



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

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NEWSLETTER

FROM SEEDS TO ADVOCACY: WOMEN AWAKENING THE SOUL OF AFRICA



This newsletter tells the powerful story of transformation unfolding across the Albertine region of Uganda, where women affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project are turning despair into hope, vulnerability into leadership, and broken promises into sustainable solutions. Here, we portray to you where the earth meets hope. At the core of our inaugural newsletter, this

publication documents how women in EACOP-affected communities are rejecting the false choice between poverty and environmental destruction. Instead, they are pioneering a third path – one that leads to genuine prosperity through climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy advocacy, and community-led sustainable development.

Our primary focus is the Women's Climate Smart Agriculture Training Program, operating under the theme **"From Vulnerability to Leadership: Women Leading Climate Resilience and Empowering Communities Through Climate Smart Agriculture."** This program represents more than agricultural training – it is a comprehensive movement that transforms individual women from project beneficiaries into community leaders, converts agricultural knowledge into powerful advocacy tools for climate justice, bridges the gap between local food security and global climate action and demonstrates practical alternatives to fossil fuel dependency through sustainable livelihoods.

The timing of this newsletter is significant. With the recent landmark, International Court of Justice ruling on July 23rd, 2025, demanding that states tackle fossil fuels or face reparations, our local struggles have gained global

legalbacking. This ruling validates what EACOP-affected women have long known: those who contribute least to climate change deserve protection, not further exploitation. Rather than simply opposing EACOP, these women are proving that sustainable alternatives work. Through beekeeping, PERMALAB irrigation projects, poultry keeping, Biogas production and community savings groups, they demonstrate that true energy security comes not from extracting fossil fuels from the ground, but from harnessing the renewable resources that surround us daily.

This is ultimately a story about power – who has it, who needs it, and how it can be redistributed for justice. Welcome to our story where every seed planted is an act of resistance, every harvest is a victory for sustainability, and every woman trained becomes a catalyst for community-wide transformation.



HISTORIC VICTORY: THE WORLD COURT SPEAKS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

On July 23rd, 2025, history was written at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The International Court of Justice delivered a groundbreaking ruling that transforms the global fight against climate change. The landmark finding confirms that countries are legally bound to slash carbon pollution or risk paying billions in compensation to communities bearing the brunt of climate change.

ICJ President Judge Yuji Iwasawa declared that climate breakdown creates "severe and far-reaching consequences which affect natural ecosystems and people," describing these impacts as "an urgent existential threat." The court said, states must cooperate to reduce planet-heating pollution and that countries harmed by the climate crisis may be entitled to reparations on a case-by-case basis.

This ruling resonates deeply with our struggle against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. For too long, women in the Albertine region have watched their fertile lands turn barren, their water sources polluted, and their families scattered by oil extraction promises that never materialized into prosperity. The ICJ ruling validates what we have always known: "those who did the least to fuel this crisis deserve protection, reparations, and a future."



In the shadow of EACOP's broken promises, women are rising like the morning sun, something beautiful is growing. Where oil pipelines threatened to divide communities, women are planting seeds of unity. Where fossil fuel extraction promised false prosperity, mothers and daughters are cultivating real wealth through climate-smart agriculture. The women of Albertine refuse to remain victims of someone else's greed. They are transforming from vulnerable beneficiaries into powerful leaders, their voices rising like the morning sun over their demonstration plots and kitchen gardens.

Our Women's Climate Smart Agriculture Training Program is not just farming – this is revolution with roots. Every seed planted is an act of defiance against EACOP's destructive path. Every harvest is proof that sustainable livelihoods can flourish without poisoning our children's future.

In apiaries across the region, women and our youth tend their hives like guardians of ancient wisdom. These golden warriors produce honey that feeds families while their busy workers pollinate crops that EACOP's industrial footprint threatened to destroy. Each buzzing hive tells a story of how nature's smallest creatures can create abundance when humans work in harmony with the environment.



Through innovative irrigation systems, women are rewriting the story of water scarcity and food insecurity. These permanent agriculture laboratories demonstrate that with proper water management, the land can bloom even during the harshest seasons. Rain water harvesting systems catch every precious drop, storing hope for the dry months ahead which are more intense than ever since the oil extraction activities started.



In chicken coops and fish ponds, women are hatching economic independence. These feathered allies provide protein for growing families and income for school fees. Each egg laid is a small victory against the poverty that EACOP promised to end but instead deepened.



In circles under indigenous trees, women count coins and dreams together. These savings groups pool resources for seeds, tools, and emergencies. They prove that when women control their finances, communities flourish. Every shilling saved is a vote for local development over extractive exploitation. Climate change and industrial projects like EACOP threaten our most precious resource. Our water security training teaches women to be guardians of every drop. Through rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, and community water management, we prepare for both abundance and scarcity. Women learn to read the sky like an ancient text, understanding when the rains will come and how to capture them. They build systems that turn rooftops into water collectors and gardens into moisture conservers. This knowledge transforms communities from water-worried to water-wise.



STORYTELLING FOR JUSTICE: VOICES THAT CANNOT BE SILENCED

Our training transforms women into powerful storytellers who document how oil projects harm their agricultural productivity and contaminate water sources. Through visual evidence and personal testimonies, they create advocacy materials that policy makers cannot ignore. These stories travel from village squares to parliament halls, from community meetings to international forums. Each woman's testimony becomes part of a larger narrative demanding clean energy alternatives and climate justice.



Women who once felt voiceless are now confident enough to present budget proposals for renewable energy projects. They demand accountability from leaders who previously made decisions about their lives without consulting them. These community engagements and training programs prove that when women have platforms, they use them to lift entire communities.



CONNECTING LOCAL ACTION TO GLOBAL JUSTICE

The ICJ ruling creates new possibilities for our fight against EACOP and similar destructive projects. The legal clarity that the ICJ ruling provides must become a catalyst for real, tangible change: holding major polluters accountable especially the oil companies, securing reparations for those harmed, and ensuring the law protects all of humanity and the earth we share.

Our climate-smart agriculture program directly supports this global movement by:

- Documenting harm: Women record how industrial projects damage local food systems and water sources
- Demonstrating alternatives: Successful agricultural projects prove that sustainable development is possible
- Building capacity: Trained women become advocates who can engage with policy processes
- Creating evidence: Data from demonstration plots supports legal cases and policy arguments.

Every woman trained in climate-smart agriculture becomes a seed of change in her community. She carries knowledge that transforms not just her family's food security, but her entire village's relationship with the land. These women understand that climate justice is not just about stopping bad projects – it's about growing good alternatives. They know that true energy security comes not from extracting fossil fuels, but from harnessing the sun, wind, and water that surround us.

The path forward is clear, marked by the footsteps of women walking between their vegetable gardens and village meetings, carrying baskets of produce and briefcases of advocacy materials with equal pride.



We envision communities where:

- Clean energy powers solar irrigation pumps and food production facilities
- Women lead both food production and energy planning
- Traditional wisdom merges with modern climate solutions
- Local wealth stays in local hands
- Children inherit fertile land, not polluted wastelands

CALL TO ACTION: JOIN THE GROWING MOVEMENT.

The ICJ ruling proves that the world is listening to voices like ours. Law is on our side. Justice is within reach. But legal victories mean nothing without local action.

We call on:

- Global communities to support women's agricultural initiatives
- Leaders to allocate budgets for renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture
- Partners to invest in women-led sustainable development
- Everyone to choose clean energy over destructive extraction

The women of Albertine are not just adapting to climate change – they are leading the fight against it. Join us as we plant seeds of justice, harvest hope, and cultivate a future where all can flourish. Together, we are not just surviving, we are thriving. Every garden is a victory. Every woman trained is a community transformed.

About us.

EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE HOST COMMUNITIES (EACOP HC): is an association of EACOP affected communities based in the Albertine region of Uganda, EACOPHC is dedicated to promoting sustainable environmental use, human rights and land rights of vulnerable communities.

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