



Organic Agriculture:  
African Union Commission and  
European Commission  
Ways Forward  
July 2011



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- UNCTAD's intensive work on organic agriculture in Africa began with the European Commission in 2004

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF East African Organic project, facilitated development of EAOPS

Continued with Government of Austria (2008-2011)

Sida, Norad and DfiD too

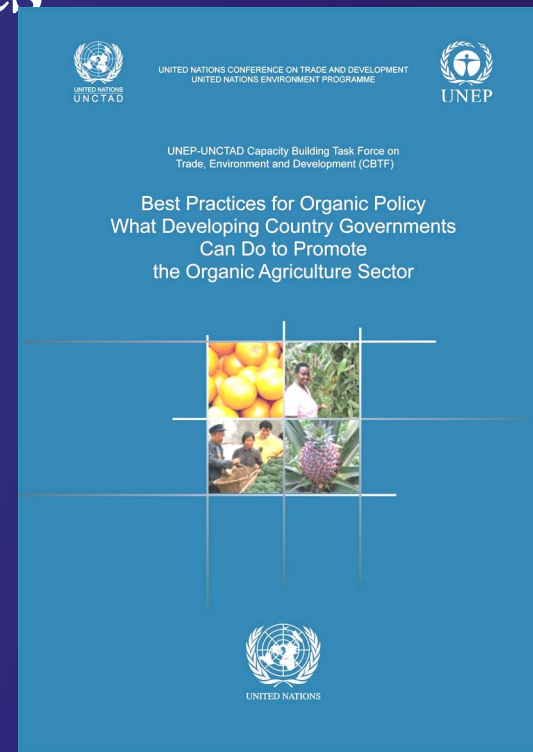
- Leadership role
- Dedicate resources
- Build capacity of staff
- Include in priorities in discussions with development partners
- Mainstream into CAADP

- Capacity building member States—benefits of OA and best practices
- Use AU meetings as opportunities (agriculture, trade, environment, climate change)
- International Forums—Rio +20. Climate Change—African advantage



# UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF study

- 35 actionable recommendations  
based on:
- Case studies of 7 countries
- Other experience



- Ecological Organic Africa Initiative
- 6 pillars
  - Research, training and extension
  - Information and communication
  - Value chain and market development
  - Networking and partnerships
  - Policy and programme development
  - Institutional capacity development

- African Organic Team
- Operationalize African Organic Movement (Afronet or AFREAON)
- African Organic Research Network
- Use modern tools to communicate and organize-- Google groups? Website? Twitter?

## African Organic Standard

- Initiate consultations to explore possibility
  - Useful?
  - East African Organic Products Standard

Please read & give concrete, specific feedback on its suitability in your country

Send to [d.bowen@ifoam.org](mailto:d.bowen@ifoam.org)



# European Commission

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- Please work with East Africa Organic Team to recognize East African Organic Products Standard as soon as possible
- Use Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Systems (COROS) to facilitate equivalency evaluation
- Ensure that equivalency agreements benefit Africa

- Make clear that approved certification bodies can use different locally adapted standards in different countries
  - E.g. EAOPS in Africa
- Longer term: modify or clarify equivalency assessments in import regulation to allow recognition of regional organic production standards
  - Separate evaluation of standards and conformity assessment (accreditation and certification)

- Evaluate how EU policies and EC technical cooperation affects organic agriculture in Africa
- This part of EC raise awareness in other parts of the EC e.g. research, development and member States –what they can do to support organic agriculture in Africa
- Support fundraising efforts

# African Organic Team

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Let us all work together!

African Organic Conference

1-3 May 2012

Zambia



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For more information

[www.unctad.org/trade\\_env](http://www.unctad.org/trade_env)

[www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf](http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf)

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Thank you!



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