

## 'Access Agriculture' Panorama No. 41 - December 2023



### **Enriching soils with a mixed green manure**

Different crops and tree leaves provide different levels of micro and macro-nutrients when incorporated into the soil. This adds organic matter, boosts beneficial soil micro-organisms and enhances soil fertility.

[English](#) | [Français](#) | [Tamil](#)

**Access Agriculture leaflet**

[বাংলা](#) | [English](#) | [Français](#) | [हिंदी](#) | [Português](#) | [Español](#)

**Entrepreneurs for Rural Access leaflet**

[বাংলা](#) | [English](#) | [Français](#) | [हिंदी](#) | [Español](#)

[Access Agriculture 2021 on-line survey - Summary](#)

### **Welcome to our monthly news update with 'Access Agriculture Panorama'**

This monthly e-newsletter gives a bird's eye view of all the exciting updates from Access Agriculture, a world-leading organisation for quality agricultural training videos in international and local languages, working across the Global South.

The links to different language versions are given below each section. If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, please use the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the newsletter.

## Announcement



### **Submission deadline extended to 22 January 2024 GIZ SuATI project call for young entrepreneurs from Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, India**

Greetings from Access Agriculture! We take this opportunity to say a big “Thank You” to all those who have already submitted their applications for the “Call for young entrepreneurs from Karnataka”. As we have received several requests for more time for the submission of applications, we have decided to extend the deadline to 22 January 2024. (Please note that members from SHGs, FPOs, bio-input resource centres and organic producer associations are preferred. Individual youths can apply, but teams with 1-2 women members are preferred. All applicants must be fully committed to promoting agroecology and organic farming.)

This call for Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERAs) is part of the “Support of Agroecological transformation processes in India” (SuATI) project, which is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)-India in collaboration with partners, including Access Agriculture.

Karnataka: [Application form](#)

Madhya Pradesh: [Application form](#)

## NEWS



### **Lights, camera, action: Learning to make Access Agriculture-style videos in the Philippines**

Twelve participants from four development agencies in the Philippines took part recently in a two-week training course to learn the essential skills required to develop high-quality farmer-to-farmer training videos that adhere to Access Agriculture’s strict standards for quality, content and format.

The workshop was organised by Access Agriculture in partnership with local partners as part of a project funded by the Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Foundation (KGJF). It was held at EcoPark, University of Saint La Salle in Bacolod, Negros Occidental, the Philippines, from 27 November to 8 December 2023. [Read more](#) ...



### Access Agriculture praised for pioneering work in Egypt

The Executive Managing Director of CGIAR, a global agricultural research network, Dr Ismahane Elouafi, has praised the achievements of Access Agriculture in reaching farmers, including women and youth, in remote rural areas of Egypt. Access Agriculture worked with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Egyptian Agricultural Research Center (ARC) as a key partner in a project funded by the German Government in Egypt.

The Innovative Agriculture for Smallholder Resilience (iNASHR) project was implemented over 3 years during which there was the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to instability in farm prices and uncertainties in water availability. [Read more](#) ...

**DONATE**



### Your support needed to empower the changemakers

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our donors, as two of the six young women entrepreneurs whom our campaign targets, have successfully embarked on their journey to bring knowledge to other women of their farming communities.

Please be one of the wonderful people to [make a donation](#) at GlobalGiving and share this opportunity with your friends. [Help us raise funds for our current campaign!](#)

## New videos added in November

35 new videos - 20 **IsiXhosa**, 3 **Bisaya / Cebuano**, 9 **Sinhala**, and 3 **Tagalog** - have been posted on our platform [www.accessagriculture.org](http://www.accessagriculture.org). They are freely downloadable as video (mp4), audio (mp3), mobile (video format 3gp) along with a one-page fact sheet with contact details for more information.

## Editor's choice



### Compost from rice straw

Small scale farmers can struggle to keep their soil healthy, and often resort to buying fertilisers to improve their yield, but with a bit of extra work to make compost, yield can be increased naturally and the soil improved year by year. To turn your rice straw into compost, requires a series of steps that control and accelerate the decomposition by microorganisms. With the right conditions, your compost will be ready in 4 months. [Arabic](#) | [Bambara](#) | [Banqla](#) | [Burmese](#) | [Dioula](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Hindi](#) | [Kannada](#) | [Kin yarwanda](#) / [Kirundi](#) | [Malagasy](#) | [Mooré](#) | [Telugu](#)

