

Organic Sector Development in Zambia

*Organic Producers and Processors
Association of Zambia (OPPAZ)*

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OPPAZ



Organic Producers and
Processors Association of Zambia



Presentation

- Background & Overview of OPPAZ
- Market Development (Export & Local)
- Major Achievements
- Policy framework- (Opportunities & Weaknesses)
- Way Forward

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW - OPPAZ

- ❑ Development of Organic Sector in Zambia is spearheaded by OPPAZ
- ❑ Umbrella Association of Organic Producers and Processors in Zambia.
- ❑ Founded in 1999, by farmers
- ❑ 1999, only 3 producers in Zambia were organically certified for Export market -ECOCERT and Soil Association (UK).



OPPAZ's Overall Goal

- ❑ Develop and strengthen organic industry in Zambia
- ❑ To contribute to national economic growth and poverty reduction by:-
 - Increasing organic production & marketing - local & export market
 - Increasing incomes of producers and processors
 - Improving adoption of sustainable agriculture & other natural resource management practices.

OPPAZ's Membership & Technical Services

- ❑ Current membership base of > 19,000 Producers
- Extension services, specialized trainings in Organic Agriculture
- Market Information & Linkages
- Pre-certification advice & training ICS
- Information dissemination
- Policy and Advocacy

Affiliations / Strategic Alliances

International level

- ❑ Accredited member of IFOAM

National level

- ❑ Affiliated to Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)

Other Collaborating Partners

- ❑ Network of Partners - Research (Agric.), Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Plant Products..

Market Development - Export

- ❑ OPPAZ members have exported certified organic products to EU markets, USA and South Africa.
- ❑ Per Annum, Certified Organic Products are;
- ❑ Fresh Vegetables >500MT
- Honey (500MT), Groundnuts (30MT), Mushrooms (0.5MT) Essential Oils (1.5MT).



Local Market Development

- ❑ Developing a strong domestic demand for organic products in Zambia
- ❑ Through market linkages and developing local certification standards
- ❑ 2 Organic Shops –Opened by OPPAZ Members in LUSAKA (certified organic products).

Major Achievements

- ❑ Increase No. of certified organic enterprises (from 3 Operators in 1999 to 17 Operators in 2006).
- ❑ Increase production levels and export volumes for organically certified products (both in Regional & EU markets)
- ❑ In 2004, 2 OPPAZ Producer groups exported Fair Traded organic G/nuts to the UK. (MOCS, POTC).

Cont'd (Achievements)

- ❑ Past 4 years-7 OPPAZ Exporting Members have participated at International Organic Trade Fairs- BIOFACH
- Zambian organic products (export market) have been promoted.
- Buyers contacts (export market) have been established.
- e.g. 2004, orders of 240MT honey & 0.5 MT Wild mushroom.

Policy framework (Opportunities)

- ❑ Strong political support for organic agriculture in Zambia e.g. Government's position of prohibiting GMOs, Phytosanitary and Bio-safety regulations.
- ❑ Liberalised Economy - allowing private-public partnerships to;
 - Practice Organic farming
 - Conduct research in Organic technologies



Policy framework (Weaknesses)

- ❑ Lack of an explicit organic policy to promote and protect organic sector (e.g. from widespread/indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals)
- ❑ Government funding and research is NOT focused on organic sector/ agriculture.

Way forward

- ❑ Develop strong network to strengthen organic movement in Zambia
- ❑ Develop the National Organic Standards
- ❑ Develop Local Certification service (including the Local Label to maintain organic integrity).
- ❑ Increase interaction with Govt and Lobby for explicit organic policy.



Thank You!

For your Attention!!