KHSA

Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Southern Africa

November 2025

Special Knowledge Edition:
From posters to podcasts, co-created knowledge to support uptake of organic agriculture and agroecology in southern Africa

FOREWORD

It is with great excitement and a deep sense of gratitude to our incredible team that I share this compilation of knowledge products produced. Every single person from our eight partner organisations, including our international partners, worked hard to make this possible. Successfully delivering on a task of this magnitude demands commitment from everyone in our team — from the administrators to the finance officers, the programme managers and the in-field implementers.

A special thanks also goes to the knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, and communication teams that diligently held the knowledge product development process together. Designing material and learning experiences from a needs-based understanding and testing it to ensure that we deliver exactly what is required to effect change has not been a simple task.

This is therefore not merely a collection of interesting knowledge gathered from the internet, but instead beautiful content uniquely tailored for the lead farmers, educators, organisations, media and policy makers diligently working towards improving our food system.

On that account we celebrate the team's discipline and commitment in addition to the immense creativity that we see here on display. We are also deeply grateful to BMZ for making the resources available to do this work and to GIZ for trusting and supporting us in this process. And we give thanks to all the multipliers who worked with us through needs assessments and validation processes to ensure the rigour of these knowledge products. We hope you enjoy every page in this book!

Angela Coetzee
KHSA Project Director
November 2025

The **Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Southern Africa** (KHSA) is part of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA), a collaborative country-led partnership funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and non-governmental organisations across Africa. The KCOA aims to scale up the adoption of agroecological and organic farming practices through five knowledge hubs in Africa. The other hubs are implemented by GIZ with in-country partners in North, West, East and Central Africa.

You are invited to sign up to the KCOA knowledge platform using the link below to access free and validated agroecological and organic knowledge resources from across Africa and join a network of practitioners working in this field.

kcoa-africa.org

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KHSA
Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Southern Africa

HOW THE KHSA WORKS

KHSA works with eight partner organisations in Zambia, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa. In each country, partners undertake either a sector-wide approach or conduct a Multiplier Support Programme (MSP). The sector-wide approaches focus on strengthening relationships with a broad range of stakeholders to support the uptake of organic and agroecological agriculture. The MSPs are in-depth targeted interventions with a select group of multipliers to build their capacity to more effectively convey information about organic agriculture and agroecology and support small-scale farmers in this regard.

Our partners in Zambia

PELUM Zambia focuses on the sector-wide approach working with policymakers, media, small-scale farmer organisations and lead farmers to raise awareness of the need for a transition towards organic agroecological approaches.

Kasisi Agriculture Training Centre deploys the MSP with farming institutes and farmer training centres in Zambia's Eastern Province. These institutions and centres are places where technocrats and farmers obtain technical information and mentorship.

Our partners in Malawi

The Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology deployed the sector-wide approach working with media to raise awareness of the value of agroecological/organic approaches to food systems. Soils, Food and Healthy Communities runs its MSP with its Farmer Research Team, which is a volunteer group of farmers that conducts research and shares knowledge on behalf of and with the community.

Our partners in Namibia

The Namibian Organic Association focuses on the sector-wide approach engaging with academia and research institutions, media, the commercial beef sector and increasingly policymakers. The Namibia Nature Foundation conducts an MSP with lead farmers in the Zambezi region, focused on a community-based agricultural extension model.

Our partners in South Africa

The South African Organic Sector Organisation and Participatory Guarantee Systems South Africa conducted an MSP titled the Pollinator Programme, that works with multipliers to establish and support PGS groups.

The Sustainability Institute

The South-African based Sustainability Institute team supports project design and implementation across the region. For more information on the KHSA, please contact Angela Coetzee, Project Director, at angela@sustainabilityinstitute.net.

DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

KHSA follows a knowledge collection, validation and dissemination strategy that ensures that the knowledge gathered, created or adapted suits the needs of those for which it was produced. The steps outlined in the adjacent image were followed to ensure that the knowledge was:

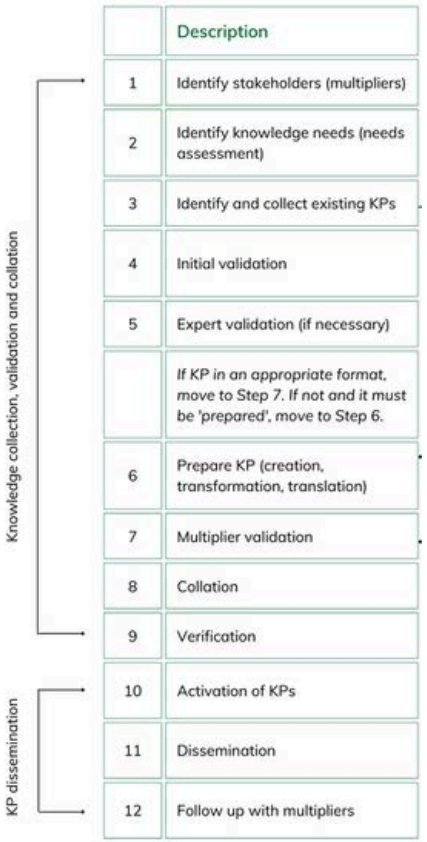
- Contextually relevant.
- Serving the stated needs of the stakeholder group.
- In a format that was appropriate for the context.

Each partner organisation identified their stakeholder groups, ranging from policymakers and media to lead farmer organisations, academia and training institutions. They conducted needs assessments with these groups to determine what knowledge the stakeholder group required in order to advocate for or actively support the transition towards agroecological and organic food and farming systems.

KHSA partner organisations review the stated needs and develop related factually sound and contextual knowledge products (KPs) that are approved by the Knowledge Managment and Monitoring and Evaluation officers and manager. These are then shared with the stakeholder group to confirm that it would meet their requirements; if not, they are developed further.

The KPs — ranging from publications, factsheets and posters to 3-D models, videos and podcasts — are then activated with the stakeholder groups to support them in using them with their own networks and work.

These KPs are loaded to a publicly accessible KCOA Knowledge Platform, which hosts all the KPs developed by the five Knowledge Hubs across Africa.



To access KHSA's knowledge products (and a thousand more from across the continent), join Africa's multiplier community here.

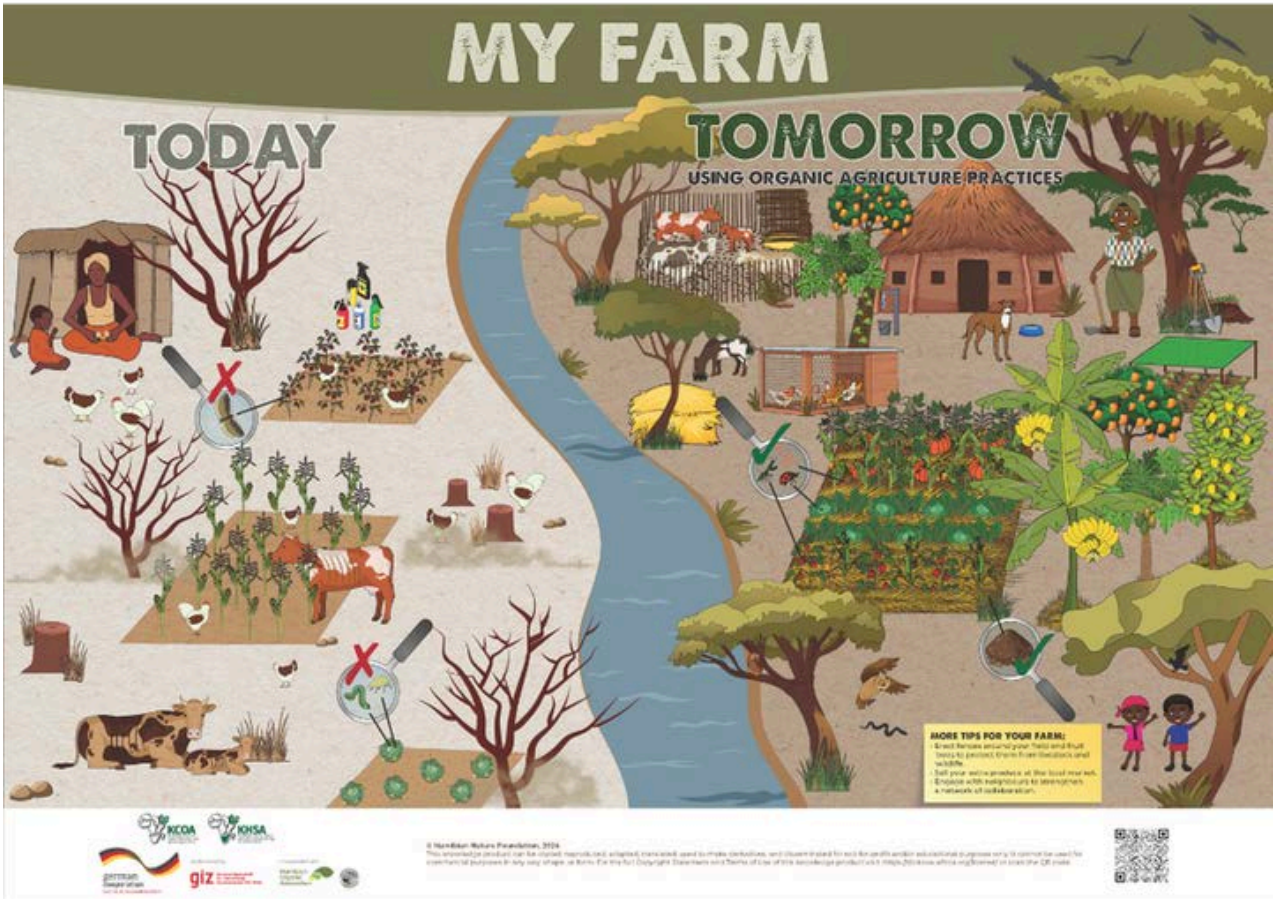
SECTION 1: DREAMING OF A BETTER FUTURE

IN THIS SECTION

- The transition: My farm today, My farm tomorrow
- Why sustainable food and farming systems matter
- Organics and agroecology in response to climate change
- Organic farming for the future (recorded webinar)
- Achieve global food security with organic farming (recorded webinar)
- What makes a good organic agriculture multiplier?
- Beyond attendance: Tips for meaningful, inclusive gender work in projects

Sustainable farming must nourish people and protect ecosystems, but current food systems in Southern Africa are failing on both fronts. Industrial practices like monocultures, synthetic inputs and a focus on cash crops are degrading the environment, harming human health and increasing dependence on costly external inputs.

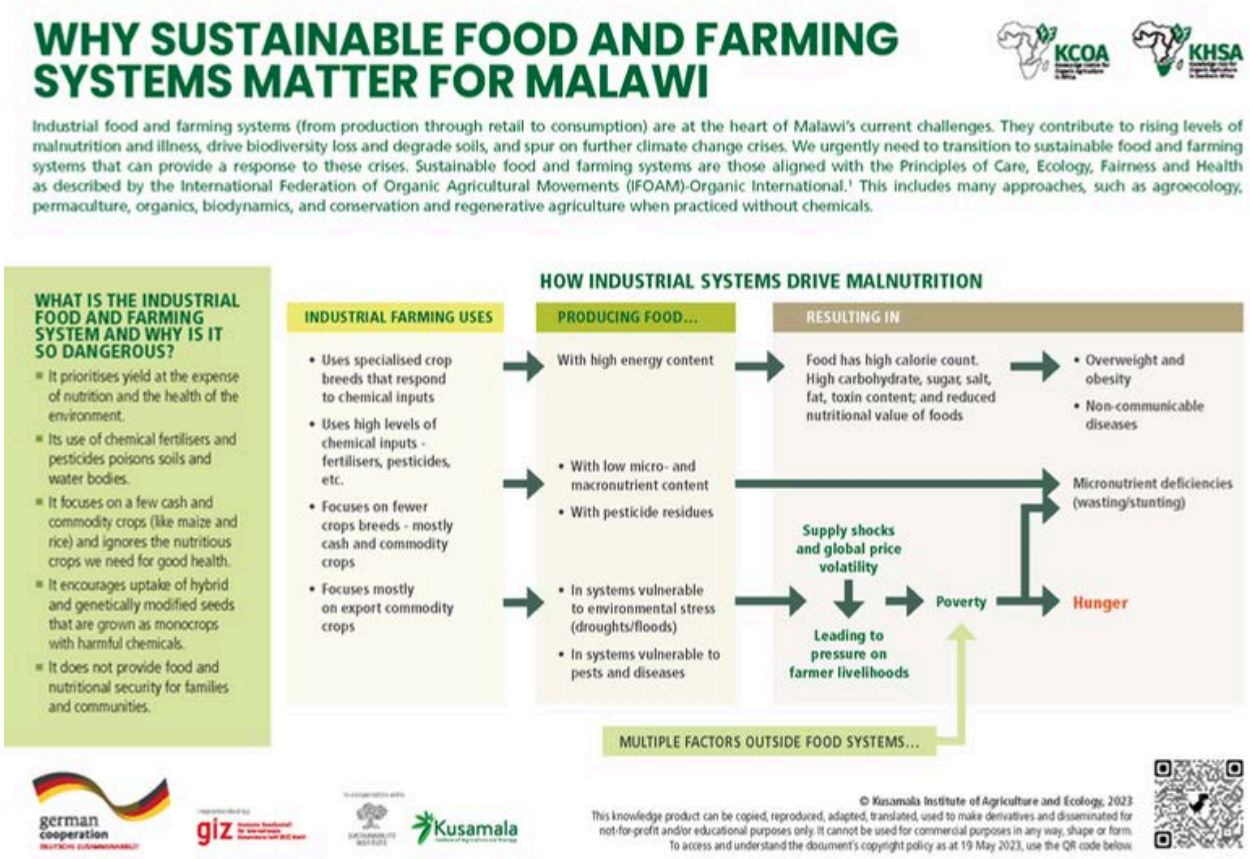
The following pages highlight resources that explore why transformation is urgent—and how it can be achieved.



THE TRANSITION: MY FARM TODAY, MY FARM TOMORROW
The poster compares conventional farming practices (left) with organic farming practices (right) showing how a farm can change over time.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation & Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmers, farmer trainers and training organisations

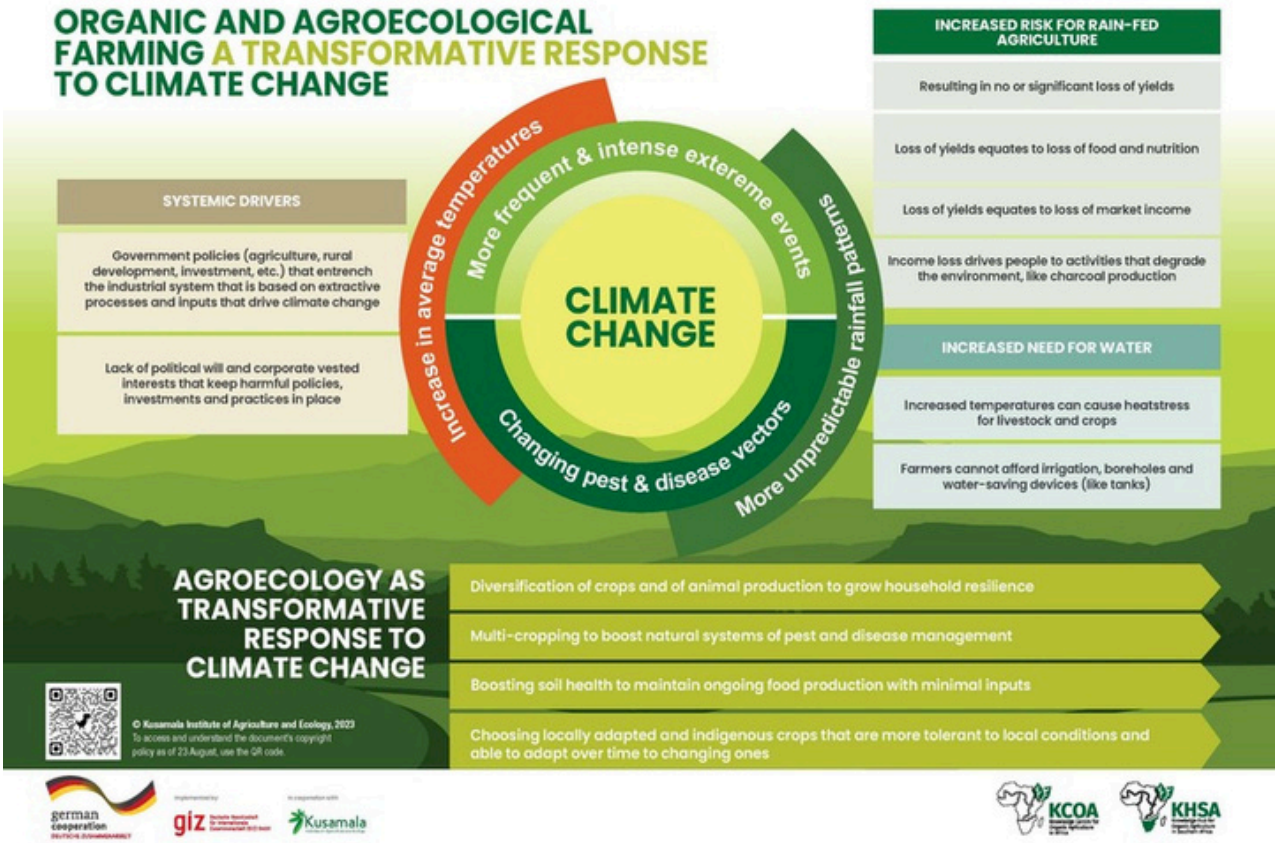
Download in English.



WHY SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS MATTER
A 4-page poster series that illustrates how organic/agroecological approaches can support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in contrast to conventional agriculture approaches.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Media (journalists and editors); civil society organisations, advocacy groups

Download in English.



ORGANICS AND AGROECOLOGY IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
This poster describes how organic farming and agroecological practices can help in addressing climate-related challenges. These practices contribute to the restoration of degraded soils, promote diversity and increase adaptability of local crop seeds for sustainable production.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Media, civil society organisations, advocacy groups, policymakers

Download in English.

ORGANIC FARMING FOR THE FUTURE (RECORDED WEBINAR)

This webinar focused on the relevance of organic agriculture for the future, and how it could help combat challenges around food and nutritional security, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Academia, meat sector, commercial and small-scale farmers, general public

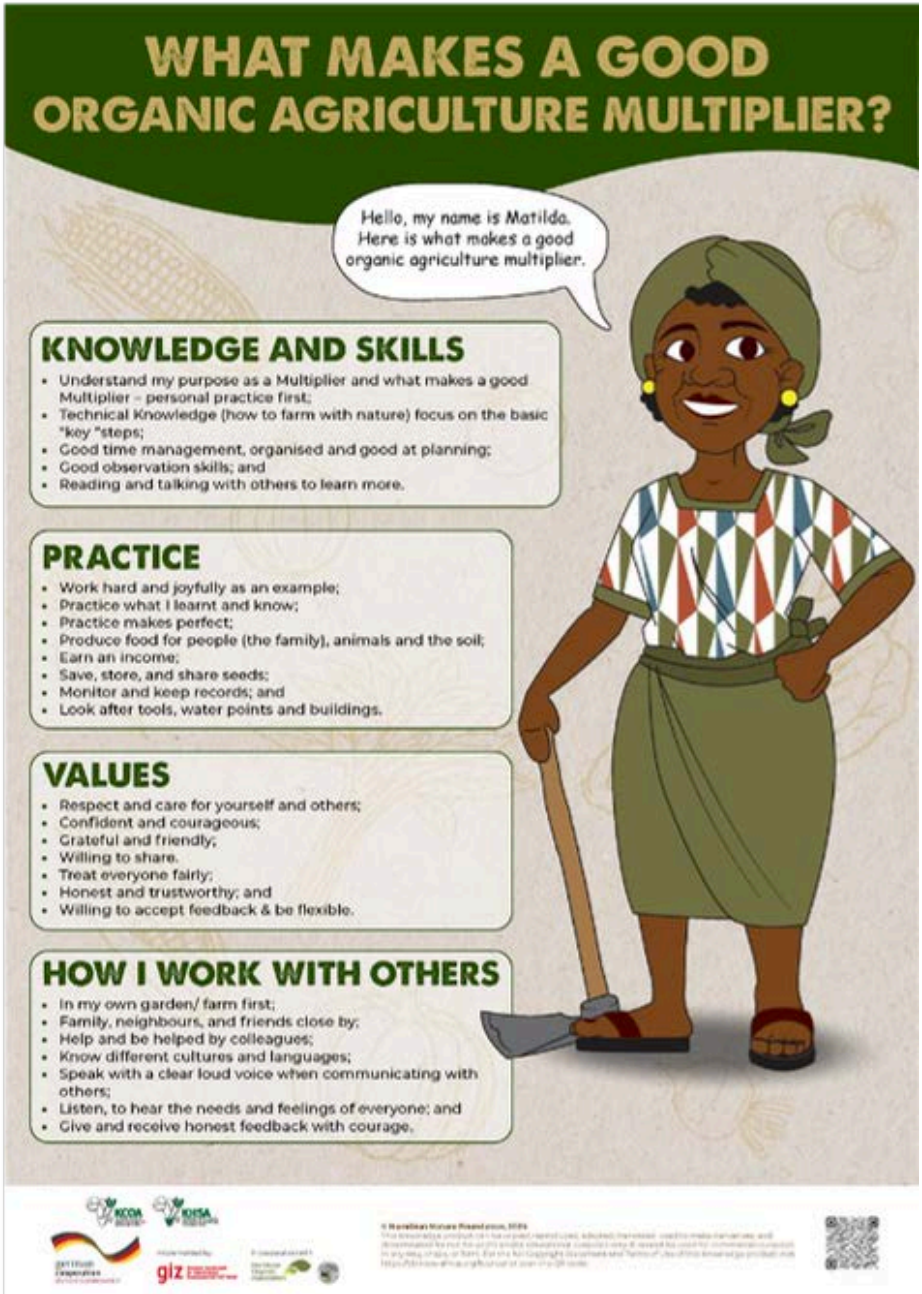
Watch in English.

ACHIEVE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY WITH ORGANIC FARMING (RECORDED WEBINAR)

This webinar focused on the shortfalls of the industrial system and looked at whether and how organic production could help to overcome these.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Academia, meat sector, commercial and small-scale farmers, general public

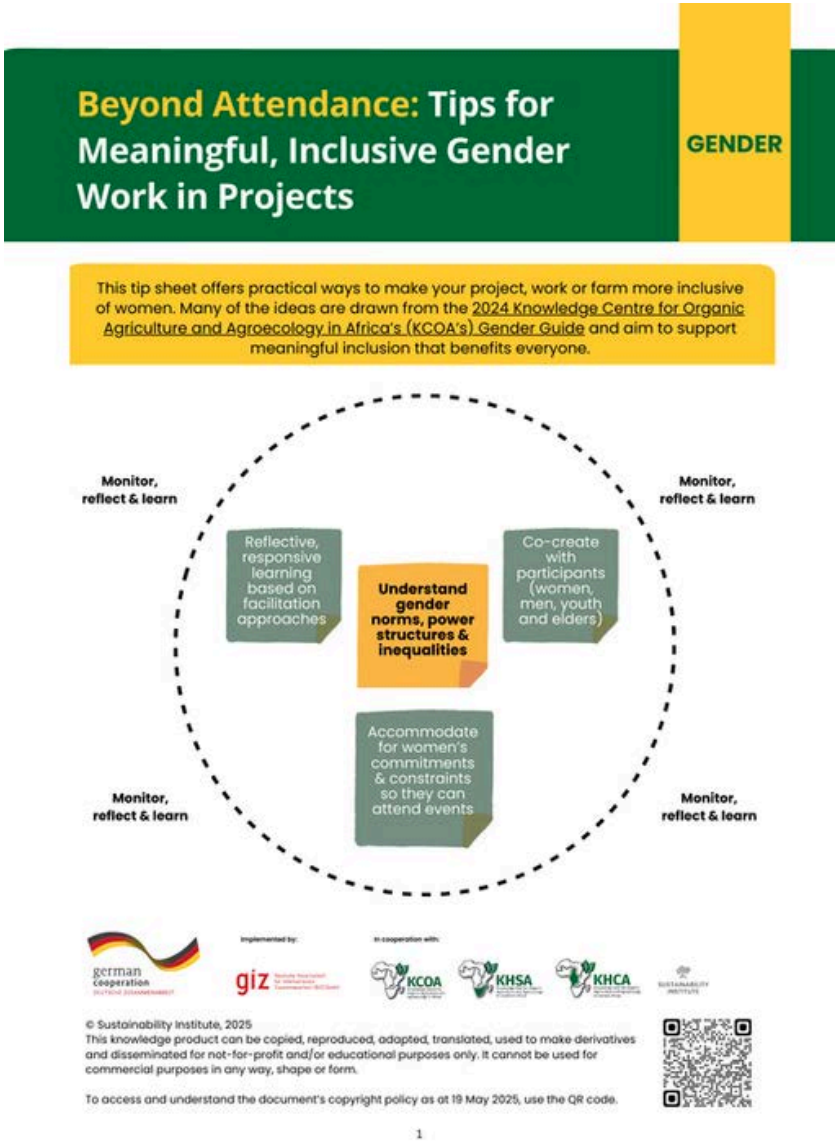
Watch in English.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MULTIPLIER?
The 2-page poster outlines what it takes to be an effective organic agriculture multiplier, stressing knowledge, skills, values and collaboration. It highlights time management, openness to learning, sustainable practices, respect, care and teamwork, while promoting plant diversity and animal integration for healthy, resilient farms.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

Download in English.



