. The training focused on compost production, organic fertilizers, bio-pesticides, foliar feeds, water conservation, seed saving, record keeping, and strategic farm planning.

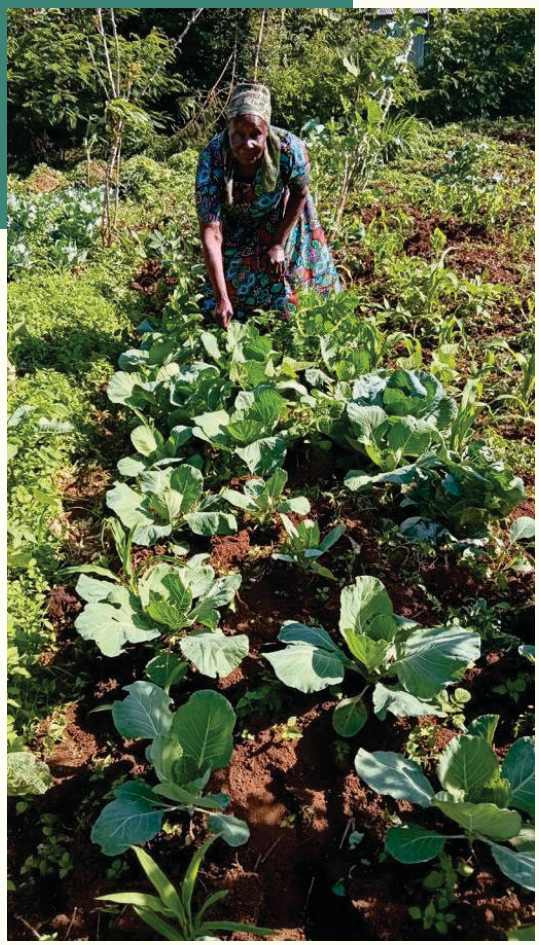
The intervention transformed both her farming practices and mindset. Julia shifted to regenerative farming methods by producing her own organic inputs, adopting mulching and water recycling systems, diversifying crops, and redesigning the farm layout for better efficiency. She also embraced record keeping and financial planning, allowing her to make more informed farming decisions.

The results have been significant. Crop yields improved, operational costs reduced, and the farm transitioned into a more resilient and sustainable enterprise. Diversified farming created multiple income streams, reducing dependence on single crop cycles and strengthening household stability even during dry seasons. By integrating drought-resistant crops and climate-smart practices, the farm became more productive and adaptive to changing weather conditions.

Beyond productivity gains, Julia developed greater confidence and leadership within her community. She now trains and mentors other farmers, sharing knowledge on agroecological practices and encouraging collaborative learning. Her journey reflects a shift from subsistence farming toward a professional, sustainable, and profitable farming enterprise grounded in the principles of organic agriculture.

Today, Julia's farm stands as an example of how agroecology can restore productivity, improve livelihoods, strengthen climate resilience, and empower farmers to become leaders of change within their communities.

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AT 86 AND STILL GROWING: HOW JANE TURNED FARMING INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS

Jane Waithira Ndung'u from Gitutha in Ndeiya, Kiambu County, proves that learning and transformation have no age limit. Before joining the KCOA Project through CSHEP, her farming activities were constrained by limited agroecological knowledge, poor farm planning, low productivity, and underutilized land. Climate variability, limited market access, and lack of technical information further reduced opportunities to improve livelihoods through farming.

Through support from PELUM Kenya and CSHEP, Jane participated in practical agroecology trainings, on-farm mentorship, and continuous technical support. The intervention introduced sustainable farming techniques, including mulching, vertical gardening, bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticide production, crop diversification, drought-resistant crops, record keeping, and financial management practices such as SACCO participation.

Armed with new knowledge, Jane transformed her farming approach. She adopted climate-smart practices that improved soil health, conserved moisture, reduced dependence on expensive external inputs, and increased productivity. More importantly, she began treating farming as an enterprise through better planning, savings, and record keeping.

