

# The East African organic product standard- EAS 456:2007



The Regional Standards Technical Working Group – the facilitators of the East African Organic Standard

# A public-private partnership

- RSTWG Composed of a cross - section of stakeholders
- Intensive consultation process
- Establishment of the RSTWG- September 2005 followed by five meetings
- 2 rounds of national consultations, 2 regional meetings
- 3 drafts
- Comparison with International std (Codex & IFOAM)
- KEBS submitted Standard document to the Committee responsible for standards in the EAC (EASTSC)
- The EASTSC approved the document in February
- The EAC Council approved in April 2007
- **Launch in Dar es Salaam May 2007**



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# Why?

- Harmonized standard facilitate regional Organic trade
- Negotiations with other governments for equivalence/recognition
- Coordinating input into international for a - Codex Alimentarius and IFOAM.
- Better resource use: development, revision and implementation



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# Use?

A unified standard is a basis for:

- EA market development
  - Cross border trade
  - EA organic mark
- Consumer awareness raising
- Extension, education and research
- Policy dialogue
- Increase respectability of organic
- Cooperation within the sector in general
- (future) Export market access



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# How?

- The EAOPS replace existing standard
- A standard that works in EA for EA producers
- Easy to understand and use
- Acceptance by both public and private sectors



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# Standards Topics

- General requirements for all organic production
- Crop production
- Animal husbandry
- Bee-keeping
- Wild collection
- Handling, storage and processing
- Labelling
- Lists for inputs in agriculture and food processing



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# Future perspectives

- Standard will need revision after practical usage, in particular for animals
- New areas, e.g. aquaculture can be introduced
- Important that the participatory process continues in the future
- The NOAMs are willing to coordinate these efforts for the future
- Process to get EAOPS approved by the EU as an equivalent standard should be initiated



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# The East African Organic Mark

- A key component in the development of consumer awareness and image of the sector
- Controlled by the National Organic Agriculture Movements

"Guarantee" – verification, backing of claim:

- Third Party Certification – exists today
- Participatory Guarantee Systems – under development



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# Use of EAOPS in other countries

Other countries can use/adopt the EAOPS as they see fit, or use it as a starting point for development of own standard: Adaptation or adoption



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# Uptake so far

## Somewhat slow uptake

- Used in **Kenya**, Uganda and Tanzania

### Obstacles

- Slow development of PGS systems
- Slow uptake by certification bodies to actively offer certification to EAOPS
- Slow uptake by operators that are certified to e.g. EU standard to use the mark
- Confusion about the nature of the mark, the standards and the inspection system
- Lack of understanding of value of ONE mark



# Vision

- All organic products are sold with the EAOM
- Company brands and certification marks are also in use.
- Consumers associate the Mark and organic with health, environment and fairness
- Concerted efforts in promotion and awareness-raising have made the Mark known and facilitates marketing for all organic actors



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