

ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA (NOAN)



Natural and healthy

June 2024 Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 2

From The Editor



Dearly beloved members of the organic Agriculture family, welcome to this exciting, thrilling, educative 2nd issue of the 17th volume of NOAN newsletter enriched with news from Delta State hosted AGM, Organic weekend, inspiring student/youth activities, organic women celebrations, absorption of OA into the nation's tertiary institution, successful birth and delivery of JOARI and many more.

Read, learn, relearn and be blessed. So thrilling! So exciting!! So educating!!!

ONUNWA, AKUDO O. PhD

Editor, NOAN Newsletter.

NOAN MEMBERS MEET AT OZORO, DELTA



The just concluded 2024 Annual General meeting and Technical Workshop and titled : “Prosperity, Wellness and Sustainability”, which took place on 23th to 24th April, 2024, at the Old Association of Staff Union of Polytechnics Secretariat of Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro, Delta State, was a two day event. The event was hybrid and so captured as far as Afronet, GIZ and non-members who indicated interest in joining the Association.

Dignitaries at the 2024 AGM included Prof. Akpovughaye Taiga (Dean, Faculty of Science, DSUST, representing the Vice Chancellor of the University; Pastor Muiywa James of the Living Faith Church, Warri, Delta State; Prof. Timothy I. Olabiyi who represented the BOT Chairman, Prof. James Adediran; Prof. Nkiru T. Meludu, member BOT; the President of the Association, Dr. Jude C. Obi; the Chairperson, NOAN, Delta State Chapter, Dr. Atoma C. Nwamaka, and members of the Governing Board.

State Chapters represented physically include: Benue, Nassaraw. Abuja, Anambra, Lagos, Abia, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Ogun, Osun, and Oyo State.

The events featured exhibitions, sponsored by KCOA project (Organic weekend), Technical workshop, launching of Life membership and a drama presentation on healthy living by members of Delta State Chapter of the Association.

cont on page 2

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NOAN MEMBERS MEET AT OZORO, DELTA STATE..... cont'nd.



Issues discussed at the 2024 Annual General Meeting were as follows:

1. **The new journal (JOARI):** It was agreed that the journal will not be under an NGO to allow for international recognition.
2. **Life membership:** Eligibility for life membership includes the payments of 10 years annual dues and the member must be at least 65 years of age.
3. **Outstanding dues:** Considering the huge amount of outstanding dues incurred by some members, necessary actions have to be taken to ensure these outstanding dues are recovered.
4. **Tenure of GB members:** The tenure of the office of the Governing Board members was brought up at the AGM but it was agreed that this can only be tampered with during the review of the constitution which will be 7 years from the last review.

New members of the Governing Board were elected following the due process of nomination, screening and election at the AGM, voting methods included physical and online which was secluded to financially up to date members only.

The President of the Association, Dr Jude C. Obi appreciated all who rallied round the Governing Board members to ensure the 2024 was a success, he also expressed his gratitude to members of the Association and added that one of their major responsibilities is to maintain their membership and at the same time maintain the integrity of the Association wherever they are. He spoke further, that the Association will be in its enviable state through relentless efforts by the key officers and the thematic group members. The next AGM was agreed to take place in Lagos.

NOAN KEY OFFICERS VISIT VARSITY VC



Members of the Board of Trustees, Governing Board, National Steering Committee of KCOA, Chairperson, Delta State Chapter, NOAN on April 24, 2024 paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Jacob Snapps Oboreh, the Vice Chancellor, Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro. This visit was to appreciate the acceptance of NOAN in the University vicinity thereby creating the visibility of the Association in Delta State. The BOT Chairman, represented by Prof. Timothy I. Olabiyi, during his remark gave a brief on the Association and also presented souvenirs to the Varsity Chancellor. The VC expressed his gratitude and promised to continue to provide the necessary support within his capacity for NOAN to operate comfortably within the state, he added that agriculture is profitable and needs to be taken seriously. He promised to support the Association with the sum of five hundred thousand naira (#500, 000) which he has redeemed.



