



# **CENTER FOR FOOD AND ADEQUATE LIVING RIGHTS**

**“FOR THE GREATER GOOD”**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Our work this year has only been able with tremendous support from our donor partners below:

Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) – Nutrient Profiling Model Project

International Development Law Organization (IDLO)- Global RECAP

AVAAZ Foundation

DKA

Agroecology Fund

Both ENDS

Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)

### **Networks and collaborations**

CEFROHT acknowledges the following partners and collaborations:

The Eastern Africa Legislative Assembly committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources

Loose Collaborative to Scale-Up Agroecology and Resilient Agri-food Systems (CSAREFU)

Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)

Global Consumer Center (CONSENT)

Food First Information Action Network (FIAN-Uganda)

Georgetown University

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA)

Slow Food- Uganda

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)

Center for Strategic Litigation

Natural Justice Kenya

African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)

### **Development Partners**

Throughout this year, CEFROHT has worked with the United Nations Development Partners to ensure a successful year.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Word Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### **Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)**

For the year 2024, CEFROHT directly engaged and received support from the following MDAs:

Ministry of Health (MoH)

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

Parliament of Uganda

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC)

Local governments in districts of operation

## INTRODUCTION

The annual report highlights CEFROHT's key achievements, and activities for the year 2024. Guided by our mission to promote human rights, sustainable living, and public health, CEFROHT has made remarkable progress across the three thematic areas: (i) Sustainable Access to Justice for Adequate Living Rights; (ii) Law and Policy for Healthy Diets and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and (iii) Agroecology towards a Sustainable Local agri-food System.

Through robust advocacy, and collaboration with stakeholders at various levels ranging from donor partners, UN development partners, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Local Government, Local Communities, CEFROHT has driven progress in ensuring sustainable access to justice, promotion of health diets and physical activity to curb NCDs, and promoting sustainable and resilient agri-food systems. These efforts aim to empower communities, strengthen legal and policy frameworks, and contribute to a healthier, more equitable society.

We are grateful to all our partners that supported CEFROHT towards the realisation of outstanding success and milestones in the past year.

### Highlights of the achievements in 2024

#### **Thematic Area 1:** Sustainable Access to Justice for Adequate Living Rights

Inspection of CEFROHT chambers and issuance of legal aid clinic status

Litigated the ongoing 7 public interest cases

Built and strengthened the capacity of Community Advocacy Groups on the Human Rights Enforcement Act

A total of 234 land cases finished in a very short time of which another 1,527 cases solved using non-contentious means in communities.

#### **Thematic Area 2:** Law and Policy for Health Diets and Prevention of NCDs

CEFROHT launched and leads the Uganda National CSO Coalition for the Front-of - the Pack Warning Labelling (UNCC-FOPWL)

CEFROHT launched the Uganda Nutrient Profiling Model project, a tool that will inform Front-of the Pack Warning Labelling regulations and policies on restrictions of marketing of unhealthy food products.

Two national policy dialogues held on the utilization of legal tools to promote health diets and prevent NCDs with 527 participants in total.

CEFROHT was co-opted to Ministry of Health Nutrition Technical Working group to foster formulation of tools, policies that enhance health diets and prevent NCDs.

Worked with MoH to draft National Physical Activity guides for Uganda.

CEFROHT worked with MoH, UNICEF, WHO to conduct a landscape survey of ultra-processed food products and beverages on the Ugandan market in view of generating evidence to support development of the Uganda Nutrient Profiling Model.

CEFROHT conducted four (4) media trainings on evidence-based communication strategies to accurately report on NCDs and the need for legal and regulatory frameworks that promote healthy diets and curb the rising burden of NCDs.

### **Thematic Area 3: Agroecology towards a Sustainable local food system.**

CEFROHT conducted a capacity building of the East African Legislative Assembly committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on agroecology promotion using law and policy within the East African region.

CEFROHT worked with the inner working group and developed the Uganda National Agroecology Strategy.

CEFROHT developed an agroecology product and produce production sustainability plan and marketing strategy.

Built and strengthened the capacity of 1,234 smallholder farmers on agroecology principles and practices for sustainable livelihoods.

## **RESULTS AND KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER CEFROHT THEAMTIC AREAS**

### **1. THEMATIC AREA 1: SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ADEQUATE LIVING RIGHTS**

#### **1.1 THE EACOP PROJECT CASE**

Center for food and adequate living rights (CEFROHT) working with other Civil Society organizations (AFIEGO, Natural Justice, and Center for Strategic Litigation) filed a case against the governments of Uganda and Tanzania, and the East African Community, challenging the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project from western Uganda to Eastern Tanzania. They argued that the project violates various provisions of the East African Community Treaty and the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin, as well as human rights and environmental considerations.

### 1.1.1 Preparatory Litigation Surgeries

During this year, CEFROHT working with other CSOs conducted four (4) litigation surgeries in preparation of the EACOP project case hearing in the EACJ. The Litigation surgeries conducted a comprehensive review of the appeal case of *CEFROHT and Others v Attorney General of Uganda and Others*, EACJ Appeal No. 4 of 2023, and focused on identifying and strengthening the key appeal case arguments in view of strengthening the appeal. The appeal before the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), challenged the dismissal of the initial case regarding the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The surgeries focused on the grounds of Appeal; addressing the court's reliance on affidavit evidence in determining preliminary objections, contrary to the principle that such matters should be resolved strictly on points of law, reconciling discrepancies in dates cited in the case reference, which were used by the First Instance Division to dismiss jurisdictional claims.