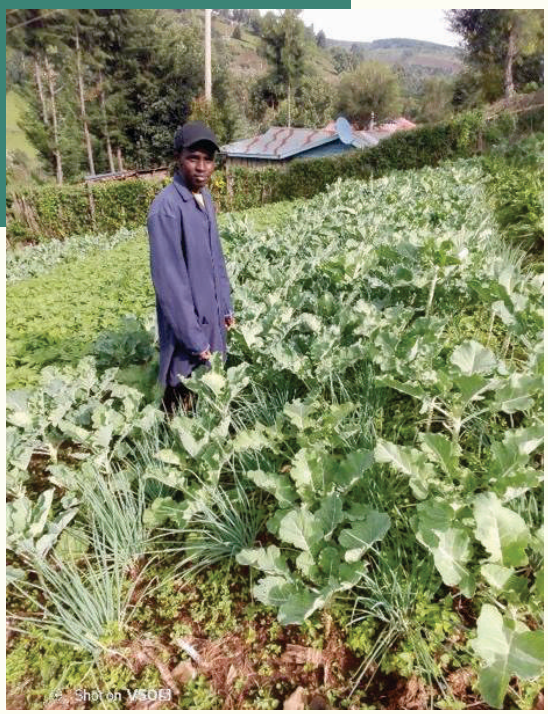
The impact has been significant. Improved yields, diversified production, and reduced costs have strengthened household income and resilience. Through vertical gardening and companion planting, land productivity increased while diversified crops improved food security throughout the year. Participation in SACCOs also strengthened savings culture and financial stability, creating opportunities for future farm investment.

Today, Jane is more than a farmer. She has become a resource person within her community, sharing knowledge and encouraging others to adopt sustainable farming practices. Her willingness to continuously learn, participate in farmer forums, and mentor peers demonstrates how agroecology can empower farmers to become agents of change regardless of age.

Jane's journey shows that with knowledge, mentorship, and community support, farming can evolve from a struggle for survival into a resilient and sustainable enterprise that restores both livelihoods and ecosystems.

> **"Since adopting these agroecological practices, especially making my own bio-pesticides and using mulching, my soil is healthier, and I spend much less on inputs. Additionally, keeping records and saving in the SACCO has given me theconfidence to treat my farming as a real business," says Jane.**

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FROM 50% TO 80%: HOW ONE FARM NOW FEEDS 30 HOUSEHOLDS IN KERICHO

For years, Enock Kiprotich, a young farmer from Chesinende in Londiani Sub-County, Kericho County, relied on conventional farming methods using synthetic fertilizers. Despite investing in farming, productivity remained low, income was limited, and market access was inconsistent. Excessive chemical use also contributed to environmental degradation and reduced food production, making farming increasingly difficult and unsustainable.

Everything changed when Enock joined trainings facilitated through the KCOA Project by PELUM Kenya multiplier Jeniffer Rono. Through continuous mentorship and practical demonstrations, he gained skills in composting, bokashi preparation, manure aging, crop rotation, intercropping, seed saving, agroforestry, and preparation of biopesticides to manage pests naturally. Farmers were also introduced to table banking to strengthen investment in farming activities.

With increased knowledge and confidence, Enock adopted agroecological practices including production of biofertilizers and biopesticides, microbial multiplication technologies,agroforestry, and improved seed sharing systems. These practices reduced dependence on synthetic inputs while improving decision-making and strengthening community collaboration around organic production.

The impact has been remarkable. Farm productivity increased from 50% to 80%, while improved soil fertility contributed to healthier and more resilient production systems.

Reduced chemical use lowered environmental risks, and increased access to organic foods contributed to reduced malnutrition and lifestyle-related illnesses within the community.

The economic benefits have also grown steadily. Increased production has improved household income, and today at least 30 households regularly purchase organic products from Enock, demonstrating growing community trust and demand for healthier food choices.

Beyond his own farm, Enock's success reflects the power of farmer-to-farmer learning and continuous community training. Agroecological practices continue spreading within the community, supported by multiplier engagement and emerging county-level agroecology policies that strengthen sustainability beyond the project period.