NOAN KCOA Inspires Undergraduates Students from Three Nigerian Universities with Agro-ecological Activity



NOAN KCOA hosts activities to inspire undergraduate students from three different universities in Nigeria. The activities was Agroecology Mornings ("Yoor Yorr Agroecology") and agroecological site visit, which serves as a forum for discussing the networking of actors in the value chain through topical issues and communication strategies aimed at promoting Organic and Ecological Agriculture.

"Yoor Yorr Agroecology" welcomed undergraduate students from the University of Ibadan, Oyo state; the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom; and Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka, Anambra State. Dr. Jude C. Obi, Country Coordinator, delivered a welcome address at each event, introducing the association and the KCOA project, and outlining the purpose of the Agroecology Morning.

In each of the locations, there were sessions featuring short talks on "Organic Agriculture: Facts and Myths" and "Entrepreneurial/Value chain in Organic Agriculture and Agroecology", which sparked lively discussions and provided valuable insights into the organic agriculture sector. Participants engaged in Question & Answer sessions, sharing experiences and networking.

In addition to the undergraduate students, several value chain actors within NOANKCOA attended, sharing their organic agriculture experiences and networking. The event concluded with visits to agroecological sites in each location: UI botanical Gardens and Ajibode farm in Oyo state and Vika Farms Ltd in Uyo. These tours offered practical perspectives on agroecological practices and innovations.

Agroecology Mornings marked a significant step in promoting organic and ecological agriculture amongst young people and also the value chain actors in attendance.



DELTA 2024 IN PICTURES



STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

New EXCOs Emerge for NOAN, Oyo State



Members of the Oyo State Chapter of the Association on April 28, 2024 voted new members of the Executive Committee into office; this took place at Federal College of Animal Health And Production Technology, Ibadan. The names of the new EXCOs are as follows:

1. Dr Olatunji Olayinka – Chairman
2. Dr Okparaocha Funmilayo – Vice Chairman
3. Mercy Igheghe-Akinwumi – Secretary General
4. Olanrewaju Ademidun – Treasurer
5. Dr Nwufili Onyeka – Financial Secretary
6. Alh. Ibrahim Adekunle – P.R.O

From the Secretariat and the entire management of NOAN, we say congratulations to the new officers and God's abundant grace and guidance to Oyo State Chapter and NOAN as a whole.

Lagos Farmers Advocate Organic Farming



A Lagos State based NGO (LUDI) in collaboration with Lagos state government, visited Funade Integrated Farms, owned by Mrs Adeorike Olugbenro, at Epe on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Representatives were from ministries, a group of women from Owonronsoki. FUNADE was privileged to have our own Mr Tope Lawal who was present at the event to represent NOAN Lagos state Chapter.

Ebonyi State Government Embraces 2024 Farming Season With Organic Soil Health Farm Inputs.



NOAN felicitate with Elder Emeka Ogazi, an input producer and a member of the Ebonyi State Chapter of the Association, his product was endorsed by the Ebonyi State Ministry of Agriculture. STEM Solid Organic Fertilizer was ordered last year by the State Ministry of Agriculture Abakaliki, His Excellency F.O. Nwiphiru for distribution to the rural farmers of the thirteen (13) local government Area

Councils of Ebonyi State for use to commence the organic farming. His Excellency took the bull by the horn and directed Ministry of Agriculture to patronize homemade indigenous organic fertilizer. Sectedi Farms is set deliver the soil health fertility to the Government to enable them flag off the 2024 planting season. We remain grateful to the Government of Ebonyi State for accepting the organic fertilizer as one of their 2024 farm inputs.

NOAN, Anambra Pay Courtesy Visit To Min. of Agriculture, Anambra

NOAN Anambra State Executives paid a courtesy call on the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Anambra State, Mrs Ify Uzoka on May 11, 2024.

Mrs Uzoka, a founding member of NOAN Anambra State chapter, received the executive members with open arms and promised to work continuously with them as always, in her own words she said, "My office will always keep an open door for NOAN members".



UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP DUES

OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP DUES

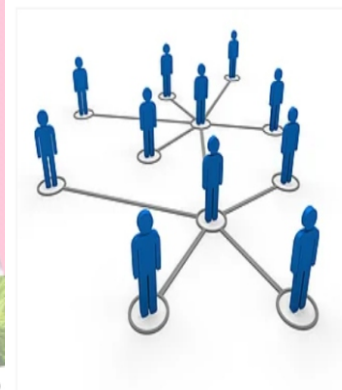
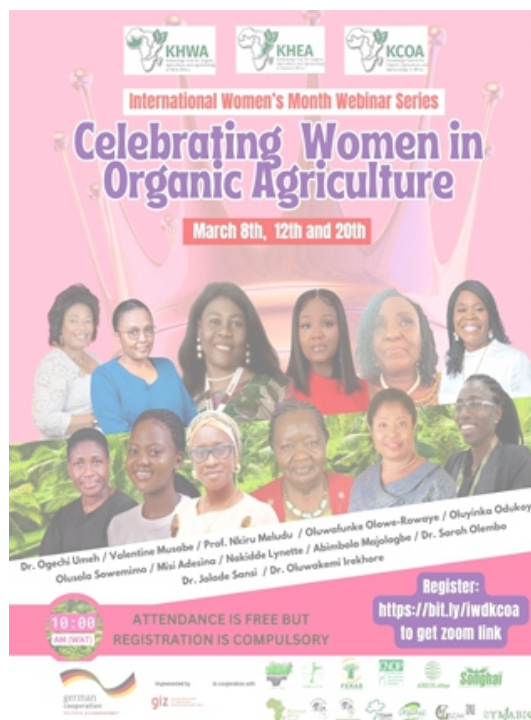
Call To Action



Following the reports on the Association's financial report, by the Audit firm, the barrage of outstanding dues was outrageous. This gave members and the Governing Board members reasons to worry and so measures were carved out to recover these debts as the Association is membership driven and the revenue rests solely on membership dues. It was agreed that necessary measures be taken to recover these debts and one of such is the removal of members who have over two years outstanding dues to be offset and eventual termination of their membership from the Association and its database. Members were implored to ensure that their outstanding dues are paid to ensure a smoother operation of the Association and for the Association to serve them better.

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Nigeria Takes The Lead With KHWA and KHEA on Int. Women's Day



March isn't just any ordinary month — it is International Women's Month, a time dedicated to honouring the remarkable contributions of women in every sphere of life. The perfect time to reflect on the achievements by women; acknowledge their struggles; and amplify their voices.

In the celebration of IWD 2024, NOAN, under the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Western Africa (KHWA) lead in a series of webinars which focused on celebrating Women's leading role in the Organic Agriculture sector.

The 3-part webinar series celebrated women who have a track record of impact in organic agriculture, spotlighting 12 women with impactful stories in organic agriculture from Nigeria ,(Prof. Nkiru Meludu, Mrs. Oluyinka Odukoya, Dr. Kemi Irekhore, Mrs. Olufunke Rowaye-Olowe, Dr. Ogechi Umeh, Barrister Olusola Sowemiwo, Dr. Jolade Sansi, Mrs. Abimbola Majolagbe) and 3 women from East Africa Dr. Sarah Olembo, Lynette Nakkide, Mrs. Valentino Musabe gathered to share their stories and experiences with the participants.

The series was a joint effort between the West Africa and East Africa hubs, attracting over 300 registrants. Their insights and experiences added immense value to the series, inspiring participants and enriching the dialogue on women's contributions to organic agriculture.

Organic Agriculture Curriculum Absorbed in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions

Mr Oyewole Gbadamosi, Coordinator, EOA initiative, West Africa say the introduction of Organic Agricultural Technology in higher institutions will encourage food security in the country. Gbadamosi said this at the public presentation of the Curriculum for National Diploma, Organic Agricultural Technology two-day sensitisation workshop on Monday 13th May, 2024 in Abuja.

GfH news reports that the curriculum for Colleges of Agriculture and Polytechnics was developed by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in collaboration with EOA, NOAN. He said that although there are misconceptions about organic agriculture, the study of organic agricultural technology will address the misconceptions.