A team of lawyers handling the EACOP case at some of the litigation surgeries

### 1.1.2 Visiting the Project Affected Persons For The EACOP Project In Kikuube district

CEFROHT held several community engagements with Project Affected Persons (PAPS) in Kikuube district to address the pressing issue of compensation related to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. In these engagements, Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) voiced critical issues they encounter with the EACOP project, particularly in light of the recent CEFROHT EACOP Project case filing. The PAPs expressed profound frustration due to inadequate and unfair compensation provided that does not reflect the true value of their land, homes, and other assets. This undervaluation has left families in precarious financial situations, struggling to rebuild their lives or sustain their livelihoods. Beyond financial impacts, it was evident that the loss of ancestral land and displacement from long established communities have disrupted social ties and cultural heritage, leading to a deep sense of loss and insecurity about their future.



#### **CEFROHT meeting with the Project Affected Persons in Kikuube district**

In November, 2024, CEFROHT legal team representing the appellants in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) appeal case participated in critical preparations and court proceedings at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Appellate Division in Arusha, Tanzania.

The case, registered as **Appeal No. 4 of 2023**, challenged procedural and substantive issues related to the court's First Instance Division ruling. This appeal was a critical opportunity to address errors in the initial judgment and advocate for justice on behalf of the Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) and broader public interest concerns.

The East African Court of Justice ordered the appellants to file a supplementary record of appeal to address these concerns. This ruling gives CEFROHT a ray of hope in our efforts to pursue social, economic and environmental justice.



A team of lawyers before the East African Court of Justice in Arusha during case hearing.

### 1.1.3 Pursuing Justice For The EACOP Project Affected Persons (PAPs)

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) PAPs were arrested by police along Nasser road in Kampala as they marched to petition the Ministry of Energy over delayed and unfair compensation, environmental pollution and unfair displacements by the EACOP project. The PAPs who were presented before the Buganda Road court magistrate were remanded to Luzira prison on charges of common nuisance.

CEFROHT legal team, together with legal partners from Environment shield represented the arrested PAPs before the magistrate and secured bail for the PAPs giving them temporary freedom.



**Dr. Kabanda David, E.D CEFROHT representing the arrested PAPs at Buganda Road Court**

### **1.2 Strengthening the Capacity of Community Advocacy Groups On Utilization Of The Human Rights Enforcement Act (HREA Cap 12)**

CEFROHT continued to promote sustainable access to justice through legal empowerment. CEFROHT has for the last year, built and enhanced the capacity of the CAGs (paralegals) in utilization of the HREA, identification of human rights violations in communities, Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, filing cases under the HREA, and in any case representation of the affected in the magistrates' court. Through legal empowerment of the CAGs and the local communities, CEFROHT has ensured continued and sustainable response to human rights violations, local communities have knowledgeable paralegals within their midst and the vulnerable groups are no longer excluded from the formal justice system.

The CAGs have been able to identify 2,527 cases of human rights violations in their communities, resolved and referred to the formal justice actors. They have carried out community advocacy, caused social accountability meetings between leaders and communities through community barazas on land adequate living rights.



CEFRONT legal officers at capacity building training with the CAGS on the HREA.



A group photo of the some of the CAGs

### 1.3 Women Land Rights Redress Mechanisms and Equity Are Strongholds For Agroecology Scale Out.

CEFROHT has worked with local communities to claim land as a human right. Utilizing the HREA, vulnerable persons especially women have claimed and won back their land as a right. Intervening with a legal team who educate communities, local government leaders, and law enforcement judicial officers: there is now a tremendous and very quick redress process for the victims.

A total of 234 land cases finished in a very short time of with another 1,527 cases solved using non-contentious means in communities and empowering the women and youths on standing out for their ownership and user rights.

“I am a mother of two children of two children who was evicted by the father-in-law from my husband’s house and the land where I was farming. The land was my only source of livelihood. I approached the Community Advocacy Group chairperson who called CEFROHT for their legal support. I am now happy that court helped me get back my land. I can sustain mine and my children’s livelihood”. Said Hellen, a beneficiary.



CEFROHT legal officer, beneficiaries, and the CAGs pose for a photo outside the Kiboga Magistrates court after obtaining justice.

