

# **The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Africa: Building Organic Bridges Among Stakeholders**

**David Amudavi  
Biovision Africa Trust, Nairobi, Kenya**

**18th IFOAM ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS  
13-15 October 2014 Istanbul, Turkey**

# **EOA Initiative a Reality in Africa**

- ▶ **Smallholder producers in SSA account for 70% of the agricultural labour and 25% to GDP.**
- ▶ **Civil Society has continued to push for genuine climate smart agriculture, agricultural biodiversity, food safety, and increased land productivity.**
- ▶ **Numerous efforts evident: UNCTAD, IAASTD Report, FAO Conference.**
- ▶ **Impetus and opportunity now provided by the African Union Heads of States and Governments Decision on Organic Farming.**

# High Level Decision

Addressing the Agriculture challenges (among others), the African Heads of States and Government made a Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII) on Organic Farming:

They requested the African Union Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:

1. Provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an **African organic farming platform**;
2. Provide guidance in the development of **sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality**;
3. **CALLED UPON** development partners to provide the **necessary technical and financial support** for the implementation of this Decision;
4. **REQUESTED** the Commission to **report regularly** on the implementation of this Decision.

# Action Plan for Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)

- ▶ **Overall Goal:** To mainstream EOA into national agricultural production systems, policies, and practices by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.
- ▶ **Vision:** Vibrant Ecological Organic Systems for Enhanced Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa.
- ▶ **Mission:** To promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, and marketing through strategic actions and policy making to alleviate poverty, guarantee adequate and healthy food security, improve livelihoods and safeguard the environment.

# Objectives of the EOA-Initiative

1. **To increase documentation of information and knowledge on organic agricultural products along the complete value chain and support relevant actors to translate it into practices and wide application.**
2. **To systematically inform producers about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivate their uptake through strengthening access to advisory and support services.**
3. **To substantially increase the share of quality organic products at the local, national and regional markets.**
4. **Strengthen inclusive stakeholder engagement in organic commodities value chain development by establishing national, regional and continental multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for changes in public policy, plans, programs, and practices.**

# Strategy of Implementation

Through six pillars:

1. **Research, Training and Extension**
2. **Information and Communication**
3. **Value Chain and Market Development**
4. **Networking and Partnerships**
5. **Policy and Programme Development**
6. **Institutional Capacity Development**

# What EOA Initiative is about

- **Improved agricultural productivity**
- **Food security, Biodiversity**
- **Practices and technologies that contribute to agricultural productivity, complementary and synergetic effects, environmental and human resilience against climate change, etc.**
- **Functioning markets for organic produce and products to optimise value of investments**
- **Combining **tradition, innovation** and **science** to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.**

# EOA Promoted Practices

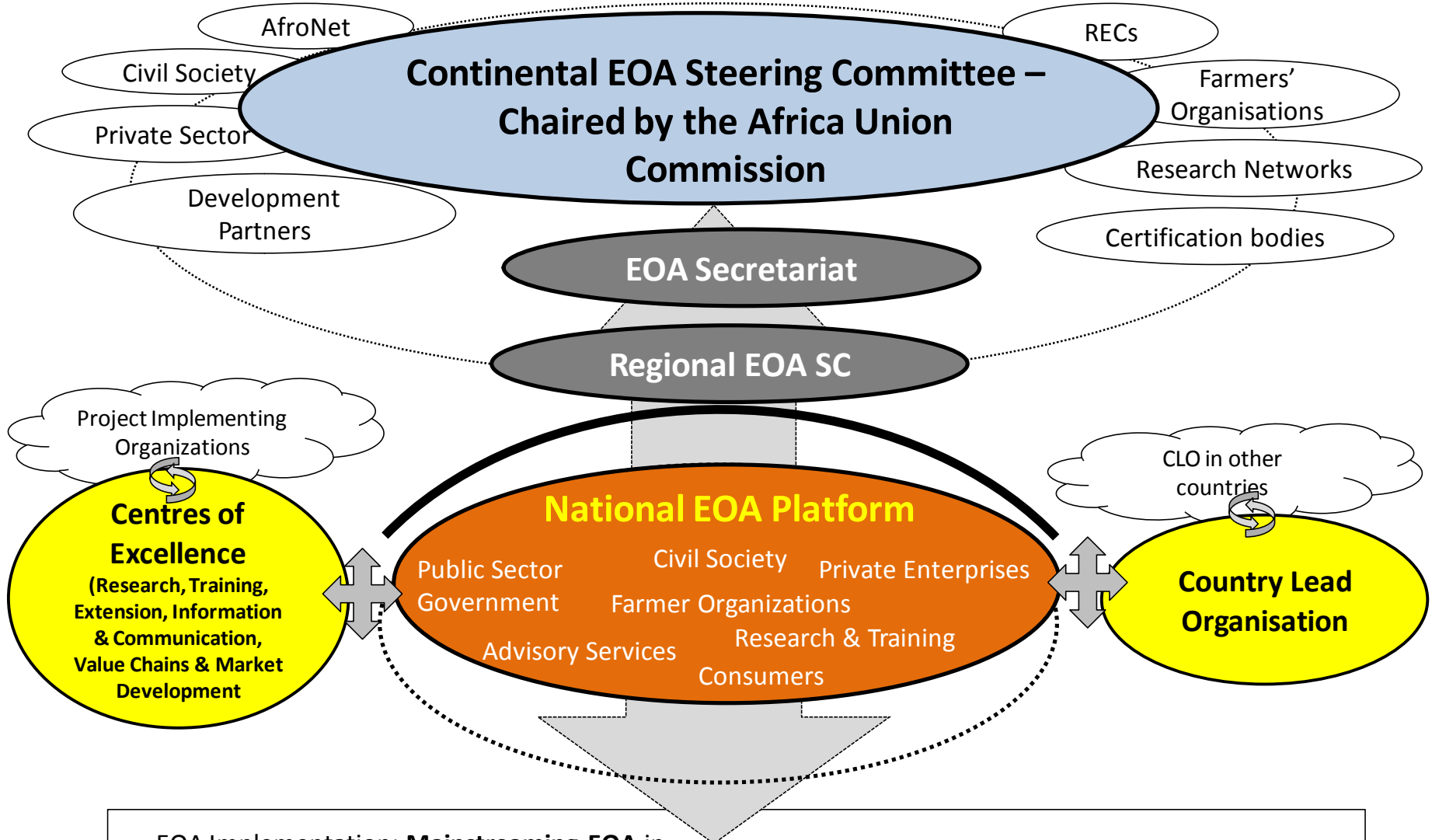
**Forest conservation, alternative IGAs – Ocimum, Kakamega Forest**

