

# ENVRO CARE

## PARTICIPATION PROCESS

### Introduction

#### • Background:

- Organic agriculture (OA) offers a range of environmental, social and economic benefits for developing countries.
- Developing countries are advantaged in OA: have relatively abundant labour and use relatively less agrochemicals.
- OA provide another window/opportunity-major markets for organic products are growing 10-20%
- It may also represent an opportunity for sustainable locally based development.
- In addition OA production is environmentally friendly with very positive effect on the local environment (biodiversity)
- OA is proofed security due to its multi-cropping model vs mono-cropping can (if one crop fails, the others will most likely survive).
- OA is well suited to small-scale farming and can increase the yields and incomes of subsistence farmers in developing countries.
- Thus contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable rural development.
- In places such as Africa, where 70 per cent of the farmers are women, it can have significant positive impact on women's income.
- To reap these multifaceted benefits: an enabling environment is needed (government)
- A number of obstacles are to be overcome (producers and marketers)
- These include lack of information, techniques markets, certification, cumbersome regulations and preferences for local food in major markets and paltry domestic markets (awareness on OA).

## Objectives

- The **main objective** of this project is the promotion of the production and trade (export) of organic agricultural products sustainably, mindful of environmental protection, food security and poverty reduction in three East African countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda)
- The **Specific objectives** include to:
- Facilitate vibrant and continuous national and regional multistakeholder dialogue among all relevant parties, including representatives from the ministries of agriculture, environment and trade, farmers, exporters, NGOs, research institutions, academia, etc.
- Review the current practices and situation regarding OA: current levels of production, national legislation and policies, main production and marketing constraints etc through detailed studies.
- Facilitate the development of policy options for promoting organic agriculture and assessing the potential impact from the implementation of these policies.
- Identify further capacity-building/technical cooperation needs and possible implementing agents.
- Explore and facilitate the potential development of regional (East African) organic standards tailored to local ecological, socio-economic conditions and major export markets.

## • Participatory Process

- Participatory process is important for the success of OA
- Success depends on the participation by all stakeholders at all stages of the project processes.
- Participation not only facilitates success but also sustainability of activities and outcomes of projects.
- The World Bank has shown the way by forsaking its previous top-down and un-participatory approach to development (failures)
- Since the 1990s drastic changes (incorporation of the concept of participation into its workings thus: 2000/01 World Development Report is based on a participatory process of consultations with the poor themselves (Shah, 2000).
- Aspects of the **participation process** include: civil engagement at the local level, information dissemination and feedback mechanisms. Indicators of the quality of participation process are measured throughout the life of a project; ongoing innovations, the degree of mutual accountability: people's control over performers/performance and be able to change it.

## • SUMMARY: What is Participation?

- Participation can either be viewed as a means to an end or as an end in itself.
- As a **means**: the aim is to increase the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency and sustainability of a programme or project;
- When it an **end** in itself, the objectives of a programme/project focus on the enhancement of the beneficiaries' capacity to improve their working and living conditions.

## Perspectives of participation

- There are three perspectives on participation:
- Efficiency seen as the key to better and more sustainable implementation of projects.
- The rights perspective which perceives participation as a right of citizens in democracies and generates and reflects elements of empowerment.
- The information/learning perspective, i.e. for collecting data, documenting the views of people, and ascertaining their livelihood sources and perceptions of well-being, risk, insecurity, social capital and gender relations among others.

- **Participation: means or as an end**

- Participation as a *means* implies teamwork: people co-operating with each other to achieve certain goals better and quicker.
- Examples: i) a co-operative enterprise can be a means of improving both production levels and standards of living- communal participation in the construction of a drainage system is a good example. ii) Tripartite dialogue between workers, employers' and government representatives is an important example a collective bargaining process for mutual agreement.
- Participation is dynamic process subject to change over time.
- The meaning and understanding of the participatory process may also vary depending on the subject matter
- Participation may also be constrained and therefore rendering it ineffective.
- These barriers should be identified and removed where possible or circumvented.

- **Participation Process**
- **Levels of stakeholders:** International (Donors and experts levels) National, District, Village levels.
- **Timing of project implementation:** Project conception, inception, planning, implementation, output, monitoring & evaluation, sustainability (Post project)
- **Forms of participation:** Ideas & opinion and expertise contribution, implementation activities; benefits & costs sharing, monitoring & evaluation.
- **Mechanisms:**
- Meetings and workshops
- Study visits to exchange experiences
- Consultations: Stakeholder groups (private, NGOs, civil society, Govt, Donors etc)
- Information dissemination: planning, drafts, notes, policy briefs, media and reports.
- Demonstrations: technology donors, farm plots etc.

- **Features of participation**

- For a participatory process to be of high quality, the following aspects have to be included;
- Intergovernmental participation
- Extent and nature of civil society involvement: direct consultation with poor and vulnerable groups
- Institutional mechanism (for donor co-ordination and collaboration)
- Continuous feedback mechanism for follow up during and after project formulation)
- Mechanism for information disclosure (dissemination)
- Linkage with existing processes
- Sustainability mechanism (incentives or motivation)
- Direct consultations with stakeholders-understanding nature and status of OA
- Representativeness of various stakeholders.

- **Role of Civil society: extent/nature of participation**

- The participation of civil society has several aspects of involvement including:-
- providing inputs (ideas and opinions)
- providing feedback on drafts
- organising and facilitating consultations with other stakeholders
- employed local experts who have direct knowledge of the context and people
- understand priority areas and their concerns
- explore new avenues for OA
- providing data and information to researchers through Household surveys and PRAs
- \*Network of civil society and NGO groups, labour and rural associations, women's groups, NGO umbrella organisations and faith based groups, co-operatives.

- **Place of Donors: co-ordination and collaboration**

- On the other hand, donor participation will involve:-
- sharing information with other donors
- seeking expertise of donors
- share market information and OA output opportunities
- establishment of a co-operatives framework to co-ordinate aid and technical support
- In implementing the participatory process 2 phases may be employed. [in our case this can be done during same meeting, one after the other]

- **PHASED PROCESSES**

- **Phase one: Listening phase:**
- Facilitated by local NGO, (Envirocare) Project Team listeners in the discussions of OA in selected areas
- Invited participants: government, NGO, civil societies, farmers' associations/co-operatives, Agriculture Marketing Organisations, Private sectors (buyers of produce and suppliers of agriculture inputs) for a brainstorming session with the facilitation of the research team. This phase should involve bringing together stakeholders to share knowledge, expertise, experiences, possibilities opportunities and obstacles among others.
- **Phase Two: Reporting and discussing outlines of Draft Project Plan**
- Research team reporting stakeholder inputs which include expert inputs. Further inputs should be provided to improve the document