November Edition 2024

NAPE Newsletter

Will Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) solve Uganda's food problems?

EDITORIAL

Frank Muramuzi
Executive Director, NAPE.

> " The long-term study of GMO food is on going in real time and in real life. Not in a lab "

In this publication, we take you through the analytical perspective of National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) on how Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) impact Uganda's food security and the world as a whole. In the past two decades, the first GM seeds hit the market and more varieties were adopted in the years that followed. The seed sector rapidly consolidated ethical, political, legal, environmental, economic and social concerns for the technology that had emerged.

Some of the problematic trends that affect farmers are natural where many plants are pollinated by insects, birds or wind allowing pollen from a GMO plant to move to the neighboring fields or into the wild. This genetic drift illustrates the difficulty in maintaining indigenous seeds. Not only is genetic drift impossible to prevent but also inadequate regulation fails to hold seed companies accountable for any resulting damages. Organic farmers suffering contamination lose their organic certification and the premium they earn for their organic crop. Consumers' demand for non-GMO products is expanding for example in some of Uganda's Restaurants such as African pot, Feedrite, Shaka Zulu, St Anthony among others which prepare local foods are becoming more popular than those with GMO foods. Farmers are looking for opportunities to diversify into non-GMO markets that pay higher prices but the inability of companies to properly segregate GMOs from indigenous varieties continues to threaten these options for farmers.

The biotech companies patented their GM seeds which are now key to furthering their power and profits. Farmers who buy GM seeds must pay license fees and sign contracts that dictate how they can grow the crops and even allow seed companies to inspect their farms. GM seeds are expensive and farmers must buy them each year or else be liable to violation of patents. Though contamination can happen through no fault of their own, farmers have been sued for seed piracy when unauthorized crops show up in their fields. GM seeds being terminator in nature, many farmers are now reverting to growing of indigenous seeds because of their sustainability thus food sovereignty.

We urge collaborative action from the government, civil society organizations and international bodies to take on the mantle in promoting chemical-free agricultural systems that prioritize environmental health, safeguard livelihoods, and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Table of Contents

EDITORIAL TEAM

1.Mr.Frank Muramuzi

2.David Kureeba

3.Betty Ninsiima

4.Adrine Twongyeirwe

5.Omony Polycarp

Analysis of legislative framework for organic farming and the introduction of GMOs

Compiled by; Ainomugisha Shiba (M&E officer and Researcher)

Genetically Modified Organisms are plants, animals or microorganisms in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating or natural recombination. This results into the production of GM foods and have not been legally introduced neither do they have laws specifically regulating them in Uganda. Alongside organic farming, Uganda has been developing a legislative framework on introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for almost two decades. However, there are legislative frameworks for genetically modified organisms (GMOs), these frameworks include;

In 2004 and 2007, Uganda adopted the Uganda Organic Standard and the regional standard respectively. In July 2009, the government released a Draft of Uganda Organic Agriculture Policy and was approved in 2013 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) to achieve food and nutrition security thus improving household incomes through coordinated sustainable agricultural practices. The National Biotechnology and Biosafety (NBB) Policy (2008), which was approved by the Ugandan Cabinet to establish a system whereby the country can benefit from safe applications of modern biotechnology while at the same time assess and address any potential risks from those applications. In 2009, the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology developed the Biotechnology / Biosafety Bill to manage the potential risks of GMOs to the health of humans, animals and the environment.There is a Seeds and Plant Act (2007) which states that genetically modified seeds will be regulated in accordance with the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology Act and then the Seeds and Plant Regulations of 2017 to ensure quality, marketing, importing, multiplication, conditioning and variety release of seeds and planting materials.

The National Biosafety Committee (NBC) provides technical advice on biosafety to the government, reviews biotechnology research proposals, approves and monitors the release of GMOs and supervises GMO activities up to the Confined Field Trial (CFT) stage. National Guidelines for Field Trials of Genetically Engineered Plants (2011). These are part of the several biosafety mechanisms that government of Uganda has put in place to facilitate the testing and development of potentially useful genetically modified/engineered plants. The Guidelines and all other associated manuals have been developed to ensure that safety considerations are addressed right from the conception and inception of the trial to its completion.National Guidelines for Containment (2007). These guidelines regulate the containment, movement and release of GMOs into the environment and also seek to assist in the establishment and maintenance of containment facilities in order to ensure safety in biotechnology research and development. The guidelines also outline the regulatory requirements for containment of genetically modified plants and animals intended for research in Uganda.

