



**The Ecological Organic
Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Africa
Action Plan 2015-2020**

PREPARED BY

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST ON BEHALF OF

THE EOA CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE

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THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (EOA) INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

• INTRODUCTION

Background and Context

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) initiative is a response to the African Union Heads of States and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII) on organic farming. It is a landmark in Africa that is motivated by challenges brought about by this renewed interest and commitment by the African leaders to support agriculture in general and EOA in particular. The initiative has had considerable success in its pilot stage which was implemented in 2012/2013 in six countries (Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania). This is the second Action plan of the EOA initiative following a review of the first one in February 2015. This five year action plan draws down from the EOA strategic Plan 2015-2025 and breaks down actions for focus during the first five years of implementation of the Strategic plan.

Ecological Organic Agriculture is a 'holistic system that sustains the health of ecosystems and relies on functional cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of synthetic inputs which have adverse effects on total health (human, animal, plant and environmental). Africa continues to face the biggest challenge of feeding its citizens and populations in a contaminated and quickly deteriorating biodiversity. With a rapidly growing population, worsening effects of climate change, effects of globalisation, rising food prices and the diminishing health of Africa's biodiversity¹, the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) brings in dimensions of Agricultural practices that embrace sustainability, biodiversity, ecosystems while producing food for the populations.

While it is true that the initiative has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years, there are challenges that need to be addressed in order to realise the full potential of EOA. The obvious absence of enabling national policies on EOA is the most pressing challenge that the EOA initiative wishes to address in its overall goal. This absence is identified as the biggest obstacle hindering our African governments to develop sustainable, resilient, and productive farming systems. More challenges include; inadequate institutional capacity, insufficient coordination and networking among stakeholders, inadequate awareness and information on EOA practices, limited research that focuses on organic agriculture, poor linkages between industry and research institutions and the inadequate financial resources to execute EOA strategies are among challenges that EOA must address for the initiative to realise its vision on sustainable food security for Africa. This continental initiative holds a significant promise for increasing the productivity of Africa's smallholder farmers, with consequent positive impacts on food security. The initiative has been

¹ Poor soils, little and unpredictable rain fall, deforestation, use of synthetic fertilisers and resultant green house emissions etc

implemented in Africa since 2012 and currently four (4) countries in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania) and four (4) in West Africa (Ben, Mali, Nigeria, Benin and Senegal) are implementing the initiative under different funding arrangements. The intention is to roll out EOA practices in more African countries during this five year Action Plan.

The EOA practices are well grounded and have global recognition e.g. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 2001) recognizes the importance of traditional knowledge in the conservation and sustainable use of [agricultural] biodiversity. UNEP also recognizes the vital role of bio-cultural diversity as necessary for sustainable development. Ecological agriculture fosters biodiversity and is in itself resilient to impacts of climate change (Ensor, 2009). It depends on and sustains ecosystems services as well as the knowledge, practices and innovation of local communities leading to more reliable and increased food security and incomes. Bio diverse agriculture works with nature, in contrast to conventional industrial agriculture, which leads to simplify agricultural systems and reduced diversity (Li Ching, 2011).

Goal: To mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve quality of life for African citizens.

Vision: Resilient and vibrant Ecological Organic Agricultural Systems for Enhanced Food and Nutrition Security, and Sustainable Development in Africa.

Mission: To scale up ecologically and organically sound strategies and practices among diversified stakeholders through institutional capacity development, scientific innovations, market participation, public policies and programs, outreach and communication, efficient coordination, networking and partnerships in Africa.

Core Values: The EOA initiative values are grounded in the reality of sustainable agricultural practices;

- We do not support agricultural practices that promote the use of genetically modified and engineered inputs (GMOs, GE).
- We work in partnership with communities in Africa, respecting their wisdom and knowledge in ecological organic agriculture.
- We assert the transforming power of inclusiveness especially that of engaging women and youth as key actors in taking the EOA agenda to the family unit and moving forward into the future.
- We believe in the right of all African households to Nutritious and healthy foods.
- We believe in reclaiming the lost environmental integrity through promoting ecological organic agriculture practices.
- We embrace biodiversity and respect for nature as ways through which Africa will feed itself in many generations to come.

