



CBTF

*UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task
Force on Trade Environment and
Development*



*International Federation of Organic
Agriculture Movements*

CBTF-IFOAM East Africa Organic Standard Initiative

12 July 2006

Dear Madame/Sir,

Please find attached the 2nd draft of the East Africa Organic Standard (EAOS). The cover note of the draft standard describes how to give comments, the deadline for which is 5 October 2006.

The development of a harmonized East Africa Organic Standard was identified as urgent and important by stakeholders in East Africa. An EAOS will facilitate regional trade, articulate a common vision of what organic agriculture is in East Africa, raise awareness among farmers and consumers, enable economies of scale in training material and certification, and create a unified and stronger negotiating position for access to export markets and for influencing international organic standard setting processes, both public and private.

Three international organizations have joined forces to support the East African countries in their efforts to develop the EAOS: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the auspices of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF), and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). This work has been made possible through the generous financial support of the European Union, the Swedish International Agency for Development Cooperation (Sida), and the Government of Norway.

Under the auspices of CBTF-IFOAM, a Regional Standard Technical Working Group (RSTWG) has met three times between October 2005 and May 2006 to develop the draft EAOS attached herewith. The RSTWG comprises representatives of the National Bureaus of Standards, the national organic movements and certification organisations in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda as well as representatives from the National Bureaus of Standards of Rwanda and Burundi.

Please feel free to circulate this message and the draft EAOS to other stakeholders or to send us names and contact details for others who you believe we should include in our EAOS mailing list database.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Hussein Abaza
UNEP

Sophia Twarog
UNCTAD

Gunnar Rundgren
IFOAM

Economics and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)22 917 8620
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 8076
E-mail: asad.naqvi@unep.ch

Trade and Sustainable Development Section
Division of International Trade in Goods and Services
and Commodities
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)22 917 1796
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 0247
E-mail: sophia.twarog@unctad.org

International Federation of Organic
Agriculture Movements
Charles-de-Gaulle-Strasse 5 - 53113 Bonn,
Germany
Tel.: +49-228-92650-10
Fax: +49-228-92650-99
Email: gunnar@grolink.se
www.ifoam.org

Web-site: www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf

Web-site: www.ifoam.org