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC): Serves as the local authority for institutions conducting biotechnology research,Parliament has twice passed the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill that was in 2017 and 2021, but it has been returned by President of Uganda on two occasions. However, it may become a law without the President's assent if it has atleast two-thirds of all MPs. In 2022, the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill was canceled and replaced by the Genetically Modified Organisms Bill, which bans the use of GMOs in Uganda. However, government agencies are working to reintroduce the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill and are developing a Regulatory Impact Assessment.

From a legal perspective, NAPE advises the MPs who are against the bill to reject it now before it is passed. They should apply the 'strict liability' provision which would pin down whoever introduces a GMO and therefore be liable for any damage caused and prevent any negligent behavior and claims of development when marketing GMOs.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) ON PEASANT FARMERS.

Compiled by; Alice-Kazimura (NAPE Board Member)

Women are the custodians of seeds in farming households.photo by Briarpatch

Peasant farmers are small-scale in nature who typically cultivate on their own land (5 or less acres) or on land they rent or lease from others but often relying on traditional farming methods. With the introduction of GMOs there is a change in the farming methods from the traditional ones due to adoption of the conventional farming methods which lead to environmental degradation, long term economic instability and social inequity. The GM crops are dependent on pesticides and herbicides which increases the cost of cultivation to the farmers as they adopt the use of expensive synthetic fertilizers to cultivate their crops as opposed to using the organic fertilizers like green manure, livestock manure, compost, poultry droppings, household waste and crop residues that are cost free.

Unlike GM seeds, the management of indigenous seeds in communities is largely a preserve of women. According to the Overseas Development Institute Global report 2021, it is estimated that 77% of females are engaged in agricultural work compared to 67% of men. The women in farming households are involved in agriculture and traditionally play an important role as custodians of seeds. Therefore, when indigenous seeds are gone, there will be a big blow on their household income, seeds multiplication and sustainability.

The world market doesn't like inorganic foods for example in the news published by All Africa news site, a report was given by National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in October, 2020 that Ugandan products were rejected abroad because they were considered inorganic and contained dangerous substances. Read more; (https://allafrica.com/stories/202010220142.html)

The GM seeds are bought from shops and planted in farms with uncertainty of whether or not they will grow because of the unpredictable climate conditions often times these seeds are bought on loan or mortgage. Failure of crops may lead to loss of mortgage or repayment of the loan which most times result into community conflicts and land grabbing. However, with organic seeds farmers harvest and save seeds for the next season.

Due to introduction of GMOs the crops are always subjected to price fluctuations in the crop produce market leading to unpredictable income and economic instability to the local farmers. The barter trade system is limited within the communities because inorganic seeds have their genes altered which reduce the quality of seeds and they become terminator species that are planted once and can't be replanted so individuals refuse to take them because they can't use them for barter trade exchanges to attain what they want.

Land is the primary factor for farming however GMOs would lead to promotion of monoculture which is growing only one type of a crop at one time on a specific field thus small scale peasant farmers can be copied out of their income and land by the big corporations through capturing community interests and take over their land under capitalism (community captivity)

In conclusion therefore, the economic implications of GMOs on peasant farmers are significant. While GMOs potentially offer increased yields and better crops resilience to drought and pests, they also come with the above risks. The economic benefits for peasant farmers depend on several factors including access to resources, training and fair market conditions so the policy makers and stakeholders must consider these factors that are favorable and also promote the growing of organic seeds because they are cost friendly and save farmers from having to use synthetic fertilizers that cause environmental degradation.

Photo by AVSI

Impacts of agrochemical use on the environment

Compiled by; Omony Polycarp (IT & Communication Officer)

Pesticides residues in tomatoes. Photo by UNACOH

An agrochemical is a chemical product used to control pests/ insects, weeds and diseases in agriculture to enhance agricultural output. These include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, among others. Agriculture sector contributes 24.7 percent to Uganda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023/2024 and it's noted that the majority of households (80%) largely depend on agriculture as their only source of living according to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). Crop cultivation in particular is the foundation of the nation's food security. Over the last decade, Soils have been growing old so fast and productivity of most crops has been reducing due to poor crop production techniques. The need for agrochemicals is rising as a result of agricultural commercialization which aims to boost agricultural productivity and production but this type of agriculture has historically and continues to be agrochemicals-intensive.