“Organic agriculture is a system which has all the components of ecosystem working together that will sustain the health of individuals, communities, soil, plants and animals. “There are a lot of misconceptions about organic agriculture and some people equate it to the use of organic fertilizers.

“However, organic agriculture encourages crop productions that allows no synthetic agrochemicals but allows practices that work in tandem with nature,” he added. Gbadamosi said that farmers and processors needed training and development to adopt organic practices and improve their productivity. The National president, Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN), Dr Jude Obi, said the struggle of the association to bring organic agriculture into mainstream agriculture in Nigeria had been a torturous journey. “We have developed a curriculum for teaching organic agriculture and getting a National Diploma degree through the support of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE).

“Organic agriculture can feed us if everybody tries to produce minimally what he or she consumes, this is why the association is in the forefront of this. “We hope that the Colleges of Agriculture and Polytechnics will process this curriculum and follow it up,” he said.

Obi said the association was also raising awareness on participatory guarantee scheme for organic agriculture. “We plead with those that want to implement this to register as members of the association so that we can work together to achieve this”, he said.



The NBTE Executive Secretary, Professor Idris Bugaje who was represented at the occasion by Dr. Rufai Ibrahim, said the board has taken time and resources to come up with the curriculum and that institutions have been granted approvals to commence the implementation of the curriculum.

He added that the curriculum is tailored toward encouraging the adoption of organic farming. He assured that the board will see to it that the Higher Diploma level commences in a few years to come.

The Chairperson, Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA), and Deputy Director, Farm Input Support Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs Igoh Janet, said the curriculum is the best that could be introduced at this time, as studying Organic Agriculture would create more jobs.

According to her, the holistic study of the course in any of the institutions will give opportunities to youths to work as farm managers. She called on graduates who are still seeking for jobs to take advantage of the course to embrace organic farming.

Delegates at the workshop, however, called on institutions to introduce short time certificate courses on organic agriculture as this would encourage graduates and other farmers who may want to learn more about organic farmers to enrol.

<https://gfHnews.com/2024/05/18/organic-agricultural-technology-in-higher-institutions-will-encourage-food-security-eoa/>

UPDATE ON JOARI



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform our esteemed members of NOAN that the maiden edition (e-copy) of JOARI, the Association's new journal has been uploaded on our website, members are to please note that the next edition will be out this September, for enquiries on paper submission or manuscript, kindly call Dr Akudo on +234 803 481 or Dr. Umar on 0803 643 6114. Thank you.

Meet Our New Governing Board Members



Dr Jude C. Obi
President



Dr Charity N. Atoma
Vice President



Mr Taiwo Oduola
General Secretary



Dr Uko Ibeabuchi
Ass. Gen. Sec.



Chief Mosudi salimonu
Financial Secretary



Dr Ogechi J. Umeh
Treasurer



Dr Akudo Onunwa
Editor, NOAN Newsletter



Mrs Abimbola Majolagbe
Public Relations officer

Meeting of the Steering Committee for KCOA Project in Nigeria



The Steering Committee tasked with coordinating the activities of the KCOA project in Nigeria held its meeting on April 23rd at Ozoro, Delta state. The meeting brought together members of the steering committee namely Prof. Mabel O. Ipinmoroti; Jude C. Obi, PhD.; Mr Smart Tuedor; Zaccheaus Babalola; Oduola Taiwo; Dr. C. Atoma; Dr. Patience M. Olorunmaiye; Mr Ezekiel Thomas Nyangani; Barr Olusola Sowemimo; Mrs. Pat. Uba; Mrs Odukoya Oluyinka and Dr. Umar Umar Abdullani to discuss the activities and progress of the KCOA project.

Chaired by Prof. Iponrimoti, the vice chairman of the NOANKCOA steering committee, the meeting commenced with a welcome address by the KCOA country coordinator, introduction of the two members of staff after the last NSC meeting followed by the opening address by the Chairperson and reading of minutes of the previous meeting by Mr Fidelis Ezegbogu the KCOA Project Manager. The minute was read and adopted by the members of the NSC.