### THEMATIC AREA 2: LAW AND POLICY FOR HEALTH DIETS AND PREVENTION OF NCDs

#### 2.1 Formation of the UNCC-FOPWL

CEFROHT convened the first official meeting about the coalition formation with the Executive Directors of CONSENT, FIAN-Uganda, and SEATINI. During the meeting, the Nutrient Profiling Model (NPM) project was formally introduced, and a national coalition of four CSO members including; CONSENT, FIAN-Uganda, SEATINI and CEFROHT as a lead organization—was officially discussed and the process was officially formalized by the signing of contracts between the lead organization (CEFROHT) and each of the three remaining coalition members. SEATINI has mobilized and coordinated other CSOs that the coalition is working with to promote FOPWL as mobilized the local community to build their support towards the support

towards passing FOPWL regulations, FIAN-Uganda has for the past year managed to undue interference from the food industry as well as mobilized legal practitioners to join in the movement for the FOPWL while CONSENT, has mobilized and coordinated media and awareness campaigns on promoting FOPWL. Later on, the coalition co-opted other members which included; UPA-FNS, WHO, the media, and academia who have been instrumental in advancing the coalitions' advocacy efforts towards FOPWL and other complementary policies.

Together, the members of the coalition are presently pushing for evidence-based Front-of-Pack nutrient warning labelling regulations and a comprehensive national food and Nutrition policy in Uganda.



**Members of the UNCC-FOPWL pose for a group photo**

## **2.2 UNCC-FOPWL Quarterly reflection meeting**

CEFRONT held the first quarterly meeting with other coalition members. The retreat built the capacity of the coalition members on Nutrients of Critical Concern, review project performance of previous quarter, putting into consideration the outcomes of and the Strategic Planning Meeting in Mombasa and then share ideas to strengthen strategies on pre-established project goals and objectives. Through the retreat, the coalition members' capacity on nutrients of critical concern was built by Prof. Kaaya Archileo, a well- seasoned national nutritionist. Coalition members presented and discussed advocacy strategy implementation progress reports, SPM outcomes in view of aligning the coalition's advocacy strategy, communication strategy, food industry strategy as well as research and legal strategy. The reflection meeting discussed avenues and platforms as well as the planned activities in the running quarter to

intensify advocacy campaigns towards formulation of the NPM & FoPWL regulations and these included: (i) Deeply engage the food, nutrition, health and NCDs committees of Parliament; (ii) Intensify campaigns through main stream media and social media and appeal to the public for a call to action for their support towards a public petition; and (iii) Co-opt strategic partners such as UNICEF, FAO, WHO, IDRC as well as local partners to build a strong movement of champions.



**The UNCC-FOPWL quarterly meeting**

### **2.3 NPM project Kick-Off and Launch**

CEFROHT conducted a national policy dialogue and discussed with sixteen (16) representatives from technical government agencies which included; UNBS, NPA, Local Government, UHRC, UPA-FNS, UCC, UPNCDF & Judiciary on the importance of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to passing an evidence-based Nutrient Profiling Model and FOPWL regulations. The meeting increased awareness among the participants on the rising burden of NCDs in Uganda and the urgent need to pass an evidence-based NPM and FOPWL regulations as a response to address the current burden NCDs. Also, through the meeting, UPA-FNS & UPNCDF committed to debate at the floor of Parliament the urgent need for the MoH to pass NPM as a public health tool to prevent NCDs and all technocrats that attended the meeting committed to support the coalition and participate in its engagements with the MoH to fast track the formulation processes of the NPM including its passing.



The Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security, Hon. Milton Muwuma cuts a ribbon to officially launch the Uganda NPM project.



The National Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the NPM.

## 2.4 Regional collaboration for healthy food policies at East African Level

CEFROHT together with the coalition members attended the East Africa Strategic Planning Meeting organized by the International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA) and GHAI. The Strategic Planning Meeting not only that ensured bi-directional knowledge exchange among local partners, GHAI, regional partners on food policy advocacy but also built the capacity of regional partners on specific food policies such as the front-of-pack Warning Label (FOPWL) and the NPM. Participants were able to interact and learn from regional partners their local advocacy context and also develop synergies for collaboration towards evidence-based food policy promotion in East Africa.



Regional partners from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda at the East Africa Strategic Planning Meeting.

## 2.5 MoH TWG meeting

For the past year, CEFROHT is delighted to report its co-option on the MoH Technical Working Group which is reviewing and finalizing the formulation process of the Uganda NPM. CEFROHT working with FIAN-Uganda organized a project introduction meeting with the Ministry of Health Nutrition Technical Working Committee at Fairway Hotel in Kampala. The meeting introduced and discussed the NPM project in details and highlighted the roles and obligations of project stakeholders: the UNCC-FOPWL and MoH in having Ugandans an evidence-based NPM and FOPWL as well as solicited support from the Nutrition Technical Working Committee towards the passing of evidence based NPM. During this meeting, MoH made a commitment to working with the coalition and other stakeholders to fast track the passing of an evidence-based NPM and FOPWL.



**Members of the Ministry of Health Nutrition TWG at one of the TWG meetings.**

## **2.6 Media trainings**

CEFRONT understands the power of the media in shaping public opinion on health. In an effort to empower journalists to become champions of informed food choices, CEFROHT held two media trainings aimed at equipping media personnel with communication strategies and the knowledge to accurately report on NCDs, NCD risk factors, and the need for legal and regulatory frameworks to curb the rising burden of NCDs.

This training raised awareness of the media on the burden of diet related NCDs as Ugandans consume unhealthy diets high in salt, fat and sugar and their role to sensitise the public.

