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# Innovations Session N°20

Successful agroecological practices by  
farmers and SMEs in Africa



INNOVATIONS  
SERIES



# How Community Agroecology Schools and the Agroecology Business Hub by ESAFF Uganda are aiding transition to Agroecology.

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# COMMUNITY AGROECOLOGY SCHOOLS

Community Agroecology Schools (CAS) are community-based learning platforms where farmers come together to share experiences and knowledge in farming which they later replicate in their farms and households.

Farmers teach each other ways of dealing with different challenges on the farm.

They share knowledge on pest control, markets, income generation among others.



# Community Agroecology Schools approach

- Community mobilization
- Operate a curriculum of the group's choice
- Peer to peer learning
- Use of agroecology gardens
- Carry out collective business ventures supported by the Agroecology Business Hub



# The Agroecology Business Hub

- ESAFF Uganda launched the Agroecology Business Hub to support small-scale farmers especially women with entrepreneurial skills with a focus on agroecology.
- The Agroecology Business Hub was designed to spark the growth of an agroecological business community that brings together farmers, scientists, business people, and decision-makers to jointly develop sustainable solutions that support social justice, ecological resilience, and economic viability.

# What the Agroecology Business Hub focuses on:

- **Business Capacity Development of the farmers:** Farmers are mentored to undertake Farming as a Business through trainings, business development initiatives and mentorship.
- **Access to Affordable Credit:** Through the Agroecology Business Hub, members of Community Agroecology Schools are supported to establish their business enterprises.
- **Access to Favorable Markets:** The Hub connects farmers with agroecological products to organic markets including KilimoMart and other local markets.

# Successes of the CAS and ABH

Joint research is continually carried out and solutions charted for the challenges specific to communities eg. the bio-fertilizers and pesticides that the farmers use.

Hurdles in business are gradually being leveled (many agroecological businesses are now registered and using Participatory Guarantee System to ensure no chemical use, and value addition).

Growth of the grassroots agroecology movement as the CAS are open to individuals from all walks- teachers, nurses, local leaders....

Local district officials also gained interest in the Community Agroecology Schools and they do offer technical support. The nurturing of model farmers in communities as a result of farmer to farmer learning.











Eastern and Southern Africa  
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# Thank you

