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# CBTF

*Capacity Building Task Force  
on Trade, Environment and Development*

**Draft Report of the  
CBTF Regional Workshop on Organic Agriculture in East Africa  
7 - 9 March 2006  
Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania**

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## SUMMARY

The UNEP/UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) held its second Regional Workshop on Organic Agriculture in East Africa, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania from 7 to 9 March 2006. The workshop was held as part of the EC funded project 'Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products in East Africa'. The regional launch for the project was held in Kampala, Uganda on 19 October 2005.

The workshop was preceded by the Second Meeting of the Regional Standards Technical Working Group (RSTWG) that is exploring the development of an East African Organic Standard. Participants at the RSTWG meeting included representatives of National Bureaus of Standards from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, certification bodies from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the national organic agriculture movements from these three countries, the East African Business Council, representatives from IFOAM, and a resource person from GroLink. At the meeting, IFOAM and CBTF announced they are now joining forces to move this work ahead. In addition, a framework for the harmonisation of regional standards was discussed and adopted. The areas for the East African organic standard were presented based on an analysis of the existing private and public standards in the region. Points where there were differences in these were discussed and agreement reached on all. The outcome of this meeting is presented in Annex 1. The next meeting of the RSTWG will be held in Nairobi, 25-26 May 2006.

This regional workshop brought together key stakeholders and national and international institutions to discuss:

- the four background studies prepared under the project;
- progress on the Integrated Assessment projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; and
- opportunities for regional cooperation.

The agenda of the meeting is included as Annex 2. All papers and presentations from the workshop are available at [www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/events/arusha.asp](http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/events/arusha.asp).

Fifty-six people, representing 12 different government agencies from four countries (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), 10 NGOs, four universities and four UN agencies, as well as a number of private businesses and donor groups, attended the workshop. The list of participants is included as Annex 3.

The workshop was successful in presenting a vast amount of information on organic agriculture in East Africa and gaining insightful feedback and ideas from participants. It was also successful in generating great enthusiasm and networking among participants to further encourage the development of the organic sector in the region. One hundred percent of participants completing evaluation forms gave the workshop an overall rating of good to excellent.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture opened the workshop. Following the opening, the four draft background studies were discussed:

- Overview of the current state of organic agriculture in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and the opportunities for regional harmonization;
- Best practices for organic agriculture policy: What developing country governments can do to promote the sector;
- Organic agriculture and food security in Africa; and
- Demand for Organic Products from East Africa.

On 8 March, national teams, consisting of a lead government agency and a local research institute, that are implementing national-level integrated assessments of organic agriculture sectors in Kenya (National Environmental Management Authority and Bridge Africa), Tanzania (Ministry of Agriculture and Envirocare) and Uganda (Uganda Export Promotion Board and ACODE) presented the initial background documents prepared for assessment and future plans for the projects.

On 9 March, updates on recent activities were presented by:

- the national organic movements in Uganda (NOGAMU), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN);
- IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements);
- EPOPA (Export Promotion of Organic Production from Africa) project;
- the ITF (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-IFOAM-UNCTAD International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture);
- OSEA (IFOAM Organic Standard for East Africa) project and
- other relevant ongoing projects.

The workshop also explored opportunities for regional cooperation and areas for follow up action at regional and national levels. The outcome of the Second Meeting of the Regional Standards Technical Working Group (RSTWG) held on 6 March was presented and discussed.

The workshop participants agreed on a number of follow up actions at the national and regional levels.

Follow up actions at the national level, should include:

- Explore opportunities for national marketing initiatives/bulking up of tradable volumes (e.g. bringing exporters together at national level to discuss)
- Contribute articles to the media (including radio, TV and newspaper)
- Identify areas where tangible outputs can be measured on the ground
- Each national team to identify products with comparative advantage
- Strengthen national bodies through awareness raising, increased membership, capacity building and government support
- National bodies to act as repositories of statistics trade, markets, and general information on organics
- Make use of IFOAM training information on website and publicize training events
- Awareness raising (among farmers, retailers and consumers)
- Promoting regional partners' organic products
- Organic movements should seize all opportunities to influence policy development in all related areas.

Follow up actions at the regional level should include:

- Develop shared data bases on production and trade of OA products in the region and enhance sharing of data;
- Develop and implement a coherent regional research agenda based on the needs of farmers
- Develop and implement a coherent regional policy action agenda to support policy implementation, monitoring and decision making;
- Establish a Regional Organic Agriculture Platform which includes the national organic networks and other stakeholders;
- Agree on a mechanism for enhanced coordination and cooperation among organic networks (IFOAM East Africa);
- Explore opportunities for regional marketing initiatives/bulking up of tradable volumes;
- Promote the adoption of an East African organic brand for products;
- Increase the visibility of organic production and the role of key actors at the regional level by establishing operational linkages with relevant bodies and organs of the East African Community (EAC);
- Work to get organic agriculture included in the EAC Development Strategy 2006-2010; and
- Accelerate the work of the Regional Standards Technical Working Group.

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) demonstrated particular commitment to the project and met every evening of the workshop to go over the events of that day and the issues to be covered the following day. The members of the RSC are listed in Annex 4.

On 10 March, participants were taken on a field trip sponsored by EPOPA and the Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU) to organic coffee farms in Moshi.

Work carried out under this project was made possible through the generous support of the European Commission to the CBTF. The preparatory phase of the project was financed through the generous support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to the CBTF. The Government of Norway supported the participation in the workshop of 12 participants from Least Developed Countries (Tanzania and Uganda).

## Acronyms

ACODE	Advocates Coalition on Development and the Environment
CBTF	UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development
DED	Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (German Development Services)
EABC	East African Business Council
EAC	East African Community
EPOPA	Export Promotion of Organic Production from Africa
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIBL	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau)
GMO	Genetically modified organism
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation
IA	Integrated Assessment
ICIPE	International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
ITF	International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (FAO/IFOAM/UNCTAD)
KBS	Kenya Bureau of Standards
KNCU	Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
MOOF	Mount Kenya Organic Farming
NIT	National Implementation Team
NOGAMU	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda
NSC	National Steering Committee
OA	Organic agriculture
OSEA	Organic Standards in East Africa project
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
RBS	Rwanda Bureau of Standards
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
RSTWG	Regional Standard Technical Working Group
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TBS	Tanzania Bureau of Standards
TOAM	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement
UBS	Uganda Bureau of Standards
UDSM	University of Dar es Salaam
UEPB	Uganda Export Promotion Board
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

# **Draft Report of the CBTF Regional Workshop on Organic Agriculture in East Africa 7 - 9 March 2006**

## **DAY ONE: 7 March 2006**

Day one commenced with the opening session, which was attended by the guest of Honour, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Mr. Mohamed Muya, who officially opened the workshop on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture. The opening was followed by presentations on three of the four background studies commissioned by the CBTF. The capacity-building studies have been prepared by international and national experts on key issues identified in the course of previous consultations and activities focused on OA in the three countries. Once finalized, the studies will provide relevant stakeholders in the region with essential information and analysis in the promotion of OA production and trading opportunities.

### **OPENING SESSION**

Participants were welcomed to the second regional workshop for the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force (CBTF) initiative “Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products in East Africa”.

The session's Chairman, Naftali Ndugire, stated that this project was critical to the economic development of the region. He gave thanks to UNCTAD and UNEP for their response to the need to follow up on organic agriculture in East Africa.

Sophia Twarog (UNCTAD) welcomed all participants. She gave a brief introduction to UNCTAD and explained that UNCTAD was involved in organic agriculture (OA) as it is an exciting trade and sustainable development opportunity. Organic agriculture was featured in the Trade and Environment Review 2006, which was available upon request from the secretariat and also on the UNCATD Web site. She noted that several people in the room had contributed articles to the TER. She expressed appreciation for the partners that UNCTAD works with through the project including IFOAM and UNEP.

Asad Naqvi (UNEP) thanked the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives and Envirocare, the NGO undertaking the Tanzania national integrated assessment project, for their support for the project in general and their assistance with workshop preparations in particular. He also thanked the stakeholders, especially researchers for focusing on issues related to organic agriculture in the region. He stated that this project is an opportunity to bridge the gap between policy and research which exists in the OA sector. He stated that the workshop was important for bringing together key stakeholders to share experiences and to start working towards a common vision for the promotion of organic agriculture.

The workshop participants introduced themselves. The 56 people in attendance represented 12 different government agencies from four countries (Kenya Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), 10 NGOs, four universities and four UN agencies, as well as a number of private businesses and donor groups.

The guest of Honour, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Mr. Mohamed Muya officially opened the workshop on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture who was unable to attend. He stated that the Minister wished participants fruitful deliberations, and ensured that the government of Tanzania would accord appropriate consideration to the recommendations coming out of the workshop. Mr. Muya said it was a privilege to open the workshop and that he appreciated the time spent to make the workshop happen. He then welcomed participants to Arusha.

Mr. Muya appreciated the cooperation of UNEP and UNCTAD on the project and congratulated them, along with the national institutions and government focal points for the work carried out to date. He stated that the government would continue to support the project.

He discussed the challenges ahead for organic agriculture including the formation of policies, which is a key responsibility of the government. He appreciated the timeliness of the project which, he hoped, would help the government in moving forward on the policy side. The public and private sectors also need to cooperate since the scale of organic production is currently limited. The development of national and regional organic standards is seen as critical to meet the demands of international markets. Mr. Muya recognized the support of the local organizations in the project.

Sophia Twarog and Asad Naqvi gave an overview of the CBTF project and Gunnar Rundgren provided a brief overview of IFOAM's Organic Standards in East Africa (OSEA) project which will tie in with the CBTF project on regional standards.

## **PRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND STUDIES**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN KENYA, UGANDA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL HARMONIZATION**

**Presented by Alastair Taylor, EPOPA**

Alastair Taylor presented the overview study, which was a collaborative effort by 15 authors active in the region, and included the most up to date data available to the national organic movements: KOAN, NOGAMU, and TOAM as well as the EPOPA project.

