

## ICS Experience for Smallholder Farmer Groups

By Gabriel G I S Lyatuu  
KNCU (1984) LTD

Presented in East African Organic conference  
28 May-1 June 2007, Blue Pearl Hotel Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

## WHY AN ICS?

- ICS is an organic certification requirement.
- Identifies all measures towards controlling and maintaining the Organic integrity of the product in question.
- All persons dealing with the product are identified, registered and trained on the requirement for organic certification and contracted to ensure compliance.

## Requirements of ICS

- Certification for the group-not for individual group member
- Homogeneity of farmers –farming system and farm sizes
- Usually single marketing channel
- Defined management of non compliances
- Clear statement of product flow

## PURPOSE OF THE ICS

- Train farmers in organic certification requirements eg. conversion period, no chemical use, documentation etc
- Train farmers in Organic principles. Soil fertility and water management, and pest and disease management
- Yardstick for internal inspection.

## Important documents for ICS

- Farmer's entrance
- Contract form (where the internal regulations are summarized)- the commitment of farmer to follow organic principles
- Farmers List -summary of all data about the farmers in the program showing their field organic status  $U_1, U_2$  or  $U_0$
- Sketch maps
- Annual completed internal inspection form
- Buying list
- Collections, deliveries, processed and sales
- Excess deliveries
- Sanctioned farmers
- Dead farmers and successors

## Challenges on ICS

- Drop outs
- Suspension of farmers
- Additional Certification requirement eg Social Standards
- Influence on weather

## ICS costs

- Quite high
- Spent USD 124,000: 2006/07 season