



March Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 1

ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA(NOAN).



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From The Editor

Beloved members of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria, I present to you this 16th Volume of the Newsletter which is enriched with news on:

- state chapter's sensitization on Organic Agriculture; state chapters are encouraged to continue doing the needful in sensitization and creating awareness on Organic Agriculture and its benefits.
- Issues on PGS
- Cultivation of Sesame
- Farmers' Field School
- Preparation for and hosting of AGM: **Prepare to attend physically. It promises to be enriching and impactful.** The fliers are in the platforms.
- And many more.

Read and be blessed.

Onunwa, Akudo O.

Editor, NOAN Newsletter

Anambra State Sensitizes on Organic Food consumption.

Mrs Uba Patricia Obianuju, the Head, Women in Agriculture, Anambra state chapter affiliated to Anambra State Agricultural Development Programme affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture, who also doubles as the chairperson NOAN, Anambra State chapter, on December 13, 2022 featured live at Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS Radio), she discussed the health benefit of organic agriculture, she also warned on the hazards that comes with consumption and the practice of conventional agriculture.



The entire leadership of Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) commends the efforts of Madam Uba for ensuring the people of Anambra consume healthy foods and healthy lifestyle.

REMiNDER



For registration and Annual Dues, kindly find below the account details:
Account Name: Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria.
Account Number: 3872021729
Bank: ECOBANK.

Knowledge Center For Organic Agriculture (KCOA)
Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN)

APPEAL FOR RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS)

such as

- * Project Reports
- * Thesis
- * Articles
- * Seminar Papers, Etc

It is important to note that the entire processes associated with intellectual property rights (IPR) will be respected.

Please forward any such documents to the contact below, as these will be converted into easily usable forms (like videos, factsheets, fliers.....) that will reside in the digital platform of the KCOA.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY, 8TH MAY 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION & SUBMISSION

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Anambra State Chapter Set To Host Next AGM



The Anambra State Chapter of the Association have set things in motion to host the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria, the event is scheduled to for April 27-28, 2023, and will feature Technical Workshop themed "Enhancing Organic And Regenerative Agriculture Business in Nigeria", exhibition of organic products, produce and services: interaction among stakeholders in organic agriculture. The event will take place at ASUU Secretariat, Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

The Local Organising Committee Chairman, Dr Ndukwe stated that Anambra state Chapter of the Association expects members to come in their numbers to the State. The date of the event was earlier scheduled for March but could not hold due to the date clash between the event and the population census exercise which will hold nationwide, it was shifted to April 2023. Members have been given an extension of payment for the exhibition stands and early bird registration will be till the first week in April. A new date for the Abstract submission were stated below:

1. Deadline for submission of Abstract – March 24, 2023.
2. Deadline for full manuscript submission - April 7, 2023.

Members are implored to attend virtually or physically as this will be a hybrid event and we wish members of the Association a successful deliberation and journey mercy to and from their various destinations.



The Association's Participatory Guarantee System is set to be in operation, following the series of meetings and knowledge sharing with PGS experts both home and abroad. Before now, the PGS had evolved through discussions, queries and structural adjustments with members of the Association, members of the Governing Board, and other stakeholders at regional and global levels. The Chairman, Standard and Certification Committee, Thematic Group, Mr. Temitope Lawal stated that the PGS will be operational nationwide as members of the Association have expressed their interests, the exercise is taking off with 19 selected applicants. Applications were drawn from various parts of the country with members of the group close to these regions being in charge of them. The Chairman during a kick off meeting stated that the Certification exercise will be a paid service and will be to test run and establish the operational structure put in place by the Thematic group, Standard and Certification of the Association. The logistics will be restricted to allow sustenance, he added that revenue gathered will create a platform for capital base for the Association and the group. The Chairman also pointed out that a contract should be signed as this is the ideal thing to do but most farmers are not conversant and maybe overwhelmed as contracts could be cumbersome at times. A logo made for the PGS is made in such a way that the attention of potential buyers will be drawn to the service and will have a multinational presence. . It was also discussed that the subsidy and the sacrifice made by the inspectors should be pointed out as this will be the contribution of these group members' quota to the development of the Association at large.