The workshops were facilitated by well-seasoned and experienced food and nutrition experts from the academia. Participants through plenary sessions developed communication strategies and these are being used by the empowered media personnel towards the promotion of healthy diets. These included; mixed approach indulging onboarding of the different media platforms/houses as an opportunity to leverage on for mass community awareness creation and advocacy and the use of different communication mechanisms such as; developing clips on NCDs and nutrients of critical concern, use of social media influencers and bloggers, borrowing a leaf from successful campaigns as well as trained media personnel to act as Trainer of Trainees. From this, the workshops created media champions, who are better equipped to inform Ugandans about this crucial initiative for a healthier future.



Mr. Benard Bwambale takes media practitioners effective communication strategies on reporting on NCDs, and the need to advocate for legal and regulatory frameworks to promote healthy diets.



Ms. Florence Tushemerive takes media practitioners through Front of the Pack Warning Labeling aimed at building their capacity to report effectively on the need of FOPWL regulations.

## 2.7 Lawyers' meeting

The UNCC-FOPWL led by FIAN-Uganda held a legal practitioners' meeting with Ten (10) lawyers, majority of whom came from the Food and Nutrition Cluster of Uganda Law Society of to discuss how the legal minds can support the formulation and passing of NPM and FoPWL regulations. The lawyers through the meeting developed the following strategies to undertake in support towards the formulation processes of FOPWL regulations. The legal practitioners committed to, drafted and are implementing a legal strategy for the NPM project. The lawyers are now part of public campaigns to add a legal voice petitioning MoH to pass evidence-based NPM & FoPWL regulations and based on the human rights-based approach, the lawyers have filed a petition to the Minister of Health that will be delivered by a march as the Uganda Law Society to Ministry of Health Headquarters indicating the human rights and legal implications of not passing NPM & FoPWL regulations, and the urgent need to finalize the formulation processes.



**The Executive Director, CEFROHT giving a key note address during the lawyers' meeting.**

## 2.8 World Food Day Celebrations

CEFROHT together with the UNCC-FOPWL held a national multi-technocrats' convening on food law, regulation and nutrition in commemoration of the World Food Day 2024. The convening aimed at increasing awareness among technocrats on the importance of the NPM as a foundation in developing regulations in regard to food & nutrition and further building their support towards UNCC-FOPWL advocacy activities of fastening the formulation processes of the NPM and FOPWL regulation. The

convening was also used as a platform to call for action and evidenced the official launch of our public petition (online and physical) to the Ministry of Health. The participants included: MAAIF commissioner for policy, MoH commissioner for NCDs, MTIC commissioner for policy, Uganda Human Rights Commission, UNBS, NPA, Academia, Media practitioners, Researchers, Public Health experts, legal practitioners, and the general public. A panel consisting of the government technocrats, academia, researchers, legal practitioners was constituted and cultivated commitments from the MoH & MAAIF towards fast tracking the formulation processes of NPM, FOPWL regulation as well as the food and nutrition policy.

The convening created champions advocating for the NPM among the technocrats: Commissioners from MAAIF, MoH, MTIC, UHRC, and further Academia committed to support the UNCC-FOPWL's advocacy towards the formulation of an evidence-based Nutrient Profiling Model in Uganda and also fasten the development of the Food and Nutrition Policy. The convening increased awareness among the stakeholders on the right to adequate food and health, an evidence-based NPM and FoPWL regulations as policy tools for developing robust food and nutrition policies and laws.

The policy dialogue also entailed exhibitions of safe agroecology produce: indigenous seed, organic input, fresh products and value-added products with live experiences and success stories from the smallholder agroecology farmers.



**A panel discussion consisting of the Commissioners for Policy from Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Trade, Academia, Researchers, Uganda Human Rights Commission at the World Food Day Celebrations.**



**Farmers exhibit healthy agroecology products during the World Food Day Celebrations.**



## **2.9 Signature collection to support community petition to MoH to pass evidence-based FOPWL regulations**

Working with the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security, CEFROHT held three (3) sub-regional campaigns in Tooro sub-region, Bunyoro sub-region and Lango sub-region generated 567,345 signatures to support the public petition requesting Parliament, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Office of the Prime Minister and National Planning Authority to formulate NPM & FOPWL regulations on foods and beverages that are high in sugar, salt, and trans fats and evidence-based food policies. CEFROHT working with coalition has increased public awareness on the NCD burden and risk factors and also built public support to pass evidence-based food policies for Uganda.

## Data Enumerators' Training And Landscape Survey

In advancing context-specific food policies for Uganda, the Coalition working with partners: MoH, UNICEF, WHO was tasked to conduct a landscape survey of all foods and beverage products on the Ugandan market across the 14 Health regions of the country to inform development of the Uganda NPM. The landscape survey aimed at generating evidence on the Ultra Processed Products at the local market particularly those with excess of nutrients of critical concern, those without nutrition labels or inappropriately labeled and the extent of risk the UPPs posses to the health of Ugandans. The task was initiated by consultants who came up with the draft methodology and draft questionnaire tools which over time were improved by partners (CEFROHT, MOH, WHO & UNICEF) through a series of meetings.

The developed digital questionnaire was designed to capture data and pictures on; total fat, saturated fat, trans-fat, total sugar, added sugar, added non-sugar sweeteners, total carbohydrates, protein, cholesterol and caffeine per 100mls/100gms of each food product.

