

Access Agriculture Panorama No. 38 - September 2023



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**Welcome to our monthly news update
with 'Access Agriculture Panorama'**

This monthly e-newsletter gives a bird's eye view of all the exciting updates from Access Agriculture, a world-leading organisation for quality agricultural training videos in international and local languages, working across the Global South.

The links to different language versions are given below each section.

If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, please use the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the newsletter.

Access Agriculture in Malawi



Access Agriculture at Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS) 2023

“The Access Agriculture smart projector can transform farmer learning by allowing them not only to gain knowledge about good agricultural practices, but also to put into practice what they see in the videos,” said Blessings Mtembo from CARE International in Malawi, when he visited the Access Agriculture booth at the Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS) 2023 held recently in Lilongwe. [Read more ...](#)



Upskilling Community Skills Development Centre teachers in Malawi

Fourteen representatives from five Community Skills Development Centres (CSDCs) participated recently in a hands-on training session organised by Access Agriculture in Zomba, Malawi, as part of an AFC/GOPA consulting group project under the GIZ-Empowering Youth in Agribusiness (EYA) initiative.

The participants were introduced to the Access Agriculture video platform, which hosts over 250 quality farmer learning videos in 100 languages. They learned how to handle the solar-powered smart projector that contains the entire library of Access Agriculture videos and received guidance for reporting using an easy-to-use mobile app for data collection. [Read more ...](#)

Special webinars for KCOA partners



Target audience: KCOA partners and all interested
Partenaires KCOA et toute les personnes intéressées

Organic agriculture
knowledge resources
available in local languages

Ressources disponibles
sur l'agriculture biologique
en langues locales

Organic agriculture knowledge resources available in local languages

A webinar titled « Ressources disponibles sur l'agriculture biologique en langues locales » (Organic agriculture knowledge resources available in local languages) was organised on 14 September 2023 by Access Agriculture Local Engagement team for Francophone partners, especially from the Knowledge Centres for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) in Africa project funded by GIZ. A similar webinar for our Anglophone partners was held in May 2023.

Webinars included presentation of the [EcoAgtube](#) platform, where they can upload and share their own video clips related to organic farming. [Read more](#) ...

DONATE



Your support needed to empower the changemakers

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our donors, as two of the six young women entrepreneurs whom our campaign targets, have successfully embarked on their journey to bring knowledge to other women of their farming communities.

Please be one of the wonderful people to [make a donation](#) at GlobalGiving and share this opportunity with your friends.

[Help us raise funds for our current campaign!](#)

New videos added in August

48 new videos - 01 [Aymara](#), 01 [English](#), 01 [French](#), 08 [IsiXhosa](#), 30 [Malagasy](#), 07 [Spanish](#) - have been posted on our platform www.accessagriculture.org. They are freely downloadable as video (mp4), audio (mp3), mobile (video format 3gp) along with a one-page fact sheet with contact details for more information.

Most viewed video in August



Managing vegetable nematodes

Nematodes are dreadful worms that live in the soil and in the roots of many different crops and weeds. Nematodes are easier to prevent than to control. The secret is to: grow healthy seedlings; destroy all sources of nematodes in and near your vegetable field; rotate with crops that are resistant to nematodes; and avoid introducing nematodes from other fields. Farmers in southern Benin show us how to control nematodes.

[Arabic](#) | [Ateso](#) | [Bambara](#) | [Bangla](#) | [Bariba](#) | [Chichewa](#) / [Nyanja](#) | [Chitonga](#) / [Tonga](#) | [English](#) | [Fon](#) | [French](#) | [Ghomala](#) | [Hausa](#) | [Hindi](#) | [isiXhosa](#) | [Kannada](#) | [Kikuyu](#) | [Kinyarwanda](#) / [Kirundi](#) | [Kiswahili](#) | [Luganda](#) | [Luo](#) (Uganda) | [Malagasy](#) | [Peulh](#) / [Fulfuldé](#) / [Pulaar](#) | [Sena](#) | [Sepedi](#) | [Sinhala](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tamil](#) | [Telugu](#) | [Tumbuka](#) | [Twi](#) | [Urdu](#) | [Wolof](#) | [Yao](#) | [Yoruba](#)

FROM OUR CHANGEMAKERS



ERAs@work!

Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERAs) at work in Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa

Cameroon

- **ERA orientation meeting:** Abdul-Baaki Bankole, ERA Coach for West and Central Africa, organised a virtual orientation meeting for members of four newly recruited ERA teams under Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project: (1) **Pesky Kamayou** (2) **Ruth Makoundjou** (3) **Marcelle Necheu** and (4) **Ache William Anubofeh**. The main objectives of the meeting were to introduce the ERA teams to each other, familiarise them with Access Agriculture and describe their roles and responsibilities.
- **Smart projector and Mergdata training:** The new ERA teams, along with representatives from a partner organisation 'Services d'appui aux initiatives locales de developpement' (SAILD), participated in a 3-day interactive workshop to learn how to operate the smart projector to screen farmer training videos for farmers, use the monitoring and learning tools for collecting data on video use, and acquire basic facilitation and entrepreneurship skills. Each of the four ERA

teams received a smart projector containing all Access Agriculture farmer-training videos. ([Watch video clip in YouTube](#))

