

RWANDA'S POLICY ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

ORGANIC POLICY WORKSHOP
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GENESIS

- Cabinet retreat of 2005- recommendations and findings:
 1. Not beyond September 2005- Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Rwanda Bureau of Standards to workout organic certification modalities
 2. Rwanda Agriculture Development Authority should recruit staff for seed certification
 3. Ministry of Agriculture should complete organic agriculture law that was initiated
 4. Rwanda Bureau of Standards to have a Unit responsible for agriculture certification

GENESIS

5. One farmers' cooperative – had received organic certification in production of geranium
6. Four other farmers and cooperative have been accepted for certification- inspection already done.
7. Two others- will be inspected soon and end by August 2006.
8. Coffee board (OCIR-Cafe) of Rwanda has stated converting coffee from Rushashi into Organic.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Organic Products in Rwanda
 1. Fruits- chili, mangoes, sweet bananas, geranium, avocado, passion, baby bananas, tomatillos, papaya, gooseberries,
 2. Essential oils- geranium
 3. Vegetables- Carrots, Corn, peasMarkets- EU countries

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Rwanda Agriculture Development Authority works on organic policy

Organic fertilizer policy-

- Encourage every farmer to have composite manure pit (2 pit scheme- one manure pit and one pit for other wastes)
- One-cow-one-house scheme
- Promote organic manure production

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Strategies – in Organic fertilizer policy
 1. Extension service- importance, better methods of production and application
 2. Enforce integration of animal and crops productions
 3. Enforce investment in organic fertilizer production
 4. Promote agro-forestry- add nitrogen, control soil erosion, reduce green house effect (absorb carbon dioxide) and produce energy

Requests to the Cabinet of Ministers

1. Approve the strategy
2. Form a national committee to over implementation
3. Approve the budget related

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Rwanda Agriculture Development Authority works on organic policy

Seed Policy

Steps to review the draft policy to include organic seed policy

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Rwanda Horticulture Development Authority
 1. Responsible for organizing, advising, licensing, promoting, implement policy, marketing of, coordinate – in horticulture organic products
 2. Financing organic production activities and certification
 3. Protect organic production zones
 4. Set up Organic Center Point- expertise development
 5. Support organic associations setting-up and conduct diplomacy in the region

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Rwanda Bureau of Standards
 1. Unit for Organic Inspection and Certification established in Jan. 2006, recruitment done Aug. 2006.
 2. Testing labs for chemical residues
 3. Training facilitation for organic farmers
 4. Organic Production Standards Development- at national and regional level
 5. Projects partnership under way with African Development Foundation.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Rwanda Agriculture Diversification Project (PDRCE)
 1. Finances all certification requirements for organic- Certification by ECOCERT for five cooperative have been financed
 2. Finances certain infrastructures such as solar dryers for chili

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- OTF- On-The-Frontier
Consultancy firm- hired by Government (supervised under President's office) to design strategies for development of horticulture production
 1. Developed recommendations for horticulture development
 2. In particular, recommendations on development of organic agriculture

CURRENT CONSTRAINTS

- High certification costs
- Lack of recognition for local certification body
- Government policies are not yet fully developed and implemented and some are not inclusive
- Farmers not technically capable of working on their own.

END

THANK YOU