



Haki Nawiri Afrika Newsletter

Volume 2/Issue 002
July –December 2021

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of Haki Nawiri Afrika Newsletter. This update showcases activities undertaken by the organization from July-December 2021.

The highlighted activities include community engagement, mentorship of high school students launch of Student Rights Manual and leadership skills transfer session with university students.

Haki Nawiri would like to appreciate opportunities provided by our partners to participate in different spaces, for building the capacity of our project participants and providing us with technical and financial support towards achieving the Haki Nawiri mission and vision. We appreciate the financial support from Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung which enabled implementation of remaining activities under the pilot project, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and the East Africa Youth Network (EAYN).

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The forum was co-organised by IBON International, Peoples Coalition on

IBON PCFS CPDG CCNCL

WEBINAR

Beyond Covid-19:
Promoting People-Powered Sustainable Consumption & Production in Africa

Part 2:
Rights for Sustainability:
People-Powered Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices

July 2, Friday
2pm (Nairobi time)

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrceiorzkuE9LWkZRTILWRpRtA_yub2ucv

The poster features a woman in traditional African attire holding a basket of sunflowers, with a blue surgical mask and an elephant in the foreground.

Food Sovereignty (PCFS), Council for Peoples Development and Governance (CPDG) and Climate Change Network for Community Based Initiatives(CCNI).The forum focused on the current production system, labour force situation , contribution of the labourforce to production , exiting distribution patterns, gaps in distribution , chalenges existing in distribution of products and services.

Characteristics of production in Africa were described as primary production (exportation of raw materials which are exported for further processing), subsistence production , similarity in products due to similar agroecological zones , reliance on external expertise militarism for example in localities that have natural resources such as oil and gas-Cabo Delgado in Mozambique and Hoima in Uganda .Worker specific characteristics were described as female faced , , exploitation of workers , environmental pollution among others.The situation of food in Africa was described as characterised by negative mpacts of global warming, worsening droughts, rising cost sof fuel which affectes distibtio of food, emergence of pests such as desert locusts, land grabbing and dismantled physical and financial structures in rural communities as well as US and EU subsidies which affect products originating from Africa in the international market.

What can be done was to address the situation including resistance and building sustainable alternatives at the local levels, strengthening farmers' cooperatives, strengthening local seed banks , investing in research and technology, supporting smallholder farmers, political support and recognition of sustainainable , research on production and consumption to generate evidence based advocacy , capacity building and strengthening on structure , consumer awareness and strengthening consumer choice , policy advocacy on sustainable production and consumption.

Women and agroecology

With support from Heinrich Boll Stiftung(HBS) and in collaboration with Route to Food Initiative, Haki Nawiri Afrika organised a 3-day training from 21-23 July 2021, at the African Inland Church (AIC) Uamani in Muvuti-Kiima Kimwe ward, Machakos County.

Session on making a pile compost



The training was conducted under the Haki Lishe Mashinani Project whose goal was to contribute to the ability of rural women in Machakos County to organise around and champion agroecology as a means of achieving the right to food. Session on seed sovereignty

The participants' expectations were: Learn about food production ,understand how to make soil fertile, share experiences and get certificates. The training interrogate challenges facing female farmers in Muvuti-Kiima Kimwe ward which were shared as middlemen , climate change, lack of storage facilities resulting into losses due to perishability of farm produce, soil infertility and soil erosion.



The participants were taken through practical skills in composting , a discussion on seed sovereignty and importance of indigenous seeds in relation to climate resilience, principles of agroecology , impacts of agrochemicals and alternatives to synthetic fertilisers.

Practical session on composting



The participants were further taken through existing policies in Kenya related to food production and their likely impacts. The policies discussed were Seed Act and Crops Act. The session discussed the punitive clauses within these legislations and the importance of seed sovereignty among smallholder farmers. The participants were further taken through seed selecting and planting process



Seed selection session

“When we go to the agrovets and buy seeds, we are told not to replant them”- Mary Mbithe Kioko, community member, Muvuti-Kiima Kimwe ward, Machakos



The participants were further taken through basic soil testing processes that they can carry out on the farm. These included texture testing , presence of micro-organisms and water retention capacity test.



Session on seed selection process

Part 2: Do it Yourself Soil Tests

Soil testing

The participants were taken through various methods of soil testing. These included pantry PH Test which tests the levels of alkalinity of acidity of the soil, squeeze test (to assess the type of soil), Worm Test (identification of the number of earthworms one can find on damp soil) and Percolation Test (test for water absorption rate of soil). Percolation test was described as a test used to determine whether soil has drainage problems.

Presence of earthworms

It was explained that worms are a good indicator of the overall health of soil, especially in terms of biological activity. It was mentioned that presence of earthworms on the soil is an indicator that the soil has beneficial microbes that make the soil healthy and enable plants to be strong.

Biological pest control

It was discussed that the problem of aphids on the farm can be addressed by planting bananas. It was sad that ladybirds feed on aphids and that aphids invade a farm when there is too much nitrogen on the soil. It was explained that aphids need a lot of nitrogen because they breath very fast. It was mentioned that to control aphids the farmer should plant either bananas or Napier grass commonly known as *thara*. It was said that agroecology uses repel as a means of controlling pests as opposed to pesticides which kill pests.

Part 2: Care for Crops and Bio-pesticides practical

The participants were taken through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) also known as Ecological Pest Management (EPM) which was explained as biological methods of pest control which uses other living organisms to control others. It was further discussed that IPM also consists of biological methods of diverting the behaviour of the animal or pest for example influencing them not to attack a crop because of the presence of repellents .An example given was of neem tree which has repellent values useful in sending insects away

due to a strong smell (pungent).The participants were taken through examples of repellents such as garlic , Mexican marigold and turmeric .It was mentioned that when farmers plant turmeric , pests such as black flies are destroyed. Mexican marigold was said to control mosquito larvae and white flies.

Explanation on making ash-brew

It was mentioned that planting the neem tree at the corner of one's *shamba*¹ has the impact of chasing away harmful insects. This was said because the tree has repellent properties which when harmful insects smell they run away. It was mentioned that neem tree is also responsible for protecting crops from bacteria, nematodes and various termites. It was further mentioned that neem extracts when applied on crops interfere with maturity of harmful insects. It was also said that neem is used in making mosquito repellent.

It was mentioned that calcium is one of the most important nutrients required by crops and that lack of calcium in the soil leads to crops having either white or yellow spots, tips of the leaves start drying up and there is stunted growth. It was further mentioned that black flies and white moth attack crops when there is no calcium in the soil. It was further explained that calcium enabled crops to reproduce.

“Today I have learnt that some insects are beneficial” Caroline Mwangeli Wambua -Member,
Woni wa Uamani Women Group –Machakos

¹ Shamba is a Kiswahili word for farm