



REPORT FOR
THE NATIONAL
ORGANIC WEEK
(NOW)

2020

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ESAFF Uganda organized its 2nd Annual National Organic Week from 12th to 16th October 2020 in 13 districts across the country including Adjumani, Mubende, Masaka, Mityana, Amuru, Gulu, Kisoro, Kabale, Kumi, Apac, Mbale, Mayuge and Mukono.

This week aimed at increasing consumer demand, confidence in and appreciation for organically grown produce and food as well as raising the general public's awareness of the vital connection between organic farming methods and genuine global environmental sustainability: especially between climate change abatement and organic farming practices.

The week had various events which included: official launch of the week, school engagements, market invasion, community sensitization on organic certification and trade, radio talk shows, online conferences and celebration of the International Day of the Rural Women.



1

Launch of The National Organic Week 2020

On 12th October 2020, The National Organic Week was officially launched on Baba FM in Jinja district. This was done by The National Chairperson of ESAFF Uganda, Mr. Hakim Baliraine who called upon the public to embrace and acknowledge the importance of organic farming and products.



2

Community Sensitization on Organic Certification and Trade

The sensitization meetings were held in 8 districts including Masaka, Mukono, Mubende, Kumi, Kisoro, Jinja, Mayuge and Kabale on 13th October 2020. This aimed at guiding small-scale farmers on how to certify their organic products and the requirements that are needed in the certification process.



3

Market Invasion

On 14th, October 2020, ESAFF Uganda interacted with various market vendors in Gulu Main Market in Gulu district to identify and recognize the organic market vendors/stalls and sensitize consumers on the value and importance of organic products. Small-scale farmers were also taught how to use the Kilimomart Application in marketing their organic products.

ESAFF Uganda also held dialogues with policymakers in Mayuge district on the impact of COVID-19 on rural peoples and our urgent demands and aspirations.



4

International Day of the Rural Women

The International Day of the Rural Women was celebrated on 15th Oct 2020 in Mityana and Adjumani to celebrate the critical role and contribution of rural women amidst COVID-19. 30 women small-scale farmers took part in this engagement and shared how they have been managing to provide healthy food during the pandemic.

We also held a radio talk show on Mityana FM in Mityana district where women small-scale farmers assessed the impact of COVID-19 on the rural women and strategies for coping with the situation.







World Food Day

On 16th Oct 2020, ESAFF Uganda joined the rest of the World to commemorate the World Food Day. We held radio talk shows on Radio Rupiny and Radio Messiah in Gulu and Kasese where small-scale farmers discussed the contribution of organic agriculture to making sustainable and healthy diets affordable and available to all and achieving Zero Hunger amidst COVID-19.

ESAFF Uganda also held the online Annual National Organic Agriculture Dialogue 2020 positioning organic agriculture as the only means to achieve food security and people's food sovereignty. Over 50 participants who included small-scale farmers, local leaders and members of Parliament attended this online dialogue.



7

School Engagements

On 16th October, we engaged with the Agroecology Clubs in Rock Primary School in Kasese, St. Mauritz Primary School in Gulu and Pagak Primary School in Amuru district. We engaged with the school leaders and 20 pupils on the progress of the clubs that were initiated last year. Different strategies were developed in order to ensure sustainability of the agroecology clubs.





Recommendations

- ✓ School leaders requested that they should be given indigenous seeds from the seed banks to avoid buying improved seeds on the market.
- ✓ Women small-scale farmers called upon the Government to consider them while choosing agriculture and land committees, as they are the champions of the agriculture sector in the country.
- ✓ Small-scale farmers called for the operationalization of the recently launched National Organic Agriculture Policy.
- ✓ Market vendors with organic products called upon their leaders to provide a separate section and stalls for organic products with a higher price than the inorganic products.



NOTES





Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum

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"Small Scale Farmers Speaking For Themselves"

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