He also gave a report of and highlighted activities carried out by the NOAN-KCOA team between November 2022 to April 2024 while the committee reviewed detailed reports on these projects, discussing both successes and areas needing improvement. The NSC ended with committee members giving suggestions and recommendations on how to improve the project activities in Nigeria.

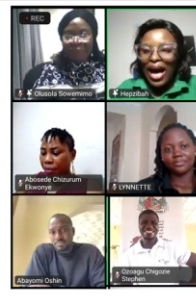
The KCOA Steering Committee continues to play a vital role in advancing organic agriculture and agroecology in Nigeria, fostering sustainable farming practices, and improving the quality of knowledge gathered on organic

Successful Second Edition of KCOA Organic Weekend 2024



The second edition of the NOAN KCOA Organic Weekend, held on April 24 at the defunct ASUP Arena, Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro, has been hailed as a successful event by attendees and exhibitors alike. Organized by the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Nigeria (KCOA), the event attracted both physical and online participants and featured a variety of exhibitors showcasing a wide range of organic and sustainable products.

The event was formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Prof. Timothy Olabiyi, accompanied by Alhaji Lukman Oladapo, Chief Salimonu, Dr. AyanfeOluwa, Mrs. Abimbola Majolagbe, and Jude C. Obi, PhD, the KCOA country coordinator. During the ceremony, Prof. Olabiyi emphasized the importance of the event as a platform for exhibitors to showcase their organic produce. Dr. Jude C. Obi, the country coordinator, explained that the purpose of the Organic Weekend is to bring participants from various segments of the value chain together to display their goods, engage in sales, and discuss matters bordering on value chain in organic agriculture. The exhibition featured diverse range of exhibitors, from organic farmers and food producers to companies specializing in agro-related products. Notable exhibitors included Ope Farms and Eweko Agro Limited.



Youth Entrepreneurs Illuminate Paths in Organic Agriculture

In an inspiring two-part virtual event, "Harvest Opportunities - Youth: Exploring the Organic Agriculture Career Landscape," held on May 21st and 24th, 2024, young leaders and experts in organic agriculture came together to share their journeys and insights. Hosted by the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA), these webinars aimed to empower the next generation to explore the vast opportunities within organic agriculture.

The first session was moderated by Barr. Olusola Sowemimo, featured a dynamic panel discussion that delved into the personal and professional experiences of the panelists. Chef Loola shared how personal tragedy led her to a career in health-focused cooking, providing advice on turning passions into opportunities. Natasha Ortolan highlighted global opportunities in organic agriculture through her extensive educational journey. Ebuka, Plant-boy inspired the participants with his story of overcoming pandemic-induced depression by finding purpose in gardening. Ayodele Farinde discussed his mission to boost Nigeria's food security through sustainable agribusinesses, offering strategies for young entrepreneurs.

The second session continued to inspire with fresh insights; and the new panelists - Mr. Abayomi detailed his journey in establishing Black Ants Organics Limited, overcoming challenges in promoting organic agriculture in Nigeria. Lynette shared her commitment to organic agriculture and stories from the Biofertilizer Centre for Youth Empowerment. Chigozie emphasized the importance of sustainable practices and youth engagement, drawing from his various leadership roles. Mrs. Abosede offered valuable insights on leveraging social media for business growth and the importance of digital marketing skills.

Youth Entrepreneurs Illuminate Paths in Organic Agriculture

cont'nd from pg 9

Key takeaways from both sessions included the importance of exploring different career paths in agriculture, continuous learning and building strong communities. The panelists demonstrated how creative solutions and teamwork can drive success in the organic agriculture sector.

Attendees at the webinar were delighted and grateful for such amazing and insightful learning experiences. The stories and experiences of the panelist have undoubtedly inspired a new wave of young individuals eager to explore and contribute to the organic agriculture value chain. The replay is available to watch on @Noankcoa on Youtube.

