

Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Central Africa (KHCA)

KHCA is part of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA)

KCOA is a collaborative country-led partnership that aims to scale up the adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices through a network of five Knowledge Hubs in Africa. Within KCOA, the implementing organisations have four main objectives: to improve access to knowledge on organic agriculture and agroecology; to strengthen the technical and professional capacity of multipliers; to foster networking and to strengthen relationships in the sector; and to strengthen actors in their advocacy activities.

The challenge

In Central Africa, organic agriculture and agroecology face multifaceted challenges, ranging from limited access to resources and technical knowledge to institutional and policy constraints. Smallholder farmers often lack sufficient training and resources to adopt organic practices, and there's a need for more research and extension services tailored to agroecological methods. Additionally, the dominance of conventional farming practices supported by government policies, coupled with market dynamics favoring conventional produce, poses barriers for the widespread adoption of organic agriculture. Furthermore, issues such as land degradation, climate change impacts, and pest management require innovative solutions. Overcoming these challenges requires a holistic approach, including supportive policies, capacity building, market incentives, and community engagement to foster sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

Our approach

The Knowledge Hub in Central Africa (KHCA) work focuses on promoting organic agriculture and agroecology in Cameroon so that they become widely practised in Central Africa. In their work, not only technical aspects are considered but also an approach that guarantees human well-being and the preservation of biodiversity.

KHCA's work is based on the following main approaches:

- Identifying and clarifying the needs of the various players in the organic farming and agroecology value chain.
- Collecting and documenting traditional and innovative knowledge adapted to the needs of local communities.
- The dissemination of collected and validated knowledge through a variety of channels, including training courses

and the media (print media, radio, digital platforms, libraries).

- Scaling up best practices and knowledge of organic farming and agroecology with a view to influencing public policy through the organization of events and the networking of players in the value chain.
- Supporting the development of markets and consumption of products from organic farming and agroecology by setting up Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and organizing green fairs and markets.

This approach is supported and implemented by a group of 5 civil society organizations with diversified and complementary skills. All five organisations are linked to KCOA's objectives and have long experience in the promotion of agroecology and organic farming in Cameroon.

KHCA reach

Project name	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Central Africa (KHCA) – one of the five hubs within KCOA project
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Central Africa, Cameroon
Lead executing agency	GIZ in cooperation with CIPCRE (Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création) and other implementing organisations CPF (Centre Polyvalent de Formation de Mbouo), GADD (Groupement d'Appui pour le Développement Durable), SAILD (Service d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales de Développement), INADES Formation (Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social).
Duration	2019 – Present



Mums on a Mission: Leading the Charge for Organic Food

Imagine a network of passionate women leaders, presidents of associations and networks, leading a movement. These are the "Mums Bio" - empowered changemakers who are transforming the food landscape in Cameroon. Through KHCA structuring and coordination of the program, their journey began with a powerful realization: the importance of organic food for a healthier future.



With 15 dedicated "Mums" in each production basin across the West, Littoral, and Adamaoua regions, the movement is gaining momentum. They actively identify organic farms and vendors, creating a directory that empowers consumers to make informed choices. Through engaging

awareness campaigns held across different regions, the "Mums Bio" are igniting a wave of community action. Their efforts culminate in a national convergence, where they will advocate for organic farming directly with regional authorities.

The Secret Weapon in the Fields: How a Common Flower Became a Farmer's Ally

Aline Mafokeng is a farmer from the West Cameroon region who has adopted the various uses of the plant *Tithonia* on her farm. *Tithonia diversifolia*, also known as Mexican Sunflower, is a flowering plant valued for its many benefits and applications in the production of organic pesticides and fertilisers. Aline, an agroecological farming enthusiast, has benefited from trainings and awareness-raising sessions run by the "Centre Polyvalent de Formation" (CPF) in Mbouo, Cameroun.

"Before, I used pesticides to treat attacks on my plants, but now I learned how to use *Tithonia*. I've tried it and it works," she says with conviction.

In addition to its role as a fungicide, *Tithonia* based slurry (a mixture of manure, the plant extract and water) also enables farmers to fertilise their field. "*Tithonia* is available in large quantities in our village, but we didn't know how useful it was. With the skills we learned at the training course, *Tithonia* is saving us money on fertilisers and pesticides," admits the farmer and multiplier.

Some of KHCA numbers



160 Knowledge Products accessible to partners and **100 new** in preparation



90 organizations in the region involved in training and knowledge dissemination activities in the hub



830 multipliers trained including **380 women** who share their knowledge of organic farming and agroecology



More than 900,000 people reached through training courses, events and communication materials distributed on various media platforms

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Text

GIZ & KHCA

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