### Enumerators' training

Sessions were given by nutrition experts to help the field team understand the purpose of the survey as a point of engagement with local authorities and supermarket managers on articulating the objectives of the survey; this could later inform authorization of the study and personnel which led and introduced the teams to supermarkets and grocery stores around the country. The hands-on sessions were conducted by the study consultants and the sessions indulged in (i) methodology of data collection. (ii) A step by step application and translation of data from the product label into the digital questionnaire. (iii) Hands-on considerations for taking good quality pictures of the UPPs. The consultants were supported by partners (CEFROHT, WHO, UNICEF & MOH) in terms of technical guidance.



**The Assistant Commissioner Nutrition at MoH and Nutrition experts building the capacity of enumerators to effectively collect data on processed and Ultra-processed products around the country.**



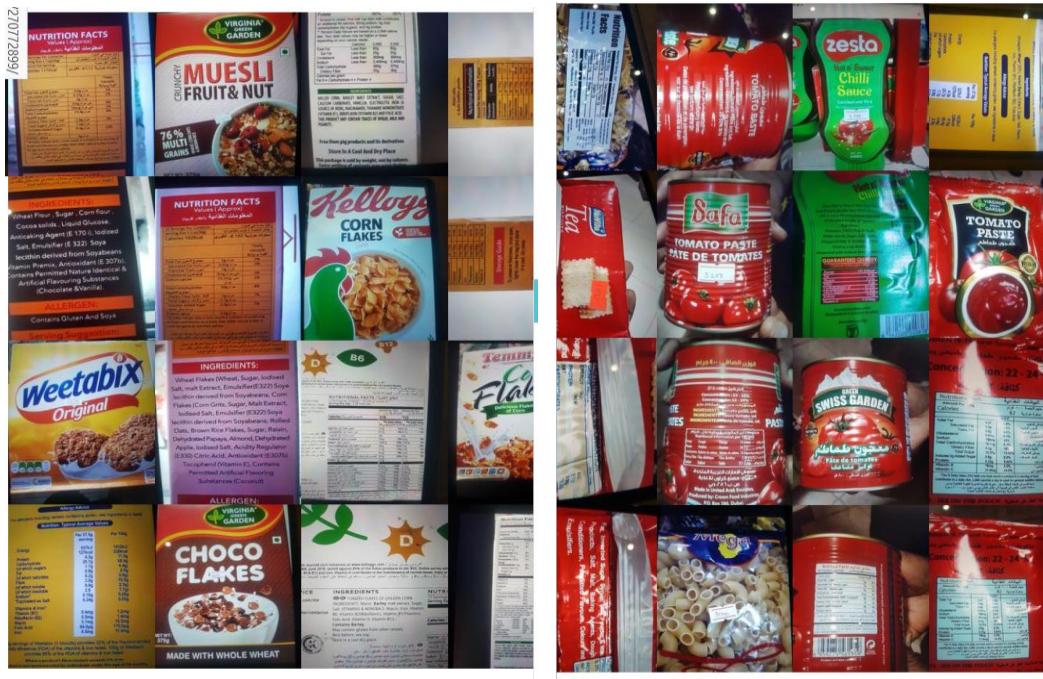
**Enumerators at the capacity building training.**

### **The survey**

The field teams set out to the 14 health regions, including the border regions of the country to collect data on the UPPs on the Uganda local market targeting supermarkets and grocery stores. CEFROHT and MoH coordinated the entire study exercise. A total of 3,567 products were collected.

The study entailed taking a comprehensive range and wide variety of all packed processed and ultra-processed food and beverage products on the shelves, collecting all available packaged food and beverage products, regardless of the availability of nutrition fact tables (NFT) and encompassed an inclusion and exclusion criteria – e.g. every packed UPPs with or without NFT, for multiple packaged products, considered the size that occupies the most shelf space and excluded all flavours with single ingredients without NFT, seasonal products etc

CEFROHT and the hired consultants together with MoH, WHO and UNICEF look forward to data cleaning, analysis and report writing: Highlighting findings, and recommendations that will inform the Uganda NPM and FOPWL regulations.



**A sample of products collected during the landscape survey**

## NATIONAL NUTRITION FORUM

CEFROHT leveraged also the Third National Nutrition Forum that was held by the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala under the theme “Unlocking Nutrition Potential, Accelerating Multi Sectoral Actions and strategic investment for enhanced Nutrition security”. The forum is the highest-level of engagement that brings together all nutrition stakeholders in the country to deliberate on pertinent issues on food and nutrition security in Uganda.

During the National Nutrition Forum, CEFROHT presented a justification for NPM and FoPWL in Uganda as one of the key supportive regulations geared towards improving healthier diets, ensure consumer awareness and protection against food products that are high in processed sugar, salt and saturated fat that have been scientifically reported to increase the risk of NCDs. CEFROHT highlighted its commitment to supporting the process of finalizing the development and enactment of the NPM for Uganda.

CEFROHT is delighted to present certificate of appreciation from the Office of the Prime Minister in recognition of CEFROHT efforts towards promotion of adequate food and nutrition in Uganda.



