



ACTION PLAN 2015-2020

**Ecological Organic
Agriculture (EOA) Initiative**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
EOA-I	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
GEs	Genetic Engineering
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
AFRONET	African Organic Network
USD	United States Dollar

THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (EOA) INITIATIVE IN AFRICA



Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) initiative has taken root as an action to the African Union Heads of States and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII) on organic farming. It is a landmark in Africa motivated by challenges brought about by the renewed interest and commitment by the African leaders to support agriculture in general and EOA in particular. The initiative had considerable success in its pilot stage which was implemented in 2012/2013 in six countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia). 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 is drawn from the EOA strategic Plan 2015-2025 and breaks down actions for focus and implementation during the first five years 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 failing to adequately feed its citizens and populations against a backdrop of a contaminated and quickly deteriorating biodiversity. In this context of 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 modest 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 and systems 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. Other 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. These are some of the 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' agriculture, with attendant positive impacts on food security. The initiative has been implemented in Africa since 2012 and currently four (4) countries in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda) and four (4) in West Africa (Benin, Mali, Nigeria 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. For example, 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 biocultural 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. Biodiverse agriculture works with nature, in contrast to conventional industrial agriculture which leads to simplified agricultural systems and reduced diversity (Li Ching, 2011).

¹ For example, poor soils, little and unpredictable rainfall, deforestation, use of synthetic fertilisers and resultant greenhouse emissions, among other.

VISION, MISSION, GOAL AND CORE VALUES

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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.

Goal

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

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 for 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

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i) Research, Training and Extension

This is a priority area that will help build scientific data and evidence 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. This pillar will also ensure that gender aspects in every innovation venture are considered so that farming technologies and practices take into account the active participation of women and youth in farming.

ii) Information and Communication

This priority area will be the vehicle through which EOA reaches out to many people on the continent. Working closely with all the priority areas of this initiative, a formidable brand for EOA shall be developed, and national information and communication strategies designed. The information shall be packaged in appropriate formats to facilitate communication of the values and practices of EOA to various audiences and stakeholders in the most efficient and effective way.

iii) Value Chain and Market Development

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

- Stimulating the manufacturing of organic farm inputs (especially seeds and fertiliser) so that farmers can access and grow produce for target markets.
- Encouraging value addition of EOA products 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; as well as accessing of markets for their products.

iv) Networking and Partnerships

The priority recognises that the EOA initiative does not have dedicated staff in every country and community to steer implementation of its key priority areas. Therefore, it shall 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, the private sector, civil society among others will be engaged to maximize impact, leverage experiences and expand geographic reach and influence of EOA activities.

v) Policy and Programme Development

This is the priority area that will help EOA realise its goal. Working closely with Key Priority Area (i) and (ii), 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.

vi) 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 the requisite skills and competencies to promote EOA in Africa.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EOA ACTION PLAN

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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 and fibre to agro-industry and service providers.
- To develop client-oriented training curricula for 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, etc) by 2020.

Specific Objectives:

- To enhance the use of information and communication strategies to sensitize farmers, processors, marketers and other stakeholders and the public on the value/benefits 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 Objectives:

- 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 policymakers, 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 (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 Objectives:

- 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, for example, Rwanda and Burundi in East Africa, to ensure that the initiative gains critical momentum and adequate coverage across the continent. More regions (Central and Northern Africa especially) will be included as interest, experiences, and resources become available.

ORGANISATION, 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 Organisations (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 the 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, the private sector and industry will ensure a natural acceptance and understanding of the EOA initiative.

²Ministries of Environment, Forestry, Water, Information and Communication, among other

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