What consumers should be afraid of is that many farmers are using agrochemicals to meet the immediate nutrient needs of plants, which can lead to quick results but often depletes soil fertility over time given the fact that the majority of the bugs and insects that are in the garden are not harmful and actually help create a biodiverse garden. Good bugs include things like ladybirds, bees, spiders, centipedes and lace wigs which can help eat pests that harm the garden, pollinate the plants, provide food for birds and animals that also eat pests and even improve soil health.

Genetically Modified seeds are introduced by the agrochemical industry with the claim that they are created to be resistant to specific pests and they can help lessen the need for agrochemicals. On the contrary, genetically modified organisms are increasing the use of pesticides. Despite claims about increased yields and reduced use of agrochemicals, the adoption of genetically modified Bt cotton in India has actually increased the use

of pesticides, according to new research. Farmers are now spending much more on insecticides than before they had ever heard of genetically modified Bt cotton and the situation is worsening. https://www.futurity.org/bt-cotton-pesticide-2316392-2/

Take an example in the report released in 2023 on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) use in Kenya, out of the 310 pesticide products used, 195 products (63%) containing one or two active ingredients that are categorized as highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), accounting for 76% of the total volume of pesticides used. This indicates that farmers in Kenya predominantly use HHPs, despite their known detrimental effects on human health and the environment. Almost half (44%) of the total volume of pesticides used in Kenya are already banned in Europe due to their unacceptable risk to human health and the environment such as cancer, infertility, affect unborn children, change genetic material, affect the hormonal system or damage the nervous system in humans. https://ke.boell.org/en/2023/09/14/data-and-facts-highly-hazardous-pesticides-hhps-kenya

Due to the fact that Uganda is a member of East African Community with the same common market, these pesticides that are largely being used in Kenya can easily be supplied and adopted for use in Uganda where problems faced by Kenyans will also be faced by Ugandans.The use of agrochemicals in food production has led to improved crop yields however questions still remain on the safety of this food because of the elevated pesticide residues within these crops that end up on our plates.

This situation raises concerns about potential toxicity to human health. Most farmers lack extension services on agrochemical handling and some cannot afford protective gears that can protect their body from direct contact with agrochemical residues. Concerns have been raised about the safety of consuming food that has been treated with these chemicals and there is an ongoing debate surrounding the consumption safety of agrochemical-enhanced food in Uganda and its potential implications on public health. These chemicals are designed to eliminate pests and diseases that threaten crops, yet they also leave residues behind that find their way into the food chain and they damage the environment.

A farmer spraying crops without safety gears. PHOTO AFRICAN NEWSLETTER

For these reasons, the government should ban the use of hazardous agrochemicals, monitor their sale, regulate their promotion in Uganda and conduct immediate audit of agrochemical industries and suppliers. Farmers should practice chemical-free farming methods that can not only save their money for buying agrochemicals but also safeguard the environment. Some of these farming methods include;

- Crop rotation to reduce the need for pesticides, when crops are rotated, pest- breeding cycles are broken and this helps in preventing any bugs from building to a level that is damaging the crops.
- Companion plantings where different plant species are grown together to enhance each other's growth, protect against pests and improve yields for example carrots and onions make a perfect pair as they protect each other from pests. Onions repel carrot flies while carrots deter onion flies ensuring both crops can grow together healthier.
- Mulching to conserve soil moisture, enriching soil fertility and suppressing weed growth.
- Use of organic fertilizers which are derived from plant matter, animal excreta, sewage and food waste generally in the form of animal manure and green manure.

The role of GMOs/Fast foods in shaping the youth behavior.

Compiled by; Kemigisha Ruth (Accountant)

Genetically Modified Maize cobs. photo by Nhlayisa Power Supply

Most fast foods are linked to GMOs. Fast foods are easily prepared, processed and served in snack bars and restaurants as a quick meal or a take away and are largely comprised of GMOs.

The GM foods are grown using GM seeds which are most times faster growing and high yielding plants and animals which increase supply of food at an affordable cost and longer shelf life. However, they come with disadvantages like increased cultivation costs as the process of cultivating GM crops is expensive, GMOs can lead to increased pesticide use causing reduction in the biodiversity on the farms and damage of soil microorganisms due to the chemicals remaining in the soil and can lead to growth of herbicide resistant weeds in the farms.

The processes of making fast foods often includes the use of ingredients which don't easily get spoilt and these ingredients are close to being GMOs derived and could be found in frying oil, breading, sauces, salad dressings, ultra-processed foods like chicken nuggets, frozen meals, hot dogs, canned soups, potato chips, sweetened cereals and drinks sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup.