- We will be fair, just and accountable in ensuring that EOA principles are accepted and applied in Africa.
- We strive for integrity, simplicity and practicality in our expressions and actions.
- **Key Priority Areas**

a) Research, Training and Extension

This is a priority area that will help build scientific data for EOA. Led by actors in research and training institutes and universities; participatory, interdisciplinary, multi-cultural research will be conducted to inform stakeholder training. Knowledge and skill will be transferred to communities through extension services. By involving farmers in the research, existing indigenous knowledge will be harnessed and scientifically tested to produce empirical data that can be used for innovation. The pillar will ensure that gender aspects in every innovation are considered so that farming technologies and practices consider the active participation of women and youth in farming.

b) Information and communication

This priority area will be the vehicle through which EOA reaches out to a vast majority on the continent. Working closely with all the priority areas of this initiative, a formidable brand for EOA will be developed, national information and communication strategies designed and information packaged in appropriate formats to be communicated to various audiences and stakeholders on the value and practices of EOA.

c) Value Chain & Market Development

Efforts will focus on three key areas along identified EOA product value chains:

- Stimulating the manufacturing of organic farm inputs (especially seeds & fertiliser) so that farmers can access and grow produce for target markets.
- Encouraging value addition of EOA products so as to earn higher margins.
- Developing sustainable markets to increase trade in EOA high value products both at domestic and export levels.

Women and youth will be specifically targeted under this initiative to ensure that they get involved in value addition activities and accessing markets for their products.

d) Networking & Partnerships

The priority recognises that the EOA initiative does not have dedicated staff in every country and community to implement and therefore will rely heavily on partners and networks already in the industry. Engagement will be done through Partnership Agreements (PAs) and Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with EOA. Networks and movements in Africa such as IFOAM, FARA, AFRONET and partners such as governments, farmers, private sector, civil society among others will be engaged to maximize impact, leverage experiences and expand geographic reach and influence of EOA activities.

e) Policy & Programme Development

This is the priority area that will help EOA realise its ultimate goal. Working closely with priority area 1 and 2, empirical data will be packaged into appropriate formats

for target audiences. Through lobbying and advocacy efforts, our national governments will be persuaded to develop and implement enabling policies and programmes in support of EOA.

f) Institutional capacity development

This priority recognises the nascent EOA institutions. Efforts will be made to establish, develop and support these institutions organisational capacities as well as equip its professionals with skills and competences to promote EOA in Africa.

- **Objectives of the EOA Action Plan**

Objective 1: To carry out effective, demand driven, multi-disciplinary, gender sensitive and participatory research, training and extension to support a holistic productive EOA by 2020.

Specific Objectives:

- To undertake participatory generation of knowledge, technology and innovation in EOA to respond to issues facing stakeholders spanning from food, fiber, agro-industry and service providers
- To develop client oriented training curricula of stakeholders in EOA
- To facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, technologies and innovation for use in EOA through extension and advisory services

Objective 2: To translate research findings into outreach material for farmers as well as package relevant information for lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting other stakeholders (private sector, policy makers) by 2020.

Specific Objectives:

- To enhance the use of information and communication strategies to sensitize farmers, processors, marketers and other stakeholders and the general public on the value and practices of EOA in producing and processing safe and healthy products.
- To systematically inform stakeholders on the potential, opportunities and success of EOA.

Objective 3: To increase organic agricultural production and the share of quality EOA products at the national, regional and international markets through value chain analysis and market development by 2020.

Specific Objectives:

- To conduct value chain analysis, develop value chain nodes and establish value addition options for EOA products
- To develop national and regional markets for organic products

Objective 4: To foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2020.

Specific Objective:

- To enhance collaboration and synergies among actors in Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa

Objective 5: To lobby and advocate for the development, mainstreaming and implementation of EOA programmes, policies, plans and in the agriculture sector as well as other related sectors by 2020.

