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# Indigenous Biodynamic Association of Africa

A bi-annual dispatch from the Biodynamic African  
Community

## 100 YEARS OF BIODYNAMICS

### The African Context

In Africa, the biodynamic preparations are being made for the first time across different regions which reflects the youthful phase of the biodynamic impulse on the continent.

Feya Marince, co-founder and board member of the Indigenous Biodynamic Association of Africa (IBAA) shared in an interview with Living Farms magazine - "Here in Africa, we are on a journey of identity, and we are all on different stages of development. Some have received biodynamic training, are deeply connected to the spiritual aspects and use biodynamic methods to heal the soil and build local communities on these principles. Others are using the preparations mainly to meet certification standards and export to Europe. As we engage with these standards and certifications, we must also carry forward the spiritual aspects."

A GLIMPSE OF  
WHAT'S INSIDE:

### 1. An introduction to IBAA

### 2. 2024 reflections from IBAA

- Goetheanum, Switzerland
- SEKEM, Egypt
- Member's Assembly, Poland
- AAAT, Botswana

### 3. 2025 Insights

### 4. A new era for Agriculture in SA

"INDIGENOUS CULTURES HELP  
US REDISCOVER WHAT LIFE IS"





South Africa





## AN INTRODUCTION TO IBAA

### Nurturing Communities, Cultivating Tomorrow

The association is named the Indigenous Biodynamic Association of Africa. IBAA was created with the aim of promoting and developing Biodynamic (BD) farming practices in the agricultural sector and associated economy throughout sub-Saharan Africa in line with the principles adopted by Dr Rudolf Steiner and embedded within the African indigenous regenerative farming practices of the preindustrial era.



IBAA is a community-centred organization that was started by a cohort of visionary Biodynamic students who inherited the traditional knowledge of their forebearers. With a mission to network and access the needs and nature of support required by the communities, IBAA is dedicated to empowering indigenous farmers to achieve economic and environmental sustainability. IBAA is rooted in ancestral wisdom and guided by the principles of biodynamic agriculture.



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## 2024 REFLECTIONS

### Celebrating 100 years of biodynamic agriculture

In early February 2024, IBAA joined in the historic celebration of 100 years of biodynamic agriculture hosted at the [Agricultural Conference in Goetheanum, Switzerland.](#)

Our team was represented by Feya Marince on stage who joined as one of the panelists. She shared a bit about her journey expressing:

“When I learned about Biodynamic farming, I felt an instant connection to my free childhood. Indigenous people in Africa always had a spiritual connection to the earth, the sun, moon and the cosmos - so was ancient farming practices done with animals, plants and the soil.

Using the land to support our livelihood was a part of our earliest socialisation and through storytelling and active participation - knowledge, skills, attitudes and values related to sustainable farming were transferred from generation to generation...”



“ ALMOST 1000 PEOPLE FROM 51 COUNTRIES WERE PRESENT IN CELEBRATING TOGETHER ”





Acacia tree planted in Egypt

## 2024 REFLECTIONS

### SEKEM, Egypt

As the celebration of 100 years of biodynamics continued, IBAA was engaged in various conferences, agricultural activities and networking social events - sharing the space with both local and international communities, from North Africa all the way through Central Europe.

In May 2024, the association had its esteemed board members travel to Egypt for the first ever Biodynamic Conference with SEKEM.

The SEKEM initiative was founded to realize the vision of sustainable human development. Its mission is the development of the individual, society and environment through a holistic concept which integrates economic, societal and cultural life.

Above all, SEKEM aspires to be an impulse for continuous development in all parts of life, to be not only a model for, but also a contribution to the development of the entire world.



...TASTE THE "ECONOMY OF LOVE"







Night market in Europe

## 2024 REFLECTIONS

### Member's Assembly, Poland

In June, a special meeting and celebration in Poland took place as the biodynamics movement was taken back to where it was first started in 1924.

After being approved as a Candidate member of the Federation in November 2022 - IBAA had the pleasure of being represented during this year's Member Assembly by nominated delegate and board member Sanele Ngubane.

This was the 4th MA since the creation of the Federation, with approximately 100 participants from nearly all the continents - Asia, Europe, North and South America, Australia and AFRICA.

During this year's special edition, the MA would welcome in a new board and president and members got to know one another while reflecting on the past, present and looking towards the future. Many topics were discussed including market development, the future of certification and organizational development.







Training of Trainers, Botswana

## 2024 REFLECTIONS

### AAAT- TOT, Botswana

In August, the Biodynamic Agriculture Training of Trainers workshop took place in Botswana.

This initiative marked a significant milestone in promoting biodynamic farming and gardening principles in Africa - with the presence of 24 dedicated individuals from 8 African countries (Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya & Egypt).

IBAA board members Charlene Makondora and Feyla Marince gave the group a presentation about IBAA - introducing the association with an informative session covering their mission and objectives, membership benefits, opportunities and global network community engagements.

Over 5 intensive days, all participants representing the African countries engaged in learning, sharing of experiences and expertise - leaving the workshop with a sense of accomplishment and renewed purpose.





Image from the BDFI

## LOOKING TOWARDS 2025 WITH ENCOURAGEMENT

### Upcoming conferences and events

#### Agriculture Conference - February 2025

The upcoming conference will mark the culmination of a trilogy that began with a retrospective in 2023 and continued with a deep exploration of the Agriculture Course at the anniversary conference 2024. Now, we look forward to 2025 and beyond, envisioning the future in our central theme: **The Earth as a Living Being.**

- Our Earth, our Future!
- The seven life processes
- The Earth as a living being

#### The next generation in biodynamics

All young people connected to biodynamic agriculture are invited to come create a space of exchanging ideas and inspiring each other through collaboration.

#### More events at a glance:

- **Biodynamic fruit production - Jan 2025**
- **Biodynamic trainers & advisors' meeting - Feb 2025**
- **Circle of Representatives - Feb 2025**
- **Biodynamic Research Conference - Sept 2025**



READY FOR ANOTHER CENTURY OF BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE?





## A NEW ERA FOR AGRICULTURE

**Article by Wandile Sihlobo**

2024 has been a year of mixed fortunes for the agricultural sector. The mid-summer El Niño-induced drought negatively impacted summer crops, while events like the ongoing animal disease woes, the seemingly endless logistical crisis, high interest rates, and uncertainty about the national government all weighed heavily on the sector.

The weather outlook for 2025 is positive, with a La Niña system predicted, and – while tractor sales are down following record sales over the past two years – seed sales are encouraging, indicating confidence in fortunes ahead.

Importantly, the government continues to prioritise the diversification of export markets for South African agricultural produce.

While our export markets are already diverse, agricultural produce will likely expand in the coming years, mainly due to previously underused land. That's why it's vital that the expanded BRICS member nations be pursued as added agricultural export markets – particularly China, India, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

A further exciting development in the agricultural sector is the equitable distribution of land to previously marginalised communities. It has taken some time for the puzzle pieces to fall into place, but we are now at the point where the blended finance scheme is being rolled out and key partnerships are bearing fruit.

**S.AFRICA MUST EXPAND TRADITIONALLY AND EXPLORE NEW MARKETS**



# INDIGENOUS BIODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

Working Together With Local Communities

## Vision

The Indigenous Biodynamic Association, (IBAA) was established to introduce and promote biodynamic practices among indigenous communities in sub-Saharan Africa. By networking with smallholder farmers and farm associations

IBAA aims to expand the reach of biodynamic farming to communities that might not otherwise have been exposed to it. Our diverse group of members, who are well-versed in the cultural and language landscape of South Africa, allows us to effectively navigate the challenges of promoting biodynamic farming to indigenous communities.

## Mission

1. Networking to access the need and nature of support

2. Projects:

- a) Support new emerging projects in Limpopo, KZN, Mpumalanga & Gauteng provinces and any other future regions.
- b) Acknowledge indigenous communities relationship to the BD preparations.

3. Training

- a) Continue to participate with train the trainer programme as established in Kufunda, Zimbabwe.

IBAA is dedicated to empowering indigenous farmer's to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.

## Our roots

The Indigenous Biodynamic association was formed by a group of visionary women and youth who inherited the traditional knowledge of their foremothers. Guided by the principles of biodynamic agriculture, which integrates organic farming practices with cosmic and spiritual elements, IBAA aims to revive the ancestral wisdom of the people and rejuvenate the land.