The youth are mostly not concerned with food preparation at home thus opt for fast foods since they find it advantageous because it fits their busy schedules between work, school, social engagements and extra-curricular activities, its easily accessible and convenient for them. Even though most people have the necessary information about the effects of fast foods on their body, they do not act accordingly. The places in which fast foods are

prepared have become famous among the youth because of the high number of the youth influx they easily replace homemade food.

Although the youth find fast foods advantageous, they ought to be aware that its products contain high calories, sugar, fats and salt. Even so the youth admit that it's very difficult for them to change their food behavior since they don't have time and discipline to do home cooking. The possible negative effects that come with eating fast foods are health related and these include; obesity due to fast foods being low in fiber, nutrients and high in calories and fat, cancer because research indicate that eating a lot of processed foods can lead to an increase in the risk of contracting certain cancers like the ovarian and breast cancer, dental cavities because of the high sugars and carb content of fast foods causing acidic reactions in the mouth leading to damaged tooth enamel and cavities, high blood pressure because fast foods are usually high in sodium and also digestive issues since fast foods can overload the digestive system with bad carb and blood sugar leading to digestive disorders.

The youth should adopt the home cooking skills and prepare indigenous foods which are edible plants and animals native to a specific region or country for example luwombo, matooke, malakwang, irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, dodo, nakati, cassava, beef, goats' meat, fish, yams, beans, peas, plantain, ground nuts among other foods to feed on because these are healthy foods. Eating indigenous foods in Uganda can as well help with nutrition, food security and biodiversity conservation. There are also benefits that come with growing of indigenous foods and these include; climate change resistance with indigenous crops being more resistant to the climate thus long-term food security/sovereignty, food preservation as indigenous methods of preserving food are often affordable, safer and reliable than other methods and there is food sustainability because indigenous agriculture and eating practices are among the most sustainable in the world.

As leaders of today and tomorrow, the youth should learn from the elders and elders should educate the youth about the advantages of growing indigenous foods as opposed to GM foods because with preference to fast foods they won't have a say to protect the indigenous foods putting them at stake of collapse hence affecting their future growing of food.

Some examples of fast foods.photo by Yellow Uganda

The effects of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) introduction on Rural Farming Populations.

Compiled by; Adrine Twongyeirwe (Asst.Information and Communication Officer

Local Framers(women) fromKabale District clearing the land to plant beans.photo by Trina Moyles

Agriculture is the main source of income for the majority of Ugandans, and is a key way out of poverty. Majority of rural farmers depend on tilling the land for food production, hunting, fishing, and forestry for livelihoods. According to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (2021-2025) it is projected that, over 70% of the working population are employed in agriculture sector and majority are the rural population.

Women being the custodians of seeds cultivate crops more frequently and for longer hours than men but men own most of the land and with them being money hungry they can easily be manipulated into growing GMOs and women are at times suppressed into growing GM crops. However, the GMOs come with several empty promises such as revolutionized modern agriculture, offering promises of increased yields, improved disease resistance, and enhanced nutritional content but GM seeds have come with a number of challenges which include threatening the traditional ways of life, loss of traditional crop varieties where the indigenous farmers have replaced the traditional varieties as they are encouraged to adopt genetically modified crops.

Farmers spend a lot of money on inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers which are very costly and environmentally damaging. Indigenous farmers, who have been traditionally relying on natural methods to control pests and diseases are now forced to adopt these external inputs leading

to increased debts and financial burdens, soil degradation and water pollution. The introduction of GMOs have now threaten the cultural heritage and food sovereignty of indigenous communities. Traditional farming practices which passed down through generations are now being replaced by modern industrialized methods. This has led to loss of traditional knowledge and practices, decreased control over food systems, increased reliance on external food sources.

Inorganic seeds and foods are not palatable to communities due to the fact that the bodies of people are not used to GM foods and this leads the farmers to get some diseases as their bodies try to adjust to the new foods. It also rise s health concerns due to pesticide exposure on the farmers bodies when applying the pesticides to their crops without protective gears like gumboots, overall, sun glasses among others.

Increased pesticide and fertilizer usage associated with GMO crops leads to water pollution affecting rural farming populations to access clean water. Intensive farming practices associated with GM crops lead to soil degradation, decreased fertility and increased erosion. The adoption of GMOs led to change of farming systems in the agriculture sector like use of Monoculture farming and this limits people or the small farm holders to practice subsistence farming for home consumption and surplus for sell which leads to market monopoly that limits access to non-GMO options.