The study has been updated since the first CBTF regional workshop in Kampala (October 2005) and includes a new export summary table. The Ugandan government is working on a policy for organic agriculture. Another new development is a small distillery for processing organic essential oils, which is being built in Uganda. Challenges facing organic agriculture include research and extension. Many opportunities for the sector exist as demonstrated by the positive interest received at Biofach this year.

Recommendations from the study included policy development, international certification completed at the local level, getting the regional standard underway, infrastructure development, tax incentives and research. While research into organic agriculture is increasing it is mainly from outside the region and it is hoped that local research institutions will look into organics as well. Local and regional market development was also recommended as not all crops will be exported. Increased regional cooperation and increased investment in the sector as well as group certification and product diversification were also recommended.

Discussion:

- High cost of certification: including the cost of analysis in European labs, is a stumbling block for small-scale producers. However, there is a general requirement of testing for food imports into the European Union and the United States, not just for organics. This cost needs to be included as part of modern trading in all food. Further, the additional costs of certification and testing are borne by the farmer and may be overcome by increasing the premium so the cost is covered by the consumer.
- Lack of validated data: there is a need to ensure that mechanisms are put in place now for future generation of validated data. A request was made to IFOAM to put record keeping and data generating mechanisms in place. The IFOAM Africa Service Centre is trying to collect and compile data on organic trade into a database in order to be able to provide concrete statistics. Website updates will be used for dissemination of the data along with a monthly newsletter.
- Research: is needed on issues such as labour in organics, for e.g. organic agriculture is more labour intensive, therefore does it put more burden on women?. A suggestion was made for a study on the costs and benefits of going organic for smallholders.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR ORGANIC POLICY: WHAT DEVELOPING COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS CAN DO TO PROMOTE THE ORGANIC SECTOR

**Presented by Gunnar Rundgren, Grolink**

Gunnar Rundgren presented his study. He noted that the basis for the analysis and the following recommendations were formed from case studies prepared by national consultants from seven countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Malaysia, Thailand, and South Africa; as well as from other experiences and literature. East Africa policy experience will be built into the report following the workshop.

The paper highlighted the many environmental benefits of OA. Emerging issues included OA potential as a viable solution to the threat of climate change. OA has the advantage of promoting the production and use of bio fuels, using less energy (e.g. nitrogen fertilizers are produced using oil), reduced erosion of soil organic matter which ends up in the atmosphere, carbon sequestration, better water retention, and the improved maintenance of soil organic matter. Moreover, the possibility of getting paid for these services is another benefit of organic agriculture, though that is not yet a reality.

The study found that within the policy framework a number of actions are needed. These include giving recognition and encouragement to the organic sector, training relevant decision-makers and staff in organic farming, taking an integrated approach including all aspects of organic farming as well as the different stakeholders. Governments should mainly take an enabling and facilitating role rather than a controlling one. The organic sector itself needs to become organised and maintain close collaboration with the government.

The paper also recommended a number of actions to remove obstacles and disincentives against organic agriculture. Ceasing subsidies, tax-exemptions or free distribution of agro-chemicals, GMOs etc. was recommended as well as consideration of the effect on organic agriculture in all agriculture policies, plans and programmes, and international treaties. Support for competing 'light-green' schemes may also act as a disincentive to organic agriculture while implementing programs and policies that are supportive of organic, such as pesticide taxes, water protection measures and bio fuel initiatives could be an incentive.

Developing a policy for the organic agriculture sector would also act as an incentive. The integrated assessments can be used to assist this process. Stakeholders need to be involved at all levels and their voices listened to. They also need to be ultimately responsible for the process.

The paper also recommended developing an organic agriculture action plan. A target should be formulated and a lead agency assigned as well as identifying key people who can make this happen within the Ministries. A permanent national organic committee (organic stakeholders, government institutions) should be installed, and data should be collected and monitored.

There is some debate about the need for and effect of government organic regulation. Reasons for regulating could include access to export markets and equivalence, however, equivalence is very resource demanding and may be achieved through voluntary arrangements instead. Domestic market development may be another benefit of regulation, however existing domestic markets have been able to develop without regulation (the US wasn't regulated until 2002) and premature regulation may kill the sector. Further, in some European countries, the growth rate of organic agriculture dropped after regulations were introduced. If the decision is made to develop regulations it is important to choose carefully and not repeat past mistakes. The regulations need to be developed with stakeholders and refer to international standards.

Governments can assist farmers to organize markets, provide good market information systems, generally speak up about organic agriculture, assist with public procurement and consumer education, and promote one well-recognized national or regional organic label. Governments should consider creating specialized institutions including centres of excellence.

Recommendations were made on accessing export markets, providing support to producers, extension services, education and research. Regional and international issues on cooperation were raised and the need for priority-setting and proper sequencing was highlighted.

## Discussion:

- Clarification on the difference between regulation and policy: Governmental organic regulations have often focused on defining what can be sold as organic. An organic policy is much broader, and can aim at supporting the development of the organic sector. Regulations are now in 60-70 countries.
- Value of having standards: It is important to have a joint definition of what is organic although it doesn't have to be embedded in mandatory regulation. The timing of the introduction of the regulation is crucial and it is important to have a standard that is used. It is also important to be certified but it shouldn't necessarily be mandatory. A standard needs to be written down and explicit. A good regulation is helpful but a bad regulation is worse than no regulation.
- Government commitment: There was some scepticism from the private sector about the commitment from the government when it gives information on organic agriculture while also speaking about conventional agriculture or GMOs. A recommendation was made that governments need to link into research systems and have dedicated people involved. It was also noted that governments are not one entity, neither are private companies. Allies need to be identified and worked with rather than criticizing the entire institution.
- Subsidies: are not always realistic. In developing countries there are a lot of policies acting against organics. Credits can also be an issue as some banks will not lend money unless agro-chemicals are included. Governments should think of subsidies for people who want to export. A request was made for governments to keep the playing grounds level and give people a chance to choose what they want to do - if they don't know their options they can't make a choice. Agricultural negotiations are complicated on the subject of subsidies. There needs to be clear direction on how the issue of domestic support, market access and export subsidies can be brought into World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.
- The study's recommendation that organic agriculture can be promoted based on the local conditions was supported. Organic agriculture needs to be adapted to local conditions including the availability of labour.

## ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

**Presented by Rachel Hine, University of Essex, with Peter Murage, Mount Kenya Organic Farming**

Rachel Hine presented the study prepared by herself and Jules Pretty. She described how agricultural productivity has increased dramatically in the past 50 years. Technically enough food is produced to feed the world's population, however there are still 800 million hungry people.

Options to improve food security include expanding the area under agricultural production, increasing the per hectare production in agriculture exporting countries, and increasing total farm productivity by purchasing technologies or using locally available technologies. Africa has a great challenge to find the best options for the poor and for the environment. How can farmers improve productivity with appropriate locally available and affordable technology?

The study examines the five assets for sustainability in agriculture including natural capital, social capital, human capital, physical capital and financial capital. It also looks at the many factors contributing to food insecurity. The study then presents the benefits of organic and sustainable agricultural systems including their ability to integrate biological and ecological processes, minimisation or cessation of the use of non-renewable inputs, and making productive use of the knowledge and skills of farmers, and of people's collective capacities to work together to solve common agricultural and natural resource problems.

Results were then presented from research carried out during a University of Essex study (2005) in which 286 organic and sustainable agriculture projects in 57 countries were examined. All projects demonstrated an increase in crop yield from the beginning of the project. Details were then presented from individual projects in Kenya and Uganda.

Organic agriculture uses more of the improvement methods available, which can be seen as a measure of success in reducing food insecurity. OA is more management and knowledge intensive than other forms of farming and partnerships between smallholders, government ministries, private firms are therefore fundamentally important for OA to succeed.

Peter Murage from Mount Kenya Organic Farming (MOOF) presented his organization's work which aim is to assist smallholders and to generate income through organic trade. They have had some success with farmers producing higher maize yields and maintaining some production through drought periods. Most women are now doing labour on their own farms and gaining income rather than gaining income from working on another's farm.

He pointed out that food insecurity is the result of a lack of money and lack of seeds; if a farmer has an income s/he can buy seeds before the rains. MOOF has found that organic agriculture is a feasible agricultural method which will help generate income and help end food insecurity. The biggest setback is the weakness of the support structures.

#### Discussion

- Sustainable and organic agriculture: there was confusion over the inclusion of both systems in the study. The paper needs conclusive evidence on organic agriculture specifically.
- Topics to be included in the study: the issue of water was not examined sufficiently, especially in Tanzania. More information is needed on what resources are remaining. The HIV issue should also be addressed. The paper should look at market access and yields (what goes in and what comes out) and should include organic livestock not just vegetables. The issue of land tenure also needs to be examined as in East Africa all male children inherit the land and therefore the land keeps being divided which is a major problem for food security. A comment was made that the study focuses on production of food crops for subsistence of small-scale producers. Could it incorporate other crops e.g. cash crops such as borage produced by MOOF supported out grower farmers.
- Partnerships: weak institutional relationships are detrimental to organic agriculture. Participants wanted information on the relationships between stakeholders.
- Policies: Advocates who think they are constrained by policies sometimes miss opportunities to input into the policy framework, e.g. policy issues which are not specific to organic agriculture such as sustainable land use, labour, and allocation of resources. Policy development processes should be participatory. Policy recommendations should be included in the study.

## DAY TWO: 8 March 2006

Day two commenced with the presentation of the fourth background study. This presentation was followed by an introduction to the integrated assessment process which is being used by national institutions in the three countries to examine the organic sector in each country. The national institutions then presented updates on their progress so far.