BEYOND ATTENDANCE: TIPS FOR MEANINGFUL, INCLUSIVE GENDER WORK IN PROJECTS
This 4-page tip sheet shares practical ways to make projects, farms or workplaces more inclusive of women, drawing on KCOA's 2024 Gender Guide to promote meaningful participation and shared benefits.

Country: Regional
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute collaboration with the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Central Africa
Target group: Non-governmental organisations, farmer trainers, training organisations

Download in English or French.

KCOA-AFRICA.ORG

SECTION 2: ORGANIC AND AGROECOLOGICAL APPROACHES

IN THIS SECTION

- What is organic agriculture?
- Basic production principles of organic agriculture
- Permaculture training manual
- SFHC participatory curriculum
- Sustainable organic agriculture manual
- A guide to conservation agriculture
- Low-tech agroecology guide

Sustainable farming must nourish people and protect ecosystems, but current food systems in southern Africa are failing on both fronts. Industrial practices like monocultures, synthetic inputs and a focus on cash crops are degrading the environment, harming human health and increasing dependence on costly external inputs.

The following pages highlight resources that explore why transformation is urgent—and how it can be achieved.

FACTSHEET:
WHAT IS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE?

An overview

Organic agriculture is a way of farming that keeps soils, ecosystems and the life that inhabits them, including people, healthy. It uses natural processes and products to produce food in a way that does not harm the environment and that provides people with the nutrients they need for a healthy life. It respects traditional practices, encourages non-harmful innovation and acknowledges the role that science can play in improving farming practices. It also focuses on ensuring that farmers and consumers enjoy mutually fair relationships to support a better quality of life for all involved in the production and consumption of food.[1]

Principles of organic agriculture

Organic agriculture is based on four principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care.[2]

- **Health:** Organic agriculture maintains and builds the health of soil, plants, humans and animals because the health of these elements is interconnected. There is a focus on building immunity, resilience and regeneration. Organic agriculture therefore tries to avoid the use of synthetic fertilisers, animal drugs, food additives and pesticides that may cause harm to soils, ecosystems and people.
- **Ecology:** Organic agriculture works with and mimics living ecosystems and natural cycles to help support their continuing functioning. There is a focus on building and enhancing living soils and ecosystems, recycling materials, maintaining genetic and agricultural diversity and working within context-specific cycles and cultures. Agricultural systems are designed to support these objectives.
- **Fairness:** Organic agriculture emphasises and ensures fairness, justice and respect in relationships between farmers, processers, distributors, traders and consumers, and between these groups and the Earth. There is a focus on supporting a good quality of life for all involved and in helping to support food sovereignty and reducing poverty. This principle also extends to the ethical treatment of animals in accordance with their rights.
- **Care:** Organic agriculture supports the precautionary principle in all its management decisions to protect the environment and the health of people today and in the future. No farming practice should be used that puts environmental and human wellbeing at risk.

What makes organic agriculture different from other agricultural approaches?

It differs from conventional farming in three main ways:

- Farmers may not use synthetic inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides and routine animal drugs in organic farming. They should work with natural remedies and systems to ensure the long-term health of soils, crops, animals and people.
- Farmers may not use genetically modified seeds in organic farming. This technology has not been proven unequivocally safe for long-term use and some of the accompanying inputs may have negative effects on the environment and human health.
- Farmers can apply for organic certification if complying with criteria set by third-party certification bodies, or for organic assurance using participatory guarantee systems.

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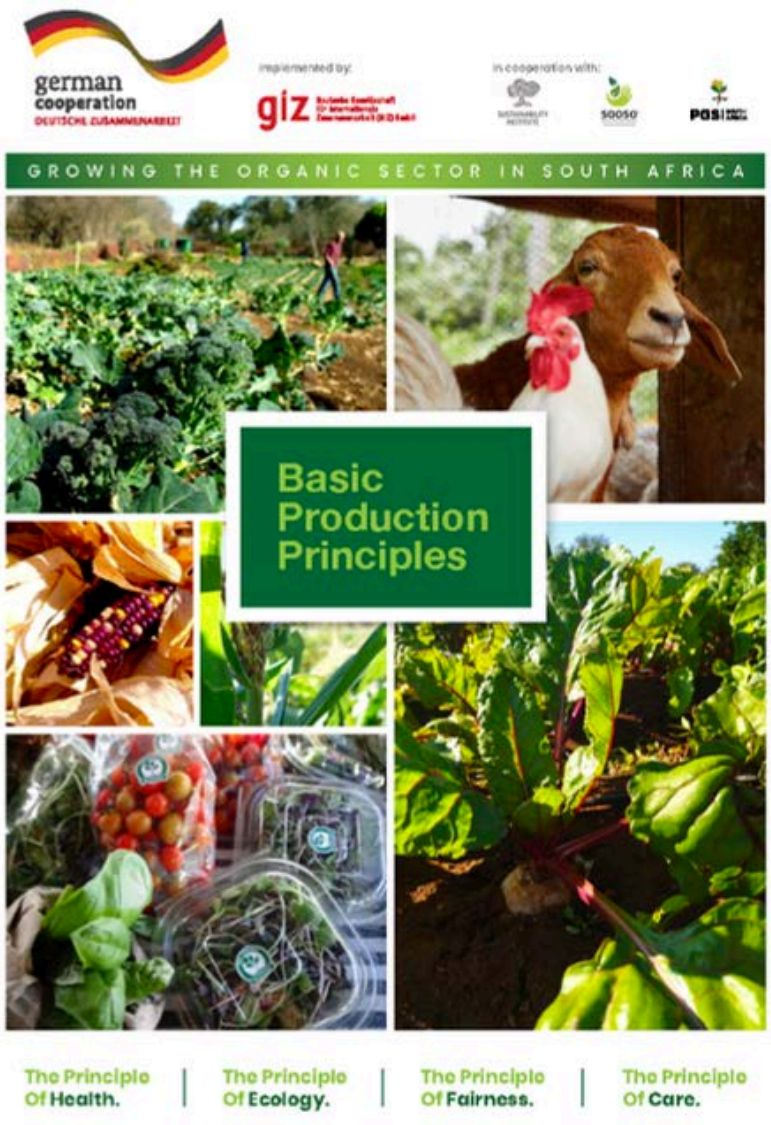
WHAT IS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE?
A 2-page overview of principles and practices of organic agriculture.

Country: Regional
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute
Target group: General use

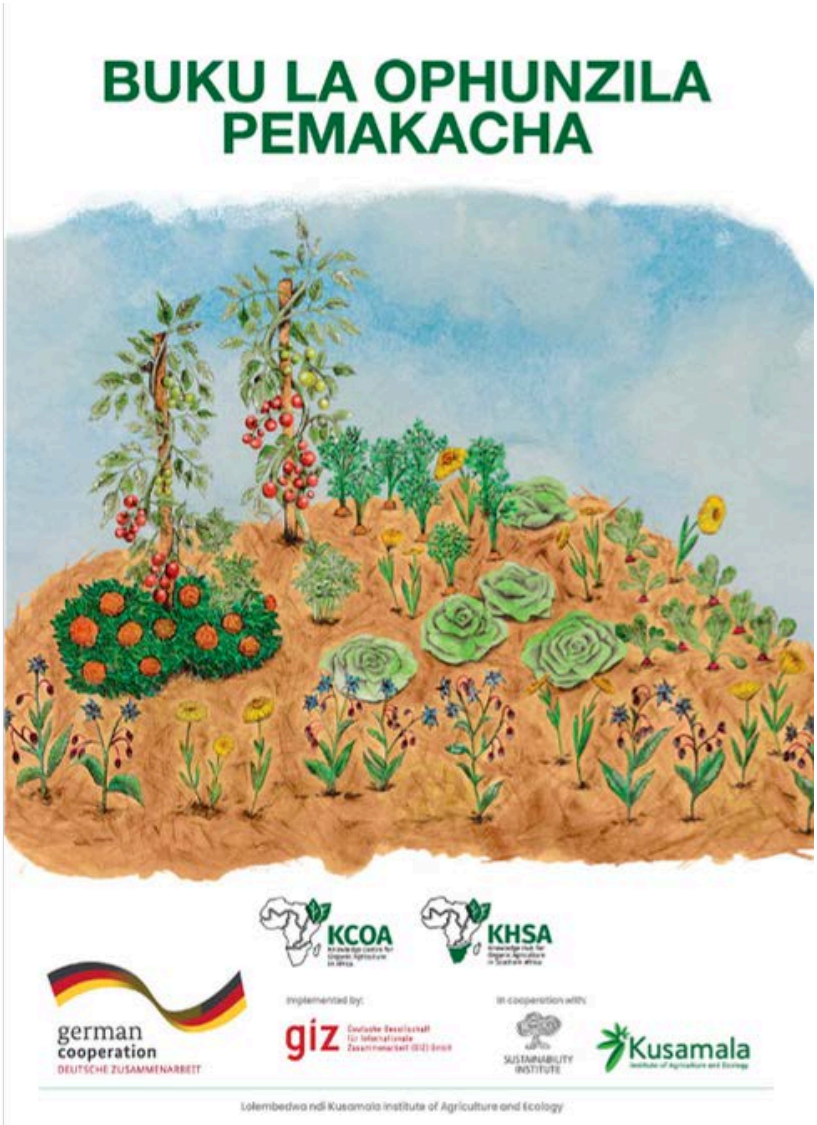
Download in English.



BASIC PRODUCTION PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
This manual should be used as an introductory document to organic agricultural principles, including those related to soil and water management, pest and disease control and crop production.

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

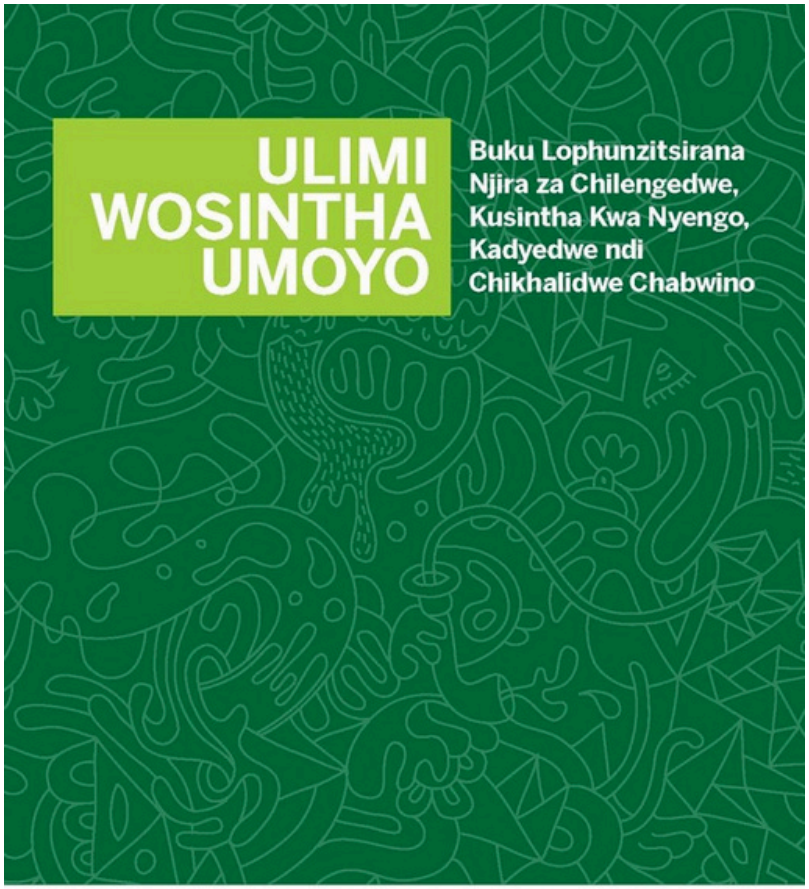
Download in English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xitsonga, Sesotho, and Lesotho Sotho.



PERMACULTURE TRAINING MANUAL
The Chichewa permaculture manual is a user handbook that contains detailed guidelines on designing sustainable landscapes, soil and water management practices, energy planning, and pest and disease management.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

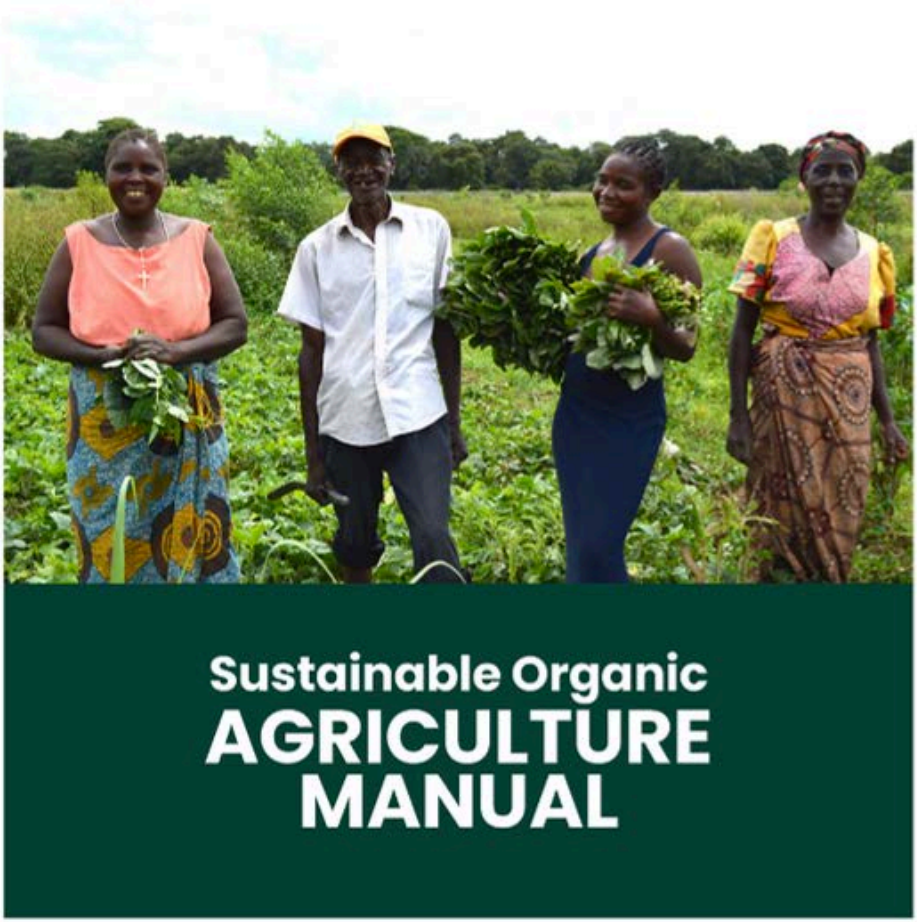
Download in Chichewa.



SFHC PARTICIPATORY CURRICULUM
This user-friendly curriculum integrates agroecology, nutrition, climate change and social relationships to support healthier lives. Developed with farmers, scientists and NGOs in Malawi and Tanzania, it uses drama, hands-on activities and creative learning, and can be adapted to other contexts.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

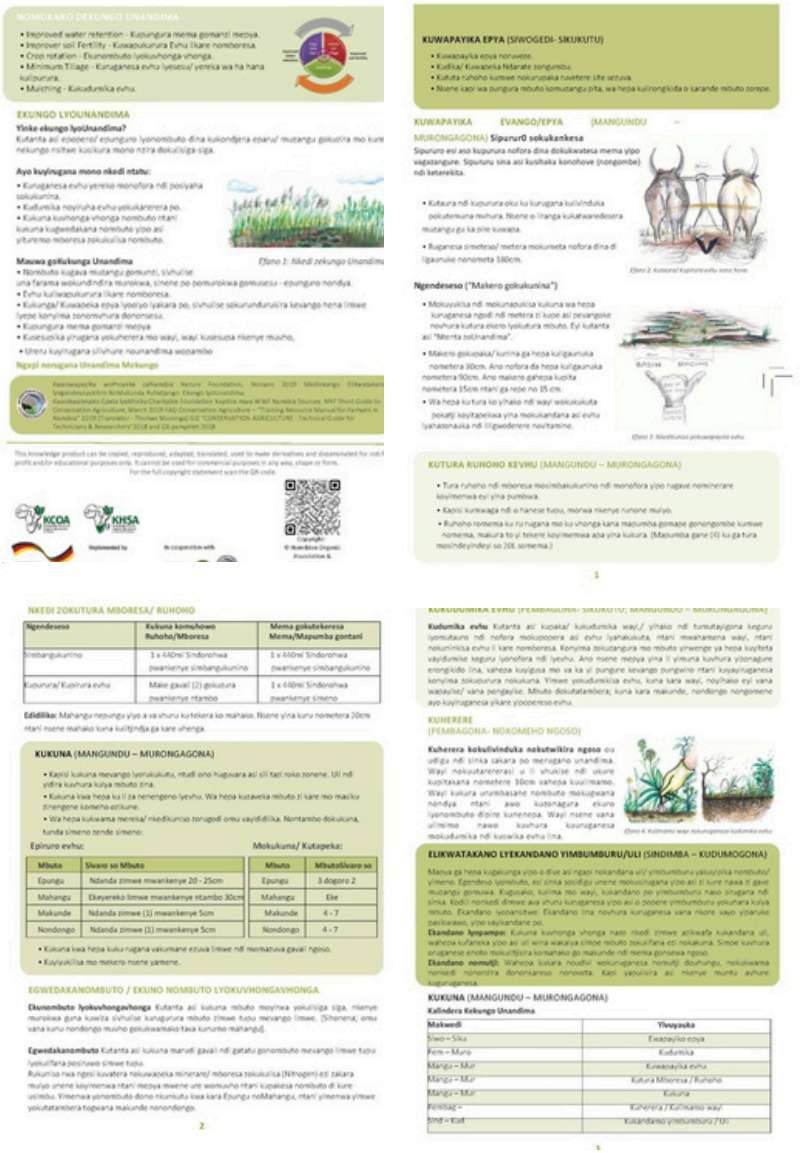
Download in Chichewa.



SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MANUAL
This trainer's manual provides a comprehensive overview of sustainable methods to build and boost soil health, manage pests and diseases and conserve soils and water. It complements a set of posters.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

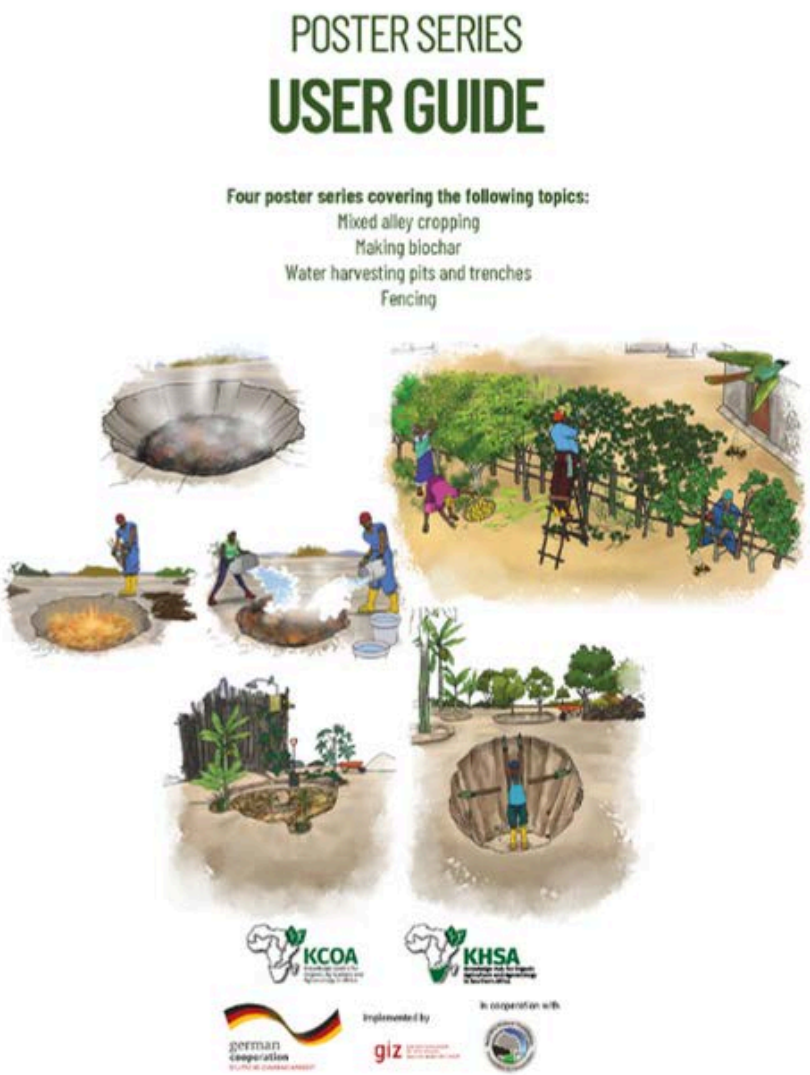
Download in English or Nyanja.



CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE
This graphic brochure provides guidelines to undertaking conservation agriculture.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in Rukwangali or Rumanyo.



LOW-TECH AGROECOLOGY GUIDE
This knowledge product includes four poster sets offering step-by-step guides for low-tech, agroecological practices: mixed alley cropping with pigeon pea (8 posters), making biochar (4), water harvesting with pits and trenches (4) and fencing (7).

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in English.

KCOA-AFRICA.ORG

SECTION 3: FOCUSING ON SOIL HEALTH

IN THIS SECTION

- Organic agriculture and soil health
- Why is organic matter so important?
- What are microorganisms?
- Why use mulch
- Composting for soil health
- Ingredients for making compost
- Soil fertility management in organic farming
- Step-by-step guide to making compost
- How to make and use compost
- How to make and use bokashi
- How to make and use manure and plant teas
- Making plant teas
- Making liquid manure fertilisers
- How to make and use fermented liquid biofertilisers
- How to make biochar
- Mixed alley cropping
- Introduction to organic agriculture and biofertilisers (video podcast)
- Making bokashi and liquid fertilisers (video podcast)
- How to make liquid manure (video podcast)
- Advantages of crop-tree integration: Agroforestry (video podcast)
- Advantages of mixed cropping (video podcast)

Healthy, fertile soils are essential for stable food production and climate resilience. This section presents affordable techniques small-scale farmers can use to restore soil health with locally available materials.

FACTSHEET: ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND SOIL HEALTH

Why is soil health important?
Soil is the basis of production for our fuel, fibre, animal feed and about 95% of our food.[1] Healthy soils provide the nutrients that plants need to grow and to ward off pests and diseases. Beyond this, they also retain water, regulating its flow, and store carbon, which mitigates climate change.[2] But the health of soils is declining rapidly around the world – and an estimated 40% of degradation is caused by agricultural activities, most notably through excessive use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and plant treatment products. Organic agriculture focuses on maintaining and enhancing soil health and fertility.

What makes soils healthy and fertile?
Soil health is defined as "the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living system" and degradation as a process that "lowers the current and/or future capacity of soil to produce goods or services".[3] Healthy and fertile soils have high levels of organic matter and beneficial organisms.

Organic matter binds the soil together, enabling it to retain water and slowly release it for use by plants.[4] Organic matter can absorb and retain 90% of its weight in water. It also holds reservoirs of nutrients that are slowly released and used by plants. The plants draw on the phosphates, potassium and calcium, and, in turn, pass on nutrients to the people and animals that consume them.

Soil organic matter comprises particles of:[5]

- Fresh and decomposed plant residues, and animal dung.
- Micro-organisms, such as such as bacteria, fungi, nematodes, arthropods and protozoa, that consume and transfer nutrients, transforming the organic matter over time into humus.
- Cells and tissues of microbes and the substances that they synthesise.
- Stable organic matter known as colloidal humus, which does not decompose easily.