To mitigate the likely negative impacts of GMOs on indigenous farmers, they should preserve traditional crop varieties, support conservation, promote indigenous crops, practice agroecology and promote sustainable farming procedures that prioritize soil health, biodiversity and ecosystem services. last but not least, the Indigenous communities' rights to land should be recognized and protected.

As GMOs have had far-reaching consquencies for rural farming populations, afffecting their livelihoods,health and environment.It is essential to recognise the value of traditional farming practices like crop rotation,intercropping,mulching and many others to support the preservation of traditional crop varieties ,agro-ecology and rural livelihoods.

Photo by AFSA

Will the Culture survive with the introduction of GMOs?

Compiled by; Kureeba David (Project coordinator forest and Biodiversity)

Indigenous seeds stored in hand-made basket and decorated gourds. Photo: The Gaia Foundation

Culture is a complex and dynamic system of values such as principles as well as standards guiding behaviours, beliefs , Ideas and convictions about the world with its meaning. These are customs established practices, traditional behavioural patterns of action and interaction, artifacts, tangible objects, symbols, expressions, knowledge shared, understanding, skills and traditions that are shared and transmitted within a group or society, shaping individuals , collective identity and influencing interactions with others.

While GMOs are organisms whose genetic material (DNA or RNA) has been altered using genetic engineering techniques, which involves introducing genes from one species into the DNA of another species to introduce new traits or characteristics. Looking at the alteration of DNA of seeds it means the indigenous seeds that are used in the performance of rituals such as Sorghum seeds which are used in initiation ceremonies and as an offering to ancestors, millet seeds used in wedding ceremonies and as a symbol of fertility, simsim seeds used in healing rituals and as a source of spiritual power, sunflower seeds used in harvest ceremonies and as an offering to gods, pumpkin seeds used in funeral rites and as a symbol of rebirth. They are also used in rituals and ceremonies such as initiation ceremonies to purify and bless initiates in coming-of-age rituals such as the Baganda's "Jjajja Nankwanje" ceremony, wedding ceremonies where seeds are

exchanged as a symbol of fertility and prosperity as seen in the Lugbara's "Eduru" ceremony, harvest ceremonies where seeds are offered to ancestors and gods to ensure a bountiful harvest as practiced by the Bakiga, healing rituals where seeds are used as traditional medicine to treat various ailments or minor illiness as seen in the Langi's use of "Ajwara" seeds, funeral rites where seeds are planted to symbolize the cycle of life and death as seen in the Acholi's "Lukeme" ceremony.

Therefore, the introduction of GMOs has compromised the quality seeds that are highly nutritious and matching the required standards in order to meet the ceremonial requirements because of the manipulated gene drive. In addition, the GMOs have manifested unknown long-term effects on human health, potential environmental impacts, gene flow into non-target species, patenting and ownership issues, labelling and transparency concerns. It is hard to draw a clear line between GMOs, improved seeds and local/indigenous seeds. Indigenous seeds are grown year in year out but with the GMOs are terminator in nature. The understanding of culture leads to Appreciation of diversity, foster empathy and understanding, promote cross-cultural communication, support cultural preservation, enhance global cooperation but GMOs would eventually, lead to failure to understand culture hence cultural diversity and inclusivity, cultural appropriation, cultural erosion, cultural homogenization and Intercultural conflicts.

Following the above issues, there is need to stop GM crop planting as it is largely compromising the culture's strength be it in animals and plants.

Photograph: Courtesy of Crop Trust

The NAPE struggle for indigenous seeds conservation

Compiled by; Claire Namugumya (Office Attendant)

Director Katrin Voss of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation commended NAPE for promoting indigenous seeds in the Albertine Region

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) and African biodiversity Network (ABN) in close collaboration with allies, over the years have been working on food sovereignty through Community Seed Knowledge (CSK), Community Ecological Governance (CEG), Youth, Culture and Biodiversity (YCB) Advocacy, Policy and Gender. In this journey of liberating biodiversity conservation and farmer managed seed systems, NAPE organised series of interventions which included; Organizing semi-annual training meetings on indigenous seed breeding, seed selection and storage methods in the two communities of Butimba in Kikuube and Kihagya in Hoima, Kalangala and Buvuma districts. This was routinely done for purposes of tracking seeds recovery progress, post-harvest seed handling, selection, storage and availability, quantity and quality wise of the harvest . These meetings are usually attended by most especially women, youth, people living with disabilities and men. During the dialogues, it was agreed that each family should keep 30% of their harvest to avoid lack of sauce in their homes as well as seeds for planting the next season. An issue that has always pushed people to buy improved or GMOs seeds which are terminator in nature.

