

WOMEN *of* FAITH WORKSHOP REPORT

Food Security & Climate Care

Sharing Fair 2025

OCTOBER 11, 2025

ACK Christ Church, Westlands Nairobi, Kenya

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- **Rev Phyllis Byrd Ochilo,**
Director Justice Communitives Program, OAIC
- **Ms. Fariah Lalaikipiani,**
Executive Director, Uzury Empowerment Hub
- **Ms. Maureen Bahati,**
Program Office & Ivelihoods, OAIC
- **Sister Joyce Nyakwama,**
Coordinator, African Sisters Education Collaborative, ASEC



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	001
Goals & Objectives	002
Participants, Speakers & Methodology	003
Key Highlights	005
Exhibition	007
Key Outcomes	008
Issues Raised, Innovation & Ideas	009
Challenges & Recommendations	011
Sponsors, Panelists, Exhibitors & Faith Groups present	013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food Security & Climate Care Sharing Fair 2025



Introduction

Women of Faith workshop brought together participants from various faiths to discuss the importance of sharing knowledge and information and working together to sustain food security, the environment and to respond to climate change.

Discussions covered various topics around regenerative farming for restoration of soils, biodiversity, ecosystem function and how to take care of Mother Earth, the environment and everything in it, including human beings. Participants discussed faith in action through smart agriculture and innovations, sowing seeds of collaboration, women's leadership in food and climate solutions, the place of sustainable architecture and African heritage foods. The meeting emphasized the need for living in harmony with nature and with each other regardless of faith differences. Participants included members of various faith and traditions and denominations. Those from the Catholic faith included Dimesse Sisters who played a key role in the discussion of African heritage foods. The speakers included experts from various relevant fields.

Goals & Objectives

The workshop aimed at various objectives. Among them:

- Celebrate and showcase Women of Faith activities in agriculture, climate action and wellness
- Provide space for Women of Faith who are agricultural value chain actors to collaborate, learn and network with each other and other actors
- Share and discuss cost-effective solutions to agricultural and climate change challenges, focusing on products and lessons learned.
- Introduce technologies and innovations to boost productivity
- Inspire young women to take up leadership in climate smart-agriculture and innovation
- Follow on from June 2025 Women, Faith and Climate Network's on-line Collaboration Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, where 120 participants showed great interest in having an in-person meeting to exchange good practice and explore partnerships and collaboration



Participants

Under the leadership of the Women, Faith and Climate Network (WFCN) members, Organization of African Instituted Churches, Uzury Women's Empowerment Network, Union of International Superiors General, GreenFaith, and others, 121 of participants attended the daylong meeting.

Participants included representatives from Christian, Muslim, Baha'i and women's groups from various churches namely, African Independent Churches, Baptist, Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic and Evangelical.

Speakers included:

Rev. Phyllis Ochilo, OAIC director for Justice Communities who spoke on *Sowing Seeds and Nurturing Collaboration* with contribution from Ms Beverly Muhonja and Sister Florence Nyaga. Nickson Otieno, a sustainability expert, Niko Green organization spoke on *sustainable building materials and climate solutions* while Jean Njiru, an agricultural and business consultant spoke on post-harvest food storage.



Others were Sister Rose Wambui, Dimesse Sisters and Josephine Oguta who spoke on heritage foods, Sabina Ng'ang'a and Joyce Wanjiku who shared experiences on Faith Fueled Futures, Women Leading Foods and Climate Solutions.

Methodology:

The workshop was done through presentations, sharing of personal journeys, questions/answer sessions and through display of various relevant products and processes that Women of Faith are engaged in. These included agricultural products, health and clean energy products and learning sessions including how to use double-layered bags for grain storage as well as use of natural and indigenous products for wellness and better health.





Key Highlights:

Faith in action through smart agriculture, innovation and care; sewing seeds and nurturing collaboration; faith fuelled futures and how women can lead in food and climate solutions and in African heritage (indigenous) foods that heal.

Discussions around indigenous (heritage) foods and natural healing drew great interest with a call for promotion of community awareness of heritage foods and natural healing.

Sr Rose Wambui of Dimesse Sisters presented on African heritage foods and underlined the need for continued

learning from traditional wisdom and natural healing. She discussed the importance of integrating traditional food education into community health programs and encouraging households to plant and use indigenous herbs such as moringa, rosemary, and lemongrass. She presented a list of African heritage foods along with their associated health benefits, informing participants that these foods are nutrient-dense, possess medicinal properties, and support long-term health. She explained that the wide variety of traditional healing herbs have been used for generations to treat, cleanse and strengthen the body naturally.

Information shared and discussed also included best practices in post harvest to ensure grains are stored effectively, non-chemically and simply. A technology known as Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICs) was discussed and displayed to show participants how its use helps to protect grains (maize, beans and others) from pests and mould. The PICs technology is made up of three-layered hermetic sacks which are chemically free. The bags have capacity to block out oxygen from the grain through tightening the three layers. Speaking on the technology and its use, Jean Njiru who introduced it to the East African market in 2013, said the technology had benefitted many farmers in Kenya through a partnership with a local company. This developed a supply chain accessible to local farmers through agrovets and impacted many farmers' livelihoods and their food security.