- Soon after the training, **Ache William Anubofeh**, ERA associated with the **KCOA** project, who is the founding president of the Sustainable Ecosystem Development Association (SEDA) and is passionate about ecosystem sustainability and community development, conducted a training session for 13 farmers, including seven women farmers in Aduemukong, a local community in Bafut subdivision of Northwest Province, Cameroon, using the following videos: [Making a good okra seeding](#); [Killing fall armyworms naturally](#); [Making banana flour](#); and [Making enriched biofertilizer](#). ([See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook](#)).
- Similarly, the second ERA team leader **Ruth Makoundjou**, along with her team member **Patrick Herve Kom**, under the **KCOA** project, who have extensive experience as independent trainers, facilitated a video show for 24 participants, including 13 women on vermicompost. The videos screened were [Making a vermicompost bed](#) and [Vermiwash: an organic tonic for crops](#). ([See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook](#)).

Egypt

- **ERA orientation meeting:** The ERA coach for North Africa **Fady Wagdy** and **KCOA North Africa** project coordinator **Laura Tabet**, held a virtual orientation meeting in July 2023 for the four newly recruited women-led ERA teams – (1) **Samar Ragab** (2) **Asma Mahran** (3) **Rashida Ashri** and (4) **Olfat Mahmoud** – to get acquainted with each other, learn about Access Agriculture and their expected roles.
- **ERA training workshop:** After the orientation meeting, Access Agriculture representatives organised a training workshop at Nawaya Community Kitchen in Cairo, Egypt, for the new ERAs under the **KCOA North Africa** project. The ERAs were trained on how to handle specific digital tools, such as the smart projector and a dedicated app for collecting data. They actively participated by sharing their ideas on how they intend to use the smart projector in their respective fields and in various development initiatives within their communities to ensure long-term effectiveness and sustainability. Current ERAs associated with the Innovative Agriculture for Smallholder Resilience (iNASHR)-International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) project were invited to share their experience with the smart projector. Each of the four new ERA teams received a smart projector containing all Access Agriculture farmer-training videos. ([See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook](#)).

Mali

- **Mamadou Diarra**, ERA associated with **KCOA** project, who is passionate about farming and livestock, and is the co-founder of Expert Élevage Consulting in Mali, participated in August 2023 in the 'Journée d'exposition du savoir-faire local' (Exhibition of local know-how) at the Institut polytechnique rural de formation et de recherche appliquée (IPR/IFRA) in Katibougou, Mali. The exhibition focused on the promotion of local know-how, importance of self-training, culture of entrepreneurship and visibility of participating companies and entrepreneurs. The various presentations made by young entrepreneurs were enriched by observations from teacher-researchers from the IPR/IFRA and seasoned entrepreneurs. For Mamadou, the exhibition was a great opportunity for sharing experiences and networking. ([See photos in Access Agriculture Flickr](#))
- Mamadou conducted six video shows mainly relating to livestock farming for 110 participants, including 28 women, in Korofina Nord, Kayes, Koulikoro and Fanan during July and August 2023. The videos shown included [Stocking fingerlings in a](#)

[nursery pond](#), [Feeding improved chickens](#), [Converting chicken waste into fertilizer](#) and [Hydroponic fodder](#). The training sessions in Kayes, Koulikoro and Fanan were done in partnership with the NGO Initiative Conseil Développement (ICD). ([See photos in Access Agriculture Flickr](#))

Morocco

- **ERA orientation meeting:** Four newly recruited ERA teams under the **KCOA North Africa** project – (1) **Abdulahie** (2) **BoJomaa Kaghlan** (3) **Idris Ahna** (4) **Jehad Malih** – were invited to a virtual orientation meeting in August 2023 to introduce Access Agriculture, their roles and the agenda for a training workshop on smart projector and other related topics.
- **ERA training workshop:** Following the orientation meeting, Access Agriculture representatives organised a training workshop in Rabat, Morocco, in August 2023 to equip the new ERAs with digital skills and tools, such as the smart projector and the data monitoring app, and also provide tips on how to organise and perform effective video sessions with farmers. Various topics were discussed with the ERAs, focusing on their experiences, which provided valuable insights for the ERAs to help them in their efforts to promote agricultural and rural development within communities. The ERAs recognised the immense potential of the smart projector in facilitating effective communication with farmers across various locations. At the end of the training, the new ERAs took part in a mock video screening session to demonstrate what they had learnt. Current ERAs associated with the iNASHR-ICARDA project were invited to share their experience and provide guidance. Each of the four new ERA teams received a smart projector containing all Access Agriculture farmer-training videos. ([See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook](#))

Rwanda

- **Sylvestre Jackson Karara**, ERA associated with **KCOA** project, co-founder of Uruhimi Kageyo Cooperative (UKC), in Gicumbi, Northern Province, Rwanda, conducted a training programme in July at the UKC Hub. Six participants, including three women, representing the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture of Rwanda and UNDP team, who were keen to learn about UKC activities, especially its programme on soil-less animal feed production, attended. Sylvestre introduced them to Access Agriculture videos, such as [Hydroponic fodder](#), [Keeping milk free from antibiotics](#), [Feeding rabbits](#), and [Housing for pigs](#).