## FROM OUR CHANGEMAKERS



### ERAs@work!

#### Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERAs) at work in India

The following ERAs are part of the Access Agriculture project in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in India, supported by the Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Foundation (KGJF):

- ERA team members, **Indira Karri, Santhi Kumari Tuburu and Dasari Dali Naidu**, are associated with **Susag** Millet Farmer Producer Company, which was formed to provide better livelihood opportunities for its members through the production, processing and marketing of millets. Susag has been highlighted in the publication "[Breaking New Ground: Success Story of Farmer Producer Organisations](#)". During October and November 2023, the Susag ERAs organised 17 training programmes using farmer-training videos for 608 participants, including 291 female participants, in Alluri Seetharamaraju district, Andhra Pradesh state in the following villages: Balapurai, Cheediputtu, Dammuguda, Elugulametta, Gaddivalasa, Jadiguda, Kagula, Kappada, Kodaputtu, Pedapalli, Sirasapalli, Thadeputtu, Thotalagondi, Ukkurbha and Valugupalli. The videos that were featured included [The rice seedbed](#), [Effective weed management in rice](#), [Harvesting and storage of green gram](#), [Managing mealybugs in vegetables](#), [Scouting for fall armyworms](#), [Coffee: stumping & pruning](#), [Coffee: picking & drying](#), [Coffee: group organisation](#), [Managing bacterial leaf blight in rice](#), [Managing aphids in beans and vegetables](#), [Staking tomato plants](#), [Making a chilli seedbed](#), [Taking care of local chickens](#), and [Fattening sheep and goats](#). (See photos in Access Agriculture [Facebook Album1](#), and [Facebook Album2](#)) The ERA coaches for India, **Mounica Lingireddy and Nandini Pakki**, attended the Biodiversity Seed Festival organised by Susag in Pedabayalu village in November, where they discussed with farmers who had participated in video shows facilitated by Susag ERAs. The coaches introduced the ERA model and activities to local NGO partners and government officials at the Festival. ([See photos in Access Agriculture Flickr](#)). They also visited Edulaputta and Cheediputtu villages to interact with farmers who are benefiting from videos screened by Susag ERAs.
- In November, the ERA team members associated with **Sabala** NGO, **Janaki Bobbili and Eswar Rao**, met with the ERA coaches, **Mounica Lingireddy and Nandini Pakki**, during their visit to see the ERA activities and discuss with the beneficiary farmers. The coaches interacted with women farmers in Cheedivalasa village, who had started establishing sustainable kitchen gardens, growing leafy greens and other vegetables as well as roots and tubers on small plots of land, using natural farming principles after watching the farmer-training videos shown by Sabala ERAs. The coaches were informed that a Sabala member received the prestigious "Flavour of India: The Fine Cup" award for her exceptional coffee-growing skills at the recent International Coffee Meeting held in Bengaluru, India. The coaches and the Sabala ERA team took the opportunity to introduce their work to a 'Rythu Bharosa Kendra' (RBK) in Danderu village, where the ERAs screened the video [Taking care of okra](#). RBKs have been set up by the Andhra Pradesh government to serve as one-stop shops to address the needs of farmers.
- ERA team members, **Vanthala Matsyaraju, Pangi Lakshmi and Salla Venkata Lakshmi**, associated with **Adivasi Mitra** Welfare Society, conducted five training sessions with videos during October and November for 112 participants (57 female participants), in Gabbangi and Kunthurla villages, Alluri Seetharamaraju district, Andhra Pradesh state. The Adivasi Mitra is a non-profit organisation that focuses on child and youth development mainly in areas where tribal (indigenous) communities live. The following videos were screened in the training sessions: [Coffee: stumping & pruning](#), [Coffee: picking & drying](#), [Coffee: group organisation](#), [Growing](#)

[oyster mushrooms](#), and [Compost from rice straw](#). (See photos in [Access Agriculture Flickr](#))

In November, as part of their monitoring activities, the ERA coaches, **Mounica Lingireddy and Nandini Pakki**, visited the Adivasi Mitra ERA team and interacted with the farming communities they serve. They met with two dynamic women farmers, who have set up a small mushroom production enterprise after watching Access Agriculture videos screened by the Adivasi Mitra ERA team. Happy with the initial revenues generated from their enterprise, these women are planning to increase their mushroom production and are inspiring other young farmers to become entrepreneurs and improve their livelihoods. The coaches along with the Adivasi Mitra ERA team visited Chintagondi village to discuss with the farmers who participated in a video show on [Coffee: group organisation](#). The coaches also interacted with local agriculture and extension service officials, who have agreed to include Access Agriculture videos in their Rythu Bharosa Kendra (RBK) programmes.