Discussions also covered use and choice of sustainable building materials and the need to prioritize healthy living as well as promotion of landscaping and botanical gardens that complement wellness. Mr Nickson Otieno, an architect and sustainability expert led the conversation on the need for awareness and use of low carbon building materials for healthy living. These include materials from agricultural residue that are healthier and include stalks from rice, oats and wheat. He emphasised the need for embracing the idea of vertical gardens and roof terraces in especially urban settings to enable food self-sufficiency and better quality of air. This was also complimented by discussions around landscaping and botanical gardens filled with diverse medicinal and therapeutic plants that add value to health and wellbeing.





Further, participants discussed use of natural products like bamboo for building and for leveraging in its many uses for economic purposes but also for soil regeneration and climate change mitigation. The bamboo tree has capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen and therefore contribute to clean air. Participants pointed at the potential for small holder farmers to also gain from carbon credits.

Discussions overall also touched on issues of funding raising, engagement and involvement of younger women in conversations around the environment, climate smart agriculture and clean energy.

Exhibition

Participants further had interactive sessions and viewing of products on display to learn more about innovations and clean gas. Products included agriculture smart innovations and their use, the PICs bag, biogas technology and use of pressure cooker to reduce cooking time and avoid household air pollution, mostly emitted by use of charcoal and other non-sustainable means. Products on display included:

- Fresh, organic, and traditional African foods like millet, sorghum, sweet potatoes, beans, greens, and herbs) keep the body balanced and full of vitality.
- Moringa (African miracle tree) with benefits in rich in protein, iron, and antioxidants; Used for: fighting malnutrition, boosting immunity purifies blood, lowering blood sugar, rich in vitamins and minerals.
- Pumpkin leaves – with benefits in iron and folate for blood building and used for treating anaemia and fatigue
- Lemon grass with benefits for cleansing the liver, kidneys, and bladder and supporting overall detoxication. It also promotes healthy blood circulation.

- Rosemary: Often called the memory herb because of its strong effects on the brain and circulation which boost memory and brain function, improves concentration, alertness and memory. It enhances blood flow in the brain.
- Cayenne pepper, known as pilipili hoho kali in various countries with benefits in improve blood circulation (cayenne stimulates blood flow and strengthens arteries, veins and capillaries. Help to lower bad cholesterol, regulate blood pressure and help to relieve gas, indigestion and bloating.
- Prunus-Africana - Supports prostate Health, and reduces symptoms such as: Frequent urination (especially at night), Boost immune system, supports hormonal balance, protect the liver and kidneys.
- Milk thistle - Known for detoxifying and regenerating liver cells and Prevent liver cirrhosis

Key Outcomes

- Use and scaling of technologies including post-harvest PICs bags, biogas scale- up and exploration and use of carbon credit



- Indigenous knowledge from plants, food and trees that have medicinal value and need to be further researched and documented
- Food-self sufficiency can be achieved through growth of foods within homes (kitchen gardens) and landscapes, especially in urban centres
- Climate solutions through smart agriculture and innovations can help address challenges of poverty and drought. They should be further explored and adapted for community use

Innovations and ideas generated

- Harness indigenous knowledge on plants and trees and what they were used for and document - even publish a book

Issues raised

- There are opportunities in the use of biogas technology (clean energy) which can be more beneficial if it is scaled up to benefit more women and communities. Call for Women of Faith as stewards to explore the opportunity since they have access to women groups and communities and can mobilize for its use.
- Use of biogas also has opportunity for carbon credit income for women groups and communities. Carbon credit can be gained from calculating how many trees have been saved (or not burnt for firewood) while using clean biogas. The Women of Faith network can coordinate related activities in the communities they serve and help gain incomes for members.



- Harness indigenous knowledge on plants and trees and what they were used for and document - even publish a book
- Work with various religious communities to create awareness about sustainable agricultural and environmental practices including climate smart agriculture, clean energy and organic farming. Support mobilization of communities to adapt to sustainable ways of living and to overcome poverty
- Support families and women, especially in dry/remote locations to start kitchen gardens that will bring food-sufficiency
- Consider forming collaborations and partnerships which enable science, policy, research, industry and advocacy expertise to find solutions in the

