



Name: David Karanja, PhD

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Expertise: Organic Agriculture, Biodynamic Agriculture, Horticulture

Institution: Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)

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Bio: David Karanja, Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK) Chief Executive Officer, is committed to reconnecting humans with the earth. He has over 15 years of work experience with NGOs in Project management, farmer training, and fundraising. His competencies are mainly in campaigns and advocacy, capacity building for smallholder farmers, and information dissemination on regenerative organic agriculture.

David oversees the full implementation of donor-funded projects and supports the OACK team in implementing agreed strategies and work plans, and spearheading fundraising initiatives at OACK. David holds a certificate in organic agriculture from the Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF), a Diploma in biodynamic agriculture from Emerson College (England), and a Diploma in horticulture from the Kenya Methodist University.

He is also trained in Bio-intensive agriculture by Ecology Action (U.S.A). He has successfully trained over 4000 smallholder farmers to establish regenerative organic gardens for the production of healthy food for both home consumption and for sale at the local markets. In addition, he has supported local primary and secondary schools to establish learning gardens where learners have been trained on various methods of growing healthy organic foods. In an effort to increase access to healthy, local food choices, David has spearheaded the establishment of three local organic farmers' markets in Kangari, Githumu, and Kirwara towns, where consumers are supplied with organic produce direct from the farm.

Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK) is a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NGO) since 2006, with a mandate to educate and train disadvantaged small-scale farmers in sustainable agriculture in Kenya.

Some of the technical challenges facing our farming communities include the following:

- Low number of youths interested in agricultural activity, leaving the old population involved in agriculture-related activities

- Access to a good market for agricultural produce
- Unpredictable weather patterns due to climate change (example, delayed rainfalls and heavier rainfalls than usual when they arrive)
- High costs of farm inputs such as seeds and fertilizers
- Inadequate information on better post-harvest handling of farm produce.
- Access to financial resources to carry out meaningful farming activities
- Poor government agricultural policies, i.e., low budgetary allocation by the government for agricultural development.
- limited extension services, thus farmers do not get the right information in good time