

## Access Agriculture Panorama No. 40 - November 2023



### Need of the hour: Assamese language training videos on agroecology and organic farming

Emphasising the relevance of the Assamese language versions of 'Access Agriculture' training videos on agroecology and organic farming for the smallholder farmers of Assam state in northeastern India, Dharendra Nath Kalita, Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of Kamrup district, called it the "the need of the hour."

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[See photo album](#) | [Watch the closing ceremony](#)

#### Access Agriculture leaflet

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#### Entrepreneurs for Rural Access leaflet

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[Access Agriculture 2021 on-line survey - Summary](#)

### 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.

## Announcement



### **GIZ SuATI project call for young entrepreneurs from Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, India**

This call for Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERAs) is part of the “Support of Agroecological transformation processes in India” (SuATI) project, which is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)-India in collaboration with partners, including Access Agriculture.

We invite young women and men in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, India to propose innovative ideas to start a business, or expand their existing services, around the dissemination of agricultural training videos using a Digisoft Smart Projector.

Karnataka: [Read more](#) ...

Madhya Pradesh: [Read more](#) ...

### **Young Entrepreneur Coach with Access Agriculture in Guinea Bissau and Madagascar**

#### **Madagascar:**

Access Agriculture seeks to engage a full-time Young Entrepreneur coach to work with small teams in Madagascar as part of the IFAD project “Empowering Small-Scale Farmers in the Agroecological Transition through Participatory Rural Advisory Services Project”, which is managed by GFRAS and funded by the EU. (by December 15th 2023.)

[Read more](#) ...

#### **Guinea Bissau:**

The international non-profit association Access Agriculture AISBL seeks to engage a Young Entrepreneur coach for work in Guinea Bissau.

This position is part of a ground-breaking and dynamic team with a common goal to promote agroecological principles and rural entrepreneurship in order to enhance the impact of advisory service providers on rural livelihoods, consistent with Access Agriculture’s vision, mission and values. (by November 30th 2023.)

[Read more](#) ...

## NEWS



### Young entrepreneurs in South Africa get hands-on training in smart technology

Four young Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERA) – comprising two ERA teams and two individual ERAs – who were selected through the Young Entrepreneur Challenge Fund from Limpopo and Eastern Cape, received a 3-day training in digital tools and technology, 3 to 5 October 2023 in Polokwane, South Africa.

The training was organised as part of the Knowledge Centres for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) in Africa project, funded by GIZ. The Access Agriculture resource personnel were Vinjeru Mlenga, Entrepreneur Coach for Southern Africa and Blessings Flao, Malawi and Southern Africa Coordinator, who were supported remotely by Access Agriculture Co-Founder, Phil Malone. [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 October**

**10 new videos** - 10 [Malagasy](#) - have been posted on our platform [www.accessagriculture.org](http://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.

## Editor's choice



### Setting up an integrated farm

By installing an integrated farm, you can produce something on every inch of land, while reducing waste and buying fewer inputs. Draw a map of your farm and decide where to grow what crops, trees and vegetables, based on your knowledge of which crops need sun and which grow in the shade. Select plants according to your family's needs and market demand. Use environmentally-safe methods to control pests and diseases. Include livestock and fish on your farm. On a fully integrated farm there is no waste, only resources.

[Bangla](#) | [English](#) | [French](#)

## FROM OUR CHANGEMAKERS



### ERAs@work!

#### Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERAs) at work in Eastern and Southern Africa

##### Kenya

- **Elphas Masanga** and **Maureen Njeri Maina**, ERAs from Kenya (GIZ-funded **KCOA** project), participated in the Second Indigenous Seed and Food Culture Harvest Fair, 11-12 October 2023, at the Nairobi National Museum. The two-day event was organised by the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) in collaboration with several partners, under the theme 'Celebrating food and Seed sovereignty in Kenya: Reclaiming and protecting our food and farming systems while nourishing our health and sustaining our future.' Elphas and Maureen presented ERA activities and showcased relevant Access Agriculture videos ([Farmers' rights to seed: experiences from Malawi](#), [Farmers'](#)

[rights to seed: experiences from Guatemala](#), [Collecting traditional varieties](#), [Community seed banks](#) and [Recovering native potatoes](#). (See photos in [Access Agriculture Facebook](#))

- **Maureen Njeri Maina**, Field Trainer at Schools and Colleges Permaculture (SCOPE) and ERA from Kenya (GIZ-funded **KCOA** project), facilitated three training sessions with video shows for 68 youths (including 18 young women) at Wabeni Vocational Training Centre and Gituamba Vocational Training College, Kiambu County in Kenya. The videos shown included [Good microbes for plants and soil](#), [Killing fall armyworms naturally](#), [Breeding rabbits](#), [Taking care of young rabbits](#), [Preventing diseases in rabbits](#), [How to build a rabbit house](#), [Feeding rabbits](#), [Making sausages from rabbit meat](#), [Managing aphids in beans and vegetables](#), [Human urine as fertilizer](#). After the training sessions, which included practical session on making good microbes for plants and soil, Maureen also shared related factsheets with the youths. (See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook [album 1](#); [album 2](#))

