



ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA (NOAN).

September Newsletter

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@NOANNIGERIA

From The Editor



Dear Organic
Agriculture family,

Organic is LIFE!
I present to you this
16th volume and
issue 3 of the
Newsletter which is
enriched with news
on GB physical

meeting and
resolutions
reached by
the GB, the
BOT chairman
and EOA on
issues
bothering on
NOAN as the
umbrella body
hosting KCOA
and EOA I and
many more:
Read, be
informed and
blessed.

Onunwa,
Akudo O. PhD
Editor, NOAN

The Governing Board Holds Second Physical Meeting

Members of the Association's Governing Board on July 12 and 13, 2023 met at the National Secretariat, University of Ibadan. This meeting was the first physical meeting after the 2022 Annual General Meeting hosted in Anambra State on April 27 and 28, 2023. The GB meeting was necessitated by pending issues arising from the AGM. In attendance at the meeting on the second day of the meeting were: The Chairman, Local organizing Committee, 2022 AGM in the person of Dr. O.O Ndukwe, the EOA project coordinator, Dr, AdeOluwa and the chairman board of Trustee (BOT) Prof. J. Adediran. Members of the Governing Board paid a courtesy visit to the Head of Department, Soil Resources Management, Agronomy Building, University of Ibadan, Prof. Timothy Oluwasemiire.



The President in his speech told all present that the department is our host and that it is our responsibility, to let the chief host (HOD) know that we are around on an assignment. In response, the HOD commended the efforts of NOAN and explained that there is a great potential in organic agriculture, he however, reiterated the need to create an enabling platform and methods to make organic agriculture sustainable and easy to practice. He pointed out the strides the conventional products are making in areas of exports and local economies which organic agriculture produce need to measure up to. He applauded the GB for extending a hand of fellowship to his department.

The Governing Council agreed on the following:

1. **Inventory of Association's Assets:** The Vice President, Financial Secretary and the Association's Accountant were commissioned to ensure that proper documentation of the assets belonging to the Association is carried out and report made to the GB through the President. Sequel to the loss of NOAN roll up banner the Communication Officer was cautioned and was mandated to ensure that the Association's properties are properly kept. A follow up to this was that record for the movement of items in , out and within the office should be opened and adhered strictly to.
2. **State Chapters and Challenges in Kwara State:** In order to ensure that Kwasu as a partner of EOA projects, is inaugurated as a chapter, the Vice President, Treasurer and the NOAN Communication Officer were asked to:
 - i. Look into the challenges in Kwara State and come up with recommendations.
 - ii. Get in touch with other States that have great potential for inauguration and work out modalities for their inauguration as well as encourage other States to apply for their own inauguration.
 - iii. Proffer recommendations based on their investigation on how the Association can be strengthened at the state chapter levels in all the states of interest.
3. **Funding for the Association:** The house agreed that the Secretary should write the Standard and Certification Committee for a report on the number of PGS groups certified and possible challenges.

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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE HACKS



6 Spices That Keep Doctors Away!

1. Cinnamon
2. Dried Red Pepper
3. Nutmeg
4. Cumin
5. Ginger
6. Turmeric

USE THE RIGHT ONION



White Onion

Have a sweeter, milder flavor. Can use raw in salsa. Good in stir fries.



Red Onion

Have the mildest flavor, most often used raw. Great in guacamole. Perfect for pickling.



Yellow Onion

Have the deepest flavor. Best used in cooking. Great in soups and sauces.



Sweet Onion

Have a lovely sweeter flavor and good for frying. Roast with other veggies.