### DEMAND FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS FROM EAST AFRICA

#### Presented by Ruth Sebareka, NOGAMU

Ruth Sebareka presented the study prepared by Rudi Kortbech-Olesen a consultant with ITC, and complimented it with her own perspectives as marketing head of NOGAMU.

In general organic markets are growing and are expected to continue growth in the foreseeable future. In 2005 the global market was estimated at US30-32 billion dollars, an increase from US27 billion in 2004. The study provides a brief summary of selected major markets, including Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the United States and Canada. It also provides an overview of the distribution channels in the European Union, the United States and Canada. Ruth added that NOGAMU found a lot of exporters were exporting to Germany and the produce was then distributed to other European countries.

The UK market is the second largest in Europe, an important market for East Africa. The Netherlands has a medium size EU market but it is a very important vehicle for East Africa because a number of groups are working through the Netherlands. The US market is the biggest in the world, estimated at 15 billion in 2005. The East Africa will face strong competition from Latin America in this market. Canada has the sixth largest market at 1 to 1.2 billion dollars in 2005. It also has high import ratios and is interested in direct imports from developing countries.

The study focuses on nine products: Fresh fruit and vegetables; spices, herbs and essential oils; dried fruit and nuts; honey; coffee; cocoa; tea; cosmetics and personal care products; and cotton. The product briefs cover statistics on conventional products; estimates of production of and/or trade in organics; list of competing countries; list of major markets; market information; and relevant web sites for products in question. The presenter added that these product briefs are useful because more market information and dissemination information is needed on the ground. NOGAMU recently held an access to markets workshop on how to get information out on markets. They have started a database to capture information and identify who needs what information.

Conclusions drawn from the study show that organic agriculture continues to grow. In Uganda the domestic market has grown by 50 per cent per annum. However this figure is still small in terms of the whole food market. Carrefour is trying to buy organic products from Uganda but can't get the amount required. There has been increasing interest in organic agriculture from donors and NGOs.

Challenges facing the sector include stronger competition within the organic agriculture sector and from other sustainable agriculture areas, overall food business, higher quality requirements from consumers, and tougher standards.

Opportunities for East Africa include the continuing expansion of the most important markets. The major markets for East Africa are Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and others such as the United States and Switzerland are interesting. East Africa is in a good position to exploit the growing market, however shipping to the United States is an issue as is the coordination of transporting goods. Uganda also exports to Italy, Spain, Turkey and the Far East.

Recommendations in the study suggest that producers add value to products, at the production level, during processing and packaging, in marketing, promotion and communication. Selection of distribution channels also needs to be made carefully and market developments should be monitored closely and visits to markets made regularly. Follow up ideas include field research; the example given was that vanilla in France has done well.

The presenter then described NOGAMU's experience with the supply of organic products from East Africa. NOGAMU began its work in international marketing in 2004 and its activity areas now include market development/participation in international trade fairs; supply base development; quality assurance; infrastructure development and information dissemination.

Uganda's organic exports have grown at a rate of 10 per cent per annum since 2000/2001. Dried fruits provide an interesting case study: in 2003/4 Uganda exported 80 tonnes of dried fruit. Four dried fruit export companies now have organic certification and by the end of 2006, it is expected that 11 companies will have organic certification. Two hundred and fifty farmers are supplying the export companies who dry fruits and they are getting prices up to 400 per cent higher than their conventional counterparts.

In order to maximize the gains from dried fruit, improved infrastructure is essential as well as access to clean water. A quality assurance program needs to be set up and container loads out of East Africa need to be synchronized to help to cut costs. A regional database and an aggressive push toward market dissemination would also greatly assist the industry.

By 2015 it is possible to achieve \$1,000,000 per annum, representing 8 tonnes per month, for the organic dried fruit sector alone. An organized assault on the organic sesame market should be orchestrated and the development of a Quality Assurance Mark should be initiated to ensure quality to exporters. Organized

access to trade finance is also necessary as banks set rates too high as they don't know enough about organic agriculture.

#### Discussion

- Topics to be included or improved: The study needs to focus more on East Africa, which Ms. Sebagereka and Mr. Kortbech-Olesen should coordinate. There is a need for more information on challenges, e.g. cargo space. A link to the reduction of trade restrictions in markets is missing in the studies. The effect of environmental measures on market access should be considered. More information needed on the future directions and on the key aspects for quality assurance, such as improved safety and hygiene, wearing of jewellery, production moving in one direction, liquid cleaners etc. SPS, labelling, sensitivities, and EU requirements are all relevant to conventional products and the paper should focus on what is specifically relevant to organic products. Markets need to be matched to products in the study i.e. which products going where, including the East African region as well and nearby markets. Also supply needs to be matched to products i.e. what is the country in a position to supply. The capacity for dried fruit processing needs to be looked at in more depth as it is the link in chain that needs to be improved.
- Competition: Competition for the US market is emerging from South America and NAFTA adds to the competition. There are already difficulties accessing this market because of the transport distance. The most difficult are fresh products and the study should therefore look at other products such as dried fruit, coffee, and textiles. The study needs a penetration strategy for the United States and for the European Union as these markets elude Africa even in conventional agriculture. The study needs to look in detail at who are the competitors and what their strategies are. Markets could be won on quality rather than quantity. Competition within organic agriculture is worrying if prices are being eroded. However, while the food market in the United States and the European Union has been stagnating, the organic market continues to grow. Premiums will disappear in organic agriculture but as this happens more and more consumers will turn from conventional to organic products, so in terms of access to markets and stability it is still a good option.
- The target figures were not inspiring enough for some participants when looking at poverty alleviation. They felt that the impact of organic agriculture needs to be stronger. However the figures used for NOGAMU were conservative and hopefully will be much greater. Also, dried fruits are among the lesser products exported from East Africa but have great potential. Some dried fruit exported to the United States has a premium of up to 800 per cent. Other crops like cotton, sesame, fresh products and coffee are exported in huge quantities. Uganda has the second or third largest organic cotton exports.
- Geranium and jasmine are good options for essential oils but citrus and lemon grass face competition from China.
- A database is needed to share information within East Africa on supply and marketing, for consolidating exports from East Africa. NOGAMU has a database to capture information but it is not yet filled with data. In Kenya they have an operational database. Consolidating can happen through database and coordinating container loads so people know who has what where. The CBI website could be a possible model for East Africa.
- Banks need to be supplied with more information to ensure they treat organic customers fairly

## **INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT (IA) FOR PROMOTING PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EAST AFRICA**

### **INTRODUCTION TO INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT**

Asad Naqvi (UNEP) introduced the concept of integrated assessment (IA). IA is a combination of multidisciplinary scientific research and a stakeholder consultative process to validate the findings of scientific research. It involves policy makers from the beginning and the designated government agencies play a lead role. IA is a framework but not a step-by-step guide. It offers a range of tools and methodologies that can be adapted to national conditions. These projects are designed, conceived and implemented by national teams of experts and thus build national capacities. An IA informs decision-making, enhances coordination, builds consensus (though national stakeholder consultations) and saves time and money.

He stressed that organic agriculture offers opportunities for achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction as it cuts across sectors and has the potential to create positive links with the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

Undertaking IA is important because usually there are trade offs between social, environmental and economic aspects of a policy, plan or a public project. Sometimes the social and environmental costs are much higher than the economic achievements. The aim of IA is to try to minimize undesirable social and environmental affects by developing policies/plans that integrate environmental, social and economic considerations. Assessments can be conducted ex ante or ex post. The organic agriculture assessments in the three countries will be ex ante as there are no existing organic agriculture policies.

He provided a brief update on the IA projects in the three countries. The National teams have completed the IA background documents. These documents present the available information on OA in the countries and on national capacity to undertake an assessment. The first round of national consultations has now been held in the three countries with 25 to 45 participants attending each consultative workshop.

Organic agriculture is a small sub-sector of national economies and therefore it is important for the focus of the assessment to be very clear from the beginning. Criteria and indicators should be carefully selected for selection of a sub sector or crop within the OA sector. The potential impacts different policy scenarios then need to be analyzed and new policy responses devised to ensure sustainable growth for the OA sector.

## **IA UPDATE TANZANIA**

**Presented by Esther Mella, Envirocare and Fanuel Shechambo, University of Dar es Salaam**

The project has now been running in Tanzania for 9 months. Envirocare and the Ministry of Agriculture form the national implementation team (NIT). This team met initially to design the participatory process for the assessment. The first National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting has also been held with a wide range of participants involved. The Committee discussed the TORs and endorsed them. The initial background document has now been prepared and it discusses where the project started and future directions. At the National Stakeholder Workshop stakeholders were introduced to the project and the work plan. Feedback from stakeholders has been very useful.

The concept of organic agriculture started in Tanzania in 1898 at the Peramiho mission. Certified production for 2004/5 was estimated at 2,891 tonnes and covering an area of 14,255.4 ha, with approximately 30,000 farmers involved. Uncertified organic farmers have more than 200,000 ha. Production at present is market oriented. The local market is not well developed, for example chicken and eggs receive a premium but most products are sold as conventional. There is increasing demand from many countries for organic products. Organic crops produced include cotton, coffee, cocoa, cashew nuts, honey, spices and fruits.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) sets standards for all products and has taken the role of setting a guideline for organic agriculture. TBS accredits certification bodies. Tancert also has a standard and its certification is cheaper than international certification. Five foreign certification bodies currently operate in Tanzania: IMO, EcoCert, Bio inspector, SACert and Naturland. TOAM and Tancert are working on a database for information on organic agriculture.

There is no clear organic policy or legislation. A clause on organic agriculture was included in the 1997 Agriculture Policy which is a good starting point for further policy formation. Information on organic agriculture is scattered and not published. It has been mainly produced by EPOPA and also Kilimohai and Envirocare.

Constraints to trade include the lack of organic inputs, support from government, quality controls, credit facilities, and local markets, as well as high certification costs.

Fanuel Schechambo from the University of Dar es Salaam presented an update on the assessment work. At the NSC meeting in December 2005 a framework for assessment was agreed. The team from the University of Dar es Salaam was also selected.