**CEFROHT staff present a certificate of Appreciation received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Nutrition Forum in recognition of CEFROHT's efforts towards promotion of healthy diets and Nutrition.**

### **PARLIAMENTARY NUTRITION WEEK**

The Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT) actively participated in this year's Parliamentary Nutrition Week, in Kamwenge District with the theme "Beyond the table"

CEFROHT kicked off the week with a powerful Press statement and nutrition statement delivered directly at Parliament. The statement highlighted the critical need for legal and regulatory frameworks encompassing a Human Rights-Based Approach that regulate food environments in Uganda, as best measures recommended by WHO to tackle NCDs and unhealthy diets. The nutrition statement was delivered before the floor of Parliament and indicated the need to fast-track the formulation processes of the Uganda NPM, Uganda food and nutrition policy, as well as the food and nutrition bill.



**CEFROHT delivering a press statement ahead of the Parliamentary Nutrition Week.**

CEFROHT's commitment extended beyond the walls of Parliament. The team travelled to Tooro Sub-region to engage with the local community through a series of impactful initiatives such as radio talk shows, local government and community engagements.

The Parliamentary Nutrition Week targeted the MPs, MDAs, CSOs, media, academia, and local communities as part of the multi-sectoral key stakeholders able to broaden cross-sectoral knowledge sharing and advocacy for the rule of law in promoting healthy diets and physical activity for preventing NCDs. The Parliamentary Nutrition Week increased the understanding and generated commitments from (i) the UPA-FNS to table on the floor of parliament the Food and Nutrition Bill, (ii) the local governments to pass bye-laws that promote healthy diets. The nutrition week built and strengthened the capacity of the public and communities to make informed choices about nutrition through education, skill-building, and access to resources.

CEFROHT disseminated a total of 1,200 policy briefs on promotion of healthy diets and physical activity to curb the rising burden of NCDs.



**Members of Parliament visiting the CEFROHT stall during the Parliamentary Nutrition Week.**

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

CEFROHT working with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders conducted the National Day of Physical Activity at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) Sports Grounds. The event was a vibrant display of Uganda's commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles. Hundreds of participants came together to embrace the joy of movement, showcasing the power of physical activity for everyone. CEFROHT was proud to have a dedicated tent at the event, offering a range of resources and services that included: (i) Informative and educative policy briefs on the importance of physical activity were disseminated thus empowering Ugandans to advocate for policies that support a healthy lifestyle. (ii) offered free height and weight measurements, calculating Body Mass Index (BMI) for participants and through a nutritionist, CEFROHT provided recommended diets and physical activity in view of recorded BMI. The atmosphere was full of energy as participants enjoyed a variety of physical activities. From bike riding, running, walking, football and aerobics to group fitness challenges, there was something for everyone to get moving and have fun.

The event was graced by High-level government officials including the Minister of Health who participated, demonstrating the government's commitment to promoting physical activity. The World Health Organization country director for Uganda also participated, highlighting the global importance of physical activity and Uganda's alignment with international health initiatives.



**Participants at the National Day of Physical Activity.**



**CEFROHT nutrition expert taking the BMI, and giving recommendations on diets and physical activity to participants at the CEFROHT stall.**



**On the left, the Minister of Health and on the right, the WHO country coordinator for Uganda at the National Day of Physical Activity.**

## SCHOOL FEEDING GOVERNANCE

CEFROHT has used a multi-sectoral approach to promote sustainable and equitable school feeding and its governance. CEFROHT has engaged Ministries of Education, Health, Local Government, Trade, Office of the Prime Minister, National Planning Authority, and the National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who committed to incorporate a stand-alone pillar of food and nutrition in the National Development Plan IV.



## THEMATIC AREA 3: AGROECOLOGY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM.

### 3.1 PROMOTION OF AGROECOLOGY USING LAW AND A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH WITHIN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION.

CEFROHT partnered with the East African Legislative Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (EALA-ATNR) to advocate for promotion of agroecology, the right to food right and sustainable agri-food systems within the East African Community. CEFROHT in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization, conducted a three-day capacity building workshop with the EALA-ATNR committee with the objective of strengthening the capacity and understanding of attending parliamentarians regarding agroecology and the significance of developing an appropriate institutional framework in promoting agroecology within the EAC. Participants in the capacity building included: FAO, CSOs, academia, researchers, agroecology actors and smallholder farmers.

Presenting the benefits of agroecology to the committee, CEFROHT made a call to action to the committee to pass a comprehensive regional policy, that promotes Agroecology, protects the environment, improves food and nutrition security, seed and food sovereignty, improved incomes and promote the adequate living of the people in the region.



**Capacity building of the EALA-ATNR committee on agroecology as a panacea to food and nutrition security and food sovereignty.**

### **3.1.1 EALA-ATNR COMMITTEE FIELD VISIT TO THE CEFROHT AGROECOLOGY LEARNING CENTER IN MUKONO DISTRICT.**

In order to strengthen the theoretical concepts with practical application, CEFROHT led a delegation of the EALA-ATNR committee members and the representatives from the FAO to a field visit to one of CEFROHT agroecology Learning Centers in Mukono district to enable the members understand the practical knowledge and application of the Agroecology principles and practices. This was aimed at appreciating the practicability of agroecology at commercial and economic scale. The learning center sitted on 9 acres of land incorporating agroecology principles and practices was a worthwhile experience full of learning and appreciation of agroecology for the committee.