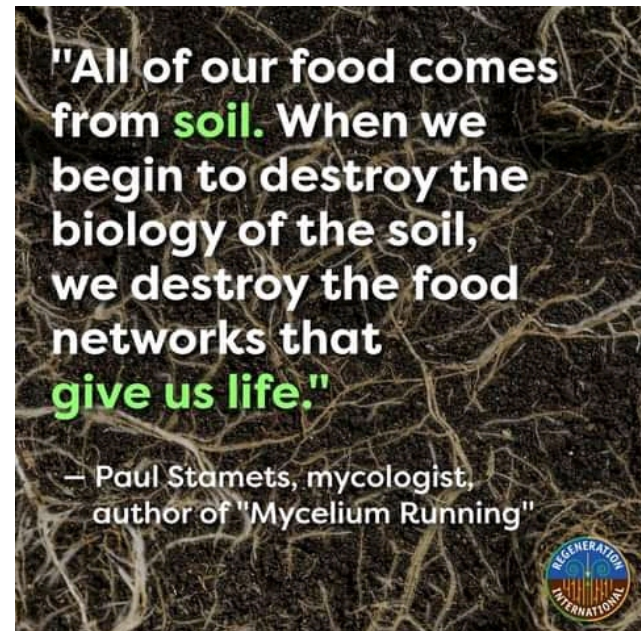
Green Onion

Usually used as a raw garnish and topping. Tastes great grilled or roasted.




Shallot

Have a delicate, subtle flavor. Great in dressings or as a garnish.



"All of our food comes from **soil**. When we begin to destroy the biology of the soil, we destroy the food networks that **give us life**."

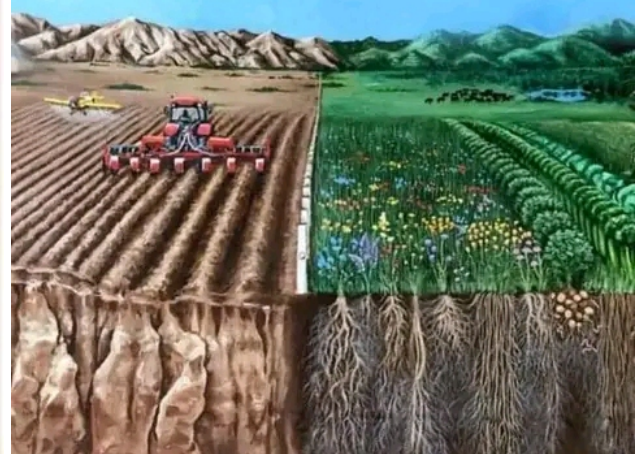
— Paul Stamets, mycologist, author of 'Mycelium Running'



SHORTEN YOUR FOOD CHAIN



INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE VS REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



The Governing Board Holds Second Physical Meeting... Contn'd from pg 2

4. **Journal:** After the report presented by the Editor on the modalities for the new Journal, she was asked to do the following
 - i. Increase the suggested number of papers per issues in each volume.
 - ii. Get a logo for the journal
 - iii. Improve on the presented motto for the journal and report back to the GB.
5. **Partnership with the Input providers:** The house agreed that the Secretary should write the Research Committee to give us update and develop criteria that will help the committee get in touch with more input service providers for proper evaluation as well as criteria for evaluating their products.
6. **National Council Meeting :** After much deliberations on this matter, the BOT Chairman, the GB and the EOA Coordinator resolved as follows;
 - i. Everything pertaining to the formation of ORAIN must be packaged and presented to the GB for ratification.
 - ii. Coordinators of projects should always make request to present the steering committee approved activities to GB for ratification.
 - iii. Reports of the events of projects under NOAN should be submitted quarterly to GB and coordinators may be invited if need be.
 - iv. There should be synergy between EOA and NOAN GB.
 - v. Participating stakeholders of the EOA and clear participation description should be submitted to the GB.
 - vi. Any stakeholders being brought into project under NOAN must not have overbearing influence that will affect the Association negatively.
 - vii. Henceforth, the two percent (2%) of what would have gone to the initiator/coordinator of EOA Project, will now go to the Association while eight percent (8%) will go to the coordinator of the EOA project.
 - viii. There should be inventory about the equipment owned by both projects (EOA and KCOA).
 - ix. There should be co-use of equipment, when the need arises for the successful execution of the projects under the Association.