The agriculture sector development strategy talks of promoting traditional crops. It is being reviewed so there is a chance to contribute. The Livestock Policy is also being reviewed.

The crops to be assessed have been selected: cashew, coffee, and honey. Areas in which to examine the crops have also been chosen. The criteria for selecting crops included whether there was existing marketing and production, export, source of livelihoods, heavy users of chemicals, data availability, etc. Bee keeping was seen as important for forest conservation.

The next steps will include a first draft by June. Ms. Mella made a request for greater guidance from UNEP. Policy officers from the Ministry of Agriculture will review the policy option.

#### Discussion:

- **Policies:** Some participants were uncomfortable with statements that there is a lack of policies and is a lack of support from government as they felt that there is a lot of support from some areas of government. However, it was concluded that where the government is lagging, there is the right to say so. In addition, policies need goals and actions in order to be effective. If policies are not implemented, they are as good as not being there. There was a suggestion made to explore other policies in the IA e.g. poverty reduction but to be clear on which policies are being addressed as they can't all be targeted. In terms of government support, the way forward should not only focus on the Ministry of Agriculture but other Ministries too. Policymaking needs to be participatory.
- **Information gathering:** The study should try to find a way of capturing information that is not written. The researchers should go and ask people for information.
- **Environmental impact:** Emerging procurement and labelling schemes are to be based on environmental assessment. They are critical of organic agriculture labelling as it doesn't refer to environmental benefits. Defining environmental impacts is a challenge, so how have the presenters attempted to identify these impacts?
- **Indicators:** The Vice President's Office (VPO) monitoring system has developed environmental indicators. A report will be published soon presenting the indicators and Dr. Shechambo hopes to learn from them. There is a need for indicators for all pillars not just environment. Environment indicators need to be focused, e.g. for soil fertility. Other social or environmental impact studies that have been done should be looked at. The criteria for the selection of indicators need to be made clearer as does the basis of the criteria. Rates of certification in the study also need to be clarified. The certification rate used in the assessment needs to be clarified, as it could be the fee not the service i.e. international certification or local certification.
- **Vanilla** prices in the paper are difficult to understand and the comparison difficult to see. Vanilla is a complicated crop to work out because of price fluctuations.
- **Local market:** was described as a 'bit of a fantasy' in East Africa despite the population size. There is a need to build the market.

## IA UPDATE KENYA

### Presented by Eric Oyare, Bridge Africa

Eric Oyare presented the initial background document that they have been working on and discussed progress that has been made so far on the integrated assessment. The National Implementation Team (NIT) was established in September 2005 and has since held several meetings, including three NSC meetings. The National Stakeholders Workshop was held in January 2006 when the project was introduced and the implementation framework discussed. The final draft of the initial background document has now been prepared and Bridge Africa is still receiving comments. A wide range of representatives has been involved, including government, civil society, organic networks and exporters.

The background document examines what work has been done in Kenya on the organic agriculture sector and how it has evolved. It also looks at the institutional framework including policies, acts and regulations, as well as the commodity chain including players, local and export markets, and quality issues in production and trade. It is noted in the document that there is inadequate policy support explicitly for OA. A list of policies to be examined has been devised.

In terms of local markets, some towns have supermarkets selling organic products, as well as green grocers, and indigenous vegetable suppliers. The export market for Kenya is mainly Europe, the United States, Japan and Australia.

KOAN and the Kenya Bureau of Standards have developed the draft Kenya Organic Standards, however international standards are still in use including IFOAM and Codex Alimentarius among others. There are four international certification bodies that operate in Kenya, namely; Soil Association (UK) Eco Cert, (France), Institute for Market Ecology (IMO) (Germany) and Bio Suisse (Switzerland).

In addition to identifying a number of benefits from going organic, Bridge Africa has identified a number of constraints including: a very involving conversion process; high cost of certification (Kshs 300,000 per visit, or approximately US\$4,200); low level of local consumer awareness; marketing monopolies e.g. Kenya Coffee Board; low price premiums to the farmers in the local market; and inadequate policy and legislative framework.

Emerging issues for organic agriculture brought out in the report include the increase in exports from Kenya to the European Union and the United States as well as small farmers becoming more commercial.

The assessment will make an analysis of the sector and identify commodities being produced. It will use social, economic, environment (SEE) indicators and short surveys and work in collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) to carry out the assessment. Poverty perspectives and root causes analysis will be used as well as trend mapping analysis. An indicative assessment framework draft has also been developed using recommendations from stakeholders and consultations with experts.

Crop selection criteria have been proposed and macadamia nuts, coffee and tea are being debated as possible crops to assess. These crops have been selected on the basis of data availability, relationship to national policy priority indicators and targets, ease to monitor, importance to SEETAP (social, economic, environment, trade and poverty reduction) and livelihoods of stakeholders.

In regards to policy option development, the assessment will use a scenario building approach to evaluate the effectiveness of possible policies. Sample scenarios include: business as usual i.e. 3.1 per cent growth rate of organics, an OA policy increasing the growth rate to 5 per cent, or a policy increasing the annual growth rate to 6 per cent.

Future activities include stakeholder workshops and National Steering Committee meetings as well as the development of policy options and the Integrated Assessment.

#### Discussion:

- Recommendations: A comment was made on the importance of the recommendation section of the integrated assessment.
- Biosafety: It was noted that biosafety was not mentioned as policy impacting organic agriculture. Bridge Africa will therefore look at the Biosafety protocol.
- Crop selection: It was recommended that Bridge Africa should consider re-evaluating the indicators and criteria that they have selected for selection of crops/sub-sector for assessment. A further comment was made by that indicators for biodiversity had been discussed by stakeholders in national meetings and but had not been included in the background document.
- Growth rates in scenarios: Comments were made that the scenarios presented are not ambitious enough in terms of organic sector growth rates and will not show enough variation. Several said that the current growth rate of organic production was probably much greater than 6 per cent, and wondered where these figures came from. Stakeholders should imagine the best case scenario (e.g.

growth rates of greater than 10 per cent) and then use that within the assessment. The assessment also needs to look at what policy actions are needed to make the best case scenario happen.

## IA UPDATE UGANDA

**Presented by Godber Tumushabe, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Uganda**

Since the beginning of the project in June last year, ACODE has worked on the preparation of an inception report; held NSC meetings; organized the first national stakeholders workshop; and prepared and finalized the background study on organic agriculture production and trade in Uganda.

At the First National Stakeholders Workshop, certification was considered to be the single most important barrier to market entry.

The implementation team has developed a framework with a set of questions on the three pillars of sustainable development. They will use root cause analysis, strategic environmental assessment and cost benefit analysis to carry out the assessment, as well as a scenario building approach. The crops to be assessed may be cotton, passion fruit and pineapple, which have been selected because of their traded volumes, the need to examine the impact of the crops grown on non-organic farms, and the number of farmers engaged in the production of these crops.

Policy effects will be analyzed, including scale effects, structural effects and location effects. In Uganda, under the agricultural zoning scheme, some areas are zoned for the production of various crops. Could this be extended to include an organic zone? What would the effect be? Regulatory effects will be analyzed as the impacts from all other effects rely on related social and environmental policies and regulations, such as the Plan for the Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), The Medium Term Competitive Strategy (MTCS), agricultural zoning schemes and so forth.

Guiding questions have been developed, and will be reviewed and revised. In addition to the general questions, specific questions have been designed to bring out the economic, environment and social aspects of organic agriculture production.

Future activities include the third NSC planned in June 2006 to review and provide input into the draft report; the second National Stakeholders' meeting planned for July 2006, and the final report integrating the comments from the National Stakeholders Workshop is anticipated at the end of July.

### Discussion:

- **Crops:** The crops selected show only the good side of organic agriculture, and those grown in places most easily reached. Difficult areas such as coffee, one of oldest organic products, could be looked at. ACODE will take the crops selected back to the team to confirm if they are the best ones to assess. Criteria need to be demonstrated on how the crops were chosen. Stakeholder input is required on the effects that are looked at e.g. scaling effects.
- **Post assessment:** No indication was made of how the study will be implemented once it is finished. The output will consist of reports on policy recommendations and it is important to develop a country-driven national implementation committee who will implement the results.
- **Problem of linkage between supply and demand:** Supply is the biggest obstacle at the moment, e.g. the banana quota is never met, because the supply side is disorganized, and consists of smallholder farmers who can't meet costs of certification and don't have the technical knowledge to meet certification requirements. Effort needs to be focused toward organizing the supply side.
- **Tools:** Need to limit the assessment to certain assessment tools that allow good analyses. A request was made to UNEP for more monitoring and input into the development of the studies rather than waiting to give intermittent advice. The comment was made that there is variation in tools and methods that can be used, and no specific tools or step-by-step guides are currently available.

- Data: The process should be broadened to get data from active sources, not only from records, and stakeholders need to provide data
- Indigenous knowledge: Indigenous knowledge systems need to be brought to the attention of team and incorporated into all three national assessments.
- Interaction: Interaction between national institutions should be scaled up and intensified beyond the current situation which consists mainly of exchanging emails.
- Budget allocation for organic: 10 percent of the national budget is to be paid to the agriculture sector, the organic sector should lobby for this allocation
- Next NSC: The next steering committee meeting should be held before June as the publication of the final report will need to have current areas of insufficient information completely addressed by that time.

## **DAY THREE: 9 March 2006**

### **REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

The third day commenced with a presentation of the results of a second meeting of the Regional Standard Technical Working Group on 6 March and discussion of issues related to the regional standard and certification. Discussion of other regional cooperation was started in the morning session, and continued in the afternoon, after the updates from the organic networks, ITF, EPOPA and IFOAM. Discussions on regional cooperation were very much linked to the meeting's recommendations on follow-up actions at regional and national levels. Therefore, reporting on this day's events will depart from a strict timeline approach. Summaries of the updates will be presented first, followed by the presentation of the outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RSTWG, discussions under regional cooperation, and next steps/way forward.

#### **UPDATES**

On day three, updates on recent activities were presented by the:

- International Taskforce on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF) (FAO/IFOAM/UNCTAD)
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- Export Promotion of Organic Products from East Africa project (EPOPA)
- National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)
- Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)
- Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
- IFOAM Organic Standard for East Africa (OSEA) project
- Other relevant ongoing projects.

Summaries of these updates follow.

#### **International Taskforce on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF)**

##### **Presented by Diane Bowen, IFOAM Organic Guarantee System**

The ITF is a platform for dialogue between public and private sector bodies engaged in regulating the organic sector. It seeks to reduce obstacles to organic trade. The members include 25 governments (who have organic regulations), six intergovernmental bodies (FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), WTO, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)), and 15 private sector actors (certification bodies (CBs), Traders, NGOs). The Task Force is organized by UNCTAD, FAO, and IFOAM.

Problems facing organic trade include government and private standards, the multitude of certification bodies, the need for multiple certifications and accreditations, and the lack of harmonized standards. IFOAM and Codex, however, are nearly harmonized. It was proposed that there should be one reference requirement for importing certifiers.

New work in 2006 will include developing a guidance document for judging equivalency of standards; developing one set of essential international certification requirements for the organic sector; and pursuing ideas for how to establish an "organic" multilateral agreement among accreditation bodies.

Meetings in 2006 include a Workshop on Requirements for Certification Bodies Certification Requirements on 9 October, followed by the 6<sup>th</sup> ITF Meeting on 11-13 October in Stockholm, Sweden.<sup>1</sup>

Discussion:

- What is the level of participation for East Africa and how can they participate?
- Mwatima Juma currently participates and the ITF wants to invite more people from developing countries, particularly East Africa. There were some invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> ITF meeting but they could not make it.
- There was a call for more ITF meetings to be held in developing countries and concerns that the ITF looked too developed-country-oriented. The representative of UNCTAD assured participants that UNCTAD is involved to ensure that the developing-country voice, including East Africa, is heard. UNCTAD looks at developed-country markets to ensure they are open to developing-country exports, and that this is important to the growth of the organic sector in developing countries.
- At least half of the governments with regulations are in the ITF. In Codex meetings there tend to be mainly developed countries present. All governments at ITF should encourage their Codex representative to come and work on the Codex organic guideline.
- Codex has trust funds to fund participation from three developing countries to meetings. Find out who is Codex representative in the country and access trust fund- food labelling committee.

## **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)**

**Presented by Anne Boor, IFOAM International Projects, and Chido Makunike, IFOAM Africa Organic Service Centre**

IFOAM currently has 750 member organizations, in more than 100 countries.

Notable recent IFOAM activities:

- IFOAM had just launched a new project Organic Standard for East Africa (OSEA), which will operate together with the CBTF East African Organic project. Patricia Wangong'u will act as coordinator for the OSEA and CBTF linkage. (Please see more information on OSEA below).
- There is a new project in the Pacific region on CBS, certification, and regional standards. It aims to promote the adoption of organic agriculture in the Pacific Region and contribute to the reduction of rural poverty. It is financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- A meeting on the participatory guarantee system (PGS) as an alternative organic verification system for local marketing was recently held in Latin America. Forty representatives from 21 countries representing different PGSs were present. IFOAM has also published a number of case studies on PGS. PGS is currently being explored as a viable option for East Africa.
- Two new training manuals have been written building on the first IFOAM Training Manual for Organic Agriculture in the Tropics. They cover arid and semi-arid tropics and humid tropics.
- The Certification Body Forum had its first meeting in February 2006. The objectives of the forum are to: increase cooperation; improve certification capacity worldwide and to advance organic trade. It includes 53 certification bodies from 35 countries, including Ugocert and Tancert. An IFOAM

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<sup>1</sup> Note, these are the final dates decided after the Arusha workshop.  
Regional Workshop Report - Draft 3 July 2006

Certification Conference will be held from 15-17<sup>th</sup> November, 2006, and will help CBs with mutual recognition and networking.

- An IFOAM study on the social and economic effects of organic agriculture on Africa will soon be launched. The IFOAM Africa office will coordinate the research.

Chido Makunike, Coordinator of the IFOAM Africa Organic Service Centre, informed the group that the Centre has been operating since 2004 and recently moved to Dakar from Kampala. It is responsible for assisting emerging organic agriculture sectors in Africa. At the moment the Centre employs only the coordinator and has no capacity to be involved in projects except to assist those already in place. For example, the Centre cannot do research to generate data on organics in Africa but can provide a bank for data generated by others. The Service Centre runs the IFOAM website Africa page and a monthly newsletter. Chido requested information from participants to include in the newsletter, which would then be disseminated to the rest of Africa. For example, he cited the FAO project to promote products from West Africa in Europe.

Following a comment that IFOAM was not well known by governments, the representative of UNCTAD introduced IFOAM to the government representatives present and also praised the organization for their excellent work.

## **Export Promotion of Organic Products from East Africa project (EPOPA)**

### **Presented by Marg Leijdens, EPOPA Tanzania**

The main aim of this Sida (Swedish Government) funded programme is to initiate organic exports to increase income for farmers. The first projects were on coffee, cotton, sesame and cocoa, and the programme has to date worked with more than 70 000 smallholders. EPOPA is currently active in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Projects and products currently worked on are: Coffee, Cashew, honey, canned pineapple, peanuts, instant coffee, vanilla, fresh & dried fruits, cocoa, sustainable fish, shea nuts, ginger. EPOPA is also involved with capacity building and institutional development, supporting the national movements and the development of the two certification bodies UgoCert and TanCert. EPOPA also analyze data and organize training for people who are not directly involved in organic agriculture to broaden the sector's scope. A report on organic seeds in Africa and the European markets for honey was recently prepared. Reports and other information are freely available at [www.epopa.info](http://www.epopa.info)

#### Discussion:

- A question was raised on why inputs were not included as issue under EPOPA
- A question was raised on what the scope within projects was. It included support on export and imports, training of field staff, technical issues of converting a crop, certification, help for exporters to understand certification, mediation between exporters and farmers and certifiers.
- The representative of Rwanda expressed the hope that EPOPA would start operations in Rwanda. The representative from EPOPA explained that EPOPA can only be implemented in countries where SIDA is present, it is Sida that determines which countries to start in, and that they base their decisions on the requests from the countries.

EPOPA's existing strategy includes support for the development of national bodies (certification body and national movement) in order to support the development of strong organic sectors.

## **National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)**

### **Presented by Moses Muwanga, Coordinator of NOGAMU**

NOGAMU is mainly private sector based but has collaborative programs with government and other stakeholders. Market promotion is the main priority, and NOGAMU works toward the creation of markets for members and builds activities around market promotion. The Movement is also involved in the application of standards and the capacity building of members.

Recently NOGAMU has been looking at local and international market development. They have taken deliberate actions to develop the local market. NOGAMU recognizes the importance of informing customers on the benefits of organic agriculture. There is an officer in charge of local marketing and one in charge of international marketing.

There is currently one local organic outlet (the NOGAMU shop), as well as three supermarkets supplying organic products. Originally there was not strong support from supermarkets but they are beginning to realize the potential market for the products, especially vegetables and dried fruit. Organic products are now being supplied to the international schools and there is a basket delivery scheme in Kampala that is growing quickly, with 2.5 tones of organic produce provided every week.

Organic agriculture has grown 8.1 percent in the last year, mainly because of the basket scheme. NOGAMU is now aiming for an outlet in Jinja. It will target major towns where there is purchasing power and follow up with consumer awareness programs. NOGAMU is also involved in lobbying and developing a national policy on organic agriculture with the national Committee charged with drafting the policy.

NOGAMU has been successful in developing bar codes to comply with the international requirement that all products be bar coded. NOGAMU worked with members to develop the bar codes as well as improved packaging and presentation of products.

NOGAMU is funded by development partners (Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS), EPOPA, and German Development Services (DED), which provide 65 per cent of their budget. Members also contribute 3 percent, and 28 percent is self generated through fees and sales. NOGAMU provides its members with a platform and contributes to some service costs for its members. It also provides a newsletter and organizes fairs and the marketing their products. By 2010 NOGAMU hopes to generate more than 60 percent of its core costs.

Membership is encouraged for organizations more than for individuals. Currently there are 101 cooperative members and over 300 individuals totalling 39000 members. NOGAMU's strategy for capturing the local market is to make the price the same as other products. Some products such as eggs have a higher price, however, because farmers can take advantage of the fact that supply never matches demand. Selling organic products at the same price as conventional products is feasible as certification cuts out the middleman and farmers can either sell to the exporter or sell directly. Furthermore, the cost of production is lower in an organic system as farmers don't have to pay chemical costs, so farmers receive a higher profit without price premiums. In supermarkets, organic products sell faster as they look better after being sold directly to the outlet.

The draft policy for organics in Uganda covers all areas of development of organic agriculture such as markets, research and development and education.

## **Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)**

### **Presented by Jordan Gama, Executive Secretary TOAM**

TOAM is the umbrella organization for organic agriculture in Tanzania. TOAM is now 10 months old. Kiharta previously handled the organic sector but it didn't have full participation from all stakeholders therefore TOAM was established. At the first meeting, held in January 2005, TOAM developed a strategy plan with five pillars to guide its future activities.

TOAM has been approached by Italy and Germany, who are interested in organic products, particularly mangoes and oranges. An Australian company has also requested oranges. TOAM has recently been involved in media conferences as well as a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture to create a common understanding of organic agriculture. Jordan Gama gave thanks for the support of Mr. Kirenga from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives and for his advice on how to penetrate the government.

TOAM members are mainly NGOs with experience in sustainable agriculture. TOAM holds workshops and sends members to EPOPA training to help NGOs improve their understanding of the relationship between sustainable and organic agriculture. TOAM's work improves the quality and accuracy of lines of communication between NGOs and farmers.

TOAM has cooperated with NOGAMU since its creation and has ongoing contact with NOGAMU and KOAN. NOGAMU is importing coffee and tea from Tanzania

Discussion and updates on other relevant events in Tanzania:

- A comment was made that Tanzania covers a large area, and was there a road map to get the organic message across the country? Zonal meetings have been organized in six zones, which each cover about three regions and strong commitment to go organic from participants following those meetings has been found. However, there is a need to build capacity and increase awareness of TOAM.
- Sokoine University of Agriculture is starting an organic agriculture curriculum next year.
- The agriculture sector in Tanzania is undergoing change and the planning process is going to be rolled out from next year. 70 per cent of funding will be at the district level and farmers need to request where this money should be spent. The money can be used for extension or capacity building, for example. Farmers need to form farmer groups to create a louder voice.
- Petra Bakewell-Stone briefly presented her research which is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and aims to assess and enhance the contribution of organic agriculture to sustainable livelihoods. So far her research has found that certification doesn't automatically bring benefits to farmers and a holistic understanding of organic agriculture is more important. She organized a stakeholder forum in Morogoro to strengthen TOAM's strategic plan. The forum found that Tanzanians want more information, and the outcome was to create a shared vision for 2015 for the sector. This vision expresses the concerns and unity of the actors; it will be translated into Swahili.
- Awareness raising is seen as a key challenge facing the organic agriculture sector because farmers need good information in order to succeed. Participants at the Morogoro forum came up with strategies for raising awareness including resource centres, publications such as manuals, information trips, and trainings. There needs to be a central information hub to inform people when trainings are scheduled. The IFOAM website could be the central distribution point. IFOAM can also fund travel costs for Africans to travel with their own country/region to learn from others.

## **Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)**

**Presented by Eustace Kiarii, National Coordinator KOAN**

KOAN has been in operation for two years. It provides leadership to organic stakeholders on issues such as marketing, standards and training. KOAN wants to transform the movement into an industry. Their work includes facilitating access to markets and providing technical services. There are 35 training institutions offering organic training in Kenya. KOAN also lobbies the government and works with the Ministry of Agriculture on the FAO organic project.

Business people in Kenya have taken the lead in market development. There are now 11 outlets where organic products are sold, however most are not certified. One larger supermarket with 16 outlets countrywide is interested in organic agriculture. In Nairobi an organic restaurant, Bridges, has been set up with 80 percent organic products. Another restaurant with five outlets has started an organic menu.

Other organic projects in Kenya include the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) working together to determine the impact of organic agriculture on soil biodiversity. The project will take 20 years and the results will be very important for East Africa. Kenya is also holding its first 'organic week' to raise public awareness. The week will combine fun and information and will be held in June 2006 as part of Ecofest. There will be a competition for chefs using organic ingredients, and the food they create will be used as the festival food. Public forums and debates on organic agriculture, GMOs and other issues will be held alongside music, cultural

entertainment, information on organic agriculture and environment, and organic food. There will also be a farmers market for the whole week. TOAM and NOGAMU will join in the organic week.

Emerging issues for KOAN include addressing the need to send organic vanilla to Uganda for export as Kenya is not currently producing large enough quantities to export. This can be seen not only as a problem but also as a practical example of regional cooperation.

## **IFOAM Organic Standard for East Africa (OSEA) project**

### **Presented by Gunnar Rundgren, OSEA project leader**

Gunnar Rundgren outlined the IFOAM Organic Standard for East Africa (OSEA) project which will link in with the CBTF project on regional standards. The OSEA project was approved by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) in December 2005. It will be implemented by IFOAM, with GroLink acting as the leading consultants, Patricia Wangong'u (IFOAM Kenya) as regional coordinator, and the national organic movements as key project partners. In addition to the joint work with CBTF on development of a regional standard, OSEA will work on supporting components, such as field testing of the standard, development of a Joint Inspection Protocol, and raising awareness of farmers and consumers of the standard and organic agriculture in general.

An Advisory Committee comprising project partners guides overall OSEA project implementation. The heads of the three national organic movements are members of this Advisory Committee and also the CBTF project Regional Steering Committee (RSC). A CBTF representative (UNCTAD or UNEP) also participates as observer in the Advisory Committee to further ensure coordination between the two projects. Likewise, representatives from the OSEA project team are invited to participate as observers in the CBTF RSC meetings.

## **REPORT OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STANDARD TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (RSTWG)**

### **Presented by Eva Mattson, EPOPA**

The RSTWG held its second meeting on 6 March 2006 in Arusha, immediately preceding the main workshop. Its first meeting was in Kampala in October 2005. The RSTWG is made up of members from Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya representing Organic Movements, Bureau of Standards and Certification Bodies. Rwanda participated for the first time as observers in this second RSTWG.

A framework for the East African organic standard had been prepared and was agreed upon, with some changes, by members of the working group. The RSTWG discussed and agreed upon specific areas to be covered under the East African organic standard, including conversion time, retroactive conversion, parallel production, inputs and criteria for inputs in agriculture, additives and processing aids for food processing, and the use of conventional feed in organic animal husbandry. A first draft of the standard is to be prepared by April 2006 and discussed by future meetings of the RSTWG, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to be held 25-26 May 2006 in Nairobi. The final agreed version should be ready within the following year. The RSTWG will meet several times before April 2007 and the standard will go through a field test trial by East African farmers.

As of this meeting, the RSTWG is now being jointly implemented and financed by the CBTF East African organic project and the IFOAM OSEA project described above.

The report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RSTWG, including the agreed framework, is included as Annex 1 in this report.

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

Discussions on regional cooperation and next steps started in the morning session, immediately after the presentation of the outcome of the RSTWG meeting, and continued in the afternoon session. A wide range of valuable points and concrete proposals were made. These have been organized thematically below.

### Regional standard:

- A comment was made on why the standard only focuses on production when other standards focus on packaging and labelling as well.
- A question was raised on the difference between this standard and Codex and IFOAM standards. And how compliant is the standard with Codex? As no one from Codex was present it was suggested that the group link in with Codex. An analysis with IFOAM and Codex will be done once the standard is prepared. Codex will be invited to the next meeting.
- It was noted that Africa had no voice in international standard setting and that through the regional standard it will have a stronger voice. However, the standard development and adoption will take some time, even years, and participants should expect delays.
- There is a need to take account of local issues and then look at bench marking with other standards.

### National vs. regional standard:

- National legislation will apply in some situations e.g. in regard to labelling laws, and national organic laws will be made redundant by the new standard. Under certain circumstances a country should be able to apply the national standard if the regional standard is not specific enough. However, the point of regional standard is to harmonize the different standards from the three countries.

### Certification:

- The regional standard does not prescribe how something is inspected, but that doesn't mean it won't be used for certification. Non-certified farmers can use the standard too as they are not limited by the inspection part. The idea is to build consensus around the standard by not using prescribed inspection clauses, although Tancert and others will use the standard to certify.
- A request was made for work on guidelines for certification and inspection to be included in the project, to indicate to farmers what they can and can't do. At present, the project will cover how to carry out inspection, but will not develop built-in guidelines. The IFOAM guidelines are freely available for farmers to refer to. Further, a joint inspection protocol has been developed, therefore, what is needed now is to ensure respect for the standard from market players.
- It is also important to leave open the option to use participatory guarantee systems (PGS) to show conformity with organic standards, particularly for the local market

### Data base:

- Infrastructure is required to build database. Biggest problem is with generation of data and ensuring it can be validated. A request was made to look for funding and capacity building and focus on sourcing data. The data needs to be sent to right place and updated. It may potentially be hosted by IFOAM Africa or NOGAMU. Need to agree who are the focal points for data. Also at regional level- the 3 focal points should feed into the regional level.
- The latest market data is available from producers and exporters however few are able or willing to give data. There are several levels of data. The Africa office offered to help with the task as IFOAM can be a repository of trade data and data on central and western organic activities. East African customs union should be requested to make a specific code for organic products.

### Research:

- The issue of research came out strongly in all of the National Stakeholder Consultations. It was the top issue for many people. Research on innovations e.g. in pest management is needed. Research is needed on a scientific level and also on a policy level. Farmers need to ensure their needs are heard

and incorporated into the research agenda. If farmers don't demand answers to the problems they face they will not be solved and money won't be put into it.

#### Regional level:

- Need a body to act as a forum.
- Existing structures should be organized into an IFOAM for East Africa and then linked with other existing structures.
- Ministries, Bureaus of Standards, and movements should be used to lobby and not necessarily create new bodies.
- A regional platform should be set up rather than relying on national lobbying.
- The organic forum doesn't need to be physical with offices etc.
- Need to strengthen national networks as donors won't fund indefinitely.
- There is a lot of cooperation between 3 movements but it is informal and they would like to formalize it.
- A platform for coordination should involve more than just the organic networks.

#### Regional marketing initiatives:

- It is difficult to get exporters to coordinate at national level and even more difficult at regional level. It is better to work at national level first.
- This is a more long term objective.
- National movements should concretize action of bringing exporters together and show common interests. E.g. all exporters of dried fruit in Uganda realize the benefit of bulking their exports.
- Use database to inform exporters

#### Organic brand/mark/logo

- An organic mark/logo would increase visibility of organic production within the EAC.
- Organic brand: is the focus local or export markets? Most agreed better to start with local market.

#### EAC

- The EAC will be involved as they have experience in harmonizing standards.
- EAC currently formulating EAC development strategy. Workshop participants should lobby them to get organic agriculture included.
- Request for Amos Lugolobi to communicate our message at upcoming meeting
- Be able to make headway and link into committees - through standards developed at EAC level, participate in their committees, make sure their decisions don't limit organic agriculture. Starting point is the proposed organic platform.
- Need to build capacity to participate at regional level.
- EAC requires registration, shouldn't be main platform. Other platforms include media and school curriculum
- National movements should look closely at agricultural issues within the EAC, need to understand what the issues are that we want to take to the EAC. If Director of Agriculture in Tanzania is convinced about organic agriculture, he will take it to Kenyan and Ugandan colleagues.
- Policy for agriculture through EAC- could be looked at through the assessments

#### Project

- There is a real need to keep the dialogue alive between the three national committees to ensure the project keeps going. A number of issues were discussed for follow-up at regional level (see summary on first page)
- A request was made by the representative of the Government of Rwanda to involve Rwanda in the project and
- A request was made to Rwanda to provide information on their stakeholders.
- It would be good to involve Burundi in the project, particularly the RSTWG work.

## **ISSUES FOR FOLLOW UP ACTION AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL**

Based on the discussions summarized above, the workshop participants agreed on a number of follow up actions at the regional and national levels.

Follow up actions at the national level should include:

- Explore opportunities for national marketing initiatives/bulking up of tradable volumes (e.g. bringing exporters together at national level to discuss)
- Contribute articles to the media (including radio, TV and newspaper)
- Identify areas where tangible outputs can be measured on the ground
- Each national team to identify products with comparative advantage
- Strengthen national bodies through awareness raising, increased membership, capacity building and government support
- National bodies to act as repositories of statistics trade, markets, and general information on organics
- Make use of IFOAM training information on website and publicize training events
- Awareness raising (among farmers, retailers and consumers)
- Promoting regional partners' organic products
- Organic movements should seize all opportunities to influence policy development in all related areas.

Follow up actions at the regional level should include:

- Develop shared data bases on production and trade of OA products in the region and enhance sharing of data;
- Develop and implement a coherent regional research agenda based on the needs of farmers
- Develop and implement a coherent regional policy action agenda to support policy implementation, monitoring and decision making;
- Establish a Regional Organic Agriculture Platform which includes the national organic networks and other stakeholders;
- Agree on a mechanism for enhanced coordination and cooperation among organic networks (IFOAM East Africa);
- Explore opportunities for regional marketing initiatives/bulking up of tradable volumes;
- Promote the adoption of an East African organic brand for products;
- Increase the visibility of organic production and the role of key actors at the regional level by establishing operational linkages with relevant bodies and organs of the East African Community (EAC);
- Work to get organic agriculture included in the EAC Development Strategy 2006-2010; and
- Accelerate the work of the Regional Standards Technical Working Group.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

Comments on the papers presented were requested by 1 June 2006.

Asad Naqvi from UNEP thanked all the participants for their active and effective participation the workshop. In particular he appreciated the support and personal presence of Mr. Geoffrey Kirenga from the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives. Referring to the workshop, he mentioned that this multistakeholder and multicountry event has been successful in generating a momentum in support of organic agriculture in the region. It is now our collective responsibility to maintain this momentum and take forward the cause of promoting OA.

Sophia Twarog congratulated the workshop participants on their excellent participation. She expressed her conviction that with their enthusiasm and commitment, they will surely make a big impact on the course of agriculture, trade and environment in East Africa and beyond. She pointed out that with the development of the East African Organic Standard, this region will be leading the way in the developing world. She urged the participants to keep communicating and collaborating among themselves to keep the momentum going.

She also thanked the members of the Regional Steering Committee who had met every evening to go over the events of that day and the issues to be covered the following day.

IFOAM gave thanks to UNCTAD and UNEP, and commented on the value of hearing news from the national bodies. IFOAM also thanked the governments for looking into the needs of organic agriculture and the public private initiatives and many donors for their work in organic agriculture.

### **10 March Field trip**

Participants were taken on a field trip, which was supported by EPOPA and KNCU, to Moshi where they visited the KNCU office followed by the farms of farmers with the cooperative. Participants saw first hand the diversity of crops grown on organic farms and were able to ask the farmers questions on organic production. Field trip participants also enthusiastically founded the “East Africa Organic Team”, complete with theme song, which all workshop participants and beyond are invited to join.

# ANNEX 1: REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STANDARDS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

## Arusha 6 March 2006

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Participants:	Francis Akivaga, Anne Boor, Diane Bowen, Carol Tom , David Eboku, Jordan Gama, Anna Griggs, Mwatima Juma, Eustace Kiarri, Peter Lustig, Chido Makunike, Eva Mattsson, Tito Migabo, Obadiah N Msaki, Leonard Mtama, Moses K Muwanga, Asad Naqvi, Moses Ogwal, Gunnar Rundgren, Charles Rutagyengwa, Sophia Twarog , Charles Walaga, Patricia Wangongu.	
Welcome	Sophia Twarog welcomed everyone to the meeting	
Update since last meeting	Standards for wild fisheries have been developed by UgoCert.	Charles Walaga
	TBS is making consultations of a draft TBS standard. A sitting on comments on the draft has been postponed twice. Safety issues are included in the standards. TBS will not go into certification; it is left to the private sector to do. The issue of food control still with TBS and “Tanzania Drug Authority”.	Obadiah Msaki
	The Rwanda Bureau of Standards has prepared a draft organic standard. There is certification of organic products in Rwanda, Ecocert is contracted by the ministry. A copy of the draft standards will be sent to the group.	Tito Migabo/ Charles Rutagyengwa
	The EU regulation will be revised and there is a new proposal published but it is unclear when it will be decided and unclear how it will look.	Gunnar Rundgren
	Africert will include inspection to the EU-regulation in their ISO 65 scope. By June they expect to have accreditation from DAP.	Francis Akivaga Gunnar Rundgren
Presentation of OSEA	Organic Standards in East Africa – OSEA.  The OSEA project was approved in December 2005 by Sida. OSEA will be working together with the part of the CBTF project which is about the East African Standards. It has more components directly related to the regional standards such as national consultations, and field testing of the standards. In addition it also has components about joint inspection methodology and consumer education and promotion. Gunnar Rundgren is coordinating the OSEA project.  It is a two year project. The activities in the OSEA project and the CBTF project to develop regional standards are now merged and the RSTWG will be for both OSEA and CBTF. Eva Mattsson will continue to coordinate the RSTWG. Other people, e.g. Diane Bowen, will supply expert support.  All participants were positive to this new cooperation between UNEP, UNCTAD and IFOAM.  In the discussion after the presentation it was underlined the importance that the OSEA project and IFOAM was presented to the governments in the respective countries, as some of them don't know IFOAM too well.	Discussion

UNCTAD and UNEP representatives can help out on that as they are better known.

A joint information on OSEA/CBTF will be send out to the RSTWG

Presentation of the East African Standards Outline

EM introduced the document “East African Organic Standard - Outline 2nd DRAFT”. Eva Mattsson

International standards, is it possible to fulfil all?

DB gave an overview over international standards and guidelines. Diane Bowen

The IFOAM Basic Standards and Codex Alimentarius Guidelines are seen as guidelines, not as actually standards. They are standards for standards and not to directly certify to.

The Codex Alimentarius Organic Guidelines has a different status than most Codex Standards. The word used is “should” instead of normally “shall”, there are numerous derogations and the language is allowing for flexibility.

The Major importing markets regulations are NOP (USA) JAS (Japan) and EEC 2092/91 (EU).

These regulations are designed for national or regional situations and are requirements for certification and for importing. They are not developed for the situation in the exporting countries.

There are also weakness and mistakes in the regulations. The regulations are also moving targets. The EU-reg and JAS is under revision and there is a lawsuit against the USDA.

There will also start a revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards 2006 and Codex revision will probably start 2007.

Answer to the question if it is possible to fulfil all of major regulations and guidelines is that it is probably possible even if there are a few contradictions among them.

But meeting ALL makes YOUR standard to the highest denominator and it will be very few producers that can fulfil the requirements in the standards.

The role of a regional standard, nationally, regionally and internationally

Organic standards are tools for trade. It also makes a definition of OA. A joint standard in East Africa is also a definition for OA in East Africa. That role of the standard should be very much thought of. Gunnar Rundgren

For farmers that are not certified, the standard can also build unity on the national and regional level so they can also use the standard.

One regional OA standard is also a platform for international negotiations, rather than individual county standards.

Regional standards make products easily traded between countries. It also makes it easier for farmers to embark on organic production without having to start with international standards.

The access to the EU market is not easy. The only developing countries that have been accepted by EU Reg 2092/91 are Costa Rica and Argentina. All other countries are not accepted directly. While harmonisation or equivalence are desirable, one have to be realistic and see that this takes a lot of time. Not only Africans are harmed by the lack of equivalence, e.g.

also European farmers need to be certified to NOP (USA).

A joint standard can be used in equivalence agreements with the EU, for example about the requirements for organic seeds.

Do not try and just copy already existing standards, use the parts you need.

Remember that trade issues is more political than most things. You write your standard and then at negotiations you might have to change some things.

Discussion on  
the standards  
outline

On the outline and the presentations there was a long discussions

It was decided to call the document a framework instead of an outline.  
The framework was accepted with some changes

1<sup>st</sup> OK

2<sup>nd</sup> OK

3<sup>rd</sup> Include Rwanda.

4<sup>th</sup> OK

5<sup>th</sup> Make clear that it is in the countries and between the countries

6<sup>th</sup> Delete "also". Include own "organic" regulation.

7<sup>th</sup> OK

8<sup>th</sup> OK

9<sup>th</sup> OK

10<sup>th</sup> (for example Swahili)

11<sup>th</sup> OK

12<sup>th</sup> Delete the whole point

13<sup>th</sup> Spell out Codex and IBS

New bullet points.

One to make clear that normal national legislation applies.

Another to say that the standard cover production conditions and not inspection or certification.

Agreed framework included in Annex 1.

It was discussed and agreed that social standards should be included.

EM needs valuable input on the social issues that is relevant for this regional and is inspect able.

Presentation for  
areas of a first  
draft

EM presented the area for a coming standard. There were some more areas proposed which all were included. Eva Mattsson

Presentation and  
discussion on  
standards areas

Conversion period.

Decision: 1 year.

Reduced conversion period:

Decision: Redundant. It is not needed with a short conversion period of one year.

Parallel production:

Decision: Accept the proposal to allow parallel production if conventional and organic production is clearly separated and the separation is inspectable.

List of inputs:

Decision: The starting point is that all natural inputs are allowed and all synthetic are not allowed if nothing else is stated. This is consistent with the approach in the US NOP.

Come up with a draft indicative list. Define what inputs that are prohibited, the rest is OK.

Input criteria:

Decision: Use/refer to IBS and Codex criteria.

Additives and processing aids:

Criteria for additives and processing aids:

Decision: Same as for inputs

Amount of conventional feed:

Decision: Minimum 60 % organic feed. Although it was discussed that this could be revisited once the livestock standards are further elaborated.

Name of the group

The name of the group is long and difficult, several proposals were made but there was no agreement to change the name. The conveners, IFOAM, UNCTAD and UNEP will further discuss the name.

Proposals:

East Africa organic Standard Team/Taskforce – EAST

Regional Organic Standards Team – ROST

East Africa Organic Standard Working Group - EAOSWG

Regional Standard Working Group – RSWG

East Africa organic Standard Team - EAST Working Group

Further work and plans

Next meeting for the RSTWG will take place in May 25-26 in Nairobi.

Obadiah Msaki is asked to make a description how the EAC procedures for a regional standard can work. A proposal should be ready in April 2006

#### **Standards process (responsibility of RSTWG)**

- DRAFT 1: 7th April (EM)
- National "consultations" also bringing the framework agreement back to stakeholders (National movements, if possible linked to CBTF National assessments)
- RSTWG 3, 25-26 May (Nairobi)
- DRAFT 2 by mid July (EM)
- National Consultations 2, Sep 2006, (National movements, if possible linked to CBTF National assessments)
- Comparison with IFOAM and Codex (DB)
- RSTWG 4, & "International" Seminar (last week of November, second week of December) (Nairobi)
- DRAFT 3 by mid January 2007
- Field Testing Workshop and testing: January 22-26 2007 (Grolink + certifiers) (Kampala)
- *National meetings*
- Report from Workshop mid February (Grolink)
- FINAL DRAFT mid March
- RSTWG 5, April 2007 "agreement"

#### **Public Launch – October 2007 (if possible linked to CBTF activity)**

#### **Ownership discussion (OSEA + CBTF)**

- Clarifying EAC Procedures and formal status, May 2006 (OM)
- Identifying other options, May 2006 (GR)
- Paper presenting options July 2006 (GR)
- National consultations 2, Sept 2006 (National movements, if possible linked to CBTF National assessments)
- Individual consultations with stakeholders, governments etc July-Dec 2006 (IFOAM-UNCTAD-UNEP)
- CBTF Event linked to the International seminar in Nov Dec?
- Proposal Jan 2007 (GR)

#### **Certification capacity (OSEA)**

- Development of joint inspection protocol (workshop) May 2007 (Grolink + certifiers)

#### **Consumer Education (OSEA)**

- Plan under development, ready April (AB, CM)

### **Annex 1: East African Organic Standard Framework**

Accepted by the RSTWG 6 March 2006

- The East African Organic Standard is written for the production in East Africa and adapted to conditions in East Africa.
- The *purpose* is to have one unified organic standard, used directly for certification and accepted by all stakeholders, thereby it can replace other national organic standards.
- The geographic scope is currently Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, but other countries in the region are invited to use the standards and to participate in future revisions of the standards.
- The East African Organic Standards is a tool for development of organic production in East Africa and should both facilitate the need of flexibility for the producers and consumer trust.
- The East African Organic Standard is intended for trade of organic products between the East African countries and within the countries.
- The standards *can* be a platform for a common label for organic products in East Africa.
- The East African Organic Standard can be a basis for equivalence agreements with countries having organic regulations and also the basis for export to countries without own organic regulations.
- The East African Organic Standard formulates standpoints which can be used in negotiations on international standards.
- The East African Organic Standard is based on input from public and private interest and it is necessary to have a continuous consultation with the stakeholders when writing and revising the East African Organic Standard.
- The East African Organic Standards covers plant production, animal husbandry, beekeeping, wild production and processing, and products there from, regardless of their final use. In future other areas will be incorporated.
- The East African Organic Standard covers standards for the production but not inspection or certification requirements.
- The normal national legislations (e.g. for food safety, labelling) applies to production fulfilling the East African Organic Standard.

- The East African Organic Standard is written in a way to make it easy to access and understand for the reader and user. The standards should be translated into relevant languages (for example Swahili).

In the process to establish the East African Organic Standard:

- it is important to have a thorough process on the future ownership and responsibility of the standard. A final ownership as an East African Community standard is a strong option but also other possibilities will be looked into.
- while drafting an East African Organic Standard it is important to have international standards and regulations in mind (for example Codex Alimentarius Guidelines and IFOAM Basic Standards) even though it may not be possible to be in line with all details of them.

## ANNEX 2: WORKSHOP AGENDA

**CBTF Regional Workshop on Organic Agriculture in East Africa,  
Arusha, 6 - 10 March, 2006  
Impala Hotel**

### 6 March

**9.00 – 17.30** Regional Standard Technical Working Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

**18.00 – 21.00** Regional Steering Committee meeting

### 7 March **Regional workshop day 1**

**10.00 – 10.30** *Welcome coffee and registration*

*Chair: Naftali Ndugire, NEMA, Kenya*

**10.30 – 10.50** Opening remarks from CBTF (Sophia Twarog, UNCTAD and Asad Naqvi, UNEP)

**10.50 – 11.10** Tour de table/ participant introductions

**11.10 – 11.25** Official opening, Mr. Mohamed Muya, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives

**11.25 – 12.00** Project overview and update, Sophia Twarog, UNCTAD and Asad Naqvi, UNEP

**12.00 – 12.20** *Overview of the current state of organic agriculture in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and the opportunities for regional harmonization, Alastair Taylor (EPOPA)*

**12.20 - 13.00** Discussion

**13.00 – 14.00** *Lunch*

*Chair Moses Muwanga, NOGAMU, Uganda*

**14.00 – 14.40** *Best practices for organic policy: What developing country governments can do to promote the organic sector, Gunnar Rundgren (Grolink)*

**14.40 – 16.00** Discussion

**16.00 – 16.15** *Coffee break*

**16.15 – 16.45** *Organic agriculture and food security in Africa, Rachel Hine (University of Essex) with Peter Murage (MOOF)*

**16.45 – 17.45** Discussion

**17.45 – 18.00** Summary of day 1 and overview day 2- Sophia Twarog

**18.00 – 20.00** Regional Steering Committee meeting

## **8 March      Regional workshop day 2**

*Chair: Cecilia Kimemia, Bridge Africa, Kenya*

- 9.00 – 9.30**      *Demand for Organic Products from East Africa, Ruth Sebagereka (NOGAMU)*
- 9.30 – 10.45**      Discussion
- 10.45 – 11.00**      *Coffee break*
- 11.00 – 11.15**      Introduction on Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP)
- 11.15 – 13.00**      IA progress report from Tanzania (Envirocare)
- 13.00 – 14.00**      *Lunch*

*Chair: Eustace Kiarii, KOAN, Kenya*

- 14.00 – 15.45**      IAP progress report from Kenya (Bridge Africa)
- 15.45 – 16.00**      *Coffee*
- 16.00 – 17.45**      IA progress report from Uganda (ACODE)
- 17.45 – 18.00**      Close of day and recap of IA projects - Asad Naqvi
- 18.00 – 20.00**      Regional Steering Committee meeting

## **9 March      Regional workshop day 3**

*Chair: Godber Tumushabe, ACODE, Uganda*

- 9.00 – 10.45**      Regional Cooperation:  
     Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RSTWG  
     Presentation of the IFOAM OSEA project
- 10.45 – 11.00**      *Coffee break*

*Chair: Sophia Twarog, UNCTAD*

- 11.00 – 13.00**      Updates from ITF, EPOPA, IFOAM
- 13.00 – 14.00**      *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 16.00**      Updates from organic networks: NOGAMU, TOAM, KOAN
- 15.45 – 16.00**      *Coffee*
- 16.00 – 17.30**      Regional Cooperation, discussions continued  
    Next steps/ way forward  
    Close of meeting

## **10 March      Field trip (sponsored by EPOPA and KNCU)**

- 8.30**      Departure from hotel to Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU), Moshi.
- 10.00 – 10.30**      Briefing at KNCU
- 10.30 – 16.00**      Visit organic farms

## ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

This list of participants is organized as follows: First participants from the three CBTF project beneficiary countries plus Rwanda; Second, participants from partner organizations, including staff of international projects based in these countries; third United Nations and UN organizations. This ordering was selected in order to facilitate contacts at national level among various stakeholders.

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## ANNEX 4: REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) provides guidance to CBTF on overall project implementation, and ensures overall project coherency and the link between national and regional processes. The RSC comprises one representative from the designated national institution, one from the government project focal point and one from the national organic body in each country. IFOAM, FAO and ITC are invited to RSC meetings. UNCTAD and UNEP act as secretariat for the RSC. Godber Tumushabe is RSC Chairperson.

Regional Steering Committee members:

Country	Government	Institution	Organic body
Kenya	Naftali Ndugire NEMA	Cecilia Kimemia, Bridge Africa	Eustace Kiarri, KOAN
Tanzania	Geoffrey Kirenga/ Adah Mwasha Ministry Of Agriculture and Food Security	Loyce Lema, Envirocare	Jordan Gama, TOAM
Uganda	Florence Kata/ Ben Naturinda UEPB	Godber Tumushabe, ACODE	Moses Muwanga, NOGAMU