**Members of the committee during the visit at one of the CEFROHT Agroecology Learning Centers in Mukono district.**

### **3.1.2 EALA-ATNR COMMITTEE VISIT TO CEFROHT OFFICES**

Following the insightful field visit, the EALA-ATNR committee members and FAO representatives were hosted for a healthy lunch buffet at CEFROHT offices by the chairperson Board of Directors, Prof. Kaaya Archileo.

An engagement meeting with the committee including FAO representatives, CSOs, the loose collaborative, academia and agroecology farmers proceeded the healthy lunch. Understanding that policies formulated and enacted the East African level supersede national policies, CEFROHT presented a CSO position paper on promoting agroecology using the legal and policy framework within East African region highlighting the importance of creating institutional frameworks for agroecology strengthening and promotion of seed equity and food sovereignty within the East African region.



**Members of the committee at CEFROHT offices during the capacity building training on agroecology promotion using Law and policy within the East Africa Region.**



**Members of the committee pose for a group photo at CEFROHT offices.**

The capacity building generated commitment and a resolution from the chairperson EALA-ATNR to recognize agroecology as a strategic priority of the committee for formulating and recommending sustainable policies in Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resource Management in the East African region. This reaffirms the commitment to advancing agroecology in East Africa, highlighting the dedication to protecting the environment, improving food security, and enhancing community well-being.

## East African Legislative Assembly Signs a resolution with Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), Recognizing Agro-ecology as a Strategic Priority in the EAC

Press Releases » Nov 18, 2024 » 7 Views



The Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (ATNR) of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) together with the Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT)

Kampala, Uganda – November 18, 2024 – The Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (ATNR) of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in partnership with the Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT) signed a resolution officially recognizing agroecology as a strategic priority for formulating and recommending sustainable policies in agriculture, tourism, and natural resource management across the

### Related Press Releases

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Oct 23, 2024 – 19 Views

[Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirumana, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly Adresses 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union \(IPU\) in Geneva, Switzerland](#)

Oct 16, 2024 – 19 Views

[East African Legislative Assembly \(EALA\) Annual Planning Meeting FY 2024/25 concludes in Arusha, Tanzania](#)

Sep 04, 2024 – 32 Views

[East African Community's First Intergenerational Dialogue set to begin tomorrow in Arusha](#)

Jul 01, 2024 – 37 Views

[The East African Legislative Assembly \(EALA\)'s Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change](#)

Jun 29, 2024 – 40 Views

[The EAC Budget for FY 2024/25 tabled to the East African legislative Assembly for debate](#)

Jun 26, 2024 – 42 Views

[THE 4TH MEETING OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 5TH ASSEMBLY](#)

### 3.2 AGROECOLOGY PRODUCTION SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND MARKETING STRATEGY

CEFROHT worked with women and youth groups, agroecology value chain actors and local governments during several consultative meetings and developed an agroecology production sustainability plan and a marketing strategy for farmers' produce in the rural and peri-urban areas in Uganda. The two strategies are based on the identified supply constraints faced by smallholder agroecology farmers in production and marketing of agroecology produce.

CEFROHT conducted a highly participatory validation meeting considering full consultation with the women and youth farmers, marketers, local government leaders, and CSOs. The validation meeting aimed at providing deeper insights into and finalization of the developed strategies. The validation meeting generated commitments from Local government to support women and youth agroecology farmer groups in accessing credit at very low interest rates through the Parish Development Model; and further committed to support local women and youth farmers by extending irrigation services to farmers through the government microscale irrigation program as this will combat the drastic climate changes and will foster constant supply of agroecology products to the developed earth markets.

The production sustainability plan and marketing strategy based on addressing the supply constraints faced by women and youths who are dominant in agroecology have been vital in

building and strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers to overcome the above-mentioned constraints in the agroecology sector. Using the developed production sustainability plan and a marketing strategy, CEFROHT has conducted trainings with smallholder agroecology farmer groups to enhance their capacity to utilize the strategies to sustain their production and marketing processes.





**The Town Clerk, Kasangati town council making commitments to support women and youth agroecology farmers through government initiatives such as the PDM and the microscale irrigation program.**

### 3.3 AEF TRIPARTITE EVENT

CEFROHT joined the continent during the Agroecology Fund tripartite event convening in Harare, Zimbabwe. The event included: The African Agroecology Entrepreneurship and territorial markets, The Harare Seed and Food Festival and The 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Food Systems Celebration. With over 100 participants from across the continent, the agroecology partners at the convening shared experiences and ideas on the good practices of promoting agroecology economies with Donor partners, through panel discussions, open spaces, and interactive and reflective sessions. The convening discussed the role enabling policy and legal frameworks play in supporting agroecological approaches and practices, including land rights, seed sovereignty, and territorial market access. Additionally, the convening underscored the need for stronger government engagement at local and national government levels and collaboration to support agroecological initiatives, improve market access, promote value addition, and post-harvest management for agroecological products.