There is scientific evidence that shows that organically managed soils often have higher percentages of organic matter (8.33%) than those under industrial farming models (7.37%).[1]

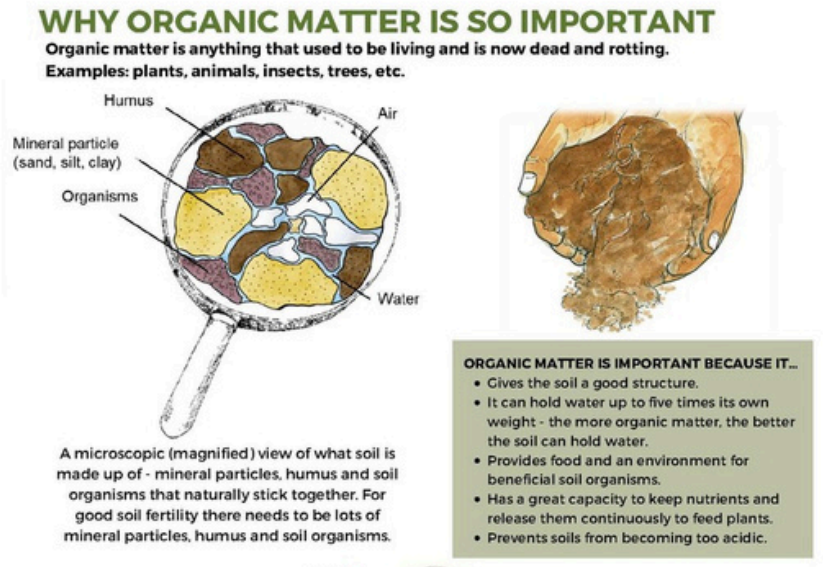
Organic agriculture production techniques and soil health
The organic agriculture production techniques mentioned below, among others, contribute to maintaining and enhancing soil health and fertility:[6,7]

- **Crop rotation:** Rotating crops throughout the farm helps to increase the nutrients available in the soil and it lowers the risk of soil-borne pathogens by increasing the soil's microbial biomass.
- **Intercropping:** Growing different crops together in the same field helps plants to share resources, such as the nitrogen supplied by nitrogen-fixing plants. It also helps to reduce the risk of pests and diseases and reduces the need for synthetic inputs.
- **Minimum tillage:** Breaking the soil up as little as possible means that soil organic matter is kept intact and able to provide its vital functions. >>

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND SOIL HEALTH
A 2-page overview of how organic agriculture practices can boost soil health and fertility.

Country: Regional
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute
Target group: General use

Download in English.



HOW TO USE THIS POSTER

The purpose of this poster is to explain what organic matter is and why it is important. Healthy plants and animals start with healthy soil that is full of life that comes from having a lot of organic matter. Strong, fertile soil is needed for plants and trees to grow well and be able to fight off pests and diseases.

Step 1: Explain soil organic matter

- Ask the audience what makes soil fertile.
- Use the responses to explain what soil organic matter is and how it makes soil fertile.
- Explain that organic matter is food for plants. For plants to "eat" the food, the organic matter must be small enough so it can be taken up by the plant's roots. The organisms in the soil break down the organic matter into humus that provides food for the plants.
- Explain that there are four things in a healthy soil: 1. Humus, 2. Soil minerals, 3. Organisms, 4. Water.

Step 2: The benefits of soil organic matter

- Talk about the benefits of organic matter listed on the poster and explain that the more humus, soil minerals, organisms and water in the soil, the greater the benefits.

Definitions

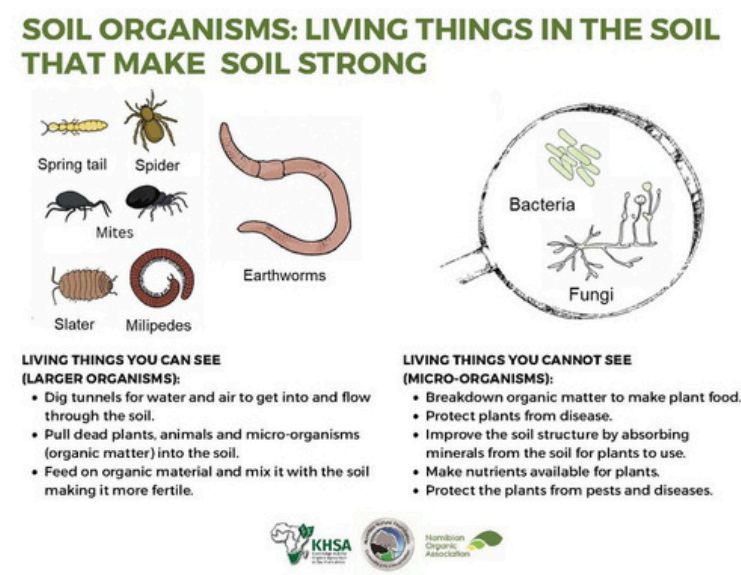
- Humus is dark, organic matter made up of plant and animal remains that have been broken down by soil organisms. It is found in the topsoil, is dark in colour and provides important food for plants.
- Organic matter is all living and dead material from plants and animals.
- Organisms are the small animals and insects that can be seen with the eyes (e.g., earthworms, spiders, mites, millipedes, spring tail, slater) and other living things (e.g., fungi and bacteria) in the soil that are too small to see with the eyes. They break down organic matter into humus and allow water to move through the soil.
- Soil minerals are the elements/parts of soil that help plants grow. For example: nitrogen, potassium, iron, zinc, magnesium, and phosphorus. Minerals are made available to the plants through organic matter and organisms.

WHY IS ORGANIC MATTER SO IMPORTANT?

The purpose of this poster is to explain what organic matter is and why it is important. The front side of the poster explains what organic matter is and the back side of the poster contains guidelines for the trainer when presenting the poster to farmer groups.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

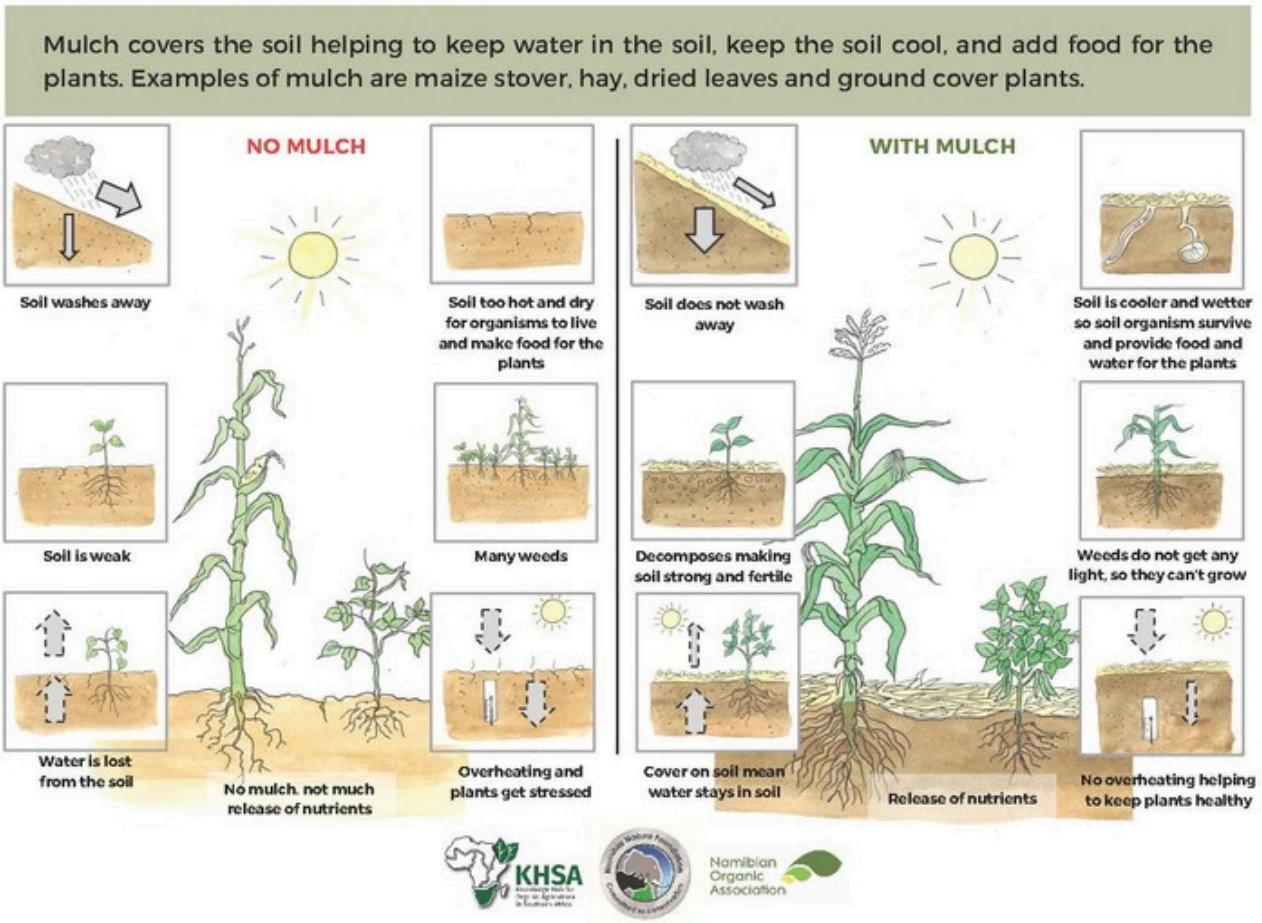
Download in English.



WHAT ARE MICROORGANISMS?
The purpose of this poster is to explain what microorganisms are, and the role that they play in soil health. The front side describes their activities in the soil and the back side provides guidelines for trainers when using the posters with farmers.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

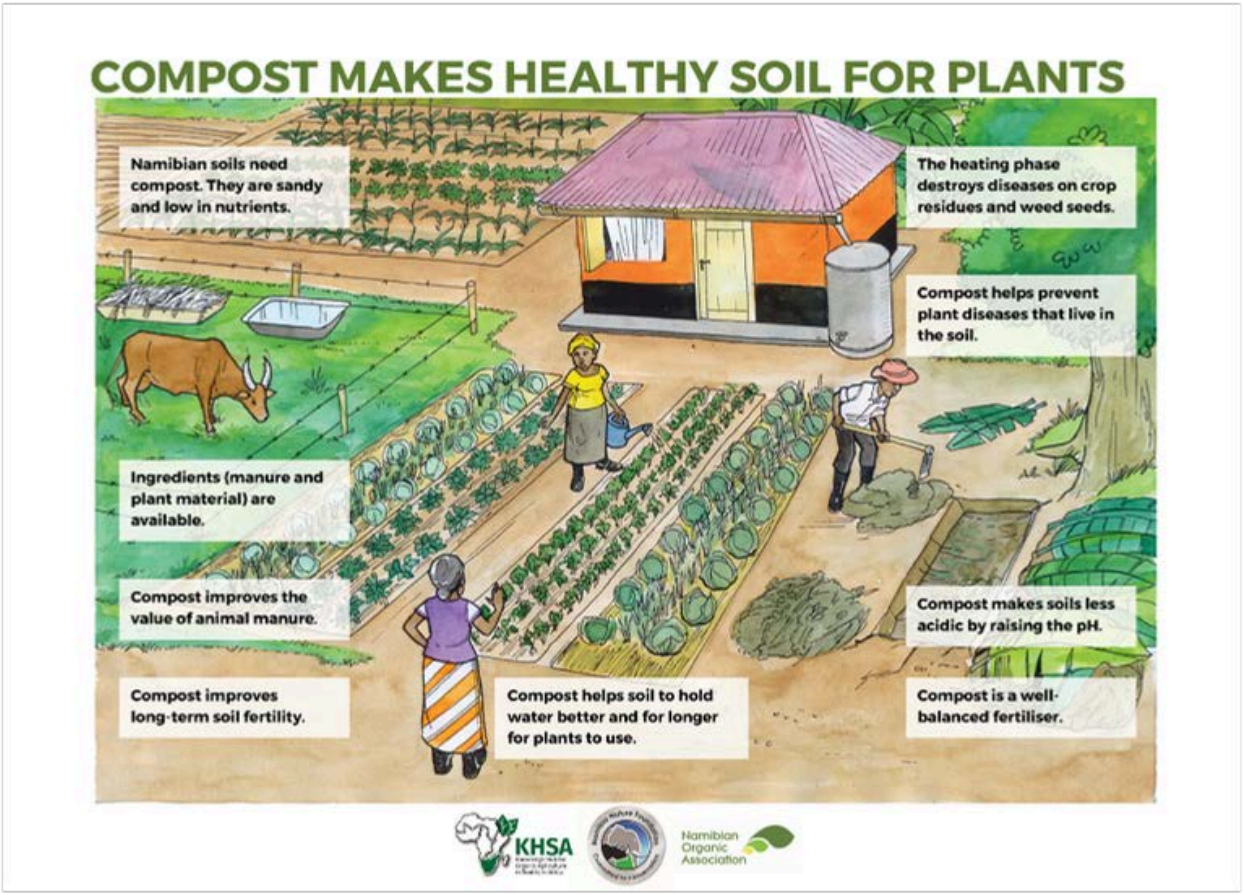
Download in English.



WHY USE MULCH
The front part of the poster depicts the benefits of using mulch and the back part provides guidance to trainers on how to use the poster.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

Download in English.



COMPOSTING FOR SOIL HEALTH
This poster shows how farmers can use compost to increase their production. It highlights the benefits of compost and provides step-by-step instructions on its use.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

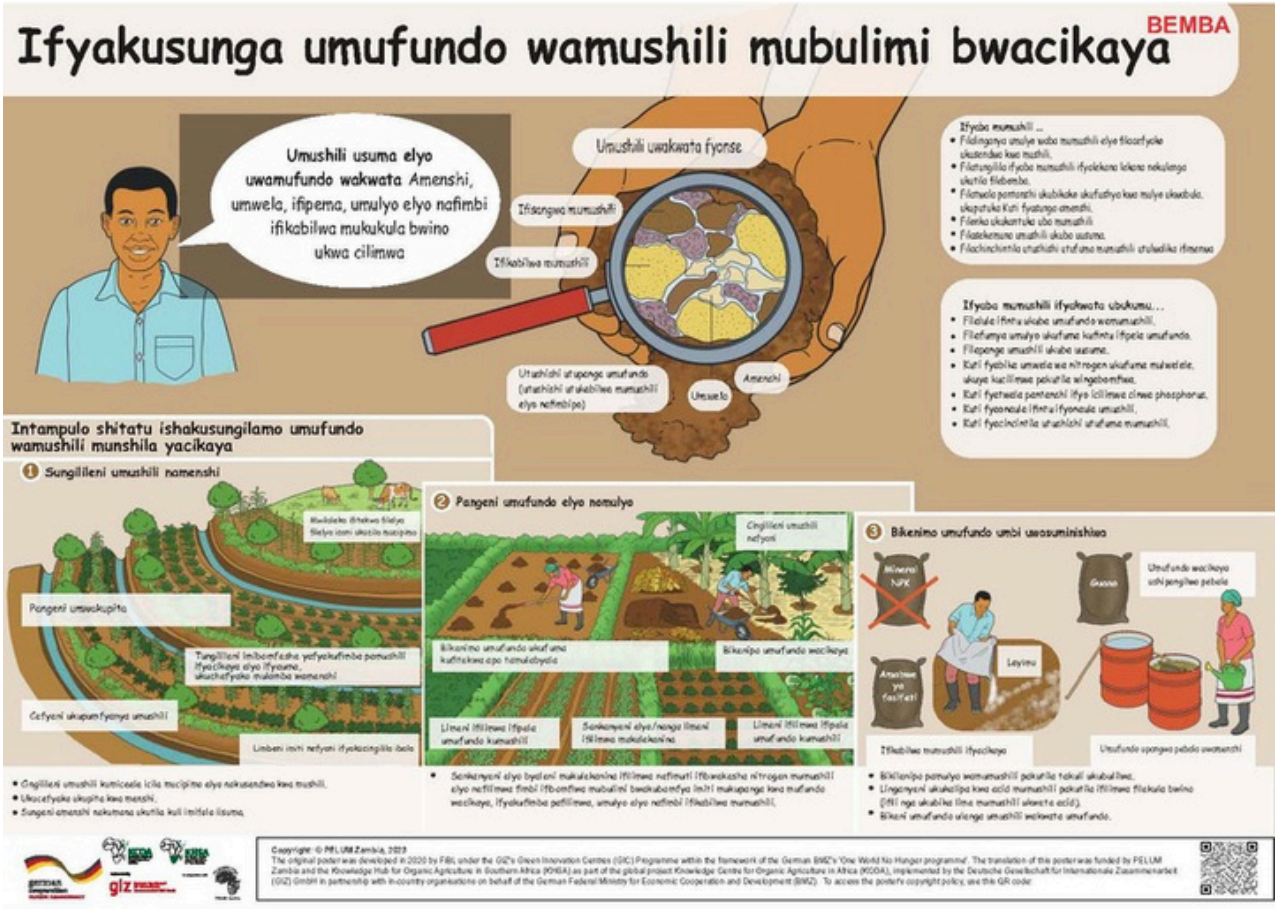
Download in English.

INGREDIENTS FOR MAKING COMPOST

This double-sided poster shows the ingredients that are used to make compost and the back side of the poster provides guidance to trainers using the poster.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

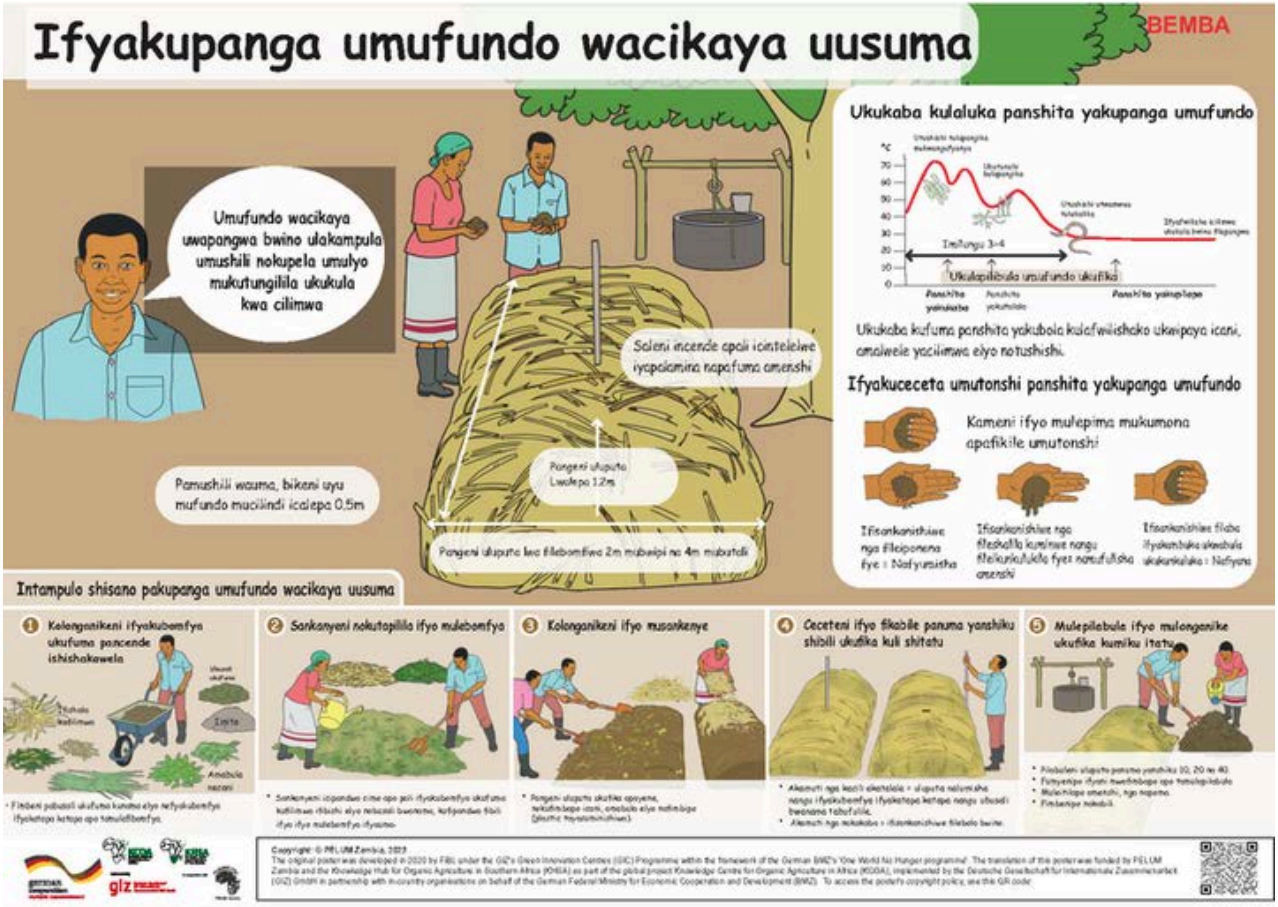
Download in English.



SOIL FERTILITY MANAGEMENT IN ORGANIC FARMING
This poster illustrates good organic soil management practices.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

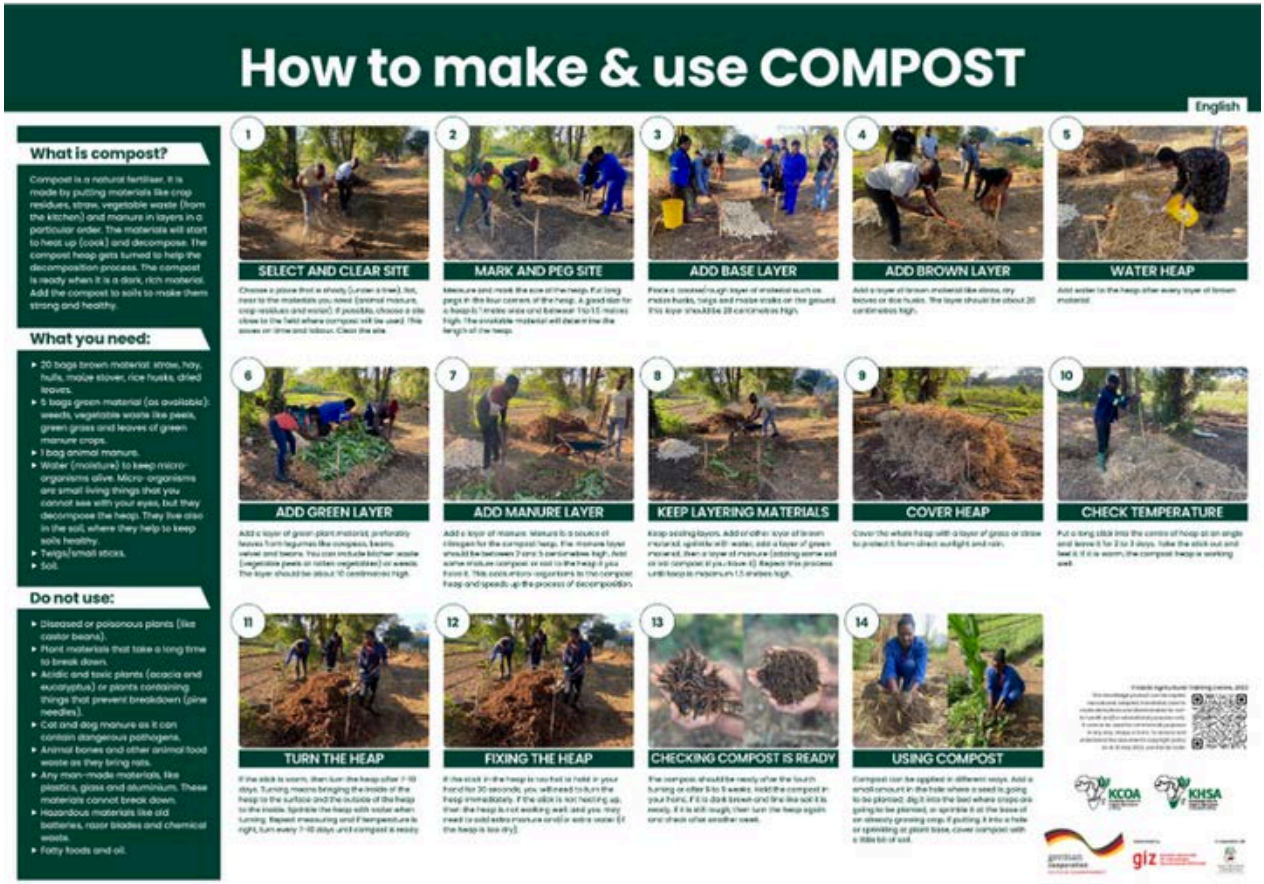
Download this resource in Bemba, Tonga or Nyanja.



STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO MAKING COMPOST
This poster outlines the steps on how to make compost manure and the materials needed.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download this resource in Bemba, Tonga or Nyanja.



HOW TO MAKE AND USE COMPOST
This poster outlines the steps on how to make compost manure and the materials needed. Download this resource in English or Nyanja. It is also available as a postcard-size accordion brochure in English and in Nyanja.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Download poster in English or Nyanja. Download accordion brochure in English or Nyanja.

HOW TO MAKE AND USE BOKASHI
This poster outlines the steps on how to make bokashi and the materials needed. It is also available as a postcard-size accordion brochure.

