

## The Draft Uganda Organic Agriculture Policy

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## Summary

- Background and Process
- Scope and coverage

## Background

- PS MAAIF appointed the committee in may 2004
- Committee consisted of 26 members from within the departments of MAAIF, other line ministries and private sector institutions
- In April 2005 the committee selected among itself a smaller sub-committee of 6 people to draft the OA concept paper

## Background contd.....

- The committee using information from the concept paper started drafting the policy in December 2005
- The draft policy was presented to the full committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006 for discussion. A number of improvements were proposed and improvements made by end of march 2006
- The draft policy was presented to MAAIF Top Management on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006
- MAAIF TOP management cleared nationwide stakeholder consultations.

## Background contd....

- Regional consultations in 2008/2009
- National consultation in 2009
- Draft Policy handed over to PS MAAIF in October 2009
- Draft Policy Yet to be discussed and approved by MAAIF top management, before forwarding to Cabinet

## Scope and Coverage

- Development. and growth of O.A. sub-sector in Uganda.
- Specifies O.A. related policy guidelines for management of crop, animal & fisheries resources for national development.

## Guiding Principles for the OA Policy

- Sustainable development
- Poverty eradication
- Food and nutrition security
- Trade and investment privatization and liberalization
- Gender and equity
- Partnerships

## Vision

- Attainment of a **competitive** and **profitable** OA Sub-Sector in Uganda generating adequate, safe and quality food, fibre and other goods and services for **sustainable development**.

## Mission

- To guide and support private sector led investment in the production, processing and marketing of organic products for both domestic and export markets.

## Goal

- To contribute to national economic growth by harnessing the country's OA potential in ensuring food and nutrition security and poverty eradication/alleviation

## Objectives

- Ensuring the integrity of organic Agric. through adoption of appropriate standards and certification and accreditation systems.
- Supporting and strengthening OA research and technology development and dissemination.
- Developing markets for organic products.
- Providing information, knowledge and skills on OA principles and practices at all levels of the agricultural sector.

## Objectives contd....

- Promoting and supporting the improved post harvest handling practices and addition of value to organic agricultural products.
- Augmenting sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment.
- Harnessing the active participation of vulnerable groups including women, youth, the poor and the disabled in OA industry.
- Protecting indigenous biodiversity with due care in adoption of biotechnology.
- Creating an enabling environment for OA production.

## POLICY STATEMENTS AND STRATEGIES

### Statement 1

An enabling environment for improving OA production shall be created to promote wide participation and investment in OA to take advantage of market opportunities and other benefits of OA.

#### Strategies:

- Ensure availability of quality planting and stocking materials.
- Provide tax exemptions on OA inputs and exports of OA products.
- Support investment in organic production of key export and high value products which have ready market.

## Strategies contd...

- Establish a fund for production methods that promote environmental protection, sustainable resource use and income generation.
- Establish an award for best organic producers and exporters.
- Promote awareness on OA and its benefits as a **complementary agricultural production system** that has its unique characteristics and advantages to farmers, the economy and the environment and not necessarily a replacement of other methods.

## Statement 2

The integrity/credibility of organic agriculture shall be ensured by adoption of appropriate standards, inspection and certification systems that are recognized internationally through accreditation.

## Strategies

- Create awareness of OA at all levels of the economy.
- Establish and maintain appropriate organic standards for the production, handling, processing and marketing of organic products.
- Support the development of inspection capacity for organic agriculture.

## Strategies contd...

- Promote and support the development of cost effective certification for organic agriculture.
- Support the accreditation of Uganda organic agriculture certification systems for the purpose of securing international recognition.
- Adopt appropriate legislations and regulatory framework to provide proper management for the organic agriculture sub-sector.
- Undertake government to government and other negotiations and lobbying to secure harmonization of standards and regulations and mutual recognition of certificate systems.

## Statement 3

Research, technology development and dissemination in organic agriculture shall be supported and strengthened to service a growing industry.

#### Strategies:

- Institutionalize OA research and technology dissemination.
- Mobilize resources for research and technology dissemination.

### Strategies contd...

- Strengthen collaboration and linkages within and between agricultural research institutions at national, regional and international levels.
- Enhance participatory planning with stakeholders in priority research with particular reference to their needs.
- Invest in strengthening and developing OA research and technology dissemination infrastructure.

### Statement 4

Efforts shall be made to develop markets and promote organic products to improve farmers' income and alleviate poverty.

#### Strategies:

- Establish and maintain a database of market information on organic products.
- Increase consumer awareness on benefits of organic products.

### Strategies contd...

- Stimulate the consumption of organic products by use of identification and authenticity marks such as logos, and other marks as marketing tools.
- Support and promote growth of the local and international organic markets at various levels.
- Promote linkages between farmers and buyers through contract farming and other mechanisms which provide regular market; enhance production of right quantities and quality; and enable attainment of fair trade terms.
- Undertake government to government negotiations and lobbying to secure market access for organic products.

### Statement 5

Information, knowledge and skills on OA shall be provided at all levels of the agricultural sector to enhance development.

#### Strategies:

- Integrate OA into agriculture education curricula at all levels of education.
- Invest in development of training infrastructure, materials and mechanisms.

### Strategies contd....

- Support organic farmers to participate in advisory or extension services, opening up their farms and sharing their experiences with other farmers.

### Statement 6

Improved post harvest handling practices and value addition shall be encouraged/promoted and supported as a way to attain higher prices for organic products.

#### Strategies

- Undertake research to develop post harvest and processing methods for organic products.
- Promote high quality secondary and tertiary processing of OA products.
- Provide incentives such as credit and tax exemptions for investment in value addition for organic products.

### Strategies contd.....

- Improve basic infrastructure and utilities for purposes of promoting agro-processing and value addition.
- Strengthen human resources training on value addition.

### Statement 7

Sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment shall be enhanced for socio-economic development.

#### Strategies:

- Develop and implement OA soil management systems based on sustainable use of renewable resources.
- Strengthen the capacity of Governments, local authorities and communities to promote OA for conservation of natural resources.

### Strategies cont....

- Regulate access to and use of genetic resources.
- Increase understanding of OA principles for the sustainable use, protection and management of natural resources to advance long-term sustainability of the environment.
- Promote OA production methods building on indigenous and local community-based approaches.
- Target organic farming as the preferred management option in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Discourage the use of toxic inputs on health, safety and environment programs.

### Statement 8

Participation of the vulnerable groups such as women, youth, the poor and the disabled shall be supported for equity.

#### Strategies:

- Encourage equitable access to the OA opportunities for the women, youth, disabled and the poor.
- Empower vulnerable groups to take advantage of the growing OA sector to promote food security and address poverty at household level.

### Strategies contd....

- Develop appropriate and cost effective technologies for the vulnerable groups.
- Mainstream gender in OA planning and implementation.

### Statement 9

Indigenous biodiversity will be protected with due care in adoption of biotechnology in support of socio-economic development and international obligations.

#### Strategies:

- Support the use of OA practices to conserve biodiversity.
- Prohibit the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in organic agriculture.
- Regulate the use of Bio-technology in farming systems to preserve bio-diversity.

## Support for implementing the OA policy

- Implementation will involve coordination and building of partnerships among the public, private and civil society stakeholders.

## Public Sector

- Overall mandate, role and responsibility to spearhead implementation of the policy.
- Ministry responsible for agriculture will take the lead.
- Other government institutions include, MTTI, MoES, MoLG, UIA, UEPB, NPA, NEMA, UNBS, UBOS, etc

## Private Sector

- NOGAMU to take the lead.
- Guide production.
- Offer Certification services, training, advisory, lobbying, advocacy and investment in the sub-sector.

## Civil Society Organizations

- Advocacy
- Lobbying
- Promotion

## Legal Framework for the Implementation of the OA Policy

- Develop an OA Act to ensure faster development of the Sub-Sector.

The Act will regulate:

- Certification and Accreditation systems.
- Research and technology development and dissemination in OA.
- Post harvest handling, processing and marketing of organic products.
- Education and Training in OA.
- Participation of all stakeholders including vulnerable groups.
- Investment in the OA Sub-Sector.
- Use of biotechnology in OA.

## Funding Mechanisms for Implementation of the Policy

### Sources of funds:

- Budgetary allocations from the Government consolidated funds.
- Grants or donations from the Government.
- Grants and/or donations from International Development Partners.
- Contributions and/or investments from private sector and other sources.



*Thank you for your attention*

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