- ERA team members, **Pothula Buggappa and Budda Anuradha**, are associated with the Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (**WASSAN-Telangana**), an NGO that is improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers by promoting sustainable agricultural practices for rainfed areas. In October and November 2023, these ERAs organised 12 video shows for 474 participants, including 98 women, in eight villages of Vikarabad district, Telangana state: Bandiwada, Doulothabad, Earlapally, Gokafasalwad, Parigi, Ryala Gutta Tanda, Somlanaik Thanda, and Urakunta. The videos featured were [Staking tomato plants](#), [Drip irrigation for tomato](#), [Staggering production of tomatoes](#), [Installing an onion field](#), [Root and stem rot in groundnut](#), [Better seed for green gram](#), [Managing vegetable nematodes](#), [Taking care of okra](#), [Transplanting chillies](#) and [Creating agroecological markets](#), among others. (See photos in [Access Agriculture Flickr](#))
- ERA team members, **Bhairav Kumar, Abhishekam and Jasmine**, associated with the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (**CSA**) facilitated four training sessions with videos during October and November for 96 participants, including 33 women, in Pulivendhula village, Kadapa district and Gabbangi village in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh. Videos on [Growing oyster mushrooms](#), [Coffee: group organisation](#), [Insect nets in seedbeds](#), and [Drip irrigation for tomato](#). (See photos in [Access Agriculture Flickr](#))
- ERA team members, **Anuradha Devi Reddy and Sandeep Chiyvedu**, associated with **WASSAN-Andhra Pradesh**, demonstrate agro-ecological practices in rural communities and empower farmer producer organisations. They facilitated three video shows during October and November 2023 for 140 participants, including 72 female participants, in Pallivandlapalli and Nallacheruvu villages as well as in Kadiri city, in Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh state. The videos shown included [Using sack mounds to grow vegetables](#) and [Controlling banana weevils](#). (See photos in [Access Agriculture Flickr](#))
- ERA team members, **Midathana Hemalatha, Ramanamma and Nagireddy Satya Prasad** are associated with **Vikasa** NGO. Vikasa works on natural resources management with focus on agriculture and horticulture. These ERA members conducted five videos shows in October and November for

142 participants (68 female participants), in Daburangini, Dibbavalasa, Lanthampadu, Korraguda and Thokavalasa villages in Aruku valley, Alluri Seetharamaraju district, Andhra Pradesh state. They screened the following videos: [Coffee: picking & drying](#), [Taking care of local chickens](#), [Compost from rice straw](#), [The rice seedbed](#), [Managing aphids in beans and vegetables](#) and [Staking tomato plants](#). (See photos in [Access Agriculture Facebook Album](#))

As part of their visits to see the ERAs at work, the ERA coaches **Mounica Lingireddy and Nandini Pakki**, met with farmers and local agriculture officials in the Aruku Valley, where the Vikasa ERA team operates. They visited a woman farmer's field in Sunnammetta village, who used the best practices of sowing and weeding in her paddy field after watching related videos shown by the ERA team. The coaches observed how the ERA team facilitated video shows. They interacted with farmers in Sunnammetta and Nadimivalasa villages, who are doing natural farming and following practices and principles shown in the videos.

## BLOG POSTS



### Battling the fall armyworm

In the 1500s, when men on sailing ships were casually spreading crop plants from one continent to the next, maize came to Africa. Fortunately, many of the maize pests stayed behind, in the Americas. But slowly, trade and travel are re-uniting maize with its pests. A caterpillar called the fall armyworm is the latest American pest to reach Africa, and it has spread across the continent, threatening one of Africa's staple food crops.

[Read more](#) .... [বাংলা](#) | [Français](#) | [हिंदी](#) | [Português](#) | [Español](#)

## MEET OUR AMBASSADOR



### **Samuel Omoding**

Samuel Omoding from Uganda is passionate about agriculture because it has been a major support to his family. He looks forward to becoming a professional farmer who shares agricultural information freely. Samuel is a young farmer who operates small scale enterprises with low costs and using sustainable ways - like the use of indigenous microorganisms (IMO) in his pig enterprise and traditional methods to control crop pests. This allows him to also do extension work with local farmers, with a priority on youth and women. Samuel aims to intensify the sharing of agricultural information from the Access Agriculture and EcoAgtube websites through his social media platforms.