Specific Objectives:

- To ensure the harmonisation, awareness and common understanding of the concept of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among all stakeholders (especially policy makers, practitioners and farmers).
- To gather evidence-based data to use in the development of appropriate lobby messages for promoting EOA.
- To advocate and lobby stakeholders (and in particular governments and RECs) to integrate and align EOA into continental (CAADP), national and regional policies, plans and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries.

Objective 6: To strengthen the governance, management and operations of EOA institutions in Africa to deliver on EOA better by 2020.

Specific Objective

- To identify and support EOA institutions in Africa through providing harmonized guidelines for their development, management and operations.

- **Implementation of the Action Plan (Log frame)**

This Logical framework draws down key results from the EOA Strategic Plan 2015-2025. It is envisaged that during the five year period of the Action Plan, only three regions of Africa will be priority geographical areas i.e. East, West and Southern Africa. This is based on the funding already mobilised to implement the initiative in these regions. It is expected that more countries in these regions will be included e.g. Rwanda and Burundi for East Africa to ensure that the initiative gains critical momentum and adequate coverage of the continent. More regions (Central and Northern Africa especially) will be included as interest, experiences and resources become available.

- **Organization, Management and Sustainability of the Action Plan**

The EOA Action Plan is an initiative of African Union Commission implemented by EOA partners. Implementers are encouraged to pick key result areas and develop programmes and projects that will realize the achievement of intended results. Such programmes will be managed by Lead Coordinating Organisations (LCOs), Country Lead organizations (CLOs) or Pillar implementing partners (PIPs) as designed in the various funded projects. All programme efforts will be geared towards integrating EOA into national policies, plans and frameworks.

To ensure success, it will be imperative to work closely with Line Ministries² and especially Ministries of Agriculture. This action plan will be shared with the various Line Ministries of every implementing country and areas of collaboration with approved Ministry plans identified. EOA Partners are encouraged to use participatory approaches during programme/project planning, design and resource mobilization. Including various stakeholders from Line Ministries, private sector and industry will ensure a natural acceptance and understanding of the EOA initiative.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of the EOA Action Plan**

Quarterly reporting of progress towards results by lead coordinating organisations, Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) is encouraged. Apart from submitting donor reports as scheduled, partners will provide a broader report to respective National Forums, indicating progress towards outcomes as designed in this Action Plan.

Regular participatory monitoring of EOA projects from this Action Plan is encouraged among partners. Such monitoring will include use of data collection tools, Gantt charts, field visits, technical reviews as well as pulse meetings.

The action plan is due for a midterm review in the third year (2017). A final evaluation will be carried out at the end of the Action Plan period (2020), which will coincide with the Midterm review of the EOA strategic plan (2015-2025). The end of term evaluation of the Action plan will lead to the development of an Action Plan for the next phase of the Strategic Plan.

- **Budget of the Action Plan (5 Year Budget) (in Euros)**

The Action plan will mobilize resources from local, national, regional and international sources.

Consolidated budget for the three regions (clusters) – East, West and Southern Africa

Key Priority Area (Pillar)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
1. Research, training and extension	1,588,734	1,588,734	1,588,734	718,278	718,278	6,202,758
Scientific, indigenous knowledge, technologies and innovations on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)	1,588,734	1,588,734	1,588,734	718,278	718,278	6,202,758

² Ministries of Environment, forestry, water, Information and Communication etc

increased.						
2. Information and communication	1,167,912	1,167,912	1,167,912	863,238	863,238	5,230,212
Information and communication on EOA approaches, good practices (production, processes, and learning systems) developed, packaged and disseminated.	1,167,912	1,167,912	1,167,912	863,238	863,238	5,230,212
3. Value chain and market development	1,281,432	1,287,432	1,287,432	1,287,432	1,287,432	6,431,160
EOA product value chain mapping, data collection, opportunity analysis and product/input vetting conducted.	366.066	366.066	366.066	366.066	366.066	1.830.330
Business Development Strategies (BDS) for target businesses along value chains developed.	489,300	495,300	495,300	495,300	495,300	2,470,500
The market share of EOA quality products at the national, regional and international markets increased.	426.066	426.066	426.066	426.066	426.066	2.130.330
4. Networking and partnership	114354	114354	114354	114354	114354	571.770
Functional partnerships and	114354	114354	114354	114354	114354	571.770

