

## **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STANDARDS IN EAST AFRICA**

- 1. WHAT ARE ORGANIC AGRIC. STANDARDS AND THEIR PURPOSE**
- 2. CURRENT STATUS OF ORGANIC AGRIC STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT IN EAST AFRICA**
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### **1. WHAT ARE ORGANIC AGRIC. STANDARDS?**

Organic Agric standards are quality specifications for agriculture production systems and products covering:

- i. Ecological sustainability,
- ii. Economic viability and,
- iii. Social equity

#### **1.1 What is the purpose of organic agric. Standards in this E. African region?**

- i. They articulate in greater detail the stakeholders' idea/concept of 'organic agriculture' as a sustainable agriculture production system
- ii. They serve as a rallying point for all organic agriculture stakeholders (Unity of purpose!)

- iii. They serve as a basis for determining the organic agric. conformity of a production process, and products by a 'first party', 'second party' or 'third party'. Thus guaranteeing to the consumer that a product has been produced according to the specified organic standards
- iv. Basis for negotiating equivalency with other national and regional organic agric. standards

### **2. CURRENT STATUS OF ORGANIC AGRIC STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT IN EAST AFRICA**

Voluntary org. standards in the region:

- The Tz Org standard comes in two versions:
  - Export or international standards??
  - Local standards
- UOS comes in one version: National Org Agric standards
- Kne standard comes in one version:

#### **Usefulness of national org standards**

- Basis for developing a unifying east African org standard for Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi

The plan is to get the East African organic standard coded under the auspices of the East African Community.

**Continued development of the EA Organic standard**

- Standards for sustainable wild fishery management
- Standards for natural medicinal products

**Major challenges facing the dev of east African Organic agric. Standards:**

- Developing acceptable and verifiable specifications for social equity (e.g. gender equity specifications, child or family labour!)
- Developing realistic but acceptable organic livestock production specifications
- Developing realistic but acceptable soil fertility management specifications

**CERTIFICATION**

1. Local Certifiers:

- UgoCert
- Tancert
- AfriCert
- N-Cert

2. Foreign Certifiers:

- IMO
- Ceres
- Soil Association
- Ecocert
- Skal
- BCS