- x. At the end of the projects, the equipment procured shall be brought to the GB for discussion on what to do with such.
 - xi. That the meeting between BOT NOAN and BOT ORAIN is no longer necessary as the issues have been resolved.
 - xii. The EOA Coordinator should share these resolutions among the EOA project stakeholders to establish the fact that NOAN is the umbrella body (of both KCOA and EOA projects).
7. **2022 AGM/Technical Workshop:** After the presentation of the report by the LOC Chairman, the house resolved that the Secretary should;
 - i. Request from the LOC chairman for the copies of the media, adverts and video clips of the events within two weeks of this meeting.
 - ii. Request for the records of those that did exhibition with the evidence of their payments.
 - iii. Write a letter of appreciation to Anambra State Chapter for a successful AGM.
 - iv. Write letters of 'Recognition to every member of the 2022 AGM/Technical Workshop held at Anambra State.
 8. **2023 AGM/Technical Workshop Report:** The Secretary was asked to;
 - i. Write a formal letter to Delta State Chapter on the approval to host the 2023 AGM/Technical Workshop by the GB.
 - ii. Call the Chairperson of Delta State Chapter to identify who to address the letter.
 - iii. The letter should request for an acceptance or assurance letter to host the 2023 AGM/Technical Workshop from the host.

The Governing Board Hosts Second Physical Meeting

(Contn'd from pg 4)

- iv. The acceptance and assurance letter should also state that they will not do anything that will negatively affect the image of the Association.
9. NOABS 2023: The GB requests that:
 - I. The EOA coordinator should officially notify the GB concerning the 2023/2024 NOABS event.
 - ii. NOAN should be carried along for NOABS 2023/2024 NOABS as agreed
 - iii. We allow the EOA Coordinator to initiate the notification about NOABS 2023/2024 but when it is not done, he will be notified about the resolution of the GB on the matter.
10. Administration of the Association HQ.: The Secretary was asked to write a letter to the Vice President to carry out this function to ensure that we have the details of the hierarchy and job descriptions of members of staff.
11. IJOARD Editor: The letter received from Prof. T. I. Olabiyi should be kept in view.
12. CAC Renewal: The Secretary was asked to write a letter of appreciation to EOA and KCOA Projects for completing the payment for the renewal of the NOAN CAC.



Ajibode Organic Farmers' Dilemma



Chief Mosudi Salimonu, the coordinator, Ajibode Organic Farm, Ibadan has cried out that at the Ajibode Organic farm, farmers are faced with the issues of flooding, erosion, damage to crops and low crop productivity during this rainy season. According to him, this year's farming/raining season experienced a rise in the water table levels and this have seriously affected farming activities around the coastal areas due to lack/poor drainage system.

Ajibode Organic farm comprises of a cluster of organic farmers' groups who are members of NOAN, the farm had been in existence for over 6 years and has over the years continued to produce exotic and local organic vegetables for the university community and its environ. They are however faced with challenges such as the lack of ready market, lack of access to affordable organic inputs and quality seedling, scarcity of funds, etc. The issue of flooding and poor drainage as experienced this year, has compounded the existing challenges making it difficult for these farmers to practice a seamless organic farming.

These farmers crave for the assistance and intervention of NGOs, private organizations, government at all levels to come to their aid in militating against these situations as these challenges are far above the farmers' capacity to handle. THIS IS



GMOs, Man's Silent Killer!

Dr. Wale Sodade, a Nigerian-trained physician based in South Africa, has issued a cautionary advise to Nigerians regarding the potential hazards of consuming genetically modified organisms (GMO) in foods, citing its adverse effects on human and animal health.

In an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). Dr. Sodade expressed concern about genetically-modified foods which according to his report could have detrimental impacts on human well-being. GMO refers to a process of altering DNA technology or transferring engineered genes into plants or animals, often utilizing chemicals to boost crop/animal productivity.

Dr. Sodade, a native of Abeokuta, Ogun State, dismissed assertions that GMO foods and crops offer viable solutions that address food scarcity and hunger in Nigeria. He contended that the presumed benefits of GMO, such as increased harvest yields compared to natural produce, are misleading and unsupported.

Dr. Sodade argued that, "Ample arable land and abundant natural resources are available to support global conventional farming. Several scientific studies have indicated potential harm posed by GMO products, including the irreversible alteration of the natural genetic makeup of targeted crops and the contamination of cultivated land."

He further questioned the safety claims associated with GMO foods, asserting that nations should exercise caution. Dr. Sodade pointed to Russia as a prudent example, highlighting the country's prohibition of GMO food cultivation and adherence to sound food policies.