networks at national, regional and continental levels.						
5. Policy and Programme Development	114354	114354	114354	114354	114354	571.770
A harmonized understanding and awareness of the value and benefits of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among various stakeholders	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integration and alignment of EOA into National governments and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) policies, plans and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries realized	114354	114354	114354	114354	114354	571.770
6. Institutional capacity development	114354	114354	114354	114354	114354	571.770
Well governed, efficient and effective EOA Institutions	114354	114354	114354	114354	114354	571.770
Project coordination costs (Administration, communication, travel)	44538	44538	44538	44538	44538	222.690
Lead Agency Management costs	842550	842550	842550	842550	842550	4.212.750

TOTAL	5268,228	5,274,228	5,274,228	4,099,098	4,099,098	24,014,880
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Budget Notes

The above budget is derived from ongoing funded EOA initiatives (SDC and SSNC). Due to the realisation of the current low funding levels, three key assumptions have been made to arrive to this true reflection of funds required to finance the EOA initiative for the next five years. These assumptions are:

- A coverage of at least 12 countries in Africa during this first phase i.e. 4 countries in each of the East, West and South African regions (clusters).
- A doubling of the current funding levels for each key priority area
- The use of one single currency type – USD and encourage individual funders to convert to their various preferred currency options

To calculate one region (cluster) funding requirement, a division of the indicated budget for each budget line by 3 will be needed

To calculate the funding needs for one country, a further division of the cluster funding by 4 will be needed for each budget line.

Key Priority Area (Pillar)	Key Result Areas (Outcomes)	Outcome Indicators	Key Assumptions
Research Training and Extension	Scientific, indigenous knowledge, technologies and innovations on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in EOA knowledge, practice and documentation ▪ Number of EOA organic scholars, publications and popular versions EOA related Scholarships and Internships offered ▪ % increase in farmers' uptake and improved attitude in EOA practices ▪ % increase in number of training institutes and centres of excellence offering EOA curricula ▪ % increase in food security and nutrition attributed to EOA practices ▪ % increase in household income levels attribute to EOA ▪ % reduction of environmental degradation (soil, water, agro-biodiversity, etc.) ▪ % increase in acreage under EOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued Good will on Agriculture and EOA specifically from African Heads of State and Ministers of Agriculture, Finance and Economic Planning and Trade would be needed ▪ Increased funding, interest and focus on issues of climate change and conservation of biodiversity ▪ Increased stability of African countries and reduced conflict that erodes gains already made ▪ Increased role of economic blocks in responding to EOA strategies of promoting EOA (including removal of trade barriers)
Information and communication	Information and communication on EOA approaches, good practices (production, processes, and learning systems) developed, packaged and disseminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in awareness of EOA practices among the various stakeholders ▪ % increase in EOA information materials and resources (print, media, audio, visual, online, Scientific Publications and Popular Versions etc) ▪ % increase in African countries with an EOA information and communication 	

		<p>strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase of African countries with EOA resource centres ▪ Brand EOA developed 	
Value Chain & Market Development	EOA product value chain mapping, data collection, opportunity analysis and product/input vetting conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in number of value added EOA products ▪ % increase in amounts and quality of inputs (seeds, fertiliser & biopesticides) along product value chains ▪ % increase in amounts and quality of products with added value ▪ % increase in the market share and demand of EOA products in the market (national, regional and international) 	
	Business Development Strategies (BDS) for target businesses along value chains developed.		
	The market share of EOA quality products at the national, regional and international markets increased.		
Networking & Partnerships	Functional partnerships and networks at national, regional and continental levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase of stakeholders in Africa collaborating on EOA initiatives 	
Policy & Programme Development	A harmonised understanding and awareness of the value and benefits of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among various stakeholders realized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in number of countries in Africa adapting and implementing EOA ▪ % increase in policies, plans and programmes promoting EOA 	
	Integration and alignment of		

		EOA into National governments and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) policies, plans and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries realized.		
Institutional development	capacity	Well governed, efficient and effective EOA Institutions evident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in number of EOA institutions ▪ % increase in capacity and good governance of EOA Institutions 	