**Push-pull technology**





# Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa



- EOA Implementation: **Mainstreaming EOA** in ...
- ... Policies, Strategies, Investment Plans
  - ... Standards, Certification
  - ... Research (agenda, methods)
  - ... Training (curricula & programs)
  - ... Extension (practices, information/communication)
  - ... Markets, Value Chains

# Why Dialogue and Experience Sharing Platforms

- ▶ **Create coherence and synergy for sharing experiences, lessons and best practices**
- ▶ **Improve communication, knowledge transfer and know-how among various stakeholders**
- ▶ **Develop new technological and commercial collaborations**
- ▶ **Popularize initiative and reach varied and new stakeholders as well as markets**
- ▶ **Find partners to optimize comparative advantages and undertake joint development and research activities**
- ▶ **Facilitate identification of capacity gaps, emerging opportunities and contribute to appropriate programme design and development**
- ▶ **Amplify benefits from investments in economic and environmental opportunities**

# Building Organic Bridges Among Stakeholders

- ▶ **National Platforms – Country based**
  - **Multistakeholder representations**
  - **National Steering Committees**
  - **Country Lead Coordinating Organizations**
  
- ▶ **Regional Platforms – Regional Clusters**
  - **Multistakeholder representations**
  - **Regional Steering Committees**
  - **Currently Eastern and Western Africa clusters**
  - **Southern Africa is on course**
  - **Potential platforms- Central Africa and North Africa**
  
- ▶ **Continental Platforms – Linking with African Union**
  - **Multistakeholder representations**
  - **Continental Steering Committee chaired by Africa Union Commission**
  
- ▶ **Global Platforms – World wide**

## **Target Groups**

- ▶ **Mainly but not exclusively Africa's smallholder families and farmer groups and their associations, cooperatives, etc; community based organizations (CBOs), youths and their groups in areas where food security, rural welfare and environmental sustainability have been challenged.**
- ▶ **A special emphasis is given to maximizing the involvement of women as producers, processors and marketers.**
- ▶ **Furthermore, the EOA-Initiative addresses consumers to drive the demand-side.**

# Participating Countries



# Pilot and Rolling Out of EOA in Africa

- ▶ **Pilot phase in 2012 supported by Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC/SIDA) in Six countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia).**
- ▶ **Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) supported baseline studies in Mali, Senegal and Benin**
- ▶ **Led by CSOs – Biovision Africa Trust (Kenya), ISD (Ethiopia), NOGAMU (Uganda), TOAM (Tanzania), NOAN (Nigeria), PELUM Kenya, PELUM Regional Desk (Zambia)**

# Some Key Results

- ▶ **Increased sensitization of EOA among farmers, youth, CBOs and others through exchange visits, workshops and website EOA website [www.eoa-africa.org](http://www.eoa-africa.org)**
- ▶ **Analysed of 2002 to 2012 studies on EOA was undertaken - low levels of EOA research in all countries surveyed, low awareness on EOA and poor funding of EOA research.**
- ▶ **Information resource centres established to sensitize farmers and general public on value and practices of EOA in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.**
- ▶ **Capacity and management capabilities of partner organizations strengthened through implementation of compliance and systems audit recommendations action plans.**
- ▶ **Technical, economic and social gaps and information needs among smallholder farmers identified, shared & published.**

