

Moving the Organic Agenda Ahead in Ghana

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Acknowledgements

- UNCTAD
- UNEP
- IFOAM
- ALL OTHER ORGANIZERS

Organic Agriculture in Ghana - Overview

- Mainly private Sector Led/Developed
 - Large Scale with/ without out-grower systems (Mostly expatriate funded and managed)
 - Small to medium farmers/exporters (Mostly local entrepreneurs, sometimes with funding from expatriate sources)

Organic Agriculture in Ghana - Overview

- Small farmers growing for exporters (farmers funded/supported by the exporters)
- Farmers growing organically for the domestic markets.

Organisations Promoting Organic Agriculture

- GOAN (Kumasi)
- Agro Eco Consultancy/Foundation (Accra)
- KITA
- GTZ
- Care International
- Other local NGOs

Organisations Supporting Organic Agriculture

- Crop Services Directorate (CSD), MOFA – Desk for Organic Agriculture at (Accra)
- Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD), MOFA (Pokuase)
- Universities & Research Institutions

MOFA Structure

- **Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Decentralised)**
 - National Directorates (e.g. CSD, PPRSD)
 - Regional Directorates
 - District Directorates (farmers' issues are addressed at the District levels with technical assistance from the National Directorates).
- **Directorate of Crop Services (National Directorate)**
 - Grains and Legumes Development Unit
 - Root and Tubers Development Unit
 - Land and Water Management Unit
 - Horticulture Development Unit

Horticulture Development Unit/ Desk for Organic Agriculture

- **Main function:** is to promote the development of non-traditional horticultural crops (fruits and vegetables) for export and domestic markets. (Multi-sector wide approach)
 - Collaborate with Research & Universities, GEPC, Commodity Associations, NGOs & Development Partners to develop the industry.
 - Before the establishment of the organic desk, the division's work has mainly been for conventional production but support is provided to the organic fraternity as and when needed.

Horticulture Development Unit/ Desk for Organic Agriculture

- **Organic Agriculture Desk (late 2006):** During our work on the FAO Sponsored project 'Increasing incomes and food security of small farmers in West and Central Africa through exports of organic and fair trade tropical products' to support two small farmer groups to gain organic certification for the export of organically grown mangoes and sugar loaf pineapples the need for a desk for organic agriculture was realised and created as part of the Division.
 - Collaborating with Research & Universities, GEPC, NGOs (GOAN, Other NGOs) private sector (farmers & exporters) etc. to develop the industry.

Some constraints identified

- No clear cut policy direction (from government agencies)
- Lack of information about the nature of external market
- The private sector is far ahead of government and research (also positive, because government policy and research should be demand driven)
- Inadequate infrastructure & human resources to ensure export of quality products
- Inadequate resources to support organic agriculture research
- The organic movement's attention towards internal market consumption is limited

Progress in Government plans, programmes and policies

- **Information Desk; Directory, Networking**
 - The Desk is collating information on issues relating to organic agriculture and sharing with enquirers and the general public.
 - A Directory of stakeholders in the organic industry has been established and is being updated regularly.
 - Opportunities provided for networking through workshops, stakeholder meetings etc.

Progress in Government plans, programmes and policies

- **National Agricultural Policy:**
 - **Previously:** formulated as part of an overall economic development programme for specific periods (i.e. Discrete Project Approach)
 - **Then:** Sector-wide Approach, demand driven, aimed at addressing needs of the private sector (FASDEP "Food and Agriculture Sector Development Programme" ended in 2006)

Progress in Government plans, programmes and policies

- **National Agricultural Policy:**
 - **Now (In progress):** FASDEP is being reviewed into the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy. Information is being collected from all sectors to feed into the policy.
 - **Proposals made** to cater for policy issues on organic agriculture to be included in the new FASDEP. Out of the FASDEP a comprehensive policy for OA and strategies will be developed in line with the FASDEP.

Progress in Government plans, programmes and policies

- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - Fresh fruit terminal rehabilitated at the Tema port to improve guarantee produce quality, will be available for use by exporters of organic produce as well as for conventional exporters;
 - Field pack houses to be constructed in the districts under the export market quality assurance project to service small growers will further improve post harvest handling and guarantee quality will be available for the use of organic exporters as well.
 - Improvements are still needed in the transport sector and infrastructure in the domestic markets to maintain produce quality during marketing.

Progress in Government plans, programmes and policies

Research:

- Some research work is going on in collaboration with the University of Ghana Research Centre
- Some information put together as a guide to organic citrus production as part of a national citrus production guide.

E.g. of collaboration with research

- Testing the efficacy of different mixtures of local materials (oil palm bunch cocoa husk compost) in improving yields of organically produced tomato
- Using cocoa husk compost in citrus fertilization



Progress in Government plans, programmes and policies

- **Quality Assurance:**
 - National Organic Standard GS 361: 2003: already developed.
 - Concept paper for the development of an internal organic certification programme for implementation being discussed with GOAN.
- **Certification:**
 - GOAN is discussing the establishment a local certification body for the domestic market with accreditation with the Ghana Standards Board and has invited us to be partners with them.

Conclusions

- Organic agriculture in Ghana has a bright future
- The need for Government to be more responsive to the industry's needs has been highlighted.
- Government has established the organic desk to begin to address the needs of the industry.

Conclusions

We are here to learn from all of you what works and what doesn't.

- We are grateful for all that has been shared these past two days and are open for more suggestions.

THANK YOU ALL FOR SHARING