NAPE has also been working towards stopping the use of agrochemical as they degrade soils and take long for soils to heal from the degradation. Use of pesticides and herbicides not only degrade the soils but also leads to biodiversity loss i.e. beetles, butterflies, bees, crawling insects, birds to mention among others and yet these are the creatures

responsible for pollination and life cycle. Use of organic fertilizers, (locally made) as well as compost manure were suggested as the best options for avoiding usage of inorganic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. NAPE has an on-going campaign against the use of agrochemicals which are the silent killers of environment and biodiversity. Communities are encouraged to grow Seeds which are regarded to have less sale value and growing them is an encouragement that results into food sustainability for their homes.

Indigenous seeds are surely being grown regardless of size. Earlier communities were convinced that the bigger the size the better the sale which is Worth is that the families or communities are the first clients of their produce, so the issues of size is not an issue to rank high. What should be looked at is the nutritional, cultural and sustainability values as opposed to only thinking for the market. NAPE has also been on the forefront of keeping women on top as far as custodianship for seeds are concerned. NAPE and communities continue to advocate for land ownership by women in perpetuity as opposed to being users without decision making powers.

Carbon trading was regarded as an indirect killer of food sovereignty as big chunks of land are subjected to growing of trees at the expense food production. This was envisaged as grown up trees compromise food production because of canopy growth and direct displacement of cultivated land with carbon sequestering trees.

NAPE organized a community food/ seed fare/exhibition (after harvest) for the local communities of Hoima and Kikuube Districts both at a local level and another at national level respectively. This was aimed at giving them (communities) an opportunity to learn from other communities as well as showcase their indigenous foods with other players in the agro ecological platform, growing of organic safe food fit for human consumption. A different type of organically produced food was put to exhibition and value addition was the issue that came out of this meeting. While organic food is being produced, there is need for value addition to their products. The community slogan for the exhibition was "grow indigenous, eat indigenous and grow indigenous" the national exhibition message to the prime minister of Uganda which was delivered regarding the need to promote indigenous foods/ agro ecology for health and safety of the local communities whose medication is primarily food. Communities also echoed the need for agro ecology in the fight against climate crisis.

NAPE trained communities on how to make organic pesticides and herbicides to resist the use of inorganic agrochemicals/ glyphosate based. In a bid to conserve the indigenous seeds, NAPE has been trying to work on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss which is a corporate driven agenda. The only way to encounter the vice is to encourage and work with communities not to be lured into agricultural practices that compromise their seed productivity and soils. But when one looks at the agenda of these companies is to patent them and keep communities as beggars of their own seeds. It's quite clear that "he who owns seeds owns life." The corporate agendas make every African who has subjected his garden to either improved or GMOs to become seed colonised and dependent on external relief. The infiltration of GMOs under the disguise of improved seeds will lead to life recolonization through loss of indigenous seeds owned with sovereign powers.

Indeginous seed exhibition to Director Katrin Voss of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and NAPE in Butima, Kikuube District

Pictorial

On 19th and 22nd November 2024, NAPE distributed candle nut seedlings and solar powered phones (for early warning of climate-related hazards) to different Women groups in Kasese and Kotido Districts as a drive for socio-economic trans-formation, climate mitigation and adaptation for climate justice through gender justice under Nurturing a culture of peace project in Uganda

On 8th November 2024, NAPE Community Green Radio hosted Northern Uganda Media Club (NUMEC) and Diplo Brief- Kenya in a joint learning visit on Survival Strategies used to navigate through the Complex operating Environment including good practices in media related Advocacy

NAPE attended the15th AWID International Forum in Bangkok , A forum where Global South feminists and historically marginalized communities take center stage, strategizing with each other and allied movements, funders and policy-makers, in order to shift power, make alliances and usher in a different, better world.

Stay Connected

For more information on our activities, please visit our websites or contact us:

Websites: www.nape.or.ug / www.greenradio.ug
Tel: +256-414-530181
WhatsApp: +256 772 492362
x: @NapeUg
Facebook: @NAPEUG
LinkedIn: NAPE UGANDA
Skype:napeuganda
Tiktok:@nape.uganda
Email: napeuganda@yahoo.com, nape@nape.or.ug