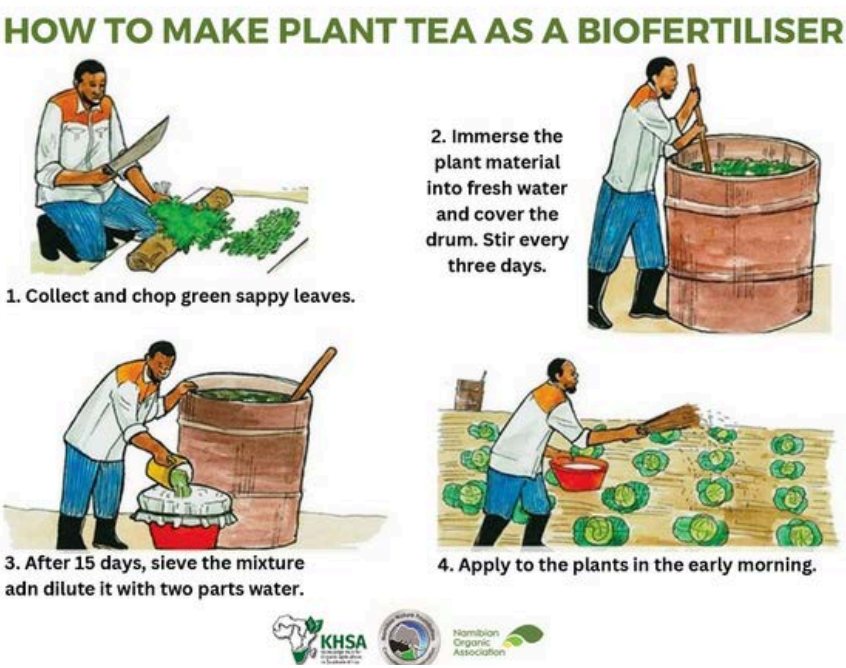
Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

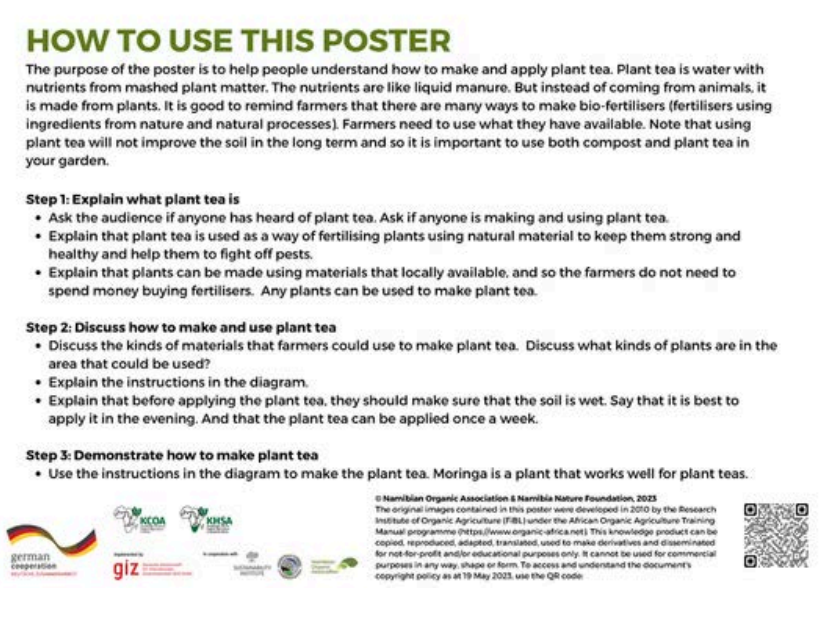
Download poster in English or Nyanja. Download accordion brochure in English or Nyanja.

HOW TO MAKE AND USE MANURE AND PLANT TEAS
This poster outlines the steps on how to make manure and plant teas and the materials needed. It is also available as a postcard-size accordion brochure.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download poster in English or Nyanja. Download accordion brochure in English or Nyanja.





MAKING PLANT TEAS

This double-sided poster provides easy to follow steps to making plant teas. The back side provides guidelines for using the posters with farmers.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

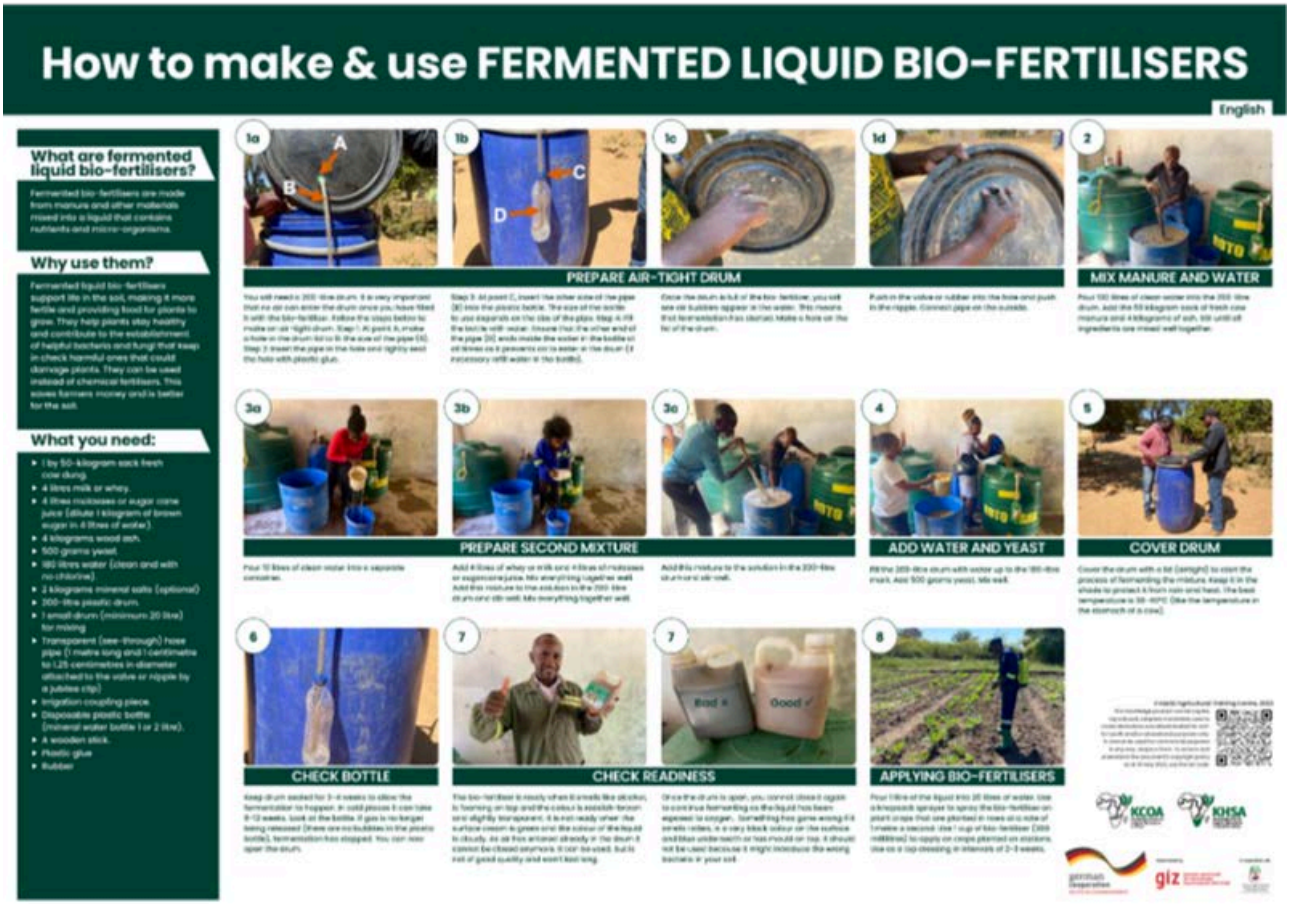
Download in English.

MAKING LIQUID MANURE FERTILISERS

This double-sided poster provides easy to follow steps to making liquid animal manure fertiliser. The back side provides guidelines for using the posters with farmers.

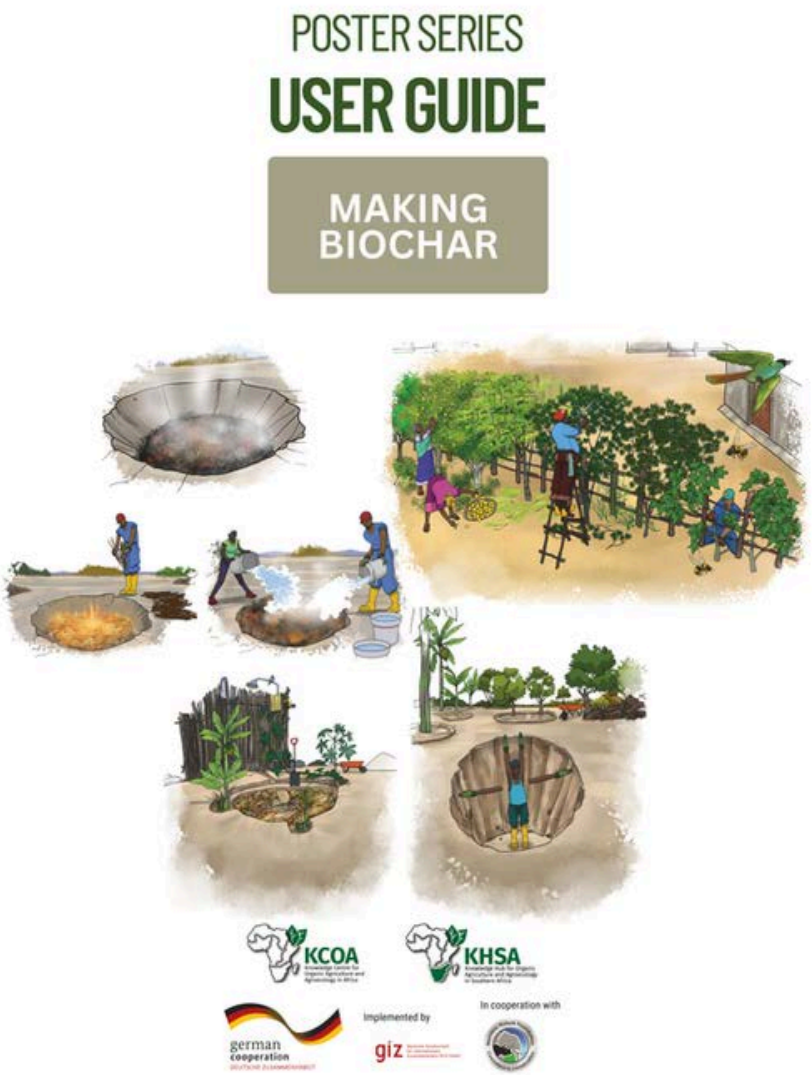
Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations

Download in English.



HOW TO MAKE AND USE FERMENTED LIQUID BIO-FERTILISERS
This poster outlines the steps on how to make and use liquid biofertilisers and the materials needed. It is also available as a postcard-size accordion brochure.

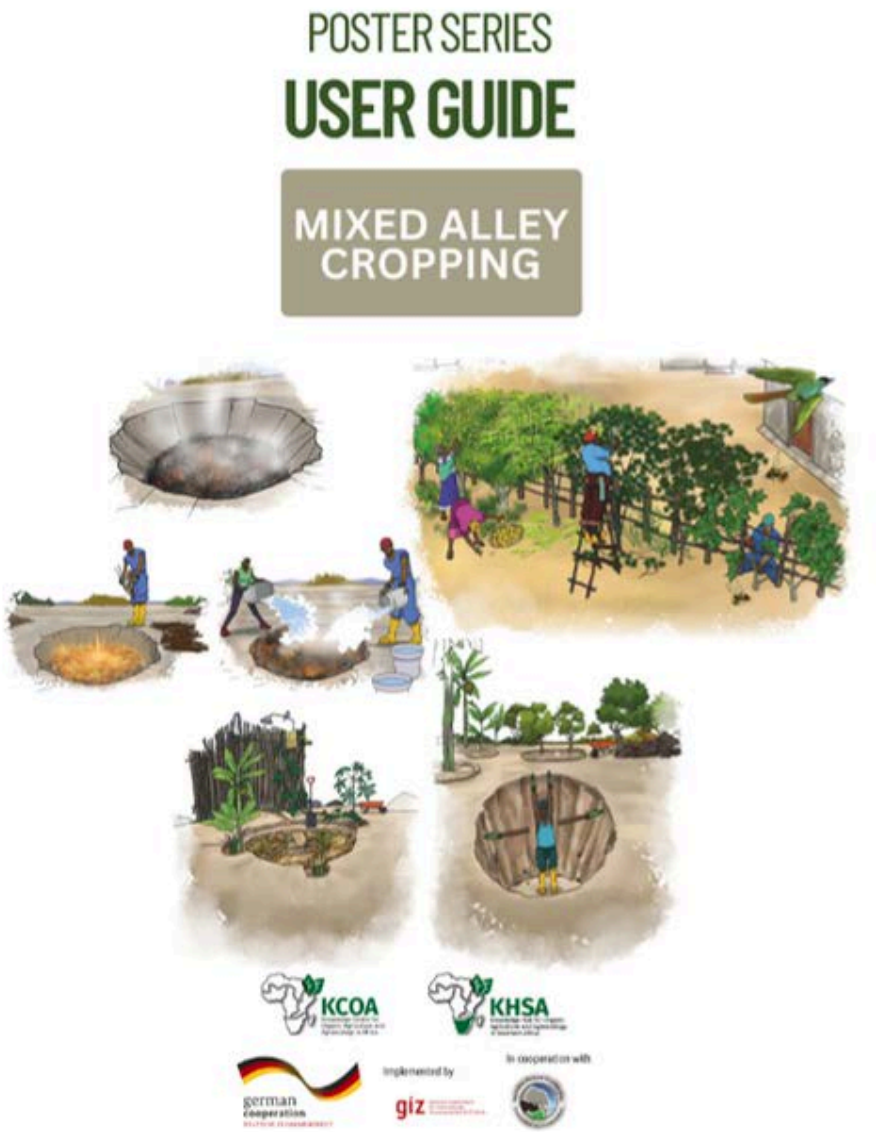
Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Download poster in English or Nyanja. Download accordion brochure in English or Nyanja.



HOW TO MAKE BIOCHAR
This poster series gives step-by-step instructions for making and using biochar with a low-tech approach, showing how to prepare, burn, charge and apply biochar to improve soil fertility, water retention and biodiversity.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in English.



MIXED ALLEY CROPPING
This poster series gives a step-by-step guide to mixed alley cropping with pigeon pea, showing how to prepare and plant fields to improve soil, boost yields, prevent pests, provide shade, food, mulch and green manure.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in English.

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND BIOFERTILISERS (VIDEO PODCAST)
This episode of the Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast dives into the principles of organic farming and the role of biofertilisers. Two farmers discuss how these practices can restore soil health, cut dependence on synthetic inputs and support more sustainable, resilient agriculture.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles

MAKING BOKASHI AND LIQUID FERTILISERS (VIDEO PODCAST)
This episode of the Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast explores how to make bokashi and other biofertilisers. Two farmers share practical tips and insights on producing these nutrient-rich organic inputs and explain how they support healthy, productive farming.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles

HOW TO MAKE LIQUID MANURE (VIDEO PODCAST)
This episode of the Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast explores the value of organic liquid manure for farmers in Malawi. It highlights its benefits—improved soil fertility, stronger plant growth and sustainable waste use—and offers practical guidance on making and applying it using local materials for maximum impact.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles

ADVANTAGES OF CROP-TREE INTEGRATION: AGROFORESTRY (VIDEO PODCAST)
This episode of the Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast highlights the benefits of crop-tree integration, or agroforestry. It explores how incorporating trees into farming systems can boost soil fertility, increase crop yields and offer a range of ecological and economic advantages.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles

ADVANTAGES OF MIXED CROPPING IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (VIDEO PODCAST)
This episode of the Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast explores mixed cropping—an organic farming practice where multiple crops are grown together in the same field. It highlights the benefits, such as improved soil health and resilience to pests, and offers practical guidance on crop selection and managing challenges for successful implementation.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles

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SECTION 4: SUSTAINABLE PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT

IN THIS SECTION

- How to make and use botanicals for pest management (video)
- How to make and use botanicals for pest management
- Managing pests and diseases the organic way (recorded webinar)
- Dealing with pests organically
- Dealing with diseases organically
- How to plan vegetable production
- How to make and use organic pesticides
- How to manage weeds organically

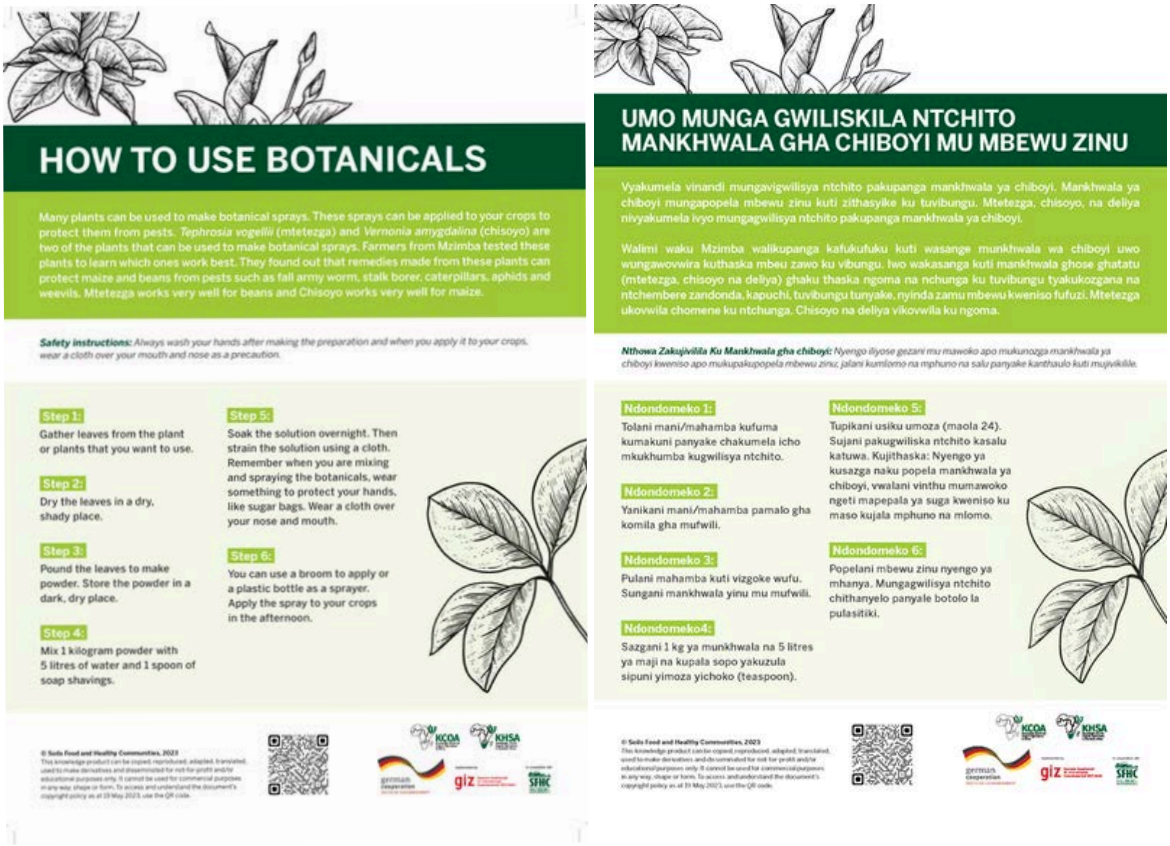
Controlling pests and diseases without harmful synthetic pesticides is a major challenge for small-scale farmers. Unsustainable practices like monocropping disrupt natural pest-predator balances and degrade soils, making crops more vulnerable. Agroecological and organic methods restore this balance through biodiversity, mixed cropping and healthy soils, building resilience.

This section offers resources on safe, organic ways to deal with pests and diseases that protect both ecosystems and human health.

HOW TO MAKE AND USE BOTANICALS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT (VIDEO)
This video details how to use botanical remedies for pesticide management. It takes one through a step-by-step process on how to control pests both pre-harvest and post-harvest. it also talks about safety procedures when handling botanicals. It goes further to give examples of the plants one can use for pest control.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch in Tumbuka or Chichewa (English sub-titles)

The videos have also been prepared as pre-harvest guidance in Tumbuka and Chichewa and post-harvest guidance in Tumbuka and Chichewa.



HOW TO MAKE AND USE BOTANICALS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT
This leaflet tells how to make and use botanical sprays to protect crops from pests. It provides step-by-step instructions for preparing the spray using common plants and household items.

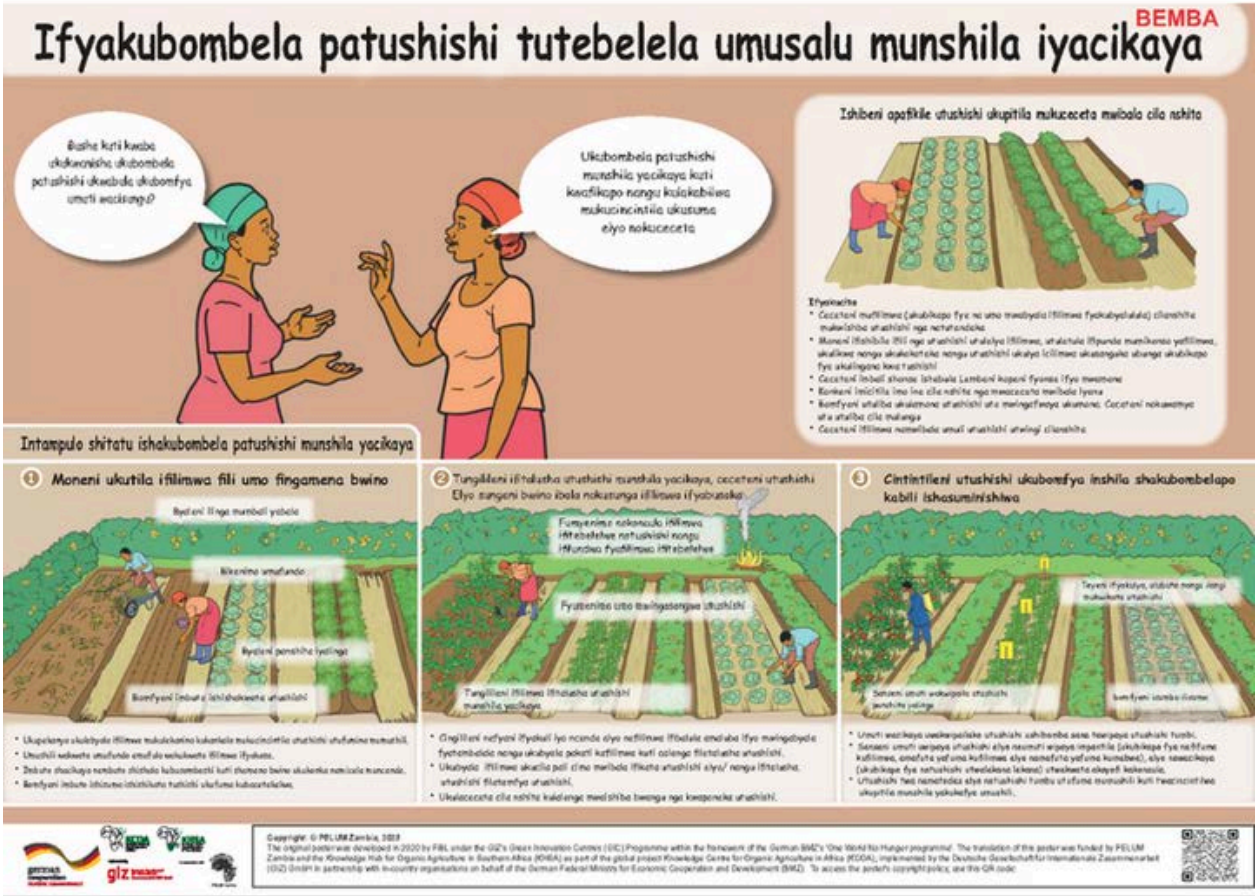
Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download leaflet in English or Tumbuka.

