

Status and Challenges to Organic Agricultural Production in Uganda

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Background and Current Status

- Organic Agriculture has been registering tremendous growth since 2001 after Inception of NOGAMU
- As umbrella bringing together producers, processors, exporters and support organizations involved in the sector.
- Resulting in better coordination and linkage along the chain from production to market.

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Background cont'd

- Formal (certified) organic farming started in 1993, mainly as a response to unfolding market opportunities in Europe but the farming system has been in practice for quite along time
- Currently over 39,000 certified organic farmers in Uganda (NOGAMU, Dec 2003), an increase of 38% from the 2002 figure of 28,000 farmers (Soel survey, Feb 2003)
- Organic exports increased by 61% in the year 2003/2004 and the number of organic export companies increased from 4 in 2002 to 13 in 2004

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Background cont'd.

- Uganda is one of the countries with the highest comparative advantage for organic production in Africa
- Favourable climate in terms of weather and soils
- Uganda is among the least users of artificial fertilizers in Africa with less than 2% or 1kg/ha as compared to Sub Saharan average of 9kg/ha or less than 5% of that used in East Africa (MPFED, 2001)

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Current activities

- NOGAMU work has mainly centred on strategically coordinating the sector to exploit local and export organic market opportunities while improving incomes and production at the grassroots
- Activities have included:
 - ◆ Mobilising and organising organic producers
 - ◆ Designing and Coordinating appropriate Training at different levels along the chain

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Current activities cont'd

- ◆ Local and Export market Promotion
- ◆ Development and promotion of application of National Organic standards and certification
- ◆ Development of Strategic partnerships (lobbying and advocating for the organic sector in Uganda)

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Challenges OA development in Uganda

- High cost of certification, limiting the number of producer groups participating in marketing.
- Lack of A national policy supporting the sector
- Lack of research in Organic agriculture systems like in developed countries
- Lack of direct support to the the farmers to stimulate production e.g financing
- Insufficient investment in infrastructure

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Planned and future activities

- Consolidating ongoing work with MAAIF and other partners to formulate a national organic policy.
- Mobilise and prepare more producer groups towards certification and intensify sensitisation and promotion of application of the Uganda organic standards.
- Consolidate ongoing work to build a strong local organic market
- Intensify export promotion of Uganda's organic markets and build capacity to produce more organic 'export ready' companies and organised cooperatives.

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Future Activities cont'd

- Strengthen the newly established organic trade point (OTP) to provide information on organic market developments, quality requirements and opportunities.
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders to initiate research in Organic agricultural systems.

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THE END

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