# Some Key Results – Cont'd

- ▶ **Manuals on EOA developed covering various topics such as introduction to EOA, Organic aquaculture, Soil fertility in EOA, Agronomic practices in EOA and Livestock production in EOA.**
- ▶ **Training of master trainers in VCMD and data profiling of organic producers.**
- ▶ **Reviewed organic agriculture curricula leading to development of generic courses at certificate, diploma and degree level – some colleges have started using the proposed generic course units .**
- ▶ **Mechanism for reporting progress at all levels from the farmers to practitioners, researchers, policy makers established.**



# The Key Challenges in the Pilot Phase

1. **Lack of appropriate systems and structures within partner organizations to facilitate quality and swift decision making.**
2. **Limited human capacity to pilot the project activities.**
3. **Limited funding and delays in release of funds limiting time for pilot activities**

# Lessons Learnt

- ▶ **EOA Initiative has been an ambitious project. Targeted to raise EURO 44,119,500 for initial 5 years.**
- ▶ **Success depends on functional partners and their commitment, hence partner capacity to deliver on obligations and selection need careful attention.**
- ▶ **Acknowledging country differences which - 'one size fits all' strategy cannot work.**
- ▶ **Participatory development and adoption of documentation formats essential for harmonizing reporting progress.**

# **Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa 2014-2018**

## **Participating Countries :**

- 1. East Africa – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania & Ethiopia (SSNC and SDC)**
- 2. West Africa – Nigeria, Senegal, Benin and Mali (SDC)**

## **Financial Support:**

- ▶ EURO 5.4 Million - 2014-2018 from SDC's Global Programme for Food Security (GPFS).**
- ▶ EURO 1.6 Million from SSNC/SIDA - 2013-2015**
- ▶ African Union Commission funding (AUC) supports trainings in Organic Standards and Certification Systems and marketing through satellite centers.**

## **Lead Coordinating Organizations:**

**Biovision Africa Trust (SDC contribution)  
PELUM Kenya SSNC/SIDA contribution)**

# National Planning and Inception Workshops

- ▶ **Facilitate d National Platforms that brought together stakeholders involved/interested in EOA.**
  
- ▶ **Conducted between January 2014 and May 2014 to achieve the following objectives:**
  - 1) **Create awareness of EOA Initiative among a larger multistakeholder audience and introduce the project of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture (EOA) into national policies, strategies and plans 2014-2018.**
  - 2) **Form Country Platform/Forum and National EOA Steering Committees (NSC) with clear operational procedures.**
  - 3) **Select Country Lead Organizations (CLO) and Project/Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) for the technical centres of excellence – i) Research, Training & Extension; ii) Information and Communication; and iii) Value Chain and Market Development.**

# Inception workshop events

## 1. Nigeria workshop



## 2. Tanzania workshop



### **3. Ethiopia workshop**



### **4. Senegal workshop**



## 5. Uganda workshop



## 6. Kenya workshop



# Country Lead Organizations for EOA Initiative Implementation

Country	Country Lead Organization (CLO)
Mali	Mouvement Biologique Malien (MOBIOM)
Nigeria	Nigeria Organic Agriculture Network (NOAN)
Benin	Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB)
Senegal	FENAB



# Country Lead Organizations for EOA Initiative Implementation

Country	Country Lead Organization (CLOs)
Kenya	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) PELUM Kenya (for SSNC support only)
Ethiopia	Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
Uganda	National Organic Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)
Tanzania	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)

# Strengthening EOA Initiative in Africa

- ▶ **Greater focus on smallholder agriculture and environment**
- ▶ **Increase spatial coverage to other regions**
- ▶ **Institutionalization to mainstream EOA in national plans, programmes and strategies to receive wider support**
- ▶ **Embrace documentation and sharing experiences, best practices, lessons , etc.**
- ▶ **Capacity building of organizations and networks – project management, M&E, etc.**
- ▶ **Strengthen coordination among implementing partners.**
- ▶ **Harnessing continental and global champions**
- ▶ **Monitoring and measuring impact of progress**
- ▶ **Increase resource support on long-term basis.**

# Acknowledgement

- ▶ **African Union Commission (AUC)**
- ▶ **Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)**
- ▶ **Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)**
- ▶ **Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development**
- ▶ ***icipe*-African Insect Science for Food and Health**

# Thank you for listening

[damudavi@biovisionafricatrust.org](mailto:damudavi@biovisionafricatrust.org);

[damudavi@icipe.org](mailto:damudavi@icipe.org);