



SUPPORTIVE POLICIES in *organic farming – past, present and future : AU perspective*

**SEMINAR ON ORGANIC FARMING:
A Guide to EU policy and implications for African countries
(adding-value to African food export through organic production)
Brussels,
11-12 July 2011**

**ABEBE HAILEGABRIEL, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT for RURAL ECONOMY and AGRICULTURE,
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- ❖ **European Commission, DG** for facilitating this SEMINAR (Notably Kristine and Leonard Mizzi and their team)
- ❖ **THE SWEDISH SOCIETY** for NATURE Conservation (Notably Karin Hook)
- ❖ **UNCTAD** –Sophia Twareg and other UN agencies that have consistently supported organic agriculture efforts in Africa
- ❖ **IFOAM** and other partners
- ❖ **African Member States** and the several NGOs and Civil society organization (SCOs) engaged in promoting organic agriculture agenda for food security in Africa



Overview of my Presentation

1. AU DREA an overview
2. CAADP in the context of organic agriculture
3. Addressing the challenges and adding value to CAADP through organic agriculture
 - 3.1 Recommendations of the 2008 AU conference on ecological agriculture
 - 3.2 Africa-EU discussions on organic agriculture and other partnerships
 - 3.3 The African Heads' of State Decision EX.CL/Dec.621(XVIII) on organic farming
 - 3.4 Response to EX.CL/Dec.621(XVIII)- Concept and initiative on organic Agriculture in Africa , (Thika-Kenya, March 2011)
4. Conclusions

1.AU DREA an overview

1.1 AUC-DREA's Mission is: *"To work with Member States, RECs, African Institutions, Civil Society and development partners to strengthen the agricultural sector, rural economies and the environment in order to improve the livelihoods of the African people and ensure food security"*

1. AU DREA an overview (contd)

1. 2. **AUC-DREA's Vision is:** *"A transformed African agriculture that provides the basis for continental sustainable growth and prosperity, food security and poverty reduction, reinforced by prudent management of the environment and natural resources including proactive responses to climate change"*



AU DREA an overview (contd)

1.3 AU DREA provides leadership to agriculture in Africa including NEPAD and is based on a current structure of-

- Three divisions that are based in Addis Ababa:
(i) Agriculture and Food Security-*AFS*, (ii) Environment and Natural Resources; and (iii) Rural Economy.

Issues relating to Organic agriculture feature in the division of food security

- 5 Technical offices located in various regions of Africa and addressing animal health (IBAR-Nairobi), plant health (IAPSC, Yaounde, Cameroon, Futa Djallon project, (Konakry), dryland farming (Ouagadougou), production and regulation of animal health vaccines, tsetse control program-the latter 2 are based in Addis Ababa .

2. AU-DREA CAADP CAADP in the context of organic agriculture -

2.1 CAADP has 4 pillars addressing :

1. Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;
2. Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
3. Increasing food supply, reducing hunger,
4. Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption

2.2 AU-DREA CAADP CAADP in the context of organic agriculture

- CAADP's Pillar 3, for example, recognizes the need to direct agricultural development towards the most vulnerable populations for them to benefit from economic growth. This requires, providing accurate, timely and reliable agricultural information that identifies vulnerability, and monitors poverty, as well as assessing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in relation to agricultural productivity, which are essential for decision making in response to unforeseen emergencies.

2.3 AU-DREA CAADP CAADP in the context of organic agriculture

It is encouraging to note that :

- 25 countries have conducted multi-stakeholder roundtables and signed compacts that encapsulate national consensus and donor buy-ins on the key drivers of the agricultural sector;
- 18 countries have subsequently developed agriculture investment plans many of which have been subjected to independent reviews and refined;
- 15 have had business meetings with stakeholders and partners;
- 5 countries have qualified for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) funding arising out of the L'Aquila G8 initiative: Ethiopia, Togo, Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Niger;
- Secondly, AU Member States have increased their own national budgetary allocations to agriculture in accordance, and in some cases, surpassing the CAADP target of 10%, i.e. so far 8 have gone beyond 10%; 11 have increased budgetary allocations between 5 and 10% and progress in this direction is on track

3. Addressing the challenges and Adding-value to CAADP through organic agriculture

- Africa's agriculture and rural economies face the multiple challenges of achieving food security, mitigating and adapting to climate change and addressing infrastructure and market as well as the institutional and policy related challenges .

3. Addressing the challenges (contd)

3.1 Conference on Ecological Agriculture, Mitigating Climate Change, Providing Food Security and Self-Reliance for Rural Livelihoods in Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 26-28 November 2008

- Allow me respected delegates to revisit some discussions in this Conference that was organised by the African Union (AU), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), Ethiopia and the Third World Network (TWN), and with the support of SwedBio, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force.