Agroecology Actors at the AEF tripartite event.



CEFROHT launches the Pan African Legal Network on Agroecology during the AEF tripartite event.

### 3.4 THE UGANDA NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

CEFROHT is a member of the Inner Working Group that has drafted the Uganda National Agroecology Strategy (NAS). The inner working group for the NAS comprises of local agroecology partners that include civil society organizations (CEFROHT, PELUM Uganda, ESSAF, ACSA, Slow Food international), Academia (UMU), and policy makers (MAAIF). The NAS is aimed at promoting a resilient, sustainable and inclusive food system, conserving the country's resources, and cultural heritage.

The NAS will bring actors together to undertake deliberate and strategic actions for mainstreaming agroecology in all relevant policies including operationalizing the aspects of the Uganda food and nutritional policy. CEFROHT and the inner working

group conducted a multi-stakeholder validation meeting for the NAS to understand the roles of different sectors and stakeholders, internalize the document and also provide input into a final document that was presented to MAAIF Sector Senior Management and awaits approval.



**A multi-stakeholder consultative meeting for the National Agroecology Strategy (NAS) development.**



At the National Validation meeting for the NAS., The E.D CEFROHT being recognized for CEFROHT's invaluable support towards the NAS development.

### 3.5 THE CULTIVATING CHANGE GATHERING IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA.

CEFROHT joined the world at the "Cultivating Change Gathering" in Arusha, Tanzania. The gathering on regenerative and agroecology food systems transformation and philanthropy collaborative for fertilizer transition, mapping alignment for Global fertilizer transitions and collaborative action. CEFROHT exchanged insights from ongoing transition processes and regional discussions, and built relationships and connections with Agroecology partners, within and between countries and regions involved in agroecological transitions.



Participants from all over the world at the Cultivating Change gathering in Arusha, Tanzania.



Dr. Kabanda David at the Cultivating Change gathering in Arusha, Tanzania.

### 3.6 CEFROHT AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND LEARNING CENTERS (CAKNOW)

CEFROHT has through community driven interventions and needs set up Community Agroecology Knowledge Exchange and Learning Centers (CAKNOWs) in Kiboga, Wakiso and Mukono districts where smallholder farmers have throughout the year met occasionally to share knowledge on Agroecology practices and locally driven innovations.

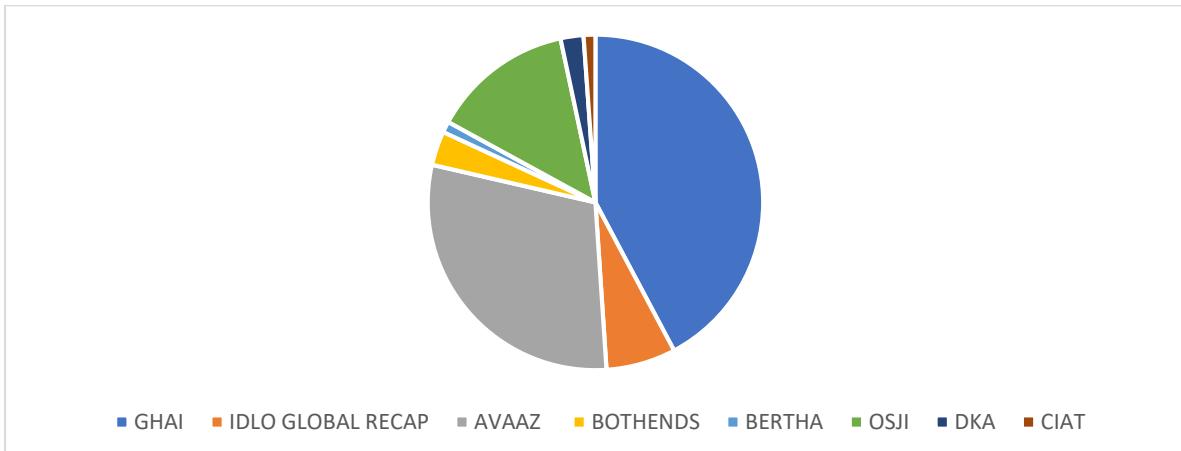
At these centers, women and youth farmers have been trained and shared knowledge on farming agroecologically in vegetables, staples, herbs, spices, coffee, trees, fruit trees; engage in goat rearing as a social enterprise, and beekeeping practices as ways of economic diversification and biodiversity conservation. We are happy to have trained 423 smallholder agroecology farmers in practice and principle.



#### 4. STAFF WELFARE

CEFROHT conducted two staff retreats: one beginning of the year staff retreat and one mid-year staff retreat to reflect on achievements, lessons learned, and challenges from prior activities. These retreats provided an opportunity for staff to review work plans and budgets, set priorities for the year and the months ahead, and gain board approval for the finalized workplans and budgets. Additionally, staff participated in sessions focused on monitoring and learning to enhance the adequate living for the greater good of everyone. Discussions emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in project implementation, organizational policies, creating lasting community impact, and fostering effective partnerships.

#### 5. CEFROHT FINANCIALS 2024



## 6. CEFROHT IN MEDIA 2024

