

The East African organic product standard- EAS 456:2007



A public-private partnership

- RSTWG Composed of a cross - section of stakeholders
- Intensive consultation process
- Establishment of the RSTWG- September 2005 followed by five meetings
- 2 rounds of national consultations, 2 regional meetings
- 3 drafts
- Comparison with International std (Codex & IFOAM)
- KEBS submitted Standard document to the Committee responsible for standards in the EAC (EASTSC)
- The EASTSC approved the document in February
- The EAC Council approved in April 2007
- **Launch in Dar es Salaam May 2007**



Why?

- Harmonized standard facilitate regional Organic trade
- Negotiations with other governments for equivalence/recognition
- Coordinating input into international for a - Codex Alimentarius and IFOAM.
- Better resource use: development, revision and implementation



Use?

A unified standard is a basis for:

- Export market access
- EA market development
 - Cross border trade
 - EA organic mark
- Consumer awareness raising
- Extension, education and research
- Policy dialogue
- Increase respectability of organic
- Cooperation within the sector in general



How?

- The EAOPS replace existing standard
- A standard that works in EA for EA producers
- Easy to understand and use
- Acceptance by both public and private sectors



In the market place

Is used to define the organic claim

"Guarantee" – verification, backing of claim

- Third Party Certification – exists today
- Participatory Guarantee Systems – under development
- Together with the East African Organic Mark



Structure

- Introduction
- Scope
- Normative references
- Terms and definitions
- Standards for different areas
- IFOAM Principles of Organic Agriculture



Standards Topics

- General requirements for all organic production
- Crop production
- Animal husbandry
- Bee-keeping
- Wild collection
- Handling, storage and processing
- Labelling
- Lists for inputs in agriculture and food processing



Labelling

- 100% organic
- 95 – 100% organic
- 70 - 95% organic
- Below 70%

"Produced according to the East African Organic Standard"

Use of the EAOM



Future perspectives

- Standard will need revision after practical usage, in particular for animals
- New areas, e.g. aquaculture can be introduced
- Important that the participatory process continues in the future
- The NOAMs are willing to coordinate these efforts for the future
- Process to get EAOPS approved by the EU as an equivalent standard should be initiated



The East African Organic Mark

- A key component in the development of consumer awareness and image of the sector
- Controlled by the NOAMs
- More a "marketing mark" than a "certification mark"



Uptake so far

Somewhat slow uptake

- Used in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

Obstacles

- Slow development of PGS systems
- Slow uptake by certification bodies to actively offer certification to EAOPS
- Slow uptake by operators that are certified to e.g EU standard to use the mark
- Confusion about the nature of the mark, the standards and the inspection system
- Lack of understanding of value of ONE mark

Delay of OSEA II exacerbates the problems



Use of EAOPS in other countries

- Other countries can use/adopt the EAOPS as they see fit, or use it as a starting point for development of own standard



Mark and EAOPS are valuable investments

- Like all assets they need care and maintenance
- Their value lies in their use – no use no value
- Sitting on the fence is no good strategy
- Be part of the Team, be part of development and be part of the solution

