

Delegates applauded the results and impact of UNCTAD's action-oriented and analytical work on organic agriculture as a trade and sustainable development opportunity for developing countries. The work has focused on two international partnerships for sustainable development that extend to the operational level:

- [UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development \(CBTF\)](#)
- [UNCTAD-FAO-IFOAM International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture \(ITF\)](#)

Launched today, the CBTF study "Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa" demonstrates that organic agriculture can be good for food security in Africa -- equal or better than most conventional systems and more likely to be sustainable in the longer-term, as it builds up levels of natural, human, social financial and physical capital in farming communities.

The launching marks the close of the first phase of the CBTF East African Organic Initiative, which has led to vibrant public private partnerships in East Africa and beyond, including the development of the East African Organic Products Standard--the second regional organic standard in the world--which will promote production and trade in East African organic products.

Participants were also treated to a quick overview of five years of ITF work, and invited to the ITF High-level Public Session (Room XXV, Palais des Nations, 7 October, 3.30-5.30) where the ITF will be closed and the two ITF tools-- the EquiTool for assessing equivalency of organic standards and the IROCB, a minimum set of International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies-- will be launched. The ITF tools and recommendations will facilitate organic trade through equivalence and recognition among organic standards and conformity assessment systems.

for more information, please visit the Trade and Sustainable Development  
Website: [www.unctad.org/trade\\_env](http://www.unctad.org/trade_env)