MANAGING PESTS AND DISEASES THE ORGANIC WAY (RECORDED WEBINAR)
This webinar focused on the relevance of organic agriculture for the future, and how it could help combat challenges around food and nutritional security, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Academia, meat sector, commercial and small-scale farmers

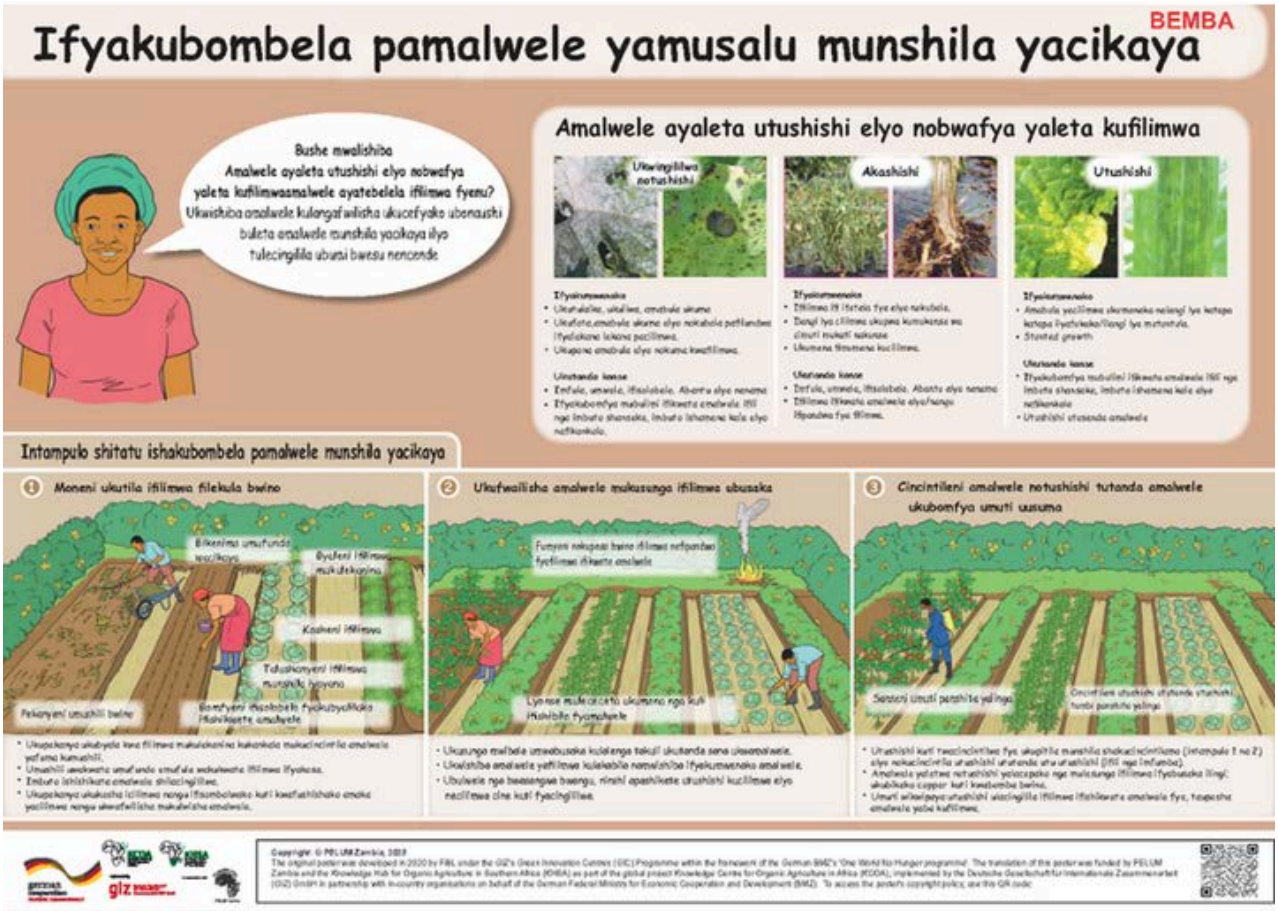
Watch in English.



DEALING WITH PESTS ORGANICALLY
This poster outlines ways to minimise pest attacks on crops.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

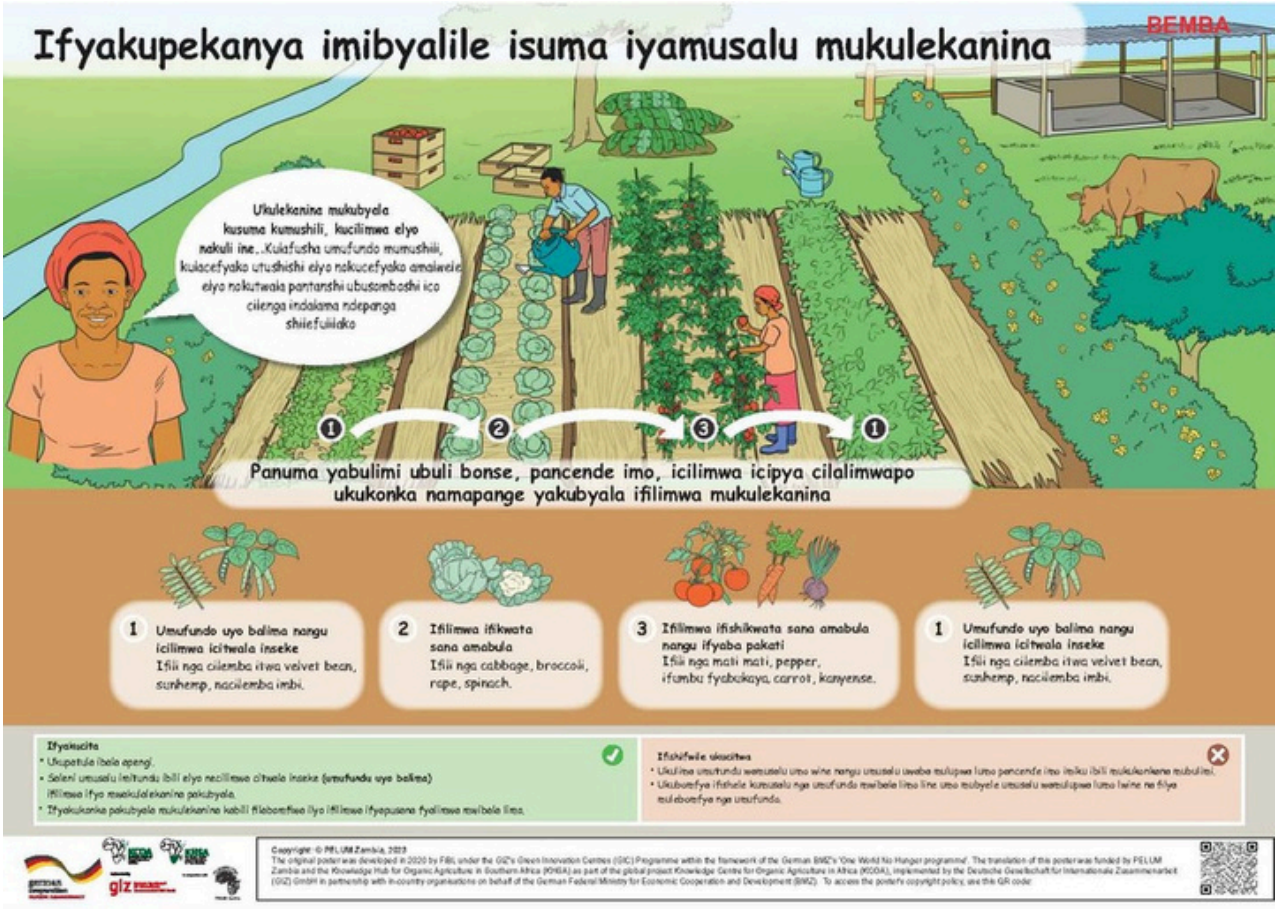
Download this resource in Bemba, Tonga or Nyanja.



DEALING WITH DISEASES ORGANICALLY
This poster outlines ways to minimise the occurences of diseases.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download this resource in Bemba, Tonga or Nyanja.



HOW TO PLAN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
Having a rotation of vegetable planting helps to combat pests and diseases.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download this resource in Bemba, Tonga or Nyanja.

HOW TO MAKE AND USE ORGANIC PESTICIDES
This poster outlines the steps on how to make and use three types of organic pesticides. It is also available as a postcard-size accordion brochure.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download poster in English or Nyanja. Download accordion brochure in English or Nyanja.

HOW TO MANAGE WEEDS ORGANICALLY
This poster illustrates practices that help to manage weeds without synthetic chemicals.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download this resource in Bemba, Tonga or Nyanja.

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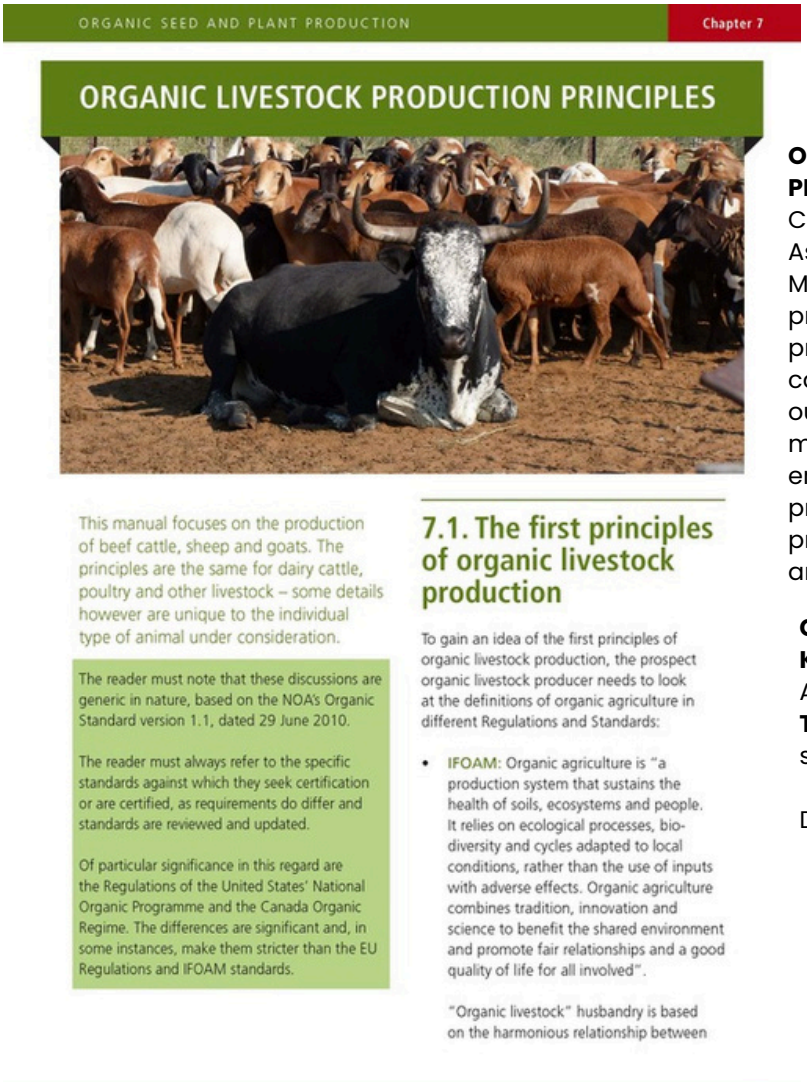
SECTION 5: SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

IN THIS SECTION

- Organic livestock production principles
- Organic livestock series and factsheets
- Case studies: Regenerative livestock production in Namibia
- Holistic animal husbandry
- Organic livestock video series

Livestock are vital to food security, livelihoods and soil health across African farming systems, with the continent home to 85% of the world's livestock keepers. However, industrial livestock production is a major driver of greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution and land degradation. As demand for animal products rises, adopting regenerative, organic livestock practices is essential for safeguarding human and ecological health. This section shares resources and case studies highlighting the benefits of sustainable livestock systems.



ORGANIC SEED AND PLANT PRODUCTION Chapter 7

ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION PRINCIPLES

This manual focuses on the production of beef cattle, sheep and goats. The principles are the same for dairy cattle, poultry and other livestock – some details however are unique to the individual type of animal under consideration.

The reader must note that these discussions are generic in nature, based on the NOA's Organic Standard version 1.1, dated 29 June 2010.

The reader must always refer to the specific standards against which they seek certification or are certified, as requirements do differ and standards are reviewed and updated.

Of particular significance in this regard are the Regulations of the United States' National Organic Programme and the Canada Organic Regime. The differences are significant and, in some instances, make them stricter than the EU Regulations and IFOAM standards.

7.1. The first principles of organic livestock production

To gain an idea of the first principles of organic livestock production, the prospect organic livestock producer needs to look at the definitions of organic agriculture in different Regulations and Standards:

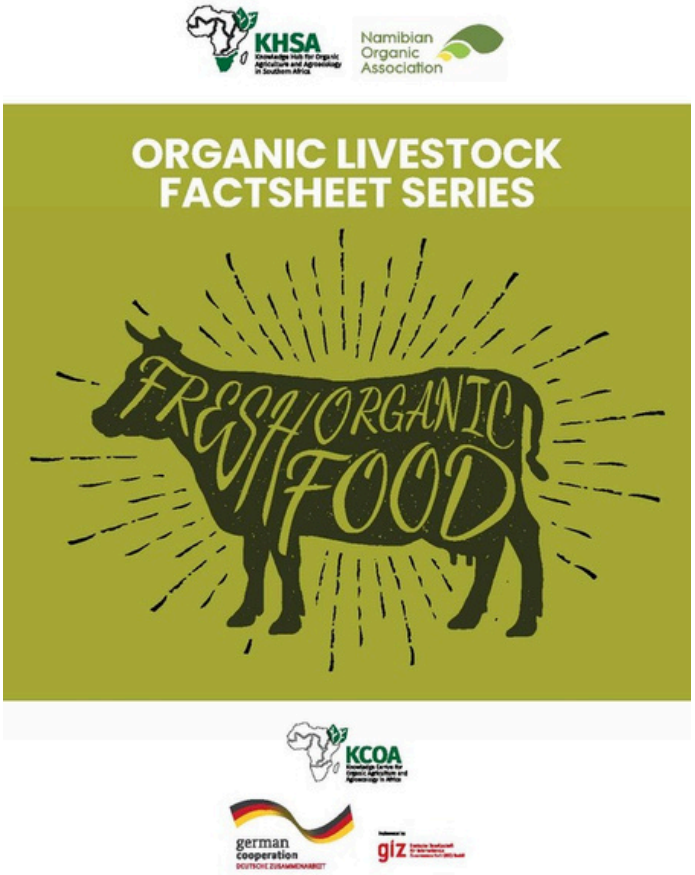
- IFOAM: Organic agriculture is "a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, bio-diversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved".

"Organic livestock" husbandry is based on the harmonious relationship between

ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION PRINCIPLES (CHP 7)
Chapter 7 of the Namibian Organic Association's Organic Production Manual provides guidance to the principles of organic livestock production, specifically focusing on beef cattle, sheep and goats. Key principles outlined include holistic farm management, biodiversity enhancement, nutrient cycling promotion, ecological balance, and prioritising the health of soil, plants, animals and humans.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Commercial and small-scale livestock producers

Download in English.



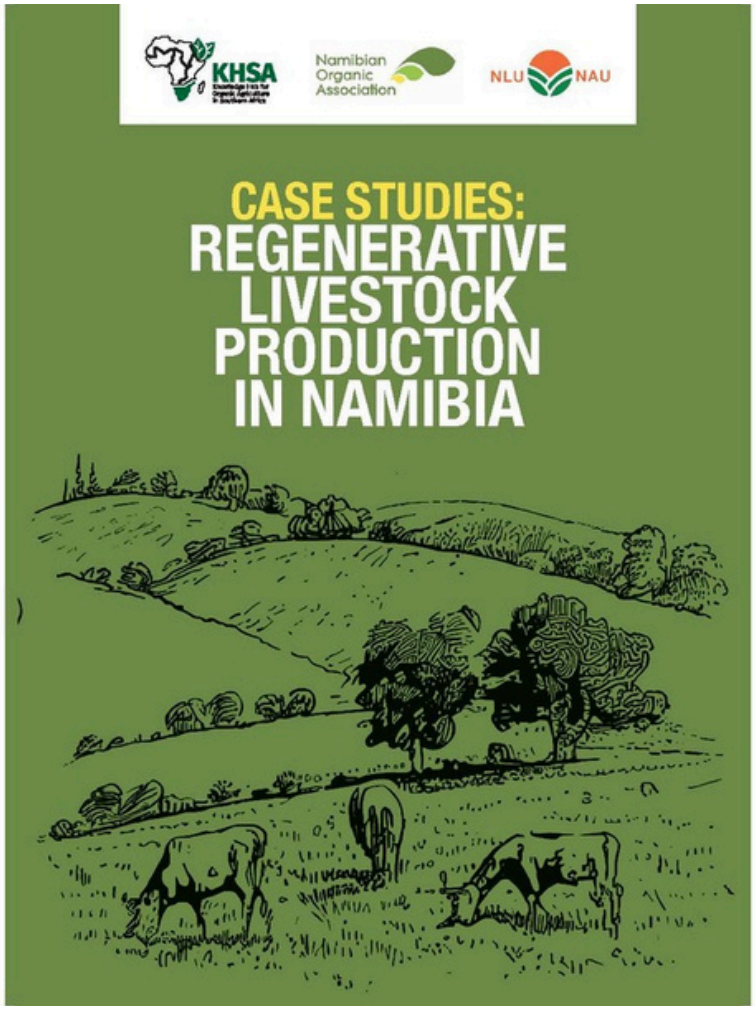
ORGANIC LIVESTOCK SERIES AND FACTSHEETS

The booklet consists of six factsheets, each focusing on a different aspect of organic livestock production in Namibia. Each factsheet goes into detail on its specific topic: 1. Organic Livestock Production, 2. Benefits of Organic (Grass-Fed) Livestock, 3. Organic Slaughter and Processing, 4. Market Opportunities for Organic Meat, 5. Alternative Feed & Supplements for Organic Livestock and 6. Organic Crop Production for Animal Feed.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in English. It can also be downloaded as individual factsheets: Organic Livestock Production, Benefits of Organic (Grass-Fed) Livestock, Organic Slaughter and Processing, Market Opportunities for Organic Meat, Alternative Feed & Supplements for Organic Livestock and Organic Crop Production for Animal Feed.

These individual factsheets are also available in Afrikaans: Organiese vleisproduksie in Namibië; Voordele van organies veldafgeronde vee; Organiese slag en verwerking; Markgeleenthede vir organiese beesvleis; Alternatiewe voer en aanvullings vir organiese vee en Organiese gewasproduksie vir veevoer.

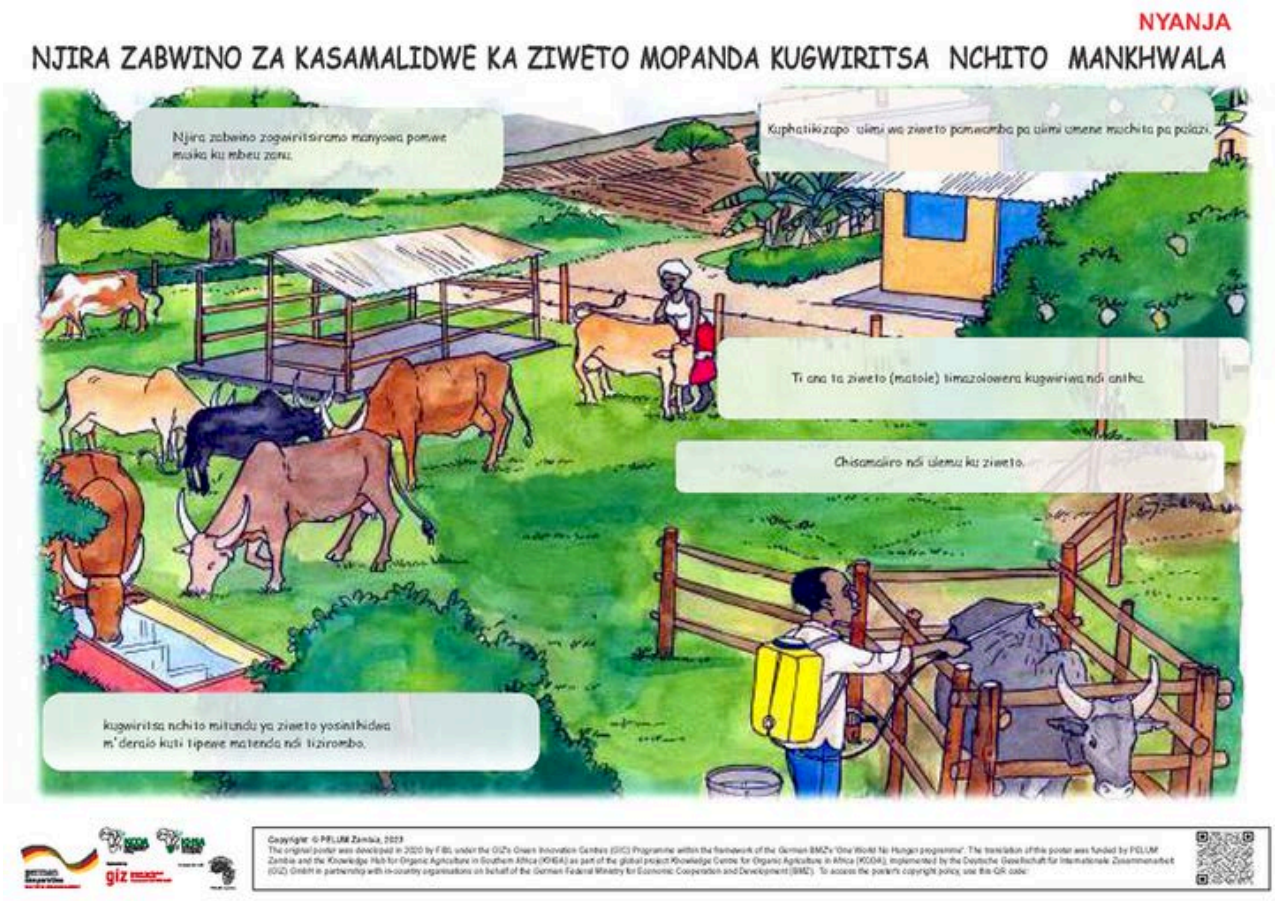


CASE STUDIES: REGENERATIVE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN NAMIBIA
The three case studies profiled in this publication are drawn from the National Agricultural Union's publication *Regenerating Namibian Livestock Farmers*, which serves to support the government's Regenerative Livestock Production Strategy (2019). These case studies provide concrete examples of how Namibian farmers are putting organic principles into practice. All three farms use regenerative grazing practices, one of them is certified organic.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Commercial and small-scale livestock producers

Download in English.

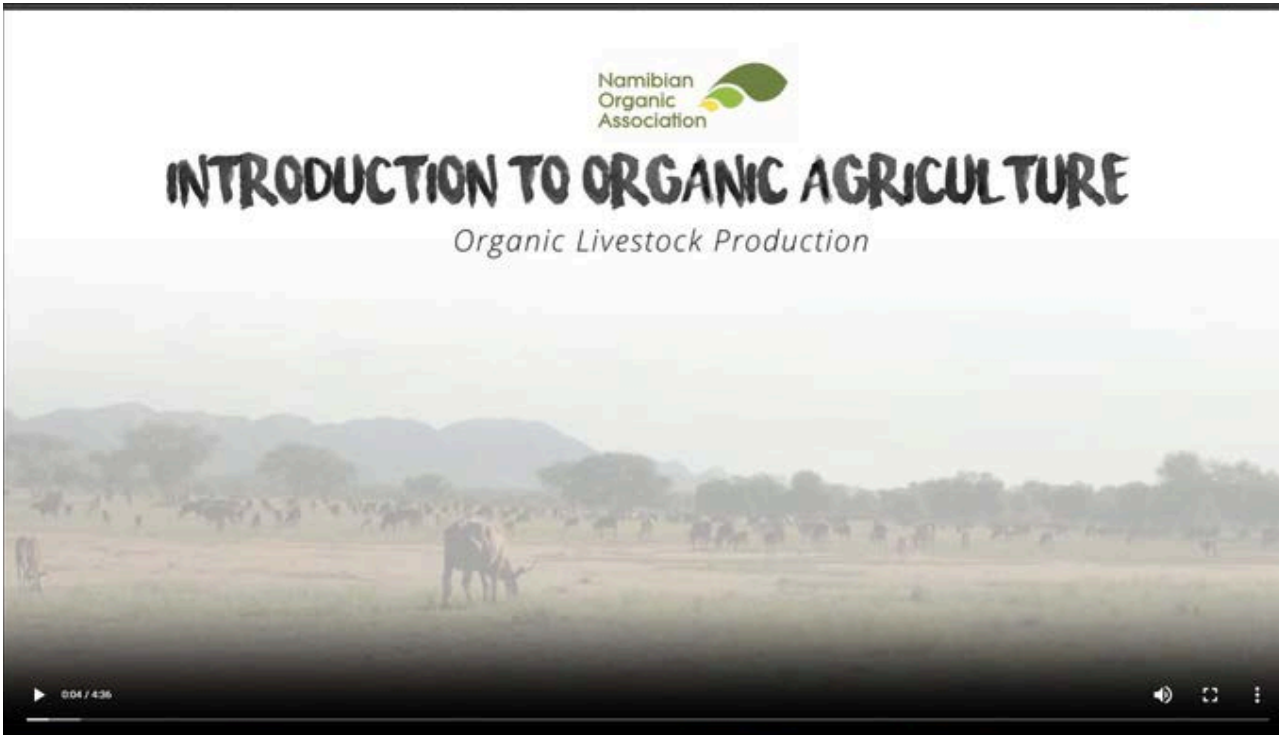
The three fuller case studies (Krumhuk, Tsuwandes, Dabis) can be downloaded separately in English.



HOLISTIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
The poster illustrates good animal husbandry practices.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download this resource in Nyanja, Bemba and Tonga.



ORGANIC LIVESTOCK VIDEO SERIES
This series of 7 videos highlight the different aspects of organic livestock management from the principles of production to animal welfare, working with adapted breeds, sustainable grazing approaches, feeding organic livestock and the health benefits of organic meat consumption and organic livestock markets.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Commercial and small-scale livestock producers, policymakers, consumers

Watch the videos on Organic livestock management, Animal welfare, Working with adapted breeds, Sustainable grazing approaches, Feeding organic livestock, Health benefits of organic consumption and Organic livestock markets in English.

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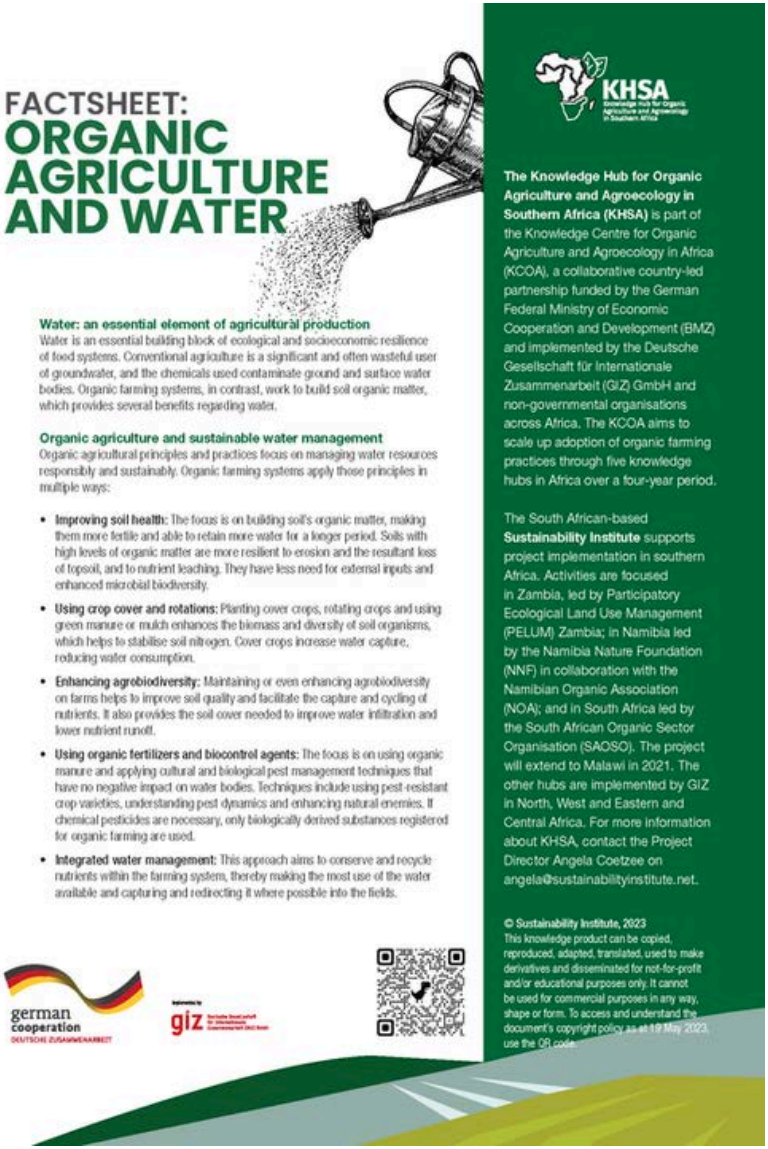
SECTION 6: WATER CONSERVATION

IN THIS SECTION

- Factsheet: Organic agriculture and water
- Soil and water conservation techniques (video podcast)
- Drought tolerant crops and crop varieties (video podcast)
- Waterwise tips for farmers
- Contour practices for soil and water conservation
- Water harvesting in pits and trenches poster series

According to the World Health Organization, water scarcity affects 1 in 3 people in Africa. Climate change-induced impacts such as shifting rainfall patterns and more frequent and intense droughts will exacerbate already challenging circumstances for the continent's farmers. A 2022 study found that only 13 of 54 African countries had a modest level of water security. The implications for farmers are dire, as most smallholder farmers practice rainfed agriculture. The following resources provide some practical guidance to farmers in how to do this.



FACTSHEET: ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND WATER
A one-page factsheet illustrating the water-saving benefits generated through organic and agroecological production practices.

Country: Regional
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute
Target group: General use

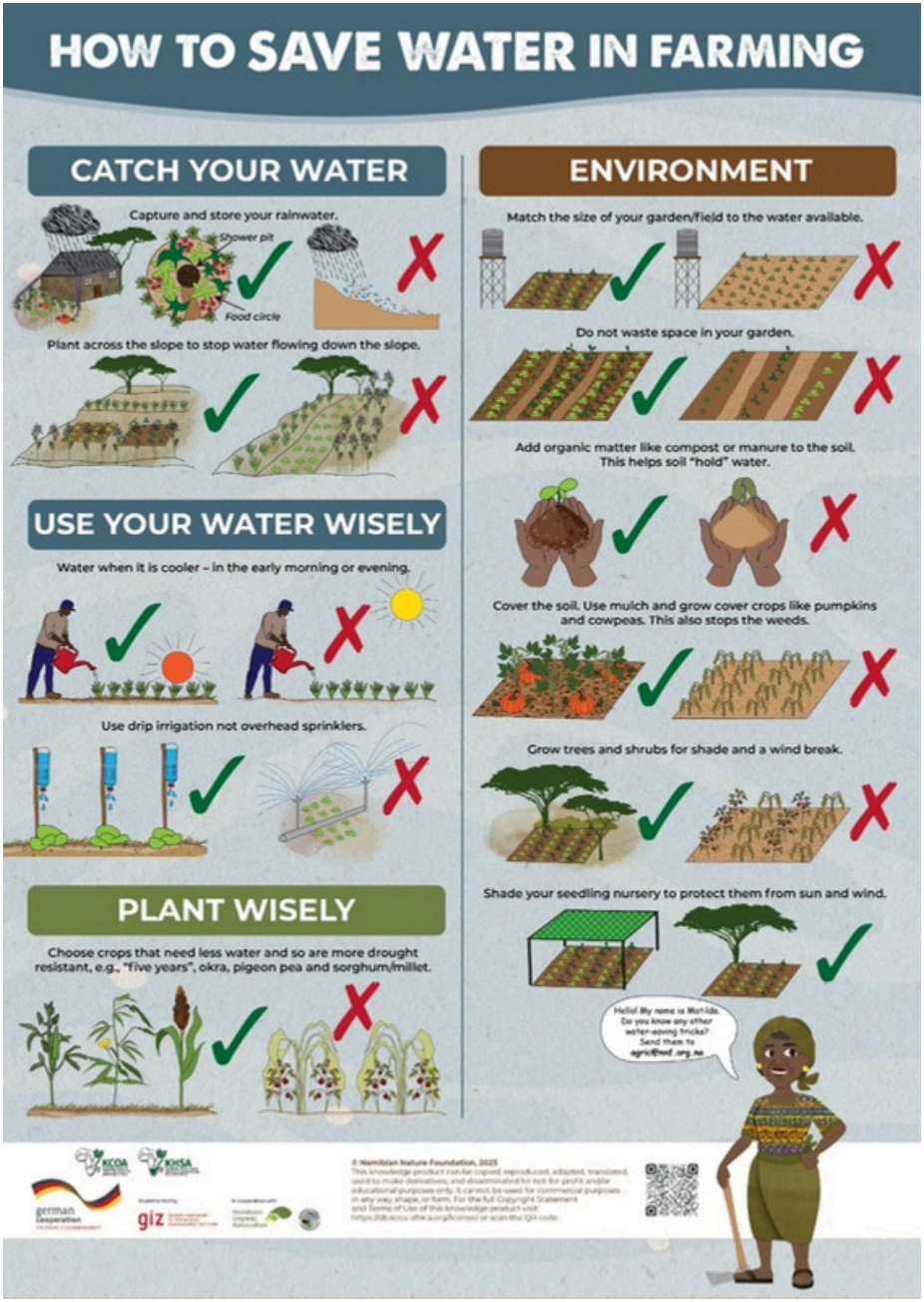
Download in English.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES (VIDEO PODCAST)
This episode of the Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast highlights soil and water conservation for organic farmers in Malawi. It introduces techniques like swales (Kukumba Ngalande), mulching, cover cropping and terracing, all of which help prevent erosion, retain moisture and improve soil health.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles

DROUGHT TOLERANT CROPS & CROP VARIETIES (VIDEO PODCAST)
This Mlimi wa Chilengedwe podcast episode explores the value of drought-tolerant crops for organic farmers in Malawi. It highlights their benefits—reduced crop failure, better soil health and sustainable resource use—and offers guidance on choosing suitable crops based on local conditions. The episode also promotes conservation practices like mulching, cover cropping, water harvesting and integrated pest management to enhance success.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch podcast in Tumbuka with English sub-titles



WATERWISE TIPS FOR FARMERS
The poster gives practical advice and information on how to save water in farming.

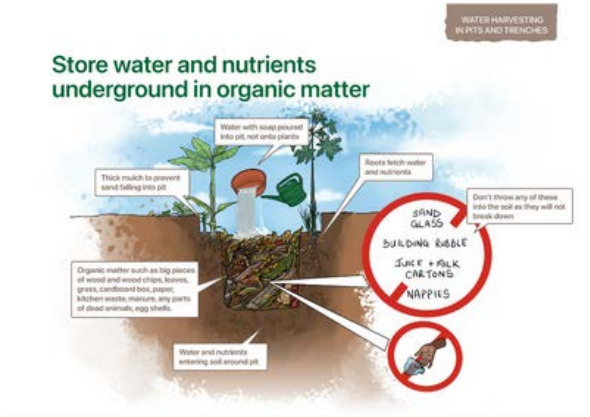
Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Trainers, small-scale farmers

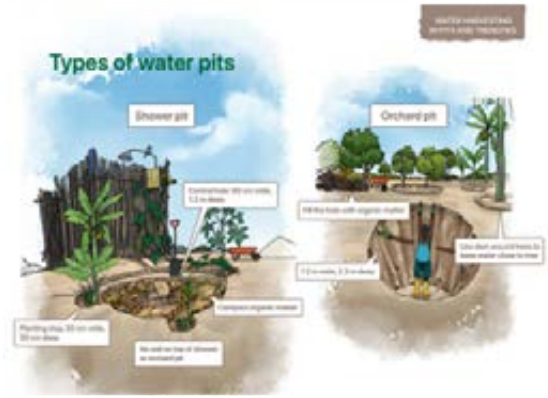
Download this poster in English here.

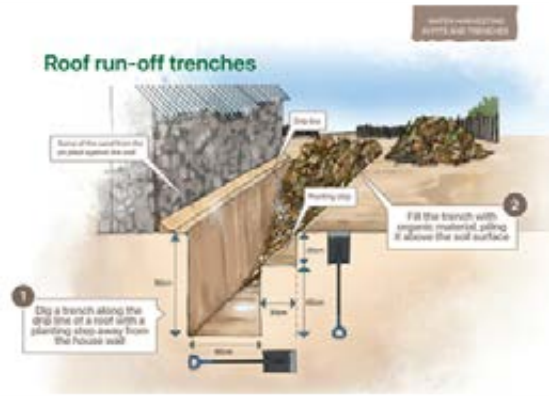
CONTOUR PRACTICES FOR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
This poster outlines the principles of soil and water conservation and various contour practices.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download poster in English or Nyanja. Download accordion brochure in English or Nyanja.







WATER HARVESTING IN PITS AND TRENCHES POSTER SERIES
This set of four posters each depicts a different method of harvesting water; the back side of each poster provides more detail and key messaging.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download the poster series in English.

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SECTION 7: CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

IN THIS SECTION

- Organic frameworks and structures
- Organic certification systems
- South African organic certification landscape
- Organic certification Namibia (brochure)
- Organic certification Namibia (manual)
- Organic certification in Namibia: A Guide to NOA's Participatory Guarantee System
- PGS: How it works
- PGS: Key elements and features
- PGS farm visit guide
- PGS farm assessment templates

Certification systems verify how food is produced, with organic systems ensuring adherence to organic principles. In KHSA, partners focus on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)—affordable, community-based assurance models involving farmers, consumers and other stakeholders. Popular across Africa, PGS offers a practical alternative to costly third-party certification. This section provides resources on setting up and running PGS, including guidance on farm assessment visits.

FACTSHEET: ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS AND STRUCTURES

Overview of frameworks

There is no single set of standards that is universally accepted by all countries for organic agricultural principles and their application through production, processing, labelling and marketing practices. There are international and regional frameworks that provide guidelines, but these are not prescriptive. Often countries do not legislate production methods and so certification is needed to verify production claims. Some countries and regions have set their own national organic standards, which are used by third-party certification agencies. International and regional standards play a critical role in ensuring the quality of organically produced goods, and enable entry into external markets. Demand for organic products is growing rapidly and Africa is well poised to take advantage of this market.

International guidelines and regional organic standards

There are several bodies that provide guidelines for organic production, processing, marketing and labelling. These guidelines are voluntary and include the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development–United Nations Environment Programme with its Best Practices for Organic Policy and Organic Equivalence Tools1 and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which sets food safety standards.[2] The International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) Organics International, with members in more than 100 countries, has influenced guidelines, codified standards and helped to enforce rules related to organic production. Its standard is the base for many national-level organic standards. Main regional standards are the European Union Organic Standards, the Pacific Organic Standards, the Asia Regional Organic Standards and the East African Organic Product Standards.

Some national standards with significant organic market share are the United States Department of Agriculture Organic Certification (NOP), Bio Suisse and the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS). Private certification agencies align their standards of certification for organic production to the national or regional standards applicable for domestic, import and export trade. Significant certification organisations are Demeter International, Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH, Control Union and Ecocert. >>

MAJOR CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Standards for organic certification are typically drawn from the following organisations:

- **FOAM Standard:** IFOAM works in about 100 countries through more than 800 affiliate organisations. Its standards can be used for third-party certification, participatory guarantee systems and community supported agriculture. They consider the need for differentiated criteria in distinct locations.[1]
- **Naturland:** Established in 1982, Naturland's comprehensive standards require a full farm conversion, include requirements on social responsibility and have stringent regulations for stocking density and treatment of animals.[1]
- **Demeter Biodynamic® Farm Standard:** This beyond organic standards to emphasise that the farm must "meet its own needs from the living dynamic of the farm itself".[1]

[1] Tung, O.J.L. 2018 *African Organic Product Standards for the African Continent? Prospects and limitations.* [Online] Available: http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/pelj/v21n1/38.pdf.
[2] Ibid.

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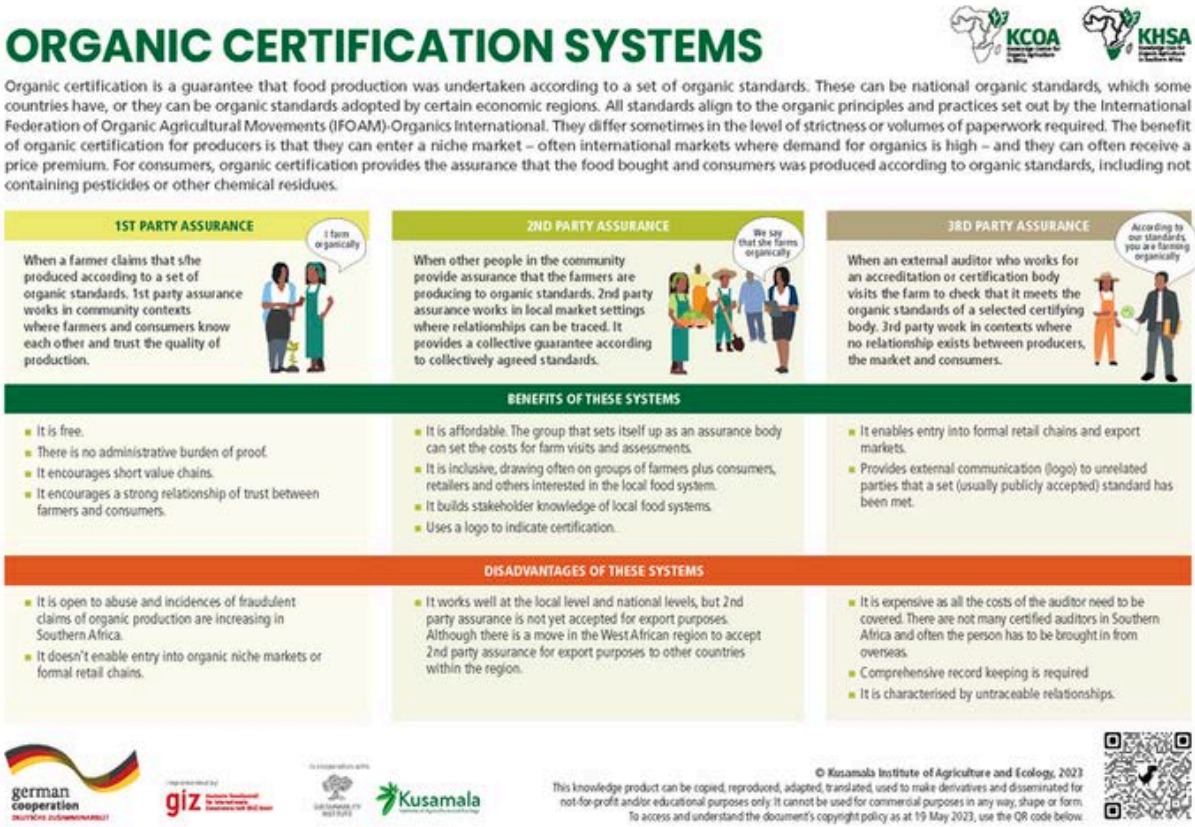
ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS AND STRUCTURES
This two-page factsheet provides an overview of major organic certification systems.

Country: Regional
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute
Target group: General use

Download in English.



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS
An overview of types of certification systems.

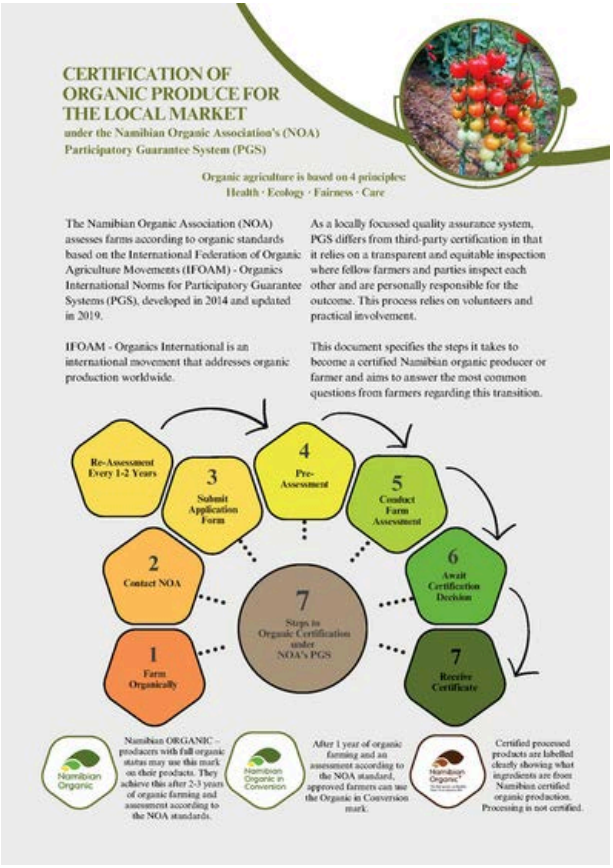
Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Media, general public, farmers

Download this resource in English.

SOUTH AFRICAN ORGANIC CERTIFICATION LANDSCAPE
The booklet provides an overview of the organic certification processes and labels in the South African context

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: Farmers, PGS groups

Download this resource in English.



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION BROCHURES
This series of brochures covers all aspects of organic certification, including for livestock.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmers, PGS groups

Download Converting to organic farm management, Steps to organic certification, Organic processing and labelling, Organic livestock production and Organic crop production in English.

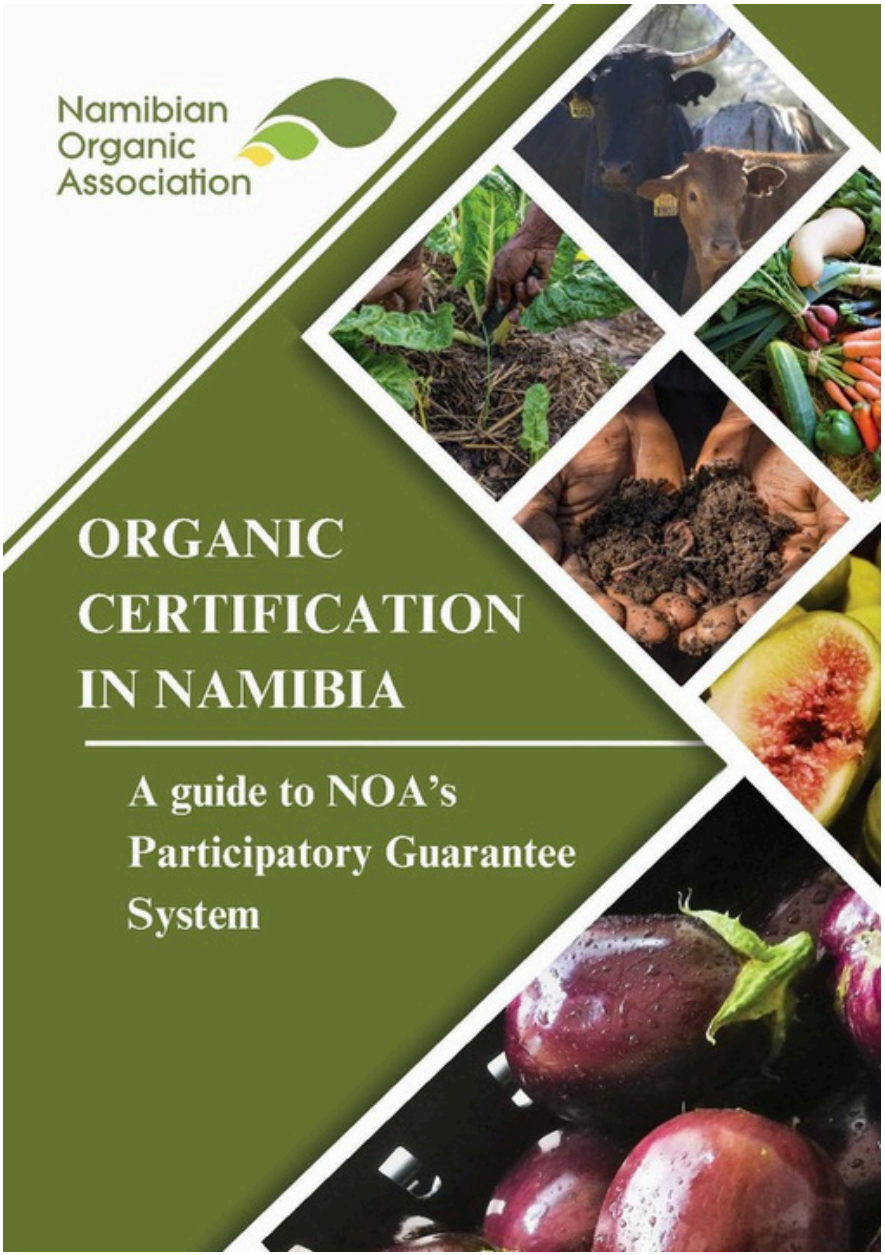
CHAPTER 6

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION MANUAL
Chapter 6 explains Namibian organic standards and how to use them.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmers, PGS groups

Download in English.

