

East African Organic Standard

RSTWG

Regional Standards Technical Working Group

UNCTAD and UNEP

OSEA

Participants

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Rwanda is coming in

- Organic Movements
- Bureau of Standards
- Certification Bodies
- Observers

Meetings and work so far

- Two meetings, October 2005 and March 6 2006
- Available standards, 6 in total
- 3 in Tanzania, 2 TanCert, 1 TBS
- 2 in Kenya, 1 KOAN, 1 KEBS
- 1 in Uganda, 1 NOGAMU & UgoCert
- Comparison of standards
- Framework

Framework

East African Organic Standard

- Written for the production in East Africa and adapted to conditions here
- One unified standard used directly for certification and accepted by all stakeholders
- The geographic scope is Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Other countries are invited to use the standards and participate in revision

- Tool for development of organic production in East Africa
- Intended for trade of organic products between and within the countries in East Africa
- Can be a platform for a common label in East Africa
- Can be used for export to countries without own organic regulations, or as a basis for equivalence agreements

- Formulates standpoints which can be used in negotiations on international standards
- Based on input from public and private interest
- Covers plant production, animal husbandry, beekeeping, wild production and processing. Other areas in future

- Covers production but not inspection or certification requirements
- National legislation has to be fulfilled also
- Written so it is easy to access and understand. Translated into other languages

- The ownership is not decided. An East African Community standard is a strong option but also other possibilities will be looked into
- International standards as Codex and IFOAM are taken into consideration but it will not be possible to be in line with all of them

Areas discussed and decided

- Conversion time
- Retroactive conversion
- Parallel production
- Inputs and criteria for inputs in agriculture
- Additives and processing aids for food processing
- Use of conventional feed in organic animal husbandry

Timeplan and further work

- DRAFT 1: April
- National consultations
- RSTWG 3, 25-26 May
- DRAFT 2 by mid July
- National consultations 2, Sep 2006
- RSTWG 4, & "International" Seminar Nov - Dec
- DRAFT 3 by mid January 2007
- Field Testing Workshop: Jan 22-26 2007
- National consultations 3 (if needed)
- FINAL DRAFT mid March
- RSTWG 5, April 2007 "Agreement"