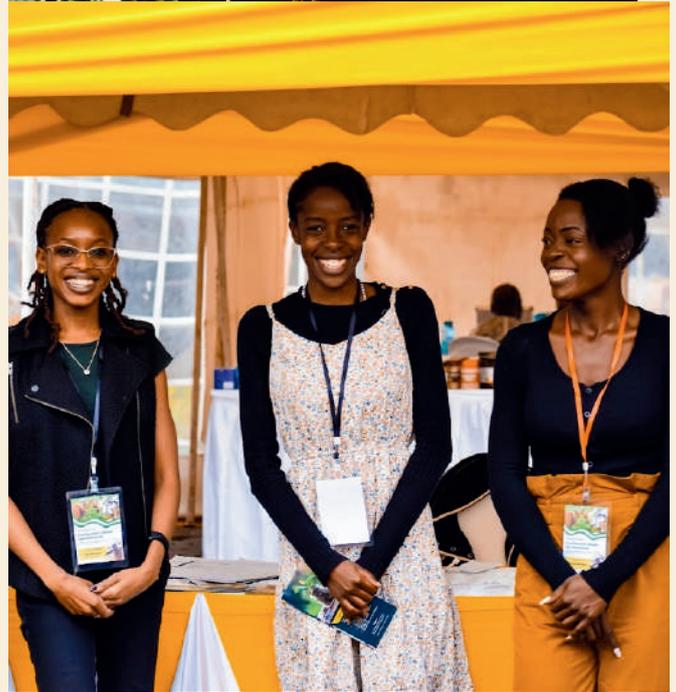


- ecosystem e.g., pharmacological solutions from indigenous plants and trees
- Promote organic farming and create digital platforms and market space which will link demand (consumers) and supply (farmers) of organic produce. Create aggregation for delivery/transport to make it affordable



Challenges / Gaps Identified

- Lack of funding and knowledge about sustainable actions in smart agriculture, environment, climate change and clean energy
- Need for coordination and mobilization of groups and communities to adapt to new climate solutions, smart agriculture and organic farming
- Need for scaling up biogas and other sustainable technologies so every home and community can benefit from it



Recommendations

- Stakeholders – Strengthen local and regional Women of Faith Network working on Food Security and Climate issues and explore potential for opportunities discussed for further follow-up – in all areas highlighted. There is strong interest to create a multi-faith community among women of faith working on climate issues in their own localities, for mutual support, increased resourcing and impact.
- Implementing agencies- OAIC and partners were requested to sustain collaboration, prioritize actions and structure areas of follow-up – including firming up a regional Women, Faith and Climate Network structure, set and agree on climate change actions, smart agriculture, clean energy and funding support
- Policy/technical teams - Support Women of Faith network to spearhead conversations and joint actions around policy, science, research, industry and advocacy
- Support Women of Faith to identify and prioritize areas of growth and partnership

Conclusion

The workshop provided the space and time to gather women and male allies working in their local communities for valuable sharing and discussions on climate change and solutions, sustainable agriculture and taking care of mother nature. It underlined the critical need for collaborative efforts by Women of Faith and like-minded partners for today and the future. Participants agreed to collaborate closely and meaningfully to make follow-up actions that will sustain solutions suggested for supporting faith communities that they represent. This is in the areas of climate change management, sustainable agriculture and environment, food security, indigenous knowledge of medicinal food/plants and clean energy.

Appreciation:

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to appreciate the role of all the Ananya mukuta, namely, the custodians of indigenous knowledge and participants who catch, receive, and welcome the new baby. Like the traditional midwives (Ananya mukuta) in the Shona language in Zimbabwe, they participated, and made the Women of Faith Sharing Fair, an exciting beginning. The Women of Faith Sharing Fair would never have been born if it were not for them and the community of groups that willingly responded to the birth and thrive of the 'baby'.



Women of Faith Food Security and Climate Care Sharing Fair

A. Sponsors

1. Organization of African Instituted churches
2. Sidian Bank
3. Women of Faith

B. Panelists

Topics	Panelists
Faith in Action: Smart Agriculture, Innovation & Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arch. Nickson Otieno • Jean Njiru
Sowing Seeds, Nurturing Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Phyllis Ochilo • Beverly Muhonja • Sister Florence Nyaga
Faith Fueled Futures, Women Leading Food & Climate Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabina Ng'ang'a • Joyce Wanjiku
African Heritage Foods that Heal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josephine Oguta • Sister Rose Wambui

C. Exhibitors

Name	Organization	Theme
Beatrice Kirundu	AIC-Jitahidi Farmers Women Group	Organic Value-Added Foods-Dried banana flour; dried African leafy vegetables,
Catrine Shroff	Mwangaza Light & Green Churches Kenya	Clean cooking (electric cooking and biomass energy efficient stoves) and solar home systems
Dimesse Sisters	Catholic Church	Healthy Living

Name	Organization	Theme
Gloria Sulungai	PICS ESA LTD	Agro-technology & Innovations-Hermetic bags
James Kimutai	Sistema Bio	Sustainable Energy-Clean Cooking/Biogas
Josephine Oguta	Obera Daily Spa	Healthy Body
Joyce Wanjiku Nguru	Ack Imani Talent Sacco	Healthy Living
Julia Mumbi	Farm Mall Ventures Limited	Agro-technology & Innovations; Farm management technology & market linkages
Simon Nyaga	Bold Impact Africa	Sustainable Agriculture & Climate Solutions; Indigenous seed saving
Lenah Mwangi	Inuka Agrisolution	Agro-technology & Innovations; capacity building for youth
Margaret Wambui	Cara Projects	Sustainably Manufactured products; Reusable Sanitary towels, beadwork
Teresiah Gitau	Organic Kenya Limited	Sustainable Agriculture & Climate Solutions; Organic Fertilizer Products

D. Faith Groups Present:

- African Independent Churches
- Baptist
- Anglican
- Presbyterian
- Catholic
- Evangelical
- Islam
- Baha'i

*Please note that many others did not indicate their faith



