



African Organic Conference 2009
May 18th-22nd, 2009
Sheraton Hotel, Kampala, Uganda

DRAFT PROGRAMME

16th – 17th May 2009: IFOAM TRAINING WORKSHOP (by invitation only)

DAY 1: 18th May 2009

9.00 am – 6.00 pm East African Organic Conference organized in cooperation with the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, as well as the West African Organic Conference, organized in cooperation with the West African Organic Agriculture Network

Separate detailed programmes will be provided.

DAY 1: 18th May 2009: 2.00 – 6.00 pm Registration at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala

DAY 2: 19th May 2009

8.00 am – 6.00 pm: Registration continues

8:30 am - 5:00 pm: Field Tour in three groups, A - C (*Participants must have registered earlier for this activity*)

Group A: Research and Training Institutions: Uganda Martyrs University- Ecosite and African Organic Center of Excellence and Caritas-SAP Organic Products Farmers' Exhibition

Group B: Smallholder Farms and Group Certification: Sulma Foods Ltd ICS Farmers' Group

Group C: Marketing and Processing: Bio-Fresh Exporting Company, NOGAMU Local Market Shop, Phenix Organic Textile Industry

20 - 22 May 2009: ORGANIC EXHIBITION, Sheraton Hotel

DAY 3: 20th May 2009

General Organic Agriculture Issues

Theme: Organic agriculture is a key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015
8.30 am - Opening paper: The contribution of organic agriculture to achieving MDGs (IFOAM)

9.00 – 10.30 am Session 1: Mitigating and adapting to climate change (Papers 1-3)

1-Climate change and the importance of best environment conservation practices (*Hira Jhamtani, TWN*)

2-Examples of climate change-targeted actions: lessons for Africa (*Bill Farmer, Carbon Credit, Uganda*)

3-The role of organic agriculture in combating climate change (*Bernhard Freyer, BOKU, Austria*)

Discussion

HEALTH BREAK (30 min)

11.00 – 12.30 pm Session 2: Appropriate mechanisms to eradicate poverty (papers 4-6)

4-Impact of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), farmer group adoption of ICS and group marketing on household incomes (*Moses K. Muwanga, NOGAMU, Uganda*)

5-Contribution of organic agriculture to improving household incomes (*Rhoda Birech, Egerton University, Kenya*)

6-Making a link between biogas and organic agriculture in Africa (*Jean-Claude Uwizeye, Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda*)

Discussion

LUNCH BREAK (1hr.30min)

2.00 – 3.30 pm Session 3: Meeting current demands for healthy and safe food (papers 7-9)

7-Basis for consumer demand for organic products from Africa vis-à-vis policy challenges (*Niels Halberg, ICROFS/ ISOFAR Vice President, Denmark*)

8-Development of a sound local market for organic products (*Eustus Kiarri, KOAN, Kenya*)

9-Harmonized regional standards ensure better provision of healthy organic products: EAOPS (*Gunnar Rundgren, Grolink, Sweden*)

Discussion

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

4.00 – 5.30 pm Session 4: Enabling policy and support for achieving MDGs in Africa (papers 10-12)

10- International Assessment of Agriculture, Science and Technology for Development: SSA, (*Hans Herren, IAASTD/MI, USA*)

11- Policy Advancements and Issues for Organic Agriculture in East Africa (*Sophia Twarog, UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, Switzerland and East African policymakers*)

12- Current organic market trends and emerging policy environment impact on meeting MDGs (*Alastair Taylor, AGRO-ECO-LOUIS BOLK, Netherlands*)

Discussion

5.30 – 6.00 pm: Presentation of the outcomes of the East African Organic Conference and West African Organic Conference (held on 18 May)

DAY 4: 21st May 2009

Organic Agriculture Research

Theme: Knowledge-based organic agriculture can positively affect human development and the maintenance of sound global ecosystems

8.30 am - Opening paper: Research in organic agriculture: essential for successful system management and technological evolution (*Ulrich Koepke, ISOFAR President, Germany*)

9.00 – 10.30 am Session 1: System-wide research (papers 13-16)

13- Agronomic and ecological performance of organic farming rotations in the tropics (*Urs Niggli, Fibl/ IFOAM, Switzerland*)

14- Organic agriculture research needs in Africa: the case of Uganda (*Jane Nalunga, NOGAMU, Uganda*)

15- Application of biotechnology in organic agriculture in Africa: a myth or an oversight (*Dr. Charles Ssekyewa, UMU, Uganda*)

16- Practical, sustainable and economical implementation of biotechnology in organic agriculture
(*Laurence London, PHYTOTEC*)

Discussion

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

11.30 am – 1.00 pm Session 2: Improving breeds and varieties (papers 17-19)

17- Indigenous biodiversity has potential for future satisfaction of consumer demand (*Patrick Van Damme, Ghent University, Belgium*)

18- Relationship between the rich biodiversity in organic farming systems and best conservation practices (*Olugbenga Adeoluwa, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, WAOM/ IFOAM*)

19- Community seed production for the organic farming system in Zambia (*Bernadette Lubozhya, OPPAZ, Zambia*)

Discussion

LUNCH BREAK (1hr.30min)

2.00 – 3.30 pm Session 3: Pest and disease management challenges and solutions (papers 20- 22)

20- Potential and research needs for home-made biopesticides for African organic agriculture,
(*Daniel Neuhoff, IOL, Univ.Bonn / ISOFAR & Dr. Mekuria Tadesse, Essential Oil Research Center, Ethiopia*)

21- Biological control in the African region (*Florence Nagawa, AGRO-ECO-LOUIS BOLK, The Netherlands*)

22- Antimicrobial properties of some plant extracts against organisms associated with fish spoilage (*F.O.A. George, UNAAB, Nigeria*)

Discussion

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

4.00 – 5.30 pm Session 4: Post-harvest handling, processing and marketing (papers 23- 25)

23- Sesame: The under-exploited organic oil seed crop (*V.I.O.Olowe, UNAAB, Nigeria*)

24- Post harvest handling and export market quality issues for organic products in Africa (*Bo van Elzakker, AGRO-ECO-LOUIS BOLK, The Netherlands*)

25- Quality systems approach to organic production (*Andre Leu, Organic Federation of Australia*)

Discussion

5.30 – 6.00 pm: Presenting the Organic Research Centres' Alliance (ORCA) proposal (*Nadia Scialabba, FAO; Italy*)

6:00 - 8:00 pm: ORCA Stakeholder discussion

DAY 5: 22nd May 2009:

9.00 am – 3.30 pm Parallel Session: Inter Faculty Social Science Seminar on Indigenous Knowledge in Africa; Convenor: J. C. Katongole (UMU) & P. Van Damme (Ghent Univ.) within the framework of CODESRIA

Open Space Participatory Discussions on Food Security and Networking

Sessions 1 and 2 with support from Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) and co-organized with ICROFS, University of Aarhus, and Organic Denmark

8.30 – 10.30 am Session 1

Theme: The future contribution of organic agriculture to food security in Africa

8:30 – 9:30 am Opening papers

- 1. Presentation of the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF report 'Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa'** (*Sophia Twarog, UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, Switzerland*)
- 2. Exploiting the potential of organic agriculture: Adoption of agro-ecological methods and needs for future adaptation and development** (*Mwatima Juma, IFAD, Tanzania*)
- 3. Exploiting the potential of organic agriculture: The balance between export oriented and diversified farming** (*Charles Walaga, UGOCERT, Uganda*)

Discussion

9.30 – 10.30 am Group discussions (To identify pros and cons, and make recommendations on priority issues/focus areas)

Group 1: How to address the need for development of agro-ecological methods for improved food security, stability and access for smallholder farmers (*Facilitator: Sue Edwards, ISD, Ethiopia*)

Group 2: How to address capacity building in organic agriculture at different levels (*Facilitator: Norman Mukuru, Kilimohai Africa Ltd, Uganda*)

Group 3: How to strengthen community level development through organic agriculture (*Facilitator: Charles Walaga, UGOCERT, Uganda*)

Group 4: How to support chain development and market access (*Facilitator: Bo van Elzakler, AGRO-ECO, The Netherlands*)

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

11.00 am – 12.00 noon Session 1 continued

Plenary presentation of group reports (10 min per group), and discussion (20 min)

12.00 – 1.00 pm Session 2

Theme: The need, nature and role of networking among African organic agriculture stakeholders

Group discussions (To explore the topical area and make recommendations)

Group 1: Current needs for global and regional networking (*Facilitator: Herve Bouagnimbeck, IFOAM Africa Desk*)

Group 2: Appropriate nature, structure and responsibilities for the African Organic Agriculture Network, place for government linkages (*Facilitator: Chitalu Munshimbwe, OPPAZ, Zambia*)

Group 3: Needs for organic research and research networking in Africa to support food security and value chains (*Facilitator: Dr. Olugbenga Adeoluwa, Nigeria*)

Group 4: Nature, roles and needs of the African Organic Center of Excellence (*Facilitator: Florence Kata, UEPB, Uganda*)

LUNCH BREAK (1hr.30min)

2.30 – 4.00 pm Session 2 continued

Plenary presentation of group reports (10 min per group) and discussion (40 min)

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

4.30 – 5.30 pm Session 3

4.30 – 5.00 pm: Paving the way for future collaboration

Launching the African Organic Agriculture Network

Launching the Network for Organic Agriculture Research in Africa (NOARA) (*Urs Niggli, Fibl*)

Kick-starting the African Organic Center of Excellence (AOCE) (*Charles Olweny, Vice Chancellor, Uganda Martyrs University*)

5.00 – 5.30 pm: Closing remarks (*Her Excellency Rhoda P. Tumusiime, African Union*)

5.30 – 7.30 pm: Closing cocktail

DAY 6: 23rd May 2009 Departure OR

9.00am- Free trip to the source of the Nile and Mabira Tropical Forest (UMU and NOGAMU)