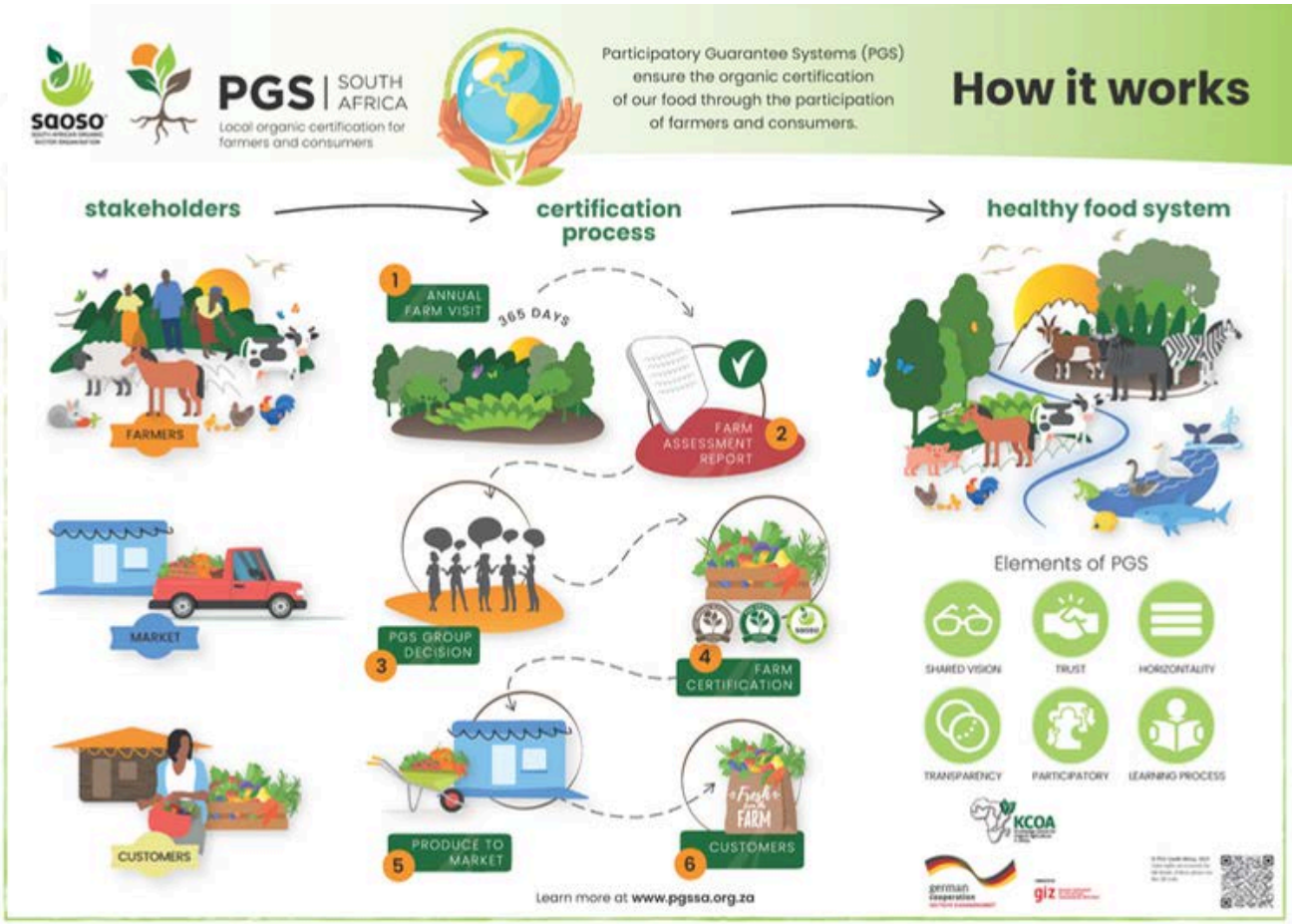


ORGANIC CERTIFICATION IN NAMIBIA: A GUIDE TO NOA'S PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM

This booklet introduces the Namibian Organic Association's Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for local organic certification. It outlines the principles of organic agriculture, key steps for farmers converting to organic production and the certification process, with guidelines for crops, livestock, processing and labelling,

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmers, PGS groups

Download in English.



PGS: HOW IT WORKS
An infographic poster that explains the key elements of how a PGS works.

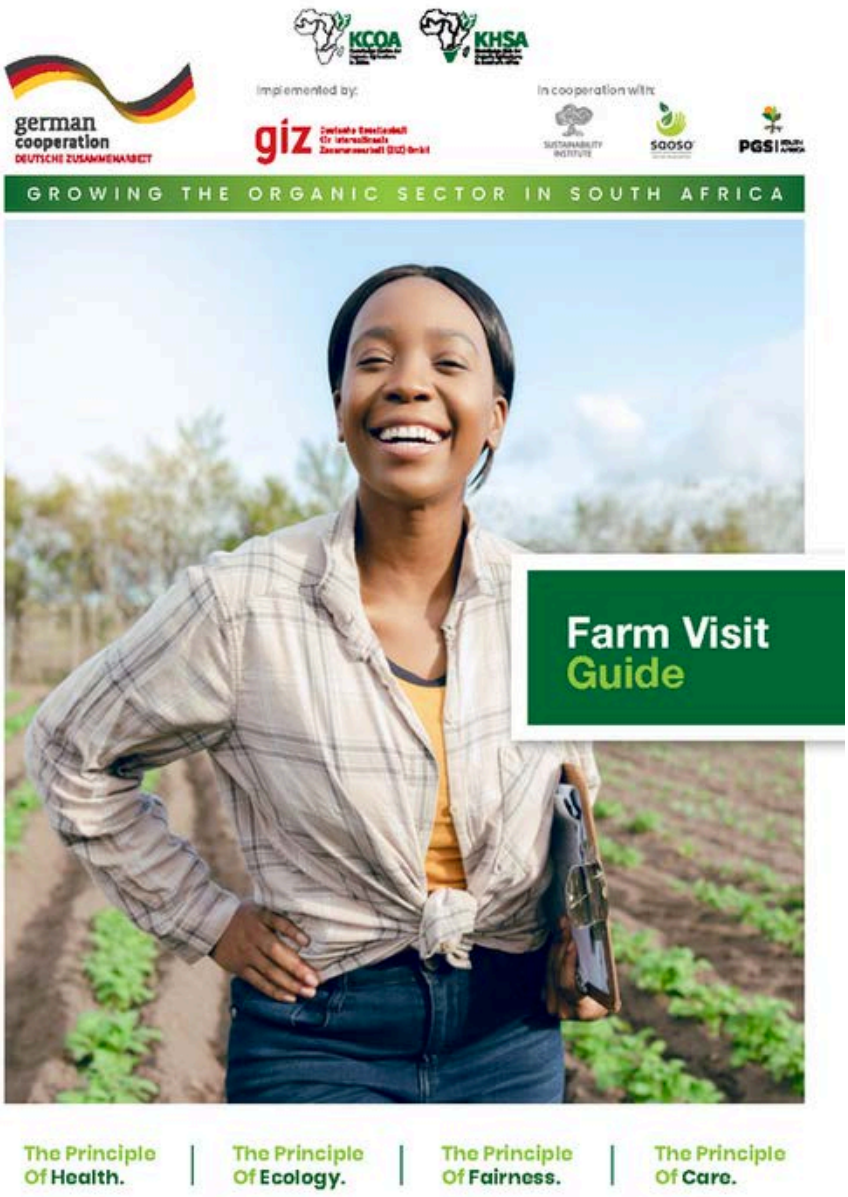
Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: PGS groups, general public

Download this resource in English.

PGS: KEY ELEMENTS AND FEATURES
An infographic poster that explains the key elements and features of PGS systems.

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: PGS groups, general public

Download this resource in English.



PGS FARM VISIT GUIDE
A book detailing how to undertake farm assessments related to organic production in the PGS system.

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: PGS groups
Download this resource in English.

PGS FARM VISIT GUIDE (VIDEO SERIES)
A series of videos of farm assessment visits related to animal husbandry and cooperative development.

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: PGS groups

Watch videos one, two, three and four on PGS crop assessment and videos one, two and three on PGS assessment of animal husbandry in English.

PGS FARM ASSESSMENT TEMPLATES
This series comprises PGS farm assessment templates.

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: PGS groups

Download the assessment form for crops in Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, South Sotho and Xitsonga, for seed production in Afrikaans, isiXhosa, South Sotho and Xitsonga and for animal husbandry in Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, South Sotho and Xitsonga, and for agro-processing in English.

Simplified PGS farm assessment forms are available in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, Sepedi, Sesotho, Xitsonga and isiZulu.

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SECTION 9: ADVOCACY

IN THIS SECTION

- Agroecological Multi-ministerial Policy Briefing Pack
- ISAN Magazine
- Support organic poster series
- Why eat organics poster
- Think before you eat brochure
- Benefits of organic farming brochure
- Indigenous recipe book
- Status quo of Malawi's food and farming system
- Food and farming systems: Jargon Dictionary
- Zambia policy brief: Sustaining our food system with organic farming
- Malawi's Permaculture Hotspots map

There is a need to undertake advocacy at different levels to support the transition to sustainable food systems. This includes working with and generating relevant materials to influence policymakers, funders, communities, local government structures and others. KHSA partners have worked with policymakers, media, community structures and other multipliers able to influence key stakeholders through their networks. The resources documented on the following pages are a result of needs assessments conducted with their selected stakeholder groups, and serve to fill stated knowledge gaps.

AGROECOLOGICAL MULTI-MINISTERIAL POLICY BRIEFING PACK
A booklet developed to show the interlinked nature of policymaking related to food systems, with an emphasis on gender considerations.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Policymakers

Download this resource in English.

ISAN MAGAZINE
KHSA founded the quarterly ISAN magazine, which is shared with about 16 000 people and loaded to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Family Farming database.

Country: Regional
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute
Target group: Farmers, farmer organisations, civil society organisations, consumers

Subscribe to receive the free magazine quarterly by email.

SUPPORT ORGANIC POSTER SERIES
Created for use at events, workshops and fairs.

Country: South Africa and Malawi
KHSA partner: Sustainability Institute
Target group: General public, farming organisations

Download these resources in English/Chichewe.

WHY EAT ORGANICS POSTER
Poster created for use at events, workshops, fairs, websites and for emailing.

Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation
Target group: General public, farming organisations

Download this resource in English here, as well as in isiXhosa, isiZulu, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Sotho and Xitsonga.

THINK BEFORE YOU EAT BROCHURE
Brochure detailing the benefits of eating organically and what to look out for.

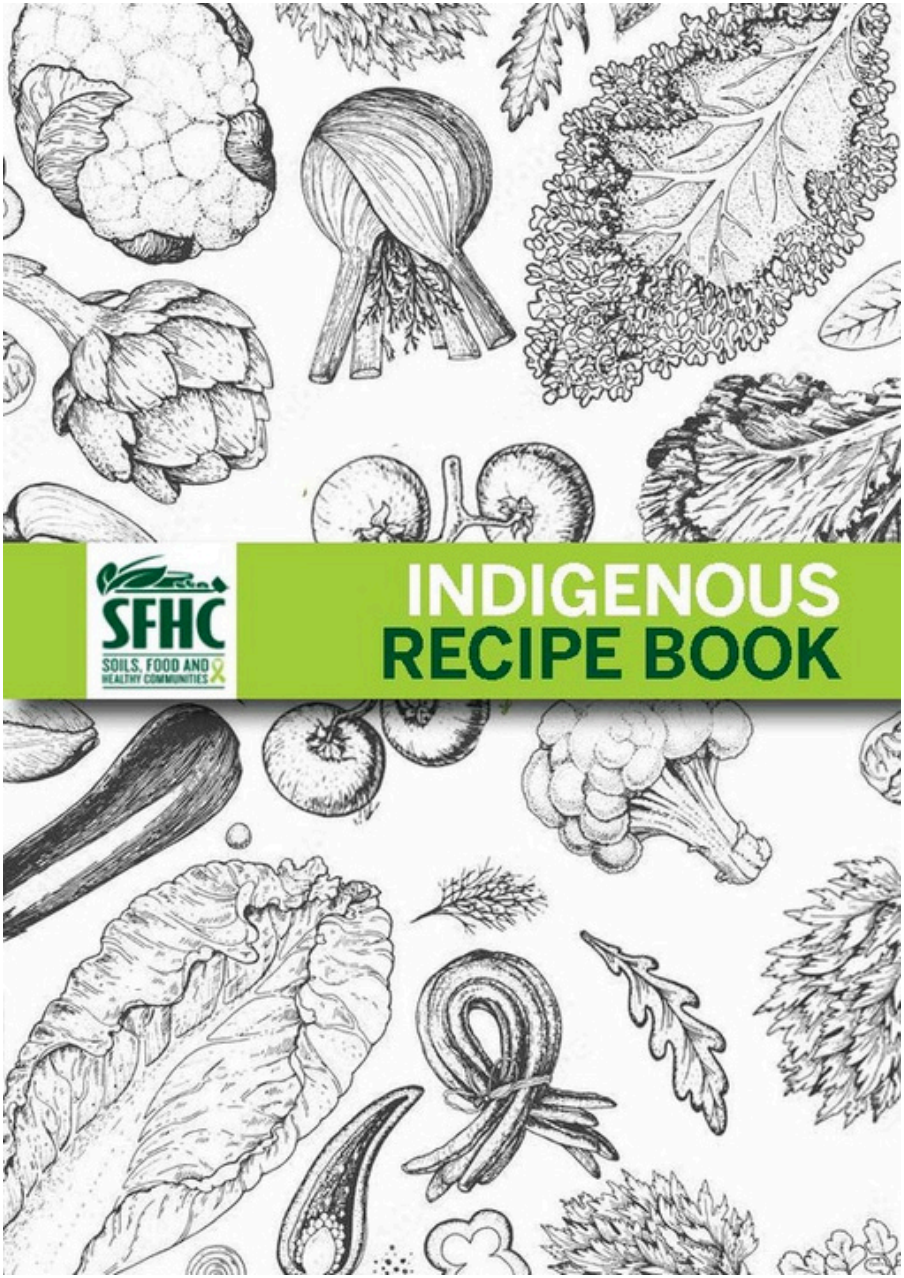
Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association
Target group: General public, farming organisations

Download this resource in English.

BENEFITS OF ORGANIC FARMING BROCHURE
Created for use at events, workshops and fairs.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: General public

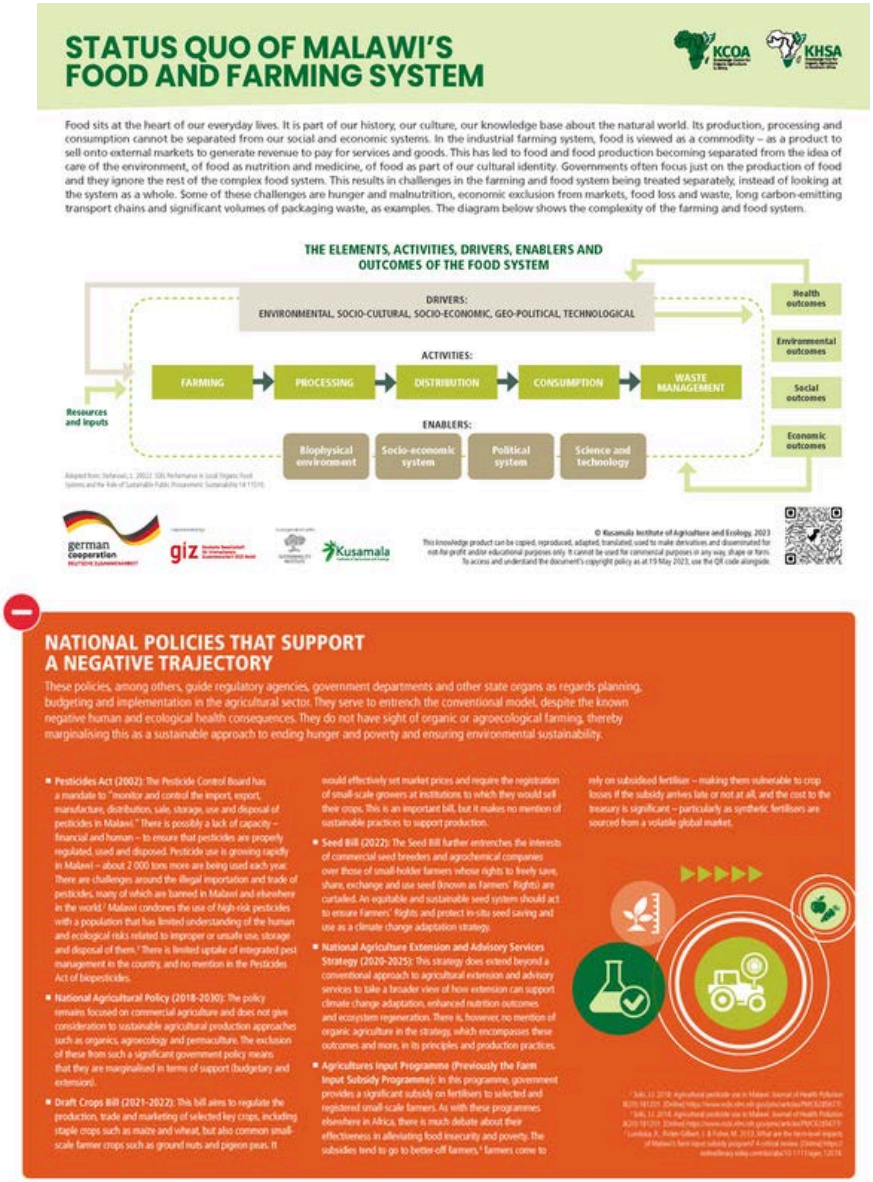
Download this resource in English.



INDIGENOUS RECIPE BOOK
Created for use by farmer trainers, farmer organisations and farmers

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer Research Team, agricultural trainers and farmers

Download this resource in English and in Tumbuka.



STATUS QUO OF MALAWI'S FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEM

Food sits at the heart of our everyday lives. It is part of our history, our culture, our knowledge base about the natural world. Its production, processing and consumption cannot be separated from our social and economic systems. In the industrial farming system, food is viewed as a commodity – as a product to sell onto external markets to generate revenue to pay for services and goods. This has led to food and food production becoming separated from the idea of care of the environment, of food as nutrition and medicine, of food as part of our cultural identity. Governments often focus just on the production of food and they ignore the rest of the complex food system. This results in challenges in the farming and food system being treated separately, instead of looking at the system as a whole. Some of these challenges are hunger and malnutrition, economic exclusion from markets, food loss and waste, long carbon-emitting transport chains and significant volumes of packaging waste, as examples. The diagram below shows the complexity of the farming and food system.

NATIONAL POLICIES THAT SUPPORT A NEGATIVE TRAJECTORY

These policies, among others, guide regulatory agencies, government departments and other state organs as regards planning, budgeting and implementation in the agricultural sector. They serve to entrench the conventional model, despite the known negative human and ecological health consequences. They do not have sight of organic or agroecological farming, thereby marginalising this as a sustainable approach to ending hunger and poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability.

- **Pesticides Act (2002):** The Pesticide Control Board has a mandate to "monitor and control the import, export, manufacture, distribution, sale, storage, use and disposal of pesticides in Malawi." There is possibly a lack of capacity – financial and human – to ensure that pesticides are properly regulated, used and disposed. Pesticide use is growing rapidly in Malawi – about 2 000 tons more are being used each year. There are challenges around the illegal importation and trade of pesticides, many of which are banned in Malawi and elsewhere in the world.[1] Malawi condones the use of high-risk pesticides with a population that has limited understanding of the human and ecological risks related to improper or unsafe use, storage and disposal of them.[2] There is limited uptake of integrated pest management in the country, and no mention in the Pesticides Act of biopesticides.
- **National Agricultural Policy (2018-2030):** The policy remains focused on commercial agriculture and does not give consideration to sustainable agricultural production approaches such as organics, agroecology and permaculture. The exclusion of these from such a significant government policy means that they are marginalised in terms of support (budgetary and extension).
- **Draft Crops Bill (2021-2022):** This bill aims to regulate the production, trade and marketing of selected key crops, including staple crops such as maize and wheat, but also common small-scale farmer crops such as ground nuts and pigeon peas. It would effectively set market prices and require the registration of small-scale growers at institutions to which they would sell their crops. This is an important bill, but it makes no mention of sustainable practices to support production.
- **Seed Bill (2022):** The Seed Bill further entrenches the interests of commercial seed breeders and agrochemical companies over those of small-holder farmers whose rights to freely save, share, exchange and use seed (known as Farmers' Rights) are curtailed. An equitable and sustainable seed system should act to ensure Farmers' Rights and protect in-situ seed saving and use as a climate change adaptation strategy.
- **National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (2020-2025):** This strategy does extend beyond a conventional approach to agricultural extension and advisory services to take a broader view of how extension can support climate change adaptation, enhanced nutrition outcomes and ecosystem regeneration. There is, however, no mention of organic agriculture in the strategy, which encompasses these outcomes and more, in its principles and production practices.
- **Agricultures Input Programme (Previously the Farm Input Subsidy Programme):** In this programme, government provides a significant subsidy on fertilisers to selected and registered small-scale farmers. As with these programmes elsewhere in Africa, there is much debate about their effectiveness in alleviating food insecurity and poverty. The subsidies tend to go to better-off farmers,[4] farmers come to rely on subsidised fertiliser – making them vulnerable to crop losses if the subsidy arrives late or not at all, and the cost to the treasury is significant – particularly as synthetic fertilisers are sourced from a volatile global market.

STATUS QUO OF MALAWI'S FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEM
A multi-page brochure developed to show how policies influence food systems and how conventional food systems limit the ability to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, in contrast to agroecological methods.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Media, advocacy organisations, policymakers, general public.

Download this resource in English.

FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS: JARGON DICTIONARY
A dictionary developed to support journalists in demystifying complex terminology in their stories, with a user-friendly English and Chichewa version.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Media, civil society organisations, farmer training organisations

Download this resource in English/Chichewe or in English.

Policy Brief

Volume 1 | Issue 1
November 2021

KHSA
Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Southern Africa

PELUM ASSOCIATION

SUSTAINING OUR FOOD SYSTEM WITH ORGANIC FARMING

Agriculture is at the center of international policy debate on food system transformation. Agriculture is not just about food, fibre and feed production and livelihoods , but also about environmental sustainability, health, and human and ecological rights. It is time, especially with the occurrence of climate change and now COVID-19, that we relook at our agriculture system and promote agricultural practices that increase production and productivity, build ecosystem health, and boost food and nutrition security.

About this policy brief

This policy brief summarises the challenges around agriculture in Zambia and presents the benefits of adopting an organic system, with reference to the African Union's goal related to organic agriculture . It concludes with recommendations on the adoption of organic agriculture to improve production and productivity in agriculture and ensure environmental sustainability.

What is organic agriculture?

The International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) Organics International defines organic agriculture as "a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation, and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and good quality of life for all involved."

Benefits of organic agriculture

Organic agriculture provides multiple social, economic and ecological benefits. It is a key tool to build resilience to climate change.

Organic agriculture:

- Maintains and improves soil fertility and structure, which supports food production, sequesters carbon in soil, and reduces erosion.
- Conserves and enhances farmed and wild biodiversity.
- Reduces the risk of human, animal and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals.
- Promotes sustainable agricultural practices that meet local conditions and satisfy markets.

PELUM Zambia: Mulungushi Conference Centre. New Wing, Luapula Suite. P.O. Box 30443, Lusaka
Tel: 260 211 293074 Email: info@pelumzambia.org Website: www.pelumzambia.org

ZAMBIA POLICY BRIEF
This 2021 policy brief was developed to inform the inclusion of organic agriculture in Zambia's agricultural policy.

Country: Zambia
KHSA partner: PELUM Zambia
Target group: Policymakers

Download this resource in English.

MALAWI'S PERMACULTURE HOTSPOTS MAP
A map of key information sources on agroecology/permaculture and organic agriculture in Malawi, developed for journalists.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology
Target group: Media

Download this resource in English.

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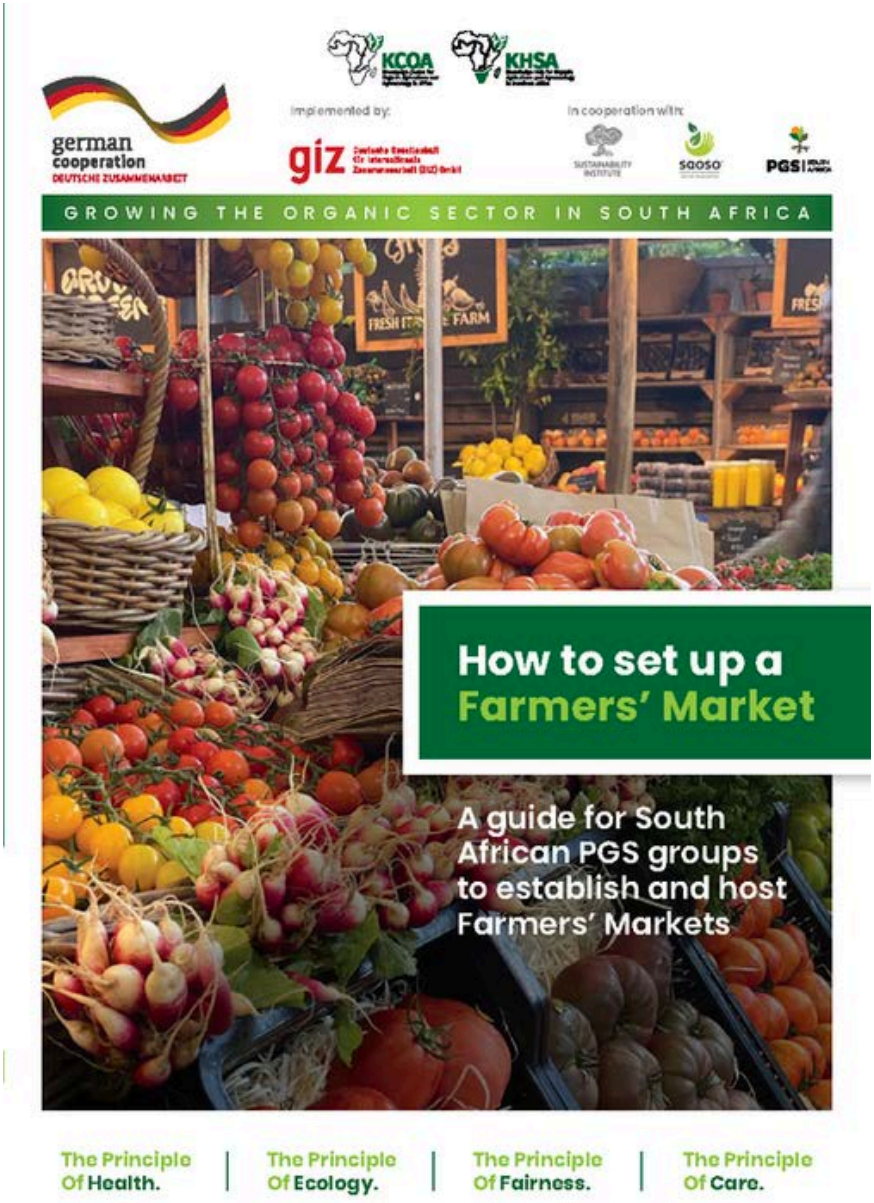
SECTION 9: AGROECOLOGICAL MARKETS

IN THIS SECTION

- How to set up a farmers' market
- Beyond production: exploring markets and adding value to organic and indigenous products (webinar)
- Making farming more profitable through organic practices (webinar)

Farmers in Africa produce for own consumption and for markets. These markets take various forms from farm-gate sales to more formal retail markets. Finding markets that value agroecologically and organically produced foods can be challenging. There are many aspects to building a market for agroecological and organic produce. This section provides some insights into different channels being used by stakeholders in these sectors.



HOW TO SET UP A FARMERS' MARKET
A resource that provides guidelines to establishing a successful farmers' market with case studies of best practice examples.

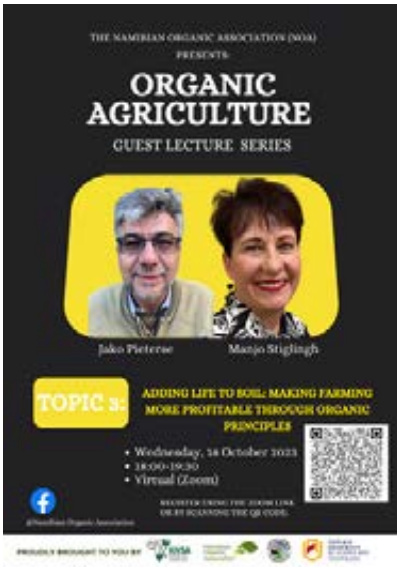
Country: South Africa
KHSA partner: South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS SA
Target group: Farmers, consumers, farmers organisations, PGS groups

Download this resource in English.

BEYOND PRODUCTION: EXPLORING MARKETS AND ADDING VALUE TO ORGANIC AND INDIGENOUS PRODUCTS (WEBINAR)
A recorded webinar of farmer stories of how they got into farming or food production, how they reached markets with their organic and/or indigenous foods, concluding with inspiration for agricultural graduates and entrepreneurs.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Farmers, general public, academia

Watch this resource in English.



MAKING FARMING MORE PROFITABLE THROUGH ORGANIC PRACTICES (WEBINAR)
A recorded webinar explores how integrating organic practices into conventional farming can boost profitability. Guest experts show how healthy soils improve fertility, reduce weeds, support biodiversity and enhance water retention, outlining steps for transitioning to organic systems.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Farmers, general public, academia

watch this resource in English.

KCOA-AFRICA.ORG

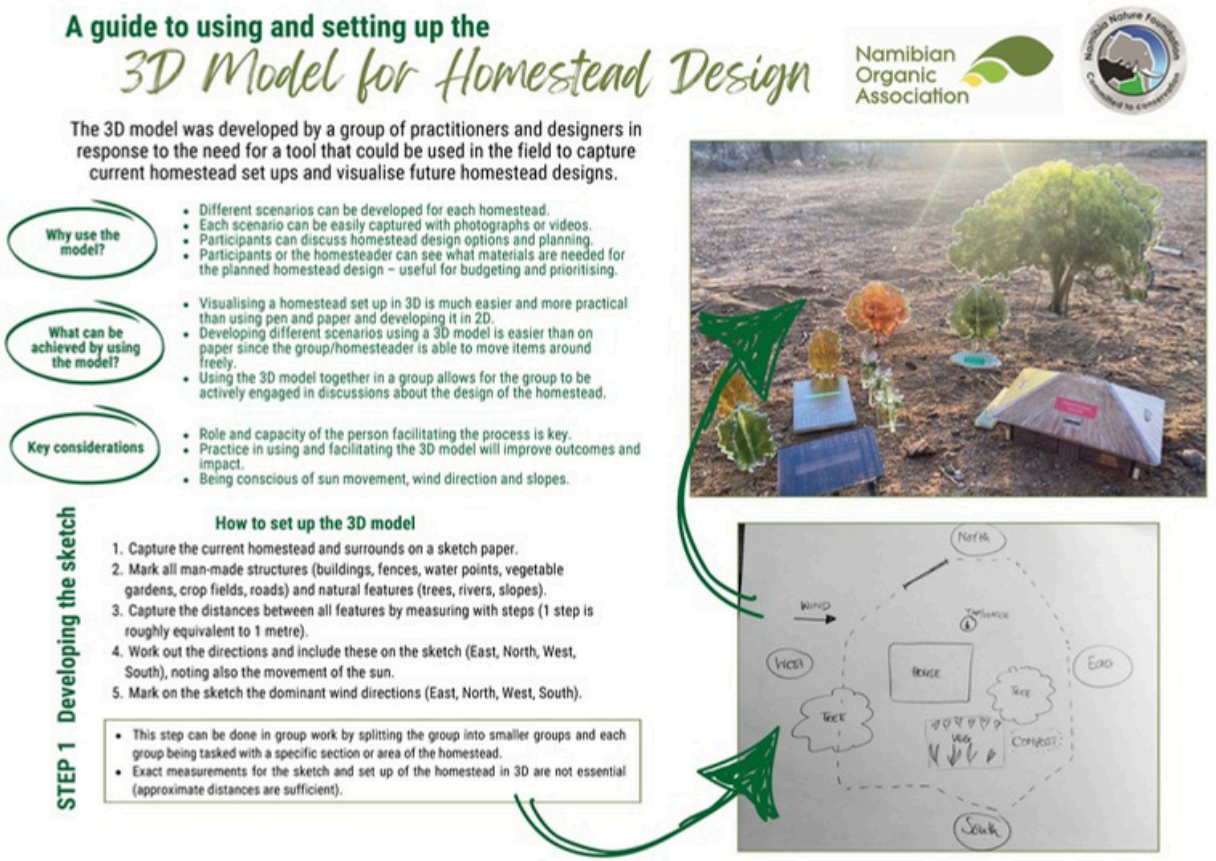
SECTION 10: MODELS AND METHODS

IN THIS SECTION

- A guide to using and setting up a 3D model for homestead design
- Using a garden lay-out model (video)
- A guide to hosting a permaculture blitz
- How to construct and use a deep litter system
- Building and managing low-tech fences
- A facilitator's guide to participatory theatre
- A short guide to using participatory theatre
- Techniques for food budgeting (video)

This collection of knowledge products offers practical, low-cost tools for sustainable homestead design and management.

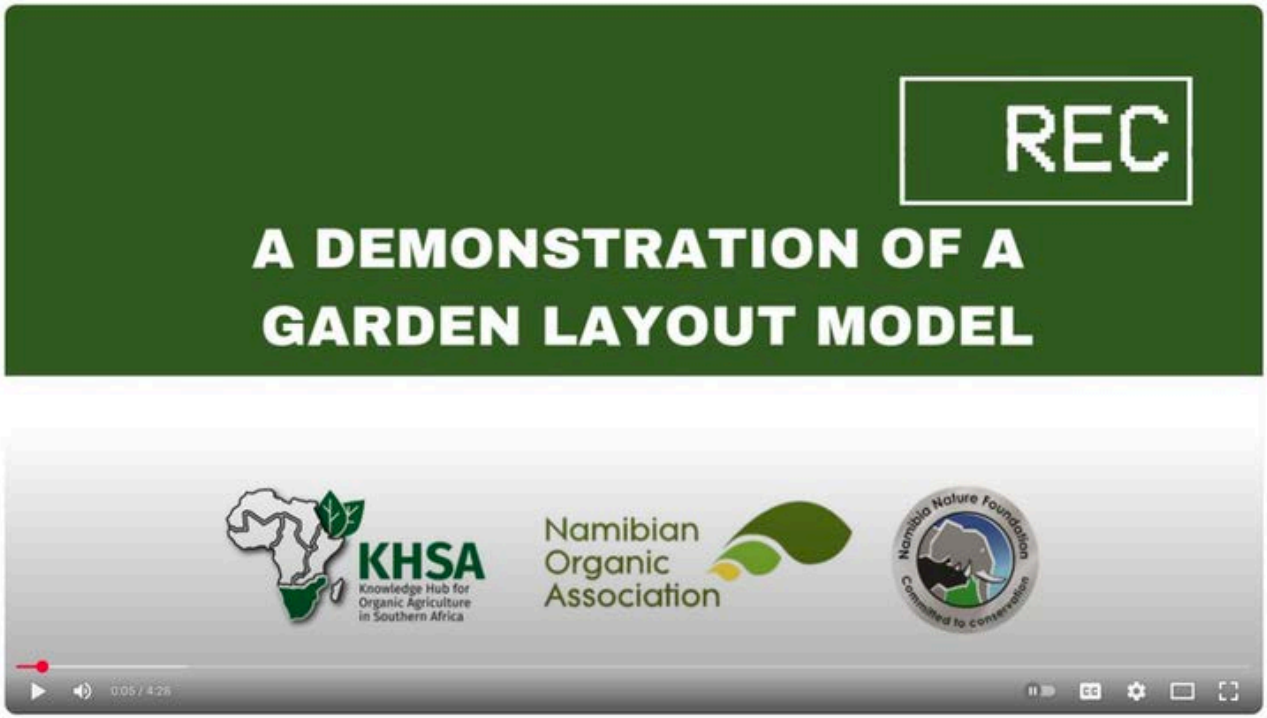
It includes 3D models to visualise homestead layouts, a garden layout model video for diversified food gardens, and a guide to hosting a permaculture blitz for collaborative learning, as well as using participatory theatre. Resources cover constructing and using deep litter systems for livestock and building low-tech fences.



A GUIDE TO USING AND SETTING UP A 3D MODEL FOR HOMESTEAD DESIGN
This two-page guide offers practical steps to create a simple 3D model of a homestead, helping farmers visualise and plan improvements to their living spaces. Ideal for group sessions, it encourages collaboration and thoughtful placement of buildings, gardens, and water sources based on sunlight, wind and natural resources. The process supports creative, sustainable design for better living and farming outcomes.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in English.



USING A GARDEN LAY-OUT MODEL (VIDEO)
This video, created by the Namibian Organic Association, explains how to create and use a garden or field layout model to demonstrate organic agriculture practices for planting vegetables, crops and trees. The video shows the materials used and provides practical examples.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibian Organic Association and Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Small-scale farmers, trainers

Watch in English.

A GUIDE TO HOSTING A PERMACULTURE BLITZ
This two-page guide outlines how to run a permaculture blitz—a one- or two-day event where volunteers come together to design or farm using sustainable permaculture principles. It covers planning, team coordination and hands-on techniques like rainwater harvesting and tree planting. The guide also highlights the importance of follow-up care to ensure long-term success and community resilience.

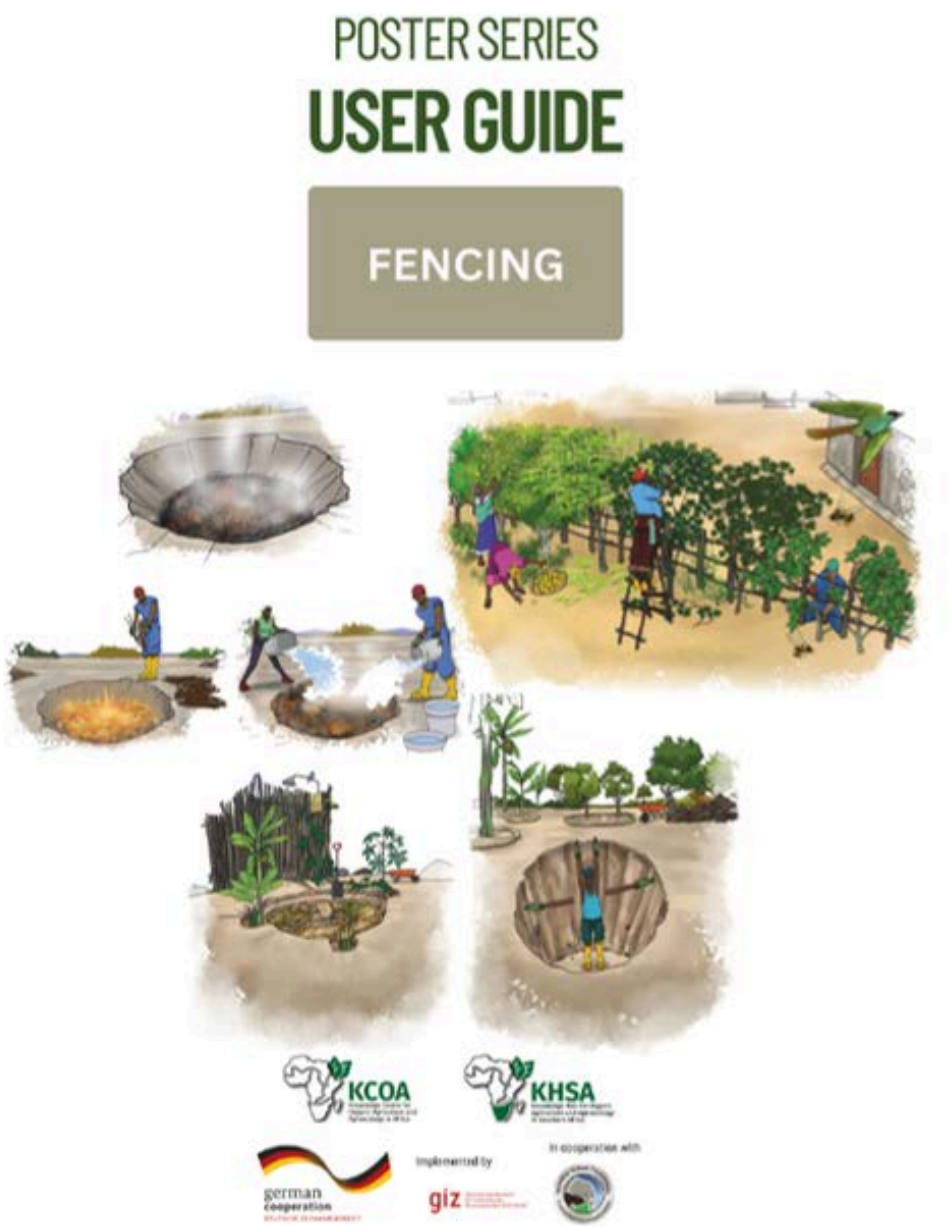
Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download in English.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT AND USE A DEEP LITTER SYSTEM
This video demonstrates how to construct and use a deep litter system to make rich compost.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, farmers

Watch in English.

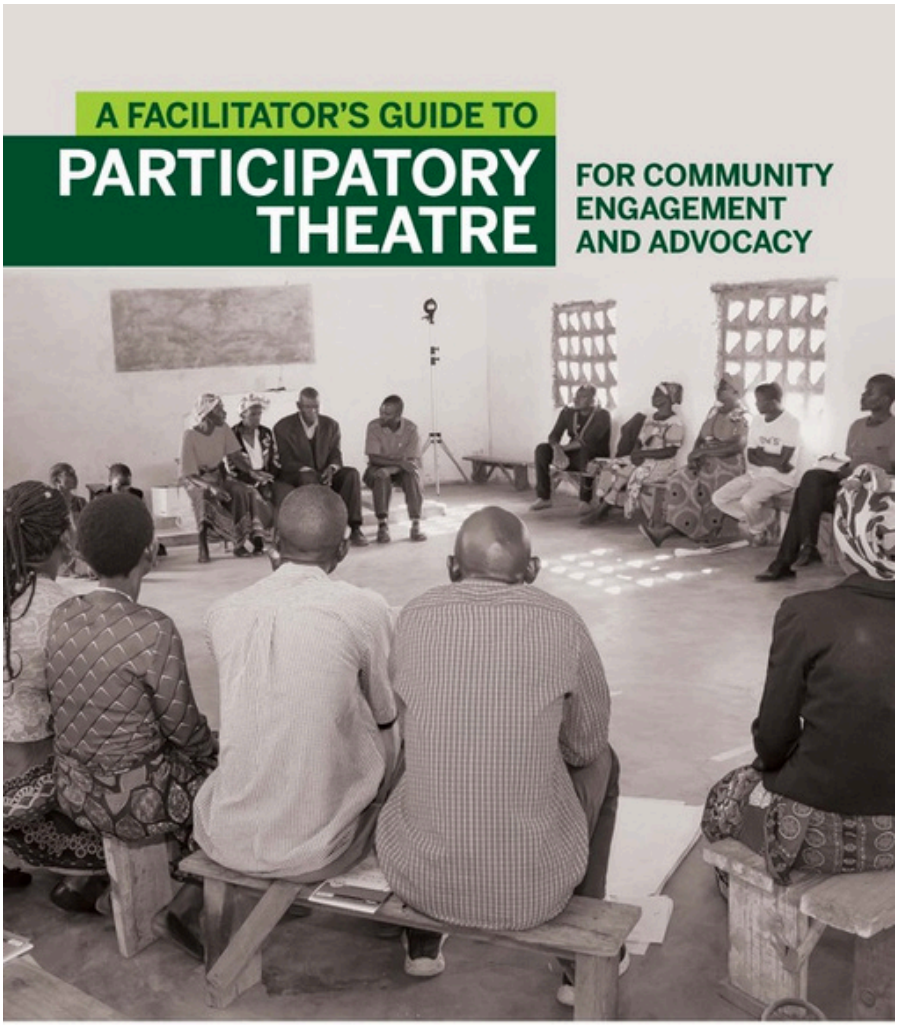


BUILDING AND MANAGING LOW-TECH FENCES

This poster series gives practical guidance on building and managing low-tech fences, promoting natural materials and living fences over conventional options. It covers challenges with traditional and wire fences, plus tips for stronger, longer-lasting designs.

Country: Namibia
KHSA partner: Namibia Nature Foundation and Namibian Organic Association
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers

Download this resource in English.



A FACILITATOR'S GUIDE TO PARTICIPATORY THEATRE
A guide on how to use participatory theatre to engage communities around key topics, including gender.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Training organisations, community-based organisations

Download this resource in English.

A SHORT GUIDE TO USING PARTICIPATORY THEATRE

This document provides guidance for multipliers in hosting participatory theatre sessions in communities, as well as four scripts that can be used or adapted for various settings.

Preparing for the session

- **Gather a group of participants:** Invite a diverse group of farmers, including men, women and youth, to participate in the workshop.
- **Create a safe space:** Establish a comfortable and inclusive environment where participants feel encouraged to express their thoughts and opinions freely.
- **Introduce the concept:** Briefly explain the purpose of interactive theatre and its role in creating space to discuss topics such as gender, climate change and food budgeting.
- **Read the script to participants:** Read the script aloud to the participants, ensuring everyone understands the story and its underlying issues.

Setting up the performance

- **Group participants:** Divide the participants into smaller groups of 4-5 people.
- **Assign roles:** Assign each group a specific role in the play, such as the Phiri family members, the aunt or the audience members who will intervene.
- **Discuss and rehearse:** Within each group, discuss the character motivations, expressions and interactions. Encourage exploration of different scenarios.
- **Feedback and reflection:** After each group's rehearsal, facilitate a group discussion to provide feedback and reflect on the performance's effectiveness in conveying the message.

Performance and audience engagement

- **Set up the stage:** Arrange the performance space to allow for audience interaction, such as an open area or a stage with audience seating nearby.
- **Execute performance:** Have each group perform their assigned scene, incorporating their improvised elements and audience interactions.
- **Facilitate a discussion:** After each scene, pause the performance and facilitate a discussion with the audience, encouraging them to suggest alternative actions for the characters and explore potential solutions to the issue portrayed.
- **Wrap-up and conclusion:** Conclude the workshop by summarising the key themes and takeaways. Encourage participants to apply the lessons learned.

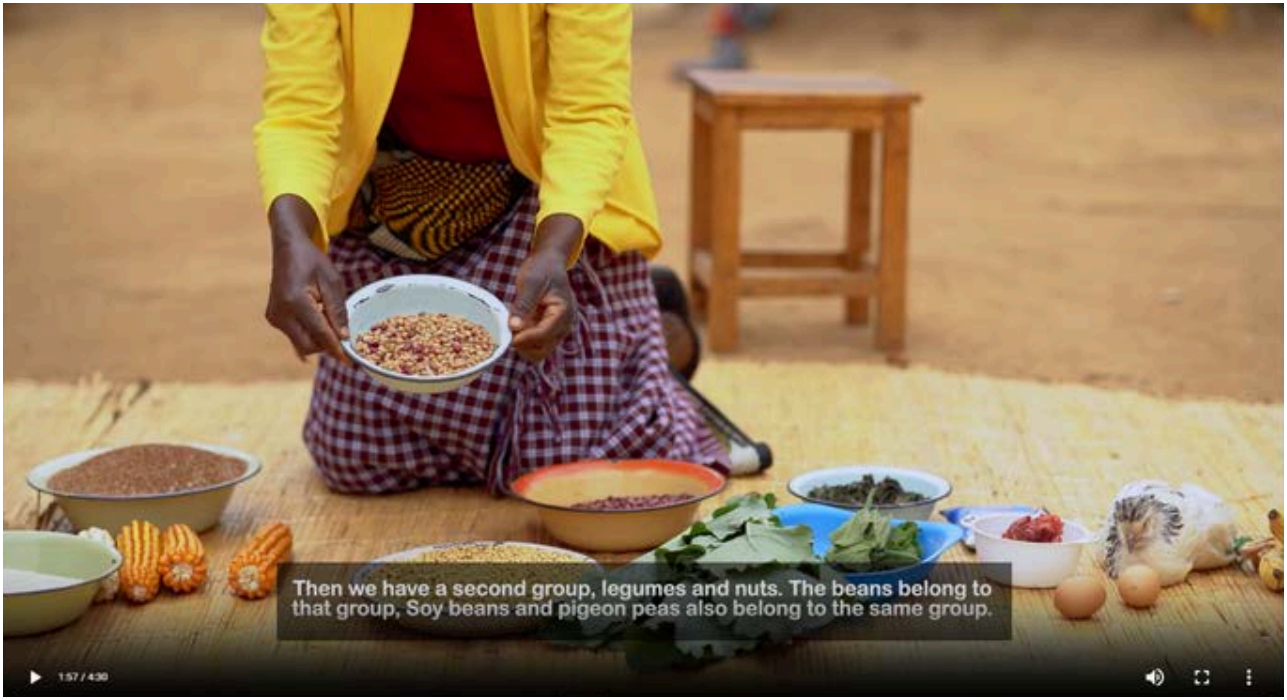
Important points to remember when facilitating plays

- **Encourage open discussions:** Create a supportive environment where participants feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and opinions, even if they challenge traditional norms.
- **Emphasise education and empowerment:** Highlight the importance of education for everyone, enabling them to pursue their aspirations and break free from limiting societal expectations.
- **Address underlying issues:** Encourage participants to reflect on the root causes of inequality and consider ways to address them effectively.
- **Community awareness and action:** Promote awareness about social justice and equality within the community, encouraging participants to advocate for change and support initiatives that empower marginalised groups.
- **Creative roleplaying:** Encourage audience participation by incorporating roleplaying scenarios where they can suggest alternative actions for the characters and explore solutions to the issues.
- **Respectful dialogue:** Maintain a respectful and inclusive environment throughout the discussion, acknowledging cultural norms while advocating for the rights and wellbeing of all individuals.

A SHORT GUIDE TO USING PARTICIPATORY THEATRE
An overview of how to plan a participatory theatre session with example scripts.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Training organisations, community-based organisations

Download this resource in English.



TECHNIQUES FOR FOOD BUDGETING (VIDEO)
Malawian farmer Mary Nzima shares her wisdom in this video! Learn proven techniques to manage your harvest and plan your meals, ensuring your family has enough nutritious food to last until the next harvesting season. The video is in Tumbuka with English subtitles.

Country: Malawi
KHSA partner: Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
Target group: Farmer trainers, training organisations, small-scale farmers
Watch the video in Tumbuka with English sub-titles or in Chichewa with English sub-titles.

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