Conference (contd)

- The Conference brought together by about 80 participants from 18 African countries, policy makers, and agriculture experts representing NGOs, farmers' organisations, universities, and international and regional bodies such as the AU, FAO, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Assessment on Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) and World Food Programme (WFP).
- Commissioner H E Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, of the Rural Economy and Agriculture gave opening remarks.
- A field trip to Tigray in northern Ethiopia provided a perspective on how aspects of the ecosystem when managed appropriately can raise agricultural productivity, and mitigate and contribute to adaptation to climate change in Africa.
- There was a strong case for ecological agriculture in soil carbon sequestration, mitigation against climate change as well as water management for agriculture
- **The Tigray trip, together with evidence arising from papers presented, STRENGTHENED THE RECOMMENDATION TO MAINSTREAM ecological agriculture into the Comprehensive African Agricultural Program, CAADP, develop policies, and enlist international cooperation for addressing the challenges.**

Addressing the challenges (contd)

3.2. Africa EU discussions on organic agriculture and other partnerships

- ❖ Discussions between the AU and the EU within the margins of the JEAS 2011-2013 had a cluster group on regional integration that agreed to work jointly on programs for *Organic Farming and Geographical Indications*. These discussions accelerated into several video conferences in which staff from DREA and staff from the EU Commission participated.
- ❖ **A KEY OUTCOME from these discussions** (as we shall see later) **include support to NOGAMU to establish a certification training center and to increase African capacities to organic producers as this will reduce the cost of production and increase the opportunities for our farmers to access markets.**

Addressing the challenges

3.3. African Heads of State and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII) on *Organic Farming has:*

- *Requested the African Union Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:*
 - *Initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and*
 - *Provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;*
- *CALLED UPON development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this Decision;*
- *REQUESTED the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.*

3.4 RESPONSE to the Heads of state Decision and status of OA in Africa –(a) preamble

- ❑ Certified organic farming in Africa covers 0.88 million ha. An estimated 9.5 million hectares are used for organic beekeeping, forest and wild collection of products. This is less than 1 % of agricultural land.
- ❑ Most organic products are exported to EU markets.
- ❑ Organic farming has a positive impact on food security and sustainability. However, due to inadequate standards, inadequate administrative capacities for certification and unclear policies to meet the EU markets that are dependent on demonstration of equivalence between production standards and control systems, several African countries fall short of meeting the EU requirements.
- ❑ Tunisia is the only African country (with its own organic standards for certification and inspection system) that is listed by the EU as an equivalent third country.
- ❑ Egypt, South Africa and East African countries are making progress in this direction.
- ❑ To qualify, a country must be on a list drawn up by the EU Commission; or certified by control bodies listed by the Commission; or be subject to an import authorisation by a Member State.

3.4 (b)

- Paying attention to the above issues, AU Commissioner Tumusiime Rhoda Peace decried the inadequate capacities that Africa experiences in the area of certification for organic products, and which places an additional cost and strain to African producers.
- She requested support for NOGAMU to establish a certification training center and to increase African capacities to support organic producers. This will reduce the cost of production and increase the opportunities for African farmers to access markets.

3.4(c) The Call by the Heads of State and Government on *Organic Farming in Africa*

Underscored the discussions on organic farming in Africa by calling upon development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of issues relating to their Decision

- *Our conference here in Brussels today could not have been sooner!*

3.4 c (i) (contd) *CONCEPT NOTE and INITIATIVE ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA* Thika, Kenya- 2-3 March 2011

- In response to the Heads of State's call on organic *farming*, an inception workshop was organized in Thika, Kenya, by the African Union Commission and with financial support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation to prepared a roadmap and concept note for an initiative to implement the AU Decision.
- **Definition**-Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved. This way EOA fits the new pathway that considers the agro-ecosystem in all its diversity.

3.4 c(ii) The initiative overall goal is to mainstream ecological organic agriculture (EOA) in Africa by 2020 through six inter-related thematic areas, namely

- Research, Training and Extension
- Information and Communication
- Value Chain and Market Development
- Networking and Partnerships
- Policy and Programme Development
- Institutional Capacity Development

3.4 c(iii) Judicious implementation of the six drivers is expected to lead to :

- Increased adoption and adaptation of innovations (technologies, practices, systems) by a majority of the smallholder farmers, and particularly women and youth.
- Increased productivity, incomes and improved food security resulting from innovations and adherence to standards .
- Heightened inclusion of EOA in national agricultural research policies and programmes and educational institutions.

For the next 18 months and on an interim basis, the first 4 pillars will be addressed as follows:

Pillar	Collaborating organizations	Target Groups	Contact person
<p>Research, Education and Extension</p>	<p>SACDEP, Kenya; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Sokoine University, Tanzania; University of Zambia, Zambia; Mekelle University, Ethiopia, PELUM-Uganda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers in institutions interested in investigating issues to support and expand EOA. • Smallholder family farmers in selected pilot areas. • Community-based organization, NGOs and local agricultural professionals (experts and extensionists) working in the field with smallholder family farmers to support improved food security, nutrition, household incomes, and environmental sustainability. • Youth clubs in schools and agricultural colleges 	<p>Sue Edwards (Leader) Institute for Sustainable Development Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: +251-(0)911-200834 (mobile)</p>

<p>Enhancing Information and Communication Strategies to Promote Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)</p>	<p>Biovision Africa Trust P.O. Box 30772-00100, Duduville, Kasarani, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254-20-8632007; +254-20-8632261; Fax +254-20-8632001/2 Email: info@biovisionafricatrust.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale family farmers in the selected pilot districts. • Community based organization and NGOs working with the Small-scale family farmers to support improved food security, nutrition, household incomes, and environmental sustainability. • Youth clubs in schools and agricultural colleges 	<p>Dr. David M. Amudavi Director, Biovision Africa Trust P.O. Box 30772, 00100, Duduville Kasarani, Nairobi/Kenya; Tel: +254 (20) 863 2007/8; Mobile: +254 717 627 098/737 298 775; damudavi@icipe.org; damudavi@biovisionafricatrust.org</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Enhancing Value Chain and Market Development of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa</p>	<p>National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-poor smallholder producer groups and community based organization working with smallholder farmers in Africa • National and international policy makers and certification bodies • The consumers Processors, Traders - both domestic and international traders • Supporters of value chain development process at both the meso level i.e. NGOs, Financial Institutions and macro level the regulators, quality standards and revenue collectors 	<p>Musa. K. Muwanga Chief Executive Officer, General Lines: +256 312 264039, +256 414 269415 Direct Line: +256 414 268707 Mobile: +256 772 448948 Fax: +256 312 264040 E-mail: mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug Web: www.nogamu.org.ug</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Promoting Networking, Partnership in Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa</p>	<p>Tanzania Organic Movement (TOAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, agriculture and research institutions, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), • Farmer organizations and farmer groups, working with the Small-scale family farmers to support improved food security, nutrition, household incomes, and environmental sustainability in the selected pilot districts. • International development agencies including the Africa Union Commission (AUC), European Union (EU), IFOAM, the United Nations Centre for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FAO, etc 	<p>Mr. Jordan Gama, Executive Director, TOAM Email: toam@kilimohai.org Mobile Phone : +255 754 618 484</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

3.4c (iv)-Coverage and coordination of the Initiative

- On a pilot basis the Initiative will be implemented in six countries namely *Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia in Eastern Africa; Nigeria in West Africa; Zambia in South Africa*, with provision for scaling out to other countries using lessons learnt.
- It will be coordinated on interim basis by PELUM-Kenya, on behalf of the EOA Africa Stakeholders.

*PELUM-Kenya is part of the PELUM Association which is an African-based network of over **230 civil society organizations** in eastern, central and southern Africa that seeks to foster ecological land use management*

The Roles of PELUM-Kenya

- As the interim coordinating organization, PELUM-Kenya will play various roles, among them to :
- Oversee the EOA Initiative in the next one and half years (18 months).
- Disbursement of funds to Pillar Coordinators.
- Implementing the strategies/actions in consultation with Pillar Coordinators

Table 12: Summary Budget (all Pillars and operational costs)

Activity	Amount (KES)	Amount in Euro
1. Research, Training and Extension	15,450,000	154,500
2. Information and Communication	10,000,000	100,000
3. Value chain and market development	8,100,000	81,000
4. Networking, partnerships and policy development	5,060,000	50,600
5. Management and Coordination	16,915,500	169,155
TOTAL	55,525,500	555,255

3.3 (v) Administration- Steering committee (SC) Advisory Board (AB), and Budget

- The EOA Action Plan is an initiative of African Union Commission that will complement the CAADP policy and programmes.
- Coordinated by the African Union Commission, it will be supported by a Steering of Committee (SC) and an advisory board.
- With focus on smallholders,:
 - the Steering Committee will be responsible for developing structures for implementing the Action; developing the EOA's long term goal and objectives; initiate high-level coordination of EOA activities; explore ways of integrating EOA with AUC's agricultural policy; establishing partnership and resource mobilization at a high level.
 - An Advisory Board (AB) of about ten composed of the African Union Commission, international partners, high ranking Africa personalities, internationally recognized personalities with genuine concerns for African Agriculture, food security, environmental issues among others will provide a general oversight over the initiative.
- The initial budget of about € **555,255 (earmarked from SSNC)** will support activities of the first four pillars over a period of 18 months in the 6 pilot countries

Members of the Steering Committee			
Dr. Sarah Olembo	African Union Commission	saraholembo@ymail.com	+251 (0) 911 541 574
Ms. Sue Edwards	Institute of Sustainable Development, Ethiopia	sustainet@yahoo.co.uk	+251 (0) 911 200 834
Mr. Zachary Makanya	PELUM Kenya	makanya@pelum.net	+254 (0) 714 642 916
Mr. Musa Muwanga	NOGAMU, Uganda	mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug	+256 (0) 772 448 948
Dr. Charles Ssekyewa	Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda	c.ssekyewa1@yahoo.com	+256 (0) 772 517 158
Mr. Ngugi Mutura	SACDEP Kenya	sacdepkenya@iconect.co.ke	+254 (0) 722 897 564
Dr. Olugbenga Adeoluwa	University of Ibadan	adeoluwaoo@yahoo.com	+234 (0) 803 570 9365
Dr. David Amudavi	Biovision Africa Trust	damudavi@icipe.org	+254 (0) 717 627 098
Mr. Herve Bouagnimbeck	IFOAM	h.bouagnimbeck@ifoam.org	+49 228 9265 070
Mr. Munshimbwe Chitalu	Organic Producers and Processors Association of Zambia (OPPAZ)	gmchitalu@gmail.com ; oas@organic.org.zm mchitalu@organic.org.zm .	+260 (0) 211 263 070

Proposed Members of the Advisory Board:

Chair- AUC-Commissioner -H.E Rhoda Peace Tumusiime

1. Former President of Nigeria – Abdulsalami Abubakar
2. Former President of Zambia- DR.Kenneth Kaunda
3. Chair of the Greenbelt movement- and Nobel Laureate Prof Wangari Mathaai
4. EU-Leonard Mizzi
5. UNEP-UNCTAD-Dr. Sophia Twarog
6. The Millennium Institute- DR. Hans Herren
7. United Nations Human rights Council- DR. Olivier de Shutter special rapporteur
8. Bioeconomy Africa (BEA) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia -Dr. Getachu Tikube,
9. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation-Karin Hook
10. FAO- Nadia Scialba
11. The Ndere Group of Uganda

3.4c(vi) THE EOA Concept and Action Plan:

- ***Goal:*** The overall goal of the Action Plan is to mainstream ecological agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2020.
- ***Vision:*** Vibrant Ecological Organic Systems for Enhanced Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa.
- ***Mission:*** To scale up ecologically sound strategies and practices among diversified stakeholders through institutional capacity development, scientific innovations, market participation, public policies and programs, outreach and communication, efficient, coordination, networking and partnerships.

A total budget of Euros 44 million is foreseen for the next 5 Years as given in the table.

Pillar	Year 1 '000	Year 2 '000	Year 3 '000	Year 4 '000	Year 5 '000	Total '000
Research, training and extension	400	945	745	1,040	460	3,590
Information and communication	4,110	4,110	4,110	4,110	4,110	20,550
Value chain and market development	3,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	1,100	10,500
Networking and partnership	220	220	220	220	220	1,100
Supportive policies and programmes	750	750	750	750	750	3,750
Institutional capacity development	1,397.5	408	108	108	108	2,129.5
Institutional Arrangements, Overall Governance and Resource Mobilization	500	500	500	500	500	2,500
TOTALS	10,477.5	9,033	8,533	8,828	7,248	44119.5

4. Conclusions

- The EOA concept and initiative for Africa involves and counts on all of us playing and delivering on our respective roles for the benefit of our member countries and to reinforce our mutual efforts and partnerships in food security. ***The full concept with costs for each pillar is available*** . The next step in the road map is the endorsement of this initiative by the agric. experts during the November conference (details available) in Nairobi.
- I wish to thank the team that devoted their time in developing this concept .
- I am given to understand that the majority of them are present here in this workshop.
- It is my pleasure to invite you to contribute in the discussions that will follow this presentation.



Like TIGRAY? Thanks for your kind attention !