Enock believes organic farming is not only affordable but also essential for the future as communities become more aware of the relationship between food systems and health. His story demonstrates how agroecology can restore soil fertility, increase production, improve incomes, and build healthier communities through sustainable farming practices.



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FROM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTH: HOW ALICE BECAME AN AGROECOLOGY CHAMPION

For many years, Alice Mukiri, a farmer from Kithuene Village in Buuri East, Meru County, struggled with the challenges of farming in a hot and semi-arid environment. Limited market access, high costs of chemical fertilizers, poor climate conditions, and lack of support services made farming difficult and unprofitable. With few trees in the area and unreliable rainfall, productivity remained low and many farmers faced repeated losses.

"As a farmer I faced several farming issues. I was buying chemical fertilizers using money that I struggled to acquire, and I could only sell my produce at low prices within the village," Alice recalls. Alice's turning point came through trainings facilitated by PELUM Kenya under the KCOA Project in partnership with CIFORD Kenya. Through continuous mentorship and follow-up support, she gained practical knowledge on agroecological farming practices including land preparation, seed selection and seed saving, compost making, and use of biofertilizers such as boma compost and solid biostimulants

Motivated by the training, Alice transformed her farm into a more organized and sustainable system. She adopted compost production, conservation farming techniques, agroforestry, and integrated crop production. Today, she grows coffee, bananas, pawpaw, Irish potatoes, and indigenous maize while also participating in group savings schemes that improve access to credit for farm investments.

The impact has been remarkable. Improved soil fertility and conservation techniques such as sunken pits have increased farm productivity and strengthened resilience against climate change.

During a season when many neighboring farms failed due to insufficient rainfall, Alice harvested one sack of indigenous maize while others harvested nothing. Her compound is now greener, with more trees providing shade and environmental benefits.

Beyond her own farm, Alice has become a strong advocate for agroecology within her community. She has already trained relatives on compost making and continues encouraging other farmers to adopt sustainable practices. "What I have practiced on my farm, 75% of it is from the training I received. Without the training, I could be suffering like fellow farmers in our area with poor harvests due to failed rains," she says. Alice's story demonstrates how practical agroecological knowledge, community support, and climate-smart farming practices can transform livelihoods, restore degraded environments, and build resilient farming systems for semi-arid regions.

"I can confidently make boma compost fertilizer that I use in my farm. I have also grown several trees and fruits around my farm, says Alice."



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FROM KITCHEN GARDEN TO COLLEGE FUND: A YOUNG FARMER'S QUIET REVOLUTION

Gloria Cheruiyot, a youth farmer from Kaptilol Village in Koibatek Sub County, Baringo County, is proving that agriculture can create opportunities for young people beyond food production. Fresh from high school and inspired by her mother's struggle to provide for the family, Gloria developed an interest in farming despite having limited agricultural knowledge and financial constraints. Her journey into agroecology began after interacting with KCOA multiplier Charles Magut through social media, opening a pathway to learning and transformation.

Through training and continuous mentorship under the KCOA Project supported by PELUM Kenya, Gloria gained practical skills in sustainable organic farming and kitchen garden management. Starting with a small kitchen garden, she learned composting, organic soil management, crop rotation, and use of locally available materials such as wood ash to control pests affecting crops like spring onions. Motivated by the new knowledge, Gloria established a thriving kitchen garden producing cabbage, spring onions, black nightshade, spinach, and yacon. Improved soil fertility through organic manure significantly increased productivity, while agroecological practice reduced soil borne pests and diseases. The impact has been transformative. Gloria now earns income through selling fresh vegetables within her local community and nearby markets including Eldoret and Ravine towns. The earnings have enabled her to save money toward her education, and she is preparing to join college. Her kitchen garden has become both a reliable source of household food and a pathway toward financial independence. Beyond production, Gloria has embraced digital platforms to access information on emerging market opportunities, including demand for crops such as yacon due to its medicinal value. She actively shares knowledge online, inspiring fellow youth and demonstrating that farming can be innovative, profitable, and attractive for younger generations.