Tunisia

- **ERA orientation meeting:** Four newly recruited ERA teams under the **KCOA North Africa** project led by women – (1) **Haneen Kadry** (2) **Salwa Neji** (3) **Maha Moueli** and (4) **Faouzia Semeti** – were invited for a virtual orientation meeting in July 2023 to give them an overview of the project, Access Agriculture and their expected roles and were briefed about the training workshop that was planned for the ERAs.
- **ERA training workshop:** The workshop organised by Access Agriculture representatives in July 2023 for the new ERAs covered topics, such as the importance of agroecology for rural development, the components and functions of the smart projector, best practices for organising farmer training video shows, Access Agriculture monitoring and learning process and a demonstration video projection session, among others. Current ERAs from INASHR/ICARDA project shared their experience of mobilising farmers for video shows, and their challenges and successes working with the smart projector. “The ERAs were equipped with knowledge, skills and confidence on how to use the smart projector,

and received coaching on specific activities that have a significant impact within their communities, allowing them to reach farmers, including men, women, and youth,” said Laura Tabet, KCOA North Africa project coordinator. Each of the four ERA teams received a smart projector containing all Access Agriculture farmer-training videos. ([See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook](#))

Ambassadors in action



Ambassadors in action

- Access Agriculture Ambassador from **Benin, Mounirou Yolou**, who is President of the NGO for youth ‘Jeunes Ruraux Epanouis du Bénin,’ posted on Access Agriculture Facebook that his main aim is to show to rural youth that Access Agriculture videos have local solutions to their problems of accessing agricultural inputs from the market, which are often expensive and scarce. Mounirou has promoted through his social media channels 15 Access Agriculture videos on good agricultural practices and has screened several of the videos for the local youth. According to him the approaches developed by Access Agriculture rely closely on traditional and local know-how and promote the experiences and innovations of local farmers. The videos promote the use of appropriate locally available and inexpensive natural inputs. He invites the rural youth to register on the Access Agriculture platform to benefit from the free videos on good agricultural practices. ([See his post on Access Agriculture Facebook](#))
- Access Agriculture Ambassador from **Nigeria, Emmanuel Akinwale**, who is the Founding Operation Director of Aquapro Agro Industry, conducted a training programme on agricultural land and soil analysis using Access Agriculture's new video [Analysing soil pH and organic matter](#). ([See photo on Access Agriculture Facebook](#))

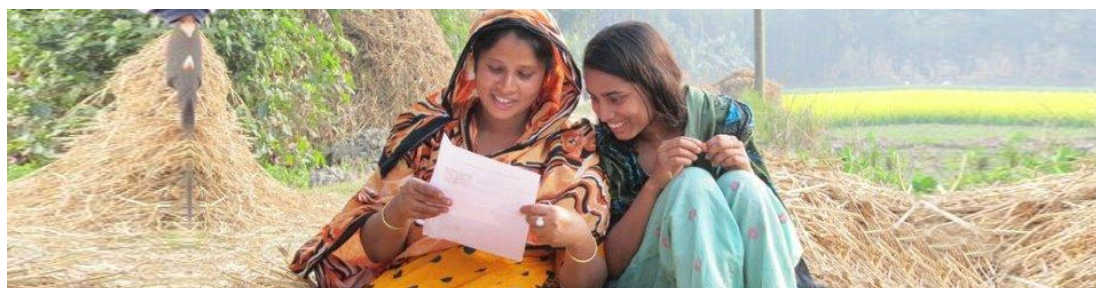
BLOG POSTS



Videos help bring agriculture to schools in Kenya

The Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (known as ERAs) of Access Agriculture (www.accessagriculture.org) have been working with youth in schools and farming communities surrounding the schools as part of a joint project with the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA), a programme funded by BMZ and implemented by GIZ.

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The curse of knowledge

Here is some excellent advice on how to write clearly, especially for smallholder farmers.

Steven Pinker writes charming books on language and on the mind, where he manages to explain complex ideas clearly. He is so well read that he branched out and wrote an optimistic book on violence, explaining that regardless of what most people think, the world is getting more peaceful, and Pinker has the numbers to show it.

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MEET OUR AMBASSADOR



Catherine John

Catherine John is a final-year student at the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, under the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship. She serves as the student representative of Nigerian scholars in Hungary for the Federal Government Scholarship Board of Nigeria and the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship. Her goal as an Access Agriculture Ambassador is to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, to young people worldwide, particularly Nigerians, through education. Her desire is to see initiatives that will create programmes, mentorships, and partnerships between small-scale farmers, people interested in agribusiness, and agronomists.

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