

ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA

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Introduction:

- Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's economy
- 85% of the population is engaged in Agricultural production

Agriculture contributes:

- 42% of the national gross domestic product,
- 80% of the export earnings, and
- employs 90% of the labour force.

Introduction:

- Crop sub-sector contributes 80%
- livestock 13%, and
- fisheries about 6%.

Over 95% of the farmers are smallholders with landholdings ranging from 0.5 to 10 acres.

- There is limited use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides and veterinary drugs.

- Uganda uses 1 kg of fertilizer per hectare compared to sub-Sahara average of 9kg/ha.

- She has the highest comparative advantage for Organic Agriculture Production in Africa.

- The development of Organic Agriculture Sub-sector in Uganda is spear headed by the private sector, (National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda - NOGAMU).

- NOGAMU was founded in 2001 and has:

-promoted stakeholders activities,

-trained producers and exporters,

-linked them to markets,

-developed Uganda organic standards,

- registered and launched a Ugandan certification company (Ugocert) in 2004.

- The formal (certified) organic Agriculture in Uganda started in 1993.

- By 2003 Uganda was in the 13th position world wide and 1st position in Africa in terms of size of land under Organic Agriculture production.

- In 2004, Uganda had 185,000 hectares of land under Organic Agriculture covering 2% of Agriculture land, with 45,000 certified farmers.

Table 1: Percentage share of organic certified land in Africa
(Total certified land = 321,000ha.)

Country	Share of Organic certified Area in Africa
Uganda	38%
Tanzania	17%
South Africa	14%
Zambia	6.5%
Ghana	6%
Tunisia	6%
Egypt	5%
Morocco	4%
Cameroon, Mozambique, Madagascar	3%

UGANDA SHARE IN THE ORGANIC MARKET

- Uganda is one of the key players in the international organic market
- Marketing of Organic Products in Uganda is mainly through exports.
- Between 2001 and 2003, Organic export projects grew from 5 to 15 while the value of the exports increased from US\$ 4,600,000 to US\$ 7,700,000 (NOGAMU 2003).
- This was equivalent to a 67% growth in the sub-sector.

- The leading exports in 2003 – 2004 were:
 - cotton,
 - fresh and dried fruits and vegetables,
 - Vanilla, and
 - coffee.
- In 2004 – 2005 the leading products were:
 - coffee,
 - cotton,
 - fresh and dried fruits and vegetables, and
 - sesame.

- The demand for Uganda Organic products in the international markets is growing.
- Most of the products are being exported in their raw form except cotton.
- Almost all the organic cotton produced in Uganda will be used to produce organic textiles for export to the Agoa market.

Local market:

- Local markets for organic products have been developed.
- NOGAMU started an organic shop in 2002.
- Sales in the shop have been growing at average rate of 50% per month.
- Ugandans have started appreciating the organic products and the number of local buyers has overtaken that of expatriates who were the main consumers in 2002.

The Role of Government:

- The Government provided a conducive policy environment for organic Agriculture development.
- Favourable policies in place include:
 - Privatization,
 - Liberation,
 - Decentralization,
 - Environment management policy.

- Poverty eradication Action Plan (PEAP) formulated in 1997, revised in 2000 and 2004,
- The Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) formulated in 2001,
- Rural development strategy, and
- Agriculture zoning strategy.

Government has participated in:

- the development of the Uganda Organic Standards (2003),
- establishment of Ugandan certification company (Ugocert) (2004), and
- is spearheading the development of Organic Agriculture policy.

Challenges

- Low investment in organic agriculture,
- Limited research in organic agriculture,
- Inadequate extension services in the sub-sector,
- High costs for international inspection and certification,
- Lack of internationally recognized local organic certification body.

Challenges

- Inadequate documentation on organic Agriculture,
- Demand outpaces supply,
- Lack of organized smallholder groups to consistently raise volumes to meet market orders,
- Absence of an explicit organic Agriculture Policy.

The Way forward

- Finalize th Organic Agriculture polcy