While acknowledging that farmers have engaged in crossbreeding crops for decades, Dr. Sodade emphasized that GMO technology differs significantly. He described the process as the extraction of genes with specific traits from one organism and their insertion into another through gene splicing, without regard to species differences.

Addressing concerns about GMO tomatoes as an example, he explained, "Genes responsible for certain traits, like cold resistance, are extracted from various living organisms and forcefully integrated into tomato DNA, potentially from a range of species. The outcome is deemed successful if the new tomato plant exhibits the desired trait."

Dr. Sodade highlighted the inherent foreign nature of GMOs to nature, asserting that the human body tends to reject them through allergic reactions or chronic inflammation, which may lead to various health issues. Furthermore, he cautioned against the transfer of genetically-modified bacteria from GMO foods to consumers' guts, potentially promoting harmful bacterial growth and diseases, including cancer.

Referencing controlled animal experiments, Dr. Sodade underscored the risks associated with GMO consumption. Rats exclusively fed GMO potatoes for a decade, equivalent to 10 human years, displayed compromised immune systems and organ tumors. Subsequent generations of these rats exhibited small brains and severe organ malformations, reinforcing the concerns surrounding GMO consumption.

Dr. Sodade urged citizens in countries promoting GMO adoption to be aware of its dangers and to actively engage their leaders to safeguard their collective well-being. He emphasized the importance of food autonomy and quality food.

NOAN awards ARCN Executive Secretary



On August 23, 2023, the President of the Association, Dr. Jude C. Obi, along with representatives from the FCT Chapter and IFOAM-OI, visited the Executive Secretary of ARCN and presented to him the organic ambassador award bestowed on him by the Association during the recent AGM held at Awka, Anambra State.

The Executive Secretary expressed sincere gratitude and announced the appointment of a designated desk officer for Organic Agriculture within ARCN and promised that similar desks will be established across all their institutions to facilitate easy accessibility and effective collaboration with the association.

The Executive Secretary pledged full cooperation with the Association. Further details about this collaboration will be duly provided for the awareness of all NOAN members.

We congratulate the Executive Secretary of ARCN for this meritorious award and do hope that with this collaboration, organic agriculture will continue to gain ground in Nigeria and globally.

UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP DUES

Following the deliberation at the Association's Annual General Meeting held in Anambra on April 28, 2023, the increment in membership annual dues were said to take effect from January, 2024. Below are the membership annual dues for respective categories:

- (i) Individuals will now pay ten thousand naira [N10,000],
- (ii) Farmers' group shall pay two (2) thousand naira per member [N2,000],
- (iii) Corporate members shall pay thirty thousand naira [N30,000]
- (iv) NGO member shall pay ten thousand naira [N10,000]
- (v) Students will now pay two thousand naira [N2,000]



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



From Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria, we say Merry Christmas and a prosperous happy new year. We are a network of organic agriculture practitioners, our objectives are hinged around 6 Thematic Areas viz:

1. Research.
2. Standards and Certification.
3. Marketing.
4. Capacity Building.
5. Production and Processing.
6. Advocacy.

For more information on the Association, kindly visit our website @www.noanigeria.net or follow us on our social media @ NOAN Nigeria. You can also call us on 07057457676.



Launching The Multiplier Network Digital Platform To Enhance Knowledge Sharing and Networking in Organic Agriculture

In pursuit of fostering seamless interconnection for the purpose of data sharing and networking, the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) has initiated the development of the Multipliers Network Digital Platform. While the digital platform is currently undergoing a testing phase, a Multipliers Network WhatsApp community was inaugurated with its primary aim to empower multipliers within the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria to effectively leverage on this cutting-edge platform.

The local inauguration of the multipliers platform first on WhatsApp and a virtual meeting via Zoom marked a significant milestone, attracting participants from all parts of the country. During the inauguration meeting, held virtually on Zoom on July 28th, Dr. Jude C. Obi, the KCOA Country Coordinator, emphasised the purpose of the Multipliers Network and encouraged multipliers to embrace the platform, highlighting its numerous benefits.