Today, Gloria's kitchen garden serves as a learning center where women and youth groups visit for practical experience in sustainable farming. Her journey highlights how agroecology, mentorship, and digital knowledge exchange can empower young farmers to create livelihoods, strengthen food security, and inspire community transformation.

Gloria's story shows that sustainable farming is not only about growing food; it is about building resilience, creating opportunities, and proving that young people can shape the future of agriculture.

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“These positive changes are directly linked to the training and mentorship provided through the KCOA Project. Without the intervention, soil degradation would have continued and I would still be relying on chemical fertilizers,” says Musau.



KSH 18,000 TO KSH 2,000: THE YOUTH CHAMPION REWRITING MACHAKOS FARMING

For many years, Wellington Musau from Kwa Mwaura Village in Matungulu Sub County, Machakos County, practiced conventional farming, mainly growing maize and kales using chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Despite investing heavily in farm inputs, production continued to decline while the cost of farming kept rising. For one acre of maize alone, he spent nearly Ksh 18,000 on synthetic fertilizers, excluding the additional costs of seeds and pesticides used to control pests such as fall armyworms. Poor soil fertility and low moisture retention further reduced productivity and made farming increasingly difficult.

Everything changed when Musau joined trainings facilitated through the COA Project by PELUM Kenya under the guidance of multiplier Collins Chibole.

Through practical demonstrations and continuous mentorship, he gained skills in Grow Biointensive Agriculture and agroecological practices including compost making, bokashi preparation, liquid fertilizers, contour construction, deep soil preparation, kitchen gardening, seed saving, and organic pest management. Farmer exchange visits and regular farm follow-ups strengthened learning and encouraged practical application of the techniques.

Motivated by the training, Musau adopted composting, crop diversification, organic fertilizers, and organic pest control methods using locally available materials. He also improved planning and record keeping, shifting from dependence on expensive external inputs to more self-reliant farming systems. The results have been transformative. Fertilizer costs reduced dramatically from approximately Ksh 18,000 to less than Ksh 2,000 through use of organic fertilizers and compost. Vegetable production increased even within small units of land, while improved soil structure and better water retention strengthened resilience during dry periods.

Beyond improving his own farm, Musau emerged as a youth champion for agroecology within his community. His success inspired the formation of the New Kwa Mwaura Organic Farmers Group, where he now serves as coordinator. Through farmer-to-farmer learning, he has already trained at least 20 farmers on compost preparation, deep soil preparation, and sustainable farming practices.

Today, Musau’s farm stands as a learning centre demonstrating how agroecology can reduce production costs, improve soil health, increase resilience, and empower young farmers to become leaders of change within their communities. His journey proves that with practical knowledge, teamwork, and consistency, sustainable farming can restore both livelihoods and hope for the future.

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GROWING MORE THAN CROPS: HOW EVANS TURNED KNOWLEDGE INTO FOOD SECURITY

Evans Ondu, a youth farmer from Kami Tema in Nyando Sub County, Kisumu County, has transformed his farming journey through agroecology. Before joining the KCOA Project, farming was challenging, with minimal harvests, high production costs, and limited knowledge on sustainable farming methods. The cost of seeds, fertilizers, and labor continued to rise, making it difficult to generate meaningful income or improve productivity.

Everything changed when Evans participated in agroecology capacity-building trainings facilitated by multiplier Terry Aseneka under the KCOA Project supported by PELUM Kenya.

Through practical sessions, he gained knowledge on principles of agroecology, cassava agronomic practices, compost making, bokashi preparation, biofertilizers, value addition, and market access opportunities.

Inspired by the training, Evans adopted compost manure preparation, crop rotation, group savings, and sustainable soil management practices. These approaches improved soil fertility while reducing dependence on expensive external inputs.

The results have been transformative. Improved farm productivity has strengthened food and nutritional security at household level while generating more consistent income through sale of vegetables, maize, beans, and bananas. Enhanced knowledge in biofertilizer production has further improved soil health and reduced production costs.

Beyond his own farm, Evans is embracing collective action through savings and farmer groups, strengthening resilience and improving access to resources. Saving indigenous seeds has increased seed security, while group savings provide opportunities to access credit for farm improvements and household needs.

His journey demonstrates that agroecology is more than a farming practice; it is a pathway toward resilience, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods. As a young farmer, Evans represents a growing generation of agroecology champions proving that with practical knowledge, smallholder farming can become more productive, profitable, and climate resilient. Evans encourages fellow farmers to start with what they have, remain consistent, and embrace agroecological practices as a long-term investment in food security and sustainable livelihoods.

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PELUM Kenya

Networking for a Greener Africa

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KHEA
Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND AGROECOLOGY IN AFRICA

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA-KHEA) Project is in its second phase of implementation for the 3rd Phase. KHEA Project Phase III 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 Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa, with a co-hosting arrangement with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda. PELUM Kenya is the County Implementing partner of the project in Kenya. To strengthen capacity building, knowledge management, and digital learning, KCOA has established the Knowledge Platform for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa

The platform's mission is to bridge the gap between need and knowledge, helping users strengthen their skills, expand their networks and become more effective advocates for sustainable agriculture across the continents. Africa is a digital home and place for exchange – a website for the public. Multipliers are extension agents, trainers, policy makers, researchers, etc., who disseminate information to farmers and pastoralists.

The Platform ensures validated information/knowledge products on Organic Agriculture and Agroecology are available. It allows Multipliers to create a profile, share events and write/read blog posts

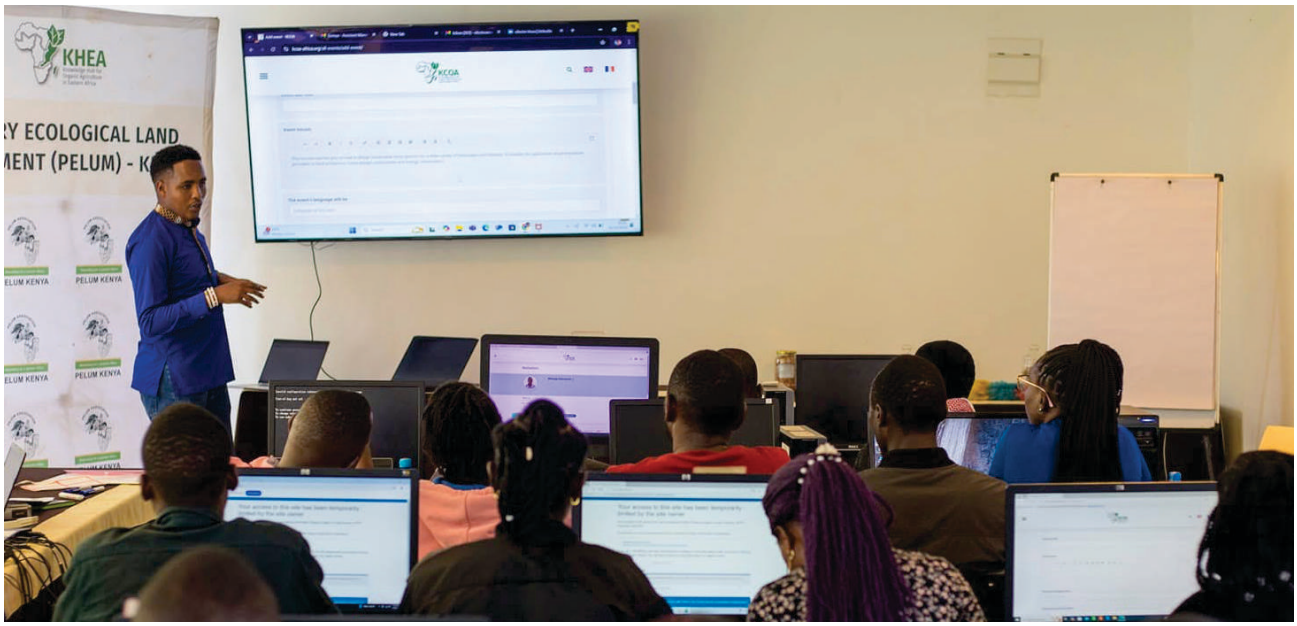
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Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa

KCOA's Digital Knowledge Platform is the place for dissemination of knowledge on organic agriculture & agroecology and networking of relevant actors at continental level.



KCOA's Multiplier Network is a digital home and place for exchange – a website for the public. Multipliers are extension agents, trainers, policy makers, researchers etc who disseminate information to farmers and pastoralists.

The KCOA Digital Platform ensures validated information on Organic Agriculture and Agroecology is available. It allows Multipliers to create a profile, share events and write blog post. It includes a social media wall and integrates the KCOA knowledge database.

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Scan to discover more!

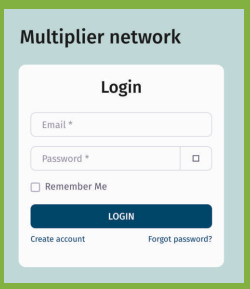
KCOA is a collaborative country-led partnership that aims to scale up the adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices through a network of five Knowledge Hubs in Africa. KCOA partners are based in 18 countries and with the involvement of over 30 civilsociety organisations.

kcoa-africa.org

STEPS TO REGISTER/USE THE KCOA PLATFORM

Step 1: Click on the domain kcoa-africa.org

Step 2: Click on "Create Account"



Step 3: Fill in the details in the "Register"

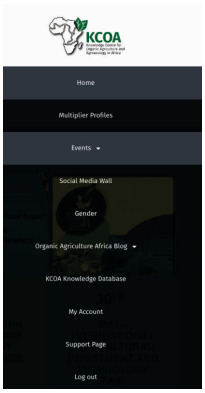


Step 4: Confirmation email will be shared to your email for you to verify your account

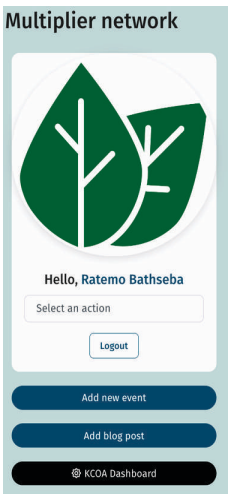
Step 5: Log in to kcoa-africa.org and put your username and password to start using the platform

Step 6: Once logged in, you will be able to access events, blogs and KCOA Knowledge Database

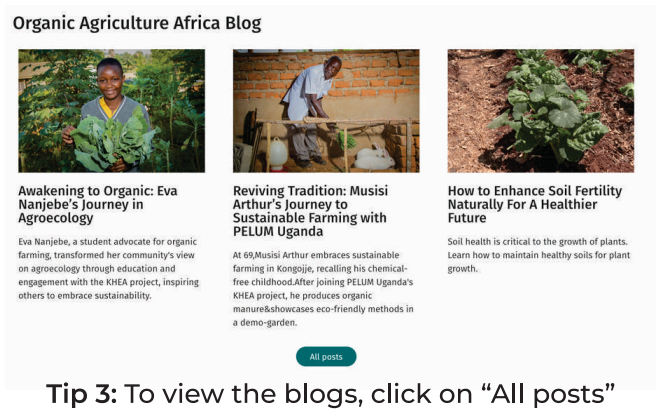




Tip 2: To view more option, click on the three(3) lines at the top left corner. This will prompt the options for your selection. The Knowledge products are in the "KCOA Knowledge Database"



Tip 1: To add an event or blog. Alternatively click on KCOA Database



Tip 3: To view the blogs, click on "All posts"

To contribute to the Digital Knowledge Platform, one is allowed to share Knowledge Products on Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in various formats e.g. videos, brochures, papers, factsheets, flyers etc. The Knowledge product (s) will be verified/validated before it can be made available to the users. In addition, one can share blog stories and events to the platform.

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