## Malawi

- **Sam Benedicto Chigamphu**, ERA from Malawi (GIZ-funded **KCOA** project), who has strong experience in education and extension and is keen to help rural youth and women, conducted eight video screening sessions over the last couple of months for 705 participants, including 317 women and schoolchildren in Dedza District, Central Region, Malawi. The videos included [Integrated approach against striga](#), [Managing aflatoxins in groundnuts during drying and storage](#), [Root and stem rot in groundnut](#), [Animals & trees for a better crop](#), [Conservation agriculture](#), [Storing and managing maize in a warehouse](#), [Soya sowing density](#), [Improved pasture for fertile soil](#), [Converting chicken waste into fertilizer](#), [How to build a rabbit house](#), [Preventing diseases in rabbits](#), [Housing for pigs](#), [Grafting mango seedlings](#), [Analysing soil pH and organic matter](#), [Staggering production of tomatoes](#), [Drip irrigation for tomato](#), and [Making yoghurt at home](#). (See photos in Access Agriculture Facebook [album 1](#); [album 2](#))
- **Pemphero Kumbani**, Founder of AquaLink Services and ERA from Malawi (GIZ-funded **KCOA** project), was invited as a panelist for the live dialogue on the theme 'ERAs as a resource for scaling agroecology and organic farming' organised by the Local Engagement team of Access Agriculture in August. AquaLink seeks to become a leading aquaculture input and advisory service provider in Malawi ([Watch video](#))

## South Africa

- **Indiphile Mdikane**, ERA (GIZ **KCOA** project), who is the deputy chairperson for Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) trained 74 participants, including 62 schoolchildren, in various topics relating to soil fertility, animal health care and herbal pest repellent. He showed the following videos for the training sessions [Analysing soil pH and organic matter](#), [Converting chicken waste into fertilizer](#), [Herbal medicine against foot rot in livestock](#), [Herbal pest repellent](#) at Nompiliso Development Centre and Bathande Senior Secondary School, Nyandeni Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. (See photos on Access Agriculture Facebook [album 1](#); [album 2](#))

## Uganda

- **Rebecca Akullu**, Co-Director of the Adyaka Rural Youth Development Initiative (ARYODI), and ERA from Uganda (GIZ-funded **KCOA** project), took part in the live dialogue on the theme 'ERAs as a resource for scaling agroecology and

organic farming,' organised by Access Agriculture. The other panelists were **Pemphero Kumbani**, ERA from Malawi, and Co-founder of Aqualink; **Khama Matupa**, Coordinator of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Projects, Malawi; and **Masolaki Ezra**, Entrepreneur coach for East Africa. ([Watch video](#))

- **Umar Bashir Ochen**, technical advisor for the Slow Food Youth Network in Uganda, and Access Agriculture ERA (**FAO FFS Project**), organised a training session where he promoted the videos [Enriching porridge](#) and [Harvesting and storage of green gram](#) to 19 participants, including five women, in Matany Town Council, Napak district, Uganda. (See photos in [Access Agriculture Facebook](#))
- **Adriko Negro Simon** is one of Access Agriculture's first batch of ERAs. He screens videos to help refugee in West Nile, in the Northern Region of Uganda. He facilitated a video show on [Managed regeneration](#) for 13 persons, including five women, at the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement located in Terego district. (See photos in [Access Agriculture Facebook](#))
- **Martha Kyokuhair**, Founder and CEO of VFL Gardens, Mukono, Uganda, and Access Agriculture ERA (GIZ-funded KCOA project), facilitated one video screening for 36 schoolchildren, including 20 girls at the Peace Infants School, Mparangasi village, Hoima district in Western Uganda. The videos shown were [Teaching agroecology in schools](#) and [Enriching porridge](#).

## Zambia

- **Susanna Phiri**, ERA (GIZ KCOA project), who has keen interest in agriculture as well as in food and nutrition security, especially of young mothers, facilitated three training sessions using videos in Chewa and Bemba languages, for 89 participants, including 84 young women, in the Mt Makulu Clinic in Lusaka, Zambia. The videos shown included [Enriching porridge with baobab juice](#), [Using sack mounds to grow vegetables](#), [Making yoghurt at home](#), [Storing fresh and dried tomatoes](#), and [Helping women recover after childbirth](#). (See photos in [Access Agriculture Facebook](#))
- **Luckson Banda**, ERA (GIZ KCOA project), who runs poultry and goat farming business, facilitated one video show on [Making yoghurt at home](#) for 63 young participants, including 40 female participants, in Lilanda, Lusaka. (See photos in [Access Agriculture Flickr](#))
- **Zaali Nakalonga**, ERA (GIZ KCOA project), who is passionate about promoting agri-business, conducted two video shows for 82 participants, including 36 women, in Kayanga and Kamupata villages, Shibuyunji district, Central Province, Zambia. He showed the following videos in Tonga language: [Conservation agriculture](#), [Increasing production of local chickens](#), [Feeding improved chickens](#), [Management of Newcastle disease](#), [Preparing low-cost concentrate feed](#), [Making balanced feed for dairy cows](#), [Natural ways to manage bloat in livestock](#), [Calcium deficiency in dairy cows](#) and Killing fall armyworms naturally. (See photos in [Access Agriculture Flickr](#))

## BLOG POSTS



## Seeing the life in the soil

Soils that have many living organisms hold more carbon and nutrients and can better absorb and retain rainwater, all of which are crucial in these times of a disturbed climate.

But measuring life in soils can be a time-consuming activity depending on what one wants to measure. While bacteria and fungi cannot be seen by the naked eye, ants, grubs and earthworms can.

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## MEET OUR AMBASSADOR



### Sidi Yehia Tounkara

Sidi Yehia Tounkara obtained an engineering degree in animal science and also a master's degree in agricultural extension and rural development from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. He has extensive field work experience in livestock agriculture, including interacting with agro pastoralists. He has previously worked at the Pan Africa Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign and at the National Centre of Agronomics Research of Sotuba. Currently he acts as Technologies Transfer Officer in the TAAT project, Mali. He is confident to use his skills and knowledge as an Access Agriculture Ambassador.