The project manager, Mr. Fidelis Ezebgogu, provided an overview of some of the platform's key features that multipliers can leverage on to enhance their knowledge of organic agriculture. Additionally, the KCOA Communications Manager, Mrs. Hepzibah Ebe, delivered a presentation enlightening multipliers about the numerous benefits associated with utilising the digital



Launching The MultiplierNetwork Digital Platform To Enhance Knowledge Sharing and Networking in Organic Agriculture..contn'd



As the NOAN-KCOA Multipliers embark on this transformative journey, it holds the potential to become a powerful catalyst, enabling effective networking and knowledge sharing on the KCOA-established Multipliers Network Digital Platform.

1. **Continental-Wide Connectivity:** The platform serves as a hub for connecting multipliers across continents.
2. **Promoting Organic Agriculture and Agroecology:** It functions as a dedicated social media platform, consolidating information and resources related to organic agriculture and agroecology.
3. **Central Event Hub:** The platform serves as a one-stop destination for accessing information about events pertaining to organic agriculture.
4. **Showcasing Success Stories:** It hosts success stories of knowledge products that have made a significant impact, inspiring multipliers and others through stories and updates.
5. **KCOA Database: Knowledge Center for Validated Knowledge Products:** The platform provides a comprehensive knowledge centre for validated knowledge products.

The multipliers expressed joy and commitment as they eagerly anticipated the platform's offerings. The planned activities for the multipliers' network encompass monthly knowledge-sharing in the field of organic agriculture.



REFRESHER TRAINING IN NIGERIA



As part of the partnership between FENAB and IFOAM - Organics International a refresher training was organised on August 21-22, 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria.

This activity targets master trainers and is part of the implementation of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project. The training was delivered by Patricia Flores, Senior Director of the IFOAM Global Academy, with co-trainers: Jude C. Obi, KCOA Coordinator in Nigeria; Ebere Peace Agozie, master trainer and journalist; and Flavia De Marchis, KCOA Project Coordinator at IFOAM.

The main objective of this refresher training was to reunite the Master Trainers (MTs) and foster a sense of unity and community among them. It was also aimed at refreshing technical content and explaining training methodologies and how to deliver effective and successful training sessions.

These efforts are aimed at equipping MTs with the necessary skills to support multiplier training sessions. 13 master trainers participated in the training, comprising 7 women and 6 men. Long live Organic Agriculture!



NOAN-KCOA ENCOURAGES MULTIPLIERS TO LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA

In an age where digital communication has become a cornerstone of information dissemination and networking, NOAN-KCOA held an event, tagged "Leveraging Social Media To Promote Organic Agriculture". The virtual event hosted on Monday, August 28th at 5:00 PM, was organised primarily for multipliers within NOAN-KCOA network, Hosted on Zoom and simultaneously live-streamed on YouTube, the event drew a substantial attendance of individuals, eager to delve into the world of social media and its potential in promoting organic agriculture. However, its reach extended beyond, inviting practitioners from various walks of organic agriculture.

The Country Coordinator of the KCOA project in Nigeria, Dr. Jude C. Obi, in his welcome address at the virtual event, established that social media is an indispensable part of life that needs to be leveraged, as it is a great tool for enhanced visibility for organic agriculture practitioners. The KCOA Communication Manager provided a comprehensive presentation on various social media platforms, their functionalities, and how they can benefit the advocacy of organic agriculture.

The heart of the event featured a distinguished panel of experts who have effectively utilized various social media platforms for the promotion and advocacy of organic agriculture. The panelists were: **Mrs Abosede Chizurum Ekwonye**, a sales and marketing specialist, digital marketing specialist, sales content creator and owner of Natzah consulting and strategy.; **Mr Saheed Adams**, an ICT & project manager, savvy agripreneur, agribusiness specialist and coach, social entrepreneur and sustainability enthusiast. ; **Barrister Olusola Sowemimo**, the founder of "Ope farm", a sustainable agriculture advocate, beekeeper, business coach and consultant, partner at Seyi Sowemimo and conference keynote speaker., **Dr Olayinka Ojo**, a lecturer at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology. A facilitator and attendee at several organic and horticulture conferences across the nation. A passionate organic agriculture practitioner.

Each of the panelist shared their experiences (wins, highs and lows) and insights on using different social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and creating

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

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