BvaT/ EOA Project Implementing Partners Meet At Ibadan

Delegates from Bio Vision Africa in the persons of Mr David Amudavi (Executive Director, Biovision Rust Africa), Miss Venacia Wambua (Head of Projects, KCOA/EOA), Mr Alex Mutungi, AU/EOA Continental Secretariat visited the Association's Secretariat on June 10, 2024 for a brief meeting with implementing partners of the project. They were received by the Association's President, Dr Jude C. Obi who also doubled as the Chairman, Regional Steering Committee, EOA West Africa, Mr Oyewole Gbadamosi, Coordinator, EOA, West Africa, members of Staff of NOAN, EOA and KCOA.

The meeting was preceded by a courtesy visit to the office Prof. Timothy Oluwashemiire, the Head of Department, Soil Management Science, Department of Agronomy, which is the Association's administrative seat. During the courtesy visit, while addressing the HOD, Mr David stated that he appreciates the Association for the improvement in their function as this was seen in the growth and every other aspects, he added that BvaT is proud to be a partner of the Association and that the mission will continue to engage with partners under EOA, ECOWAS and see how they can support organic agriculture in Nigeria.



The President of the Association, Dr Jude C. Obi also added that both projects (EOA and KCOA) are in synergy to foster a team work and achieve the goals of the Association and those of the respective projects, he also informed that the Association through him will always entertain feedback which will enable growth in like manner. In the course of this engagement, the HOD informed of the handover of office to Prof. Oshinsanya who was also present at the meeting. The meeting also had in attendance Project Implementing Partners from the South Western regions viz: KWASU, Ibadan Go Organic, FADU, Pillar 1 and 4. Mr David in his opening address stated that the organic agriculture curriculum pushed by EOA projected is highly commendable and that PIP's meeting creates a platform for unity and knowledge sharing. He added that seeing the representatives of both initiatives (EOA and KCOA) is highly impressive.

He also advised that PIPs share with the missionary main achievements and the challenges, aggregate achievements the PIPs are as follows; gaining visibility through sensitization and video clips, awareness on organic agriculture, provision of value through nutritional agriculture produce. Aggregate challenges include the issues of incentives, weed management, bureaucracy, little or no access to inputs. The meeting was a combination of interaction and feedback, a knowledge exchange session with the missionary. Mr David requested to know the plights of farmers or PIPs par adventure they have an engagement with their country's Minister of Agriculture, they gave following suggestions:

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BvAT/EOA Implementing Partners Meet At Ibadan

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1. Budget should be earmarked for organic agriculture.
2. Organic agriculture information should be disseminated through extension agents to farmers.
3. The need to introduce organic agriculture to the elementary level of education in Nigeria.
4. The need for mainstreaming organic agriculture into main government policies.

Mr David discussed the issue of bio pesticide, he stated that pests are one of the problems organic farmers face. The strategies need to be devised and that models will be checked and used. He also asked that partners look into ways to accelerate the production of organic input. He appreciated every PIPs and advised that all keep on course. Mr David concluded by saying that EOA initiative requires cross collaboration and support, he advised that in the area of application for funding, the initiative could provide technical assistance. He appreciated the President and also commended the efforts of the PIPs, the officers in charge of the project, the disposition of the provost of Federal College of Animal Science towards organic agriculture during their engagement at the field trip to the institution.

Mr Alex congratulated all PIPs on brilliant executions of their duties at their respective portfolios. Miss Venancia also expressed her satisfaction at the efforts of the President of the Association for his continual support and the performances of the Coordinator and his team as well as the PIPs.

Dr Obi stated that the Association will continue to contribute to the growth of the project and that of the Department of Agronomy, the host of the Association.

Mr Gbadamosi, during his valedictory message pledges to ensure that him and his team will keep improving on their crafts and outputs and that the reports will only get better. He also admired the leadership of the President especially in areas of cooperation and support for the project. He assured the missionary that the team will continue to get the job done.



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE HACK



Organic farming involves, among other things, the non use of chemicals and the application of organic principles and standards in the farming practices. Leaving certain insects to live in your farm is a natural pest control method in organic farming. When you see the insects listed above, do not get rid of them, they help reduce harmful pests and insects by preying on them for their daily foods.



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

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

Our partners:

