

The Austrian Development Co-operation

Co-operating in partnership for strengthening organic agriculture and reducing poverty

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The Austrian Development Co-operation and Co-operation with Eastern Europe (ADC) is based on guidelines by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, made operational by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and implemented by development partners in cooperation with government at all levels, the private sector, various NGOs and CBOs, research and training institutions. ADC shows a strong commitment to promote organic agriculture as a strategy to reduce rural poverty among smallholder farmers in developing countries. Thus, ADC supports various initiatives and programmes in this thematic field, with actually a strong emphasis on East African countries (Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia) and Central America.

ADC is taking into account the principles of partnership with and ownership by the partner countries and its people, integration into the respective socio-cultural setting, the utilisation of appropriate and sustainable technology as well as gender equality. Building on the priorities of the development partners, the focus is put on supporting coherent development programmes – whereby organic agriculture is already considered as a component or foreseen as a pilot activity – rather than isolated projects.

The support to organic agriculture in the form of technical assistance or process facilitation cuts across various sectors and development themes, addressing five main thematic issues:

- Maintaining ecosystem quality at landscape level
- Ensuring sustainable agricultural production
- Adding value to organic produce
- Improving access to markets
- Strengthening the institutional support system

Central measures within the practical implementation of rural organic agriculture interventions – ranging from local to international levels – are agricultural extension, training, research, organisational development as well as communication platforms.

The Research for Development Forum (DEV-FORUM) at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna is one of the partners in Austria. The DEV-FORUM supports ADC in the areas of research, capacity development, consultancy and knowledge communication by promoting, facilitating and coordinating pro-poor science.

For more information:

www.ada.gv.at

www.boku.ac.at/dev-forum.html

www.vidc.org