NOAN Participatory Guarantee System Set In Motion

. The Standard and Certification group, according to Mr. Lawal will work in synergy with other thematic groups of the Association as these groups are somewhat interrelated in their operations. An internal training for assessment, inspection and auditing for group members took place and their there were discussions on ideas on how the system should operate. In the course of the meeting, it was stressed that trust is very important as the exercise is a continuous process, farmers should be able to continue with the testimony and the standard recorded in the course of inspection and auditing. Some of the overall farm audit objectives are listed below:

1. Development of internal audit system that would help create quality organic produce in sustainable capacity.
2. Create market confidence, this stems from the need to certify farmers who are ready to comply with the set standards and be consistent.
3. To strengthen, organize and redistribute local intelligence to boost production quality and quantity.
4. Content development for capacity building.
5. Identification of skills gaps.
6. To facilitate the development of more novel economically viable products for local and international markets.

They also agreed that farmers will certify their farms and will be encouraged hence the subsidy, there will be actors at different levels of certification i.e the accessor, the auditors etc, there will also be the need to build the capacity of inspectors and farmers from time to time. It was also agreed that at least two verification officers will be appointed in each State Chapter.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Organic System Plan (OSP) was said to be of utmost importance for the PGS to be successfully ran. It was also agreed that selected applicants will meet with the PGS team to discuss procedures and terms of engagement on certification on March 19, 2023.





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25, AGRONOMY BUILDING, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN,

**“The only organisation adopted
as the **UMBRELLA BODY**
for **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**
organisations in Nigeria”**



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Subregional Workshop For Harmonization of Existing Participatory Guarantee System

Introduction:

The workshop for the harmonization of existing PGS in West Africa was held between 3rd and the 5th of January 2023 in Senegal. The workshop brought together representatives of each country (Nigeria, Mali, Gambia, Benin and Senegal) to share the structures, leverages, challenges, prospects and setbacks along the process of running the PGS in these countries. In attendance from Nigeria was Mr Lawal A. Temitope (Standards and Certification Committee Chairman, KCOA) and Jude Obi (The President, NOAN and Country Coordinator, KCOA)

Workshop

During the workshop, the participants shared unique features of their respective countries, such as:

- Challenges faced in setting up PGS in each participating country.
- An overview of ecological and organic agriculture in each participating country.
- How PGS works in each country.
- Recommendations and elements for improving the PGS as proposed in the workshop.

Discussions:

The context of presentation gave room to critically analyze and raise conversation along the similarities and differences on what each country's PGS structure looked like, thus, giving ideas to how healthy exchange of structures and network could help strengthen markets across West Africa. The debate on the harmonization seemed to raise more points of concern which may need to be addressed before the discussion on harmonization could be effective. Points such as:

How many PGS are supposed to exist in one country?
Who controls the standards or who is supposed to control the standards?

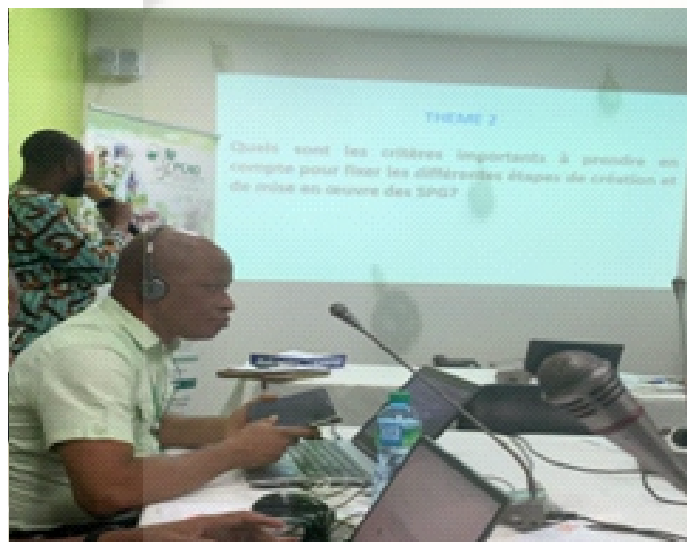
Are all countries in harmony in the use of similar Logo and labels?

Amongst many other point of concern.

Learning Points:

Regional markets could be expanded if more producers are able to create similar patterns of structures.

Some countries had multiple PGS Coordinating bodies.



The relationship between the government and the PGS systems could be to an advantage if properly established.

Relationship with other stakeholders such as NGOs, Religious Organization and Civil Society groups could be helpful in developing PGS groups. Group dynamics need to be taken seriously when developing new PGS schemes.

All of the dynamics and deliberation have been put into consideration in developing Nigeria's PGS certification guidelines, you can find more details on this on the NOAN website and also apply for certification.



SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO REVIEW THE METHODOLOGY IMPLEMENTED IN THE KCOA PROJECT BY THE THREE OUTPUT

The Sub-regional Workshop to review the methodologies implemented in the KCOA project by the three output was held from the 6th – 9th January, 2023 at Dakar, Senegal. The workshop had in attendance the country coordinators, project managers, some key players and resource persons from the five countries participating in the KCOA project in the region. NOAN was represented by the KCOA Country Coordinator (Jude C. Obi) and KCOA Project Manager (Fidelis C. Ezegbogu).

The workshop allowed the cluster to take advantage of the points of attention in the implementation, and to frame the methodology for achieving the indicators. This process will allow for better adaptation of the methodologies to the contexts of the different countries, to identify good practices and lessons learned, and thus to have stabilized and finalized methodologies.

Some of the basic reviews include :

Strengthening cooperation between organizations within the Knowledge hub for Organic Agriculture in West Africa (KHWa) region: This will encourage the division of labor among the output organizations and help them link up when necessary to carry out an activity. In this regard while writing the new technical note, activities to be overseen by each Output should

be defined clearly under the output responsible. For instance the establishment of the Farmers' Field School (FFS) is the responsibility of FENAB while the validation of Knowledge product to be demonstrated in the FFS is the responsibility of ENDA PRONAT.

Make efforts to minimize language barriers between different partners: This was established to bridge the English and French language disparity by increasing the budget for a regular language translator/Interpreter in all regional meetings and communication.

The need for more advocacy for knowledge management (e.g., sharing concepts, knowledge, and advocacy techniques). Hence the need for more radio spot, social media and other relevant media for publicity of KCOA activities. Advocacy is not the core of the KHWa activities but can be a component of



knowledge management activities.

Increase commitment to gender issues as this component will be strongly developed in the coming months. (The initial technical note specified that knowledge should be collected and validated according to its relevance to gender.

GIZ expects a more systematic, strategic engagement on gender issues). Hence, In addition to the 5 priority needs: Soil health, Funding, Marketing, Certifications and Pest Control; collection and validation of knowledge products based on gender/women needs be adapted.

The roles and tasks of staff and their positions in each organization were evaluated based on the activities and experiences of the previous phase. This was to help improve the efficiency of every staff according to their positions. Each Organization shared the duties of each member of staff.



Training on Sesame Seed Cultivation

By Prof. V. I. Olowe

The training on sesame seed was anchored by Prof Victor Olowe, from the Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.. According to Prof. Olowe, Sesame seed is an arable crop (grown annually or biennially).

General Overview

Sesame is the third largest export produce in Africa after Sudan and Tanzania. It has a high export and industrial potential. The botanical name is *sesamum indicum*. The seed contains about 50-60% oil and 20-25% protein. Its oil is one of the most stable vegetable oils because of the antioxidant (sesamum, sesamol and sesamol) it contains. It is said to be the queen of oil seeds. It has the capacity to moist nutrients and soil. It can be produced in 23 states in Nigeria, however, there are challenges faced by growers of sesame

Constraint of Production (Major Problems Facing Sesame Industry in Nigeria)

1. Lack of adequate mechanized farming technique (5-10%).
2. Very limited functional seed processing plant (three in Kano, Nasarawa, Lagos).
3. Limited access to finance and high yielding varieties of sesame and inputs.
4. Predominantly degraded soils with poor fertility status.
5. Pests and diseases attack (20-25% yield loss).
6. Limited number of National Research Institutes working on sesame.

Planting and Sowing of Crops

1. Planting/Sowing should be timely after the establishment of rain.
2. Plant healthy and homogenous materials to ensure even ripening and purity.
3. Thinning and supply to ensure recommended plant density.
4. Transplant seedlings when soil moisture is at 50-75% field capacity at early morning or evening.



Sesame Research Output (Agricultural Practice)

1. Sesame intercropped with maize at 70% of soil population demonstrates a high land use advantage.
2. Sesame intercropped with sunflower and cassava recorded significant agronomic and economic advantages in the forest savanna transition zone of Nigeria.
3. Sesame's ability to recover from defoliation induced at the reproductive stage reduced significantly as level of defoliation exceeded 50%.

Plant Health

1. Estimated yield losses of about 20-55% have been attributed to foliar disease such as Cercospora Leaf Spot (CLS) and Alternaria Leaf Blight (ALB) disease.
2. Intercropping sesame with maize in alternate single row arrangement (1:1) significantly reduced CLS and ALB incidence and severity.
3. Sowing of sesame in early to mid-July reduced the incidence and severity of the diseases and enhanced crop performance.
4. Intercropping of maize with sesame reduced the incidence of maize stalk rot by 30-43% relative to maize sole

NOAN PARTICIPATES IN THE ANNUAL KCOA SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP



The annual KCOA sub-regional workshop and annual planning programme was held in Dakar Senegal from January 29th to 3rd February, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen organic agriculture practices in the sub-region through the instrumentality of the participating countries. As well as to plan strategic activities that will enable the efficient implementation of the KCOA objective.

The workshop was hosted by Enda Pronat and in attendance were three representatives from each of the five participating countries (Nigeria, Mali, Gambia, Benin and Senegal). Senegal was represented by the three organizations-EndaPronat, FENAB and Agrecol, Afrique being the three outputs managers. NOAN Nigeria was represented by the Country Coordinator, (Jude C. Obi), the Admin and Finance officer; (Mrs. Bilikis Lawal – Omitoogun) and the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer; (Dr. Olayinka O. Olatunji).

The participants agreed on the renewed commitment to following the laid down objectives for the KCOA project. Likewise, during the workshop, planning and budgeting was done for the remaining KCOA activities for each participating countries and specific dates were fixed, the budgets for each country was also discussed and harmonized. Among the events of the five day workshop was an agroecological visit to Bio Senegal integrated organic farm which was an eye opener to the current trends in organic agriculture practices.

The Sub-Regional Workshop and Annual Planning activities meeting was a productive session that provided more clarity on the direction for the project. The participants reinforced the project objectives, methodology, and activities to be undertaken, which will guide the implementation of the project within the set time frame. The project team will use the outputs of this workshop to develop a detailed project plan in furtherance of the ongoing KCOA project in Nigeria.



Farmers' Field School, the Journey So Far

Introduction:

The Farmers Field School (FFS) is a practical learning approach that aims to empower multipliers/farmers through knowledge sharing and capacity building on validated organic agriculture practices. For the NOAN-KCOA project, this current FFS programme was set up to demonstrate to Multipliers how using *Jatropha Curcas* leaf extract can influence the performance of Okra that has been infected with cucumber mosaic virus. This knowledge is one of the several organic agriculture knowledge validated by the Knowledge Validation committee.

Activity Report:

Over the past six months, FFS sessions are being conducted in four locations in Nigeria. The activity started in October prior to a call on the NOAN whatsapp platform for the expression of Interest for Facilitators of FFS and Consultant to Farmers Field School Facilitation. Four organic agricultural practitioners; Mr Donald Iheaturu (Anambra), Mrs. Majuolagbe Abimbola (Lagos), Mr. Clement Akpan (Akwa Ibom), and Dr. Ogechi Umeh (Abia) were selected as facilitators of FFS, with Dr. Odueme Patience (Ogun) as Consultant to FFS facilitation.

FFS Facilitator Workshop:

The FFS activities began with a three day workshop and training held in Ibadan from Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th of October, 2022 where the facilitators were trained on the practice of farmers' field school and extension services, Organic soil amendment, and the demonstration of the knowledge product: *Effects of Jatropha curcas leaf extract on the performance of okra (abelmoschus esculentus l. moench) infected with cucumber mosaic virus* by Ahmed A. A, Aliyu M., Usman A. G., Hajara L. M., Alex S. O. Shuaibu A., Prince M. O. and Adelowo O. During the training, the facilitators visited a private owned commercial compost center cum organic farm at Idi-ose beside IITA, Ibadan, Oyo State.

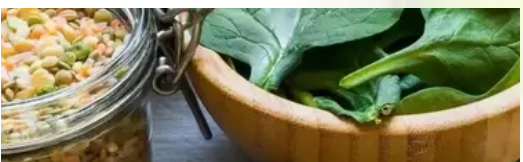
Farmers' Field School, the Journey So far... cont'nd



Demonstration Plots:

Each facilitator per location selected an organic farm or a land that has been fallowed for at least 5 years for demonstration. Considerations were also made about the availability of irrigation facilities given that it will be dry season farming. Then 37m x 40m land area was mapped out for the Farmers' Field School. The site with a field size of 340 m² (17m x 20m) was cultivated with bed of size 3m x 2.7m per plot of 2m apart and a buffer zone of 20m was left out.

After a period of preliminary preparations in terms of training of facilitators, selection of land and mapping, the facilitators proceeded for the collection of *Jatropha Curcas* leaves which was air dried under room temperature for about 5-10 days and then pulverized into fine powder. Land clearing and ploughing of the site took place in January, followed by soil analysis and amendment. The soil was treated with organic manure of cured poultry droppings (25t/ha) 2 weeks before sowing, which were incorporated into the soil during bed making. The locations of the FFS demonstration plots are Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State, Farmers' Estate, Ikorodu, Lagos State, West Itam 111, Akwa Ibom State and Michael Okpara University Umudike, Abia State



Multiplier Field Visit:

There has been two field visits by the multipliers to the demonstration plots to learn hands on how the *Jatropha Curcas* leave extracts are applied as biocides to combat the infestation from the cucumber mosaic virus. During the field visit, the FFS facilitators provide support where necessary, promote knowledge sharing and learning and exchange of ideas and experiences. Since the FFS journey is still ongoing, we look forward to sharing more updates and progress report.



but could not hold due to the challenges of insecurity being faced in the country. He added that it is important for members to meet to present the results of findings by researchers, discuss and allow for knowledge sharing and a platform to improve on their practices. He mentioned that the society was founded for the purpose of dissemination of acceptable and repeatable organic practices which will have multiplying effect, capacity building, strategic research in diverse ecology, i.e people bring issues to be solved in subsequent conferences, advocacy for support of organic agriculture.

The keynote speaker, Ms Olusola Sowemimo of Ope farms stated that it brings joy when people gather to impact knowledge, in her presentation themed "A Safe Environment With Organic Agriculture", she outlined the benefits of organic farming viz: safe environment, biodiversity, quality air, unpolluted water, floral vegetation, sustainability, communication with nature, apiary, green space, energy flow, healthy soil, haven for naturopaths, increased value of land, slowed down climate change, food security. The Association's journal (JOAEN) was also launched at the event, it was pointed out that the journal is specialized and highly rated. Prof. Isaac Aiyelaagbe, a member of the society during his goodwill message stated that OAPTIN is taking shape and that FUNAAB will be the first University to produce B.Sc holders of organic agriculture, this is due to the efforts of OAPTIN in the university.

OAPTIN Holds 16th Annual Conference in Abeokuta

Organic Agriculture Professionals in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria held its 16th annual conference at CEADSE Scholar Centre, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and was themed "Organic Agriculture for Food Safety, Wellness and Improved Livelihood". The event took place from March 22- 25, 2023. It was attended by scientists from all parts of Nigeria. The Vice Chancellor, FUNAAB, represented by Prof. Emmanuel Fakayode, during his welcome address welcomed participants to the event and gave a general overview of the society, informing that OAPTIN was inaugurated in FUNAAB in the year 2004 with the mission of providing sustainable food security. Speaking further at the event, Prof. Fakayode stated that conventional farm produce, when placed beside organic farm produce are more expensive on the long run considering the aftereffect of consuming them compared to organic produce. Prof. Eyitayo Makinde, the President of the society in his opening remark stated that the conference would have been hosted by Gombe in 2022

OAPTIN Holds 16th Annual Conference in Abeokuta.. Cont'nd

He added that there is need to advocate and drive more enthusiasts; farmers' shop should be revived and that OAPTIN is a platform for hardworking and dedicated members.

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of OAPTIN took place also and several issues such as the need for members to revive their zeal for the society, this was reiterated by Dr Mrs. Joseph Adekunle and was corroborated by Prof. Victor Olowe who also stated that election will not hold as all zonal coordinators of the major regions in Nigeria are not present at the event. Prof. Dapo Fasae was given the mandate to handle the society's journal. An interim Executive Committee Members were agreed to be in operation pending the time the society conducts election and Prof. Olowe volunteered to stand in the gap in need areas. Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) was appreciated for bringing Capacity Building Workshop, an activity implemented by Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) a project implemented by the Association to OAPTIN to benefit from.

A field trip to an organic farm owned by Mr. Ayodele Farinde (Kaspharyn Solutions) was made, participants were tutored on how to make biochar (through pyrolysis process), and how the charcoal cool storage facility is being used to preserve farm produce.

The next OAPTIN conference was agreed to take place in Gombe as they are still interested in hosting the event.

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5 benefits of FALL GARDENING

RARE SEEDS

- 1 LONGER HARVEST PERIOD**
Leave veggies like kale in the ground after frost.
- 2 BETTER FLAVOR**
Crops like brassicas, carrots & beets taste better grown in cool weather.
- 3 FALL CANNING IS COOLER**
(literally & figuratively)
- 4 AVOID (SOME) PESTS**
Planting after peak bug season helps dodge crop damage.
- 5 SUPERCHARGED NUTRITION**
Fall frost causes some veggies to become more colorful... & good for you!



BENEFITS OF VERMICOMPOST

- Act as Biofertilizers
- Restores Soil Nutrients
- Stabilizes Soil
- Enhances Soil Fertility



Conventional vs. Organic

Ingredients

Caplan, Pyraclostrobin, Boscalid, Tetrahydrophthalimide, Myclobutanil, Pyrimethanil, Fludioxonil, Bifenthrin, Malathion, Fenhexamid, Cyprodinil, Carbendazim, Malaoxon, Azoxytrobin, Methomyl, Quinoxifen...

Ingredients

Strawberry



ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA. NOAN



*The only umbrella body for organic
agriculture organisations in Nigeria.*

THEMATIC AREAS:

Research
Standards and Certification
Capacity Building
Production and Processing
Advocacy
Marketing

SMHs

NOANNigeria

For more information on the Association,
kindly call 07057457676 or visit our
website @ www.noanigeria.net.

Our partners:

