

UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development



Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products



Regional Workshop, Arusha, 7
March 2006

Why organic agriculture?

- Environmental, social and economic benefits for developing countries
- Trading opportunity - major markets for organic products growing at rates of 5-20 % per year, plus price premiums



Overarching Objective

To contribute to sustainable trade, environmental protection, food security and poverty reduction in three East African countries (Kenya, the Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) by promoting the production and export of organic agricultural products.



Specific objectives include to:

- Facilitate national and regional multi-stakeholder dialogue among all relevant parties
- Review the current practices and situation regarding organic agriculture
- Facilitate the development of policy options for promoting organic agriculture
- Facilitate regional cooperation among the three countries
- Explore the potential development of an East African organic standard



Project Activities

- Part One: Background studies
- Part Two: National integrated assessments of organic agriculture
- Part Three: Regional cooperation



In collaboration with:

- National institutions in the beneficiary countries
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
- Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA Project)

Part One: Background studies

1. Overview of the current state of organic agriculture in East Africa and opportunities for regional harmonization
2. What developing country Governments can do to promote production and trade in organic agriculture
3. Organic agriculture and food security in Africa
4. Export development of organic products from East Africa

**Part Two: National integrated assessments of
organic agriculture**

What is IA?

A **process** for assessing the environmental, social and economic impacts of a specific policy, set of policies, sector or planning process

OA in East Africa (Kenya)

- Lead Govt. Agency
 - National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
- Designated Institution
 - Bridge Africa



OA in East Africa (Tanzania)

- Lead Govt. Agency
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Designated Institution
 - Envirocare



OA in East Africa (Uganda)

- Lead Govt. Agency
 - Uganda Export Promotion Board
- Designated Institution
 - Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)



Expected outcomes:

- Informed policymaking
- Policy packages that help promote OA
- Enhanced transparency and stakeholder participation in policy dialogue and decision-making



Part Three: Regional Cooperation

- Facilitate exchange of national experiences
- Ensure overall project coherency
- Identify areas for regional cooperation
- Explore possible development of an East African Organic Agriculture Standard



Mechanisms for Regional Cooperation

- Regional Steering Committee
- Regional Standard Technical Working Group
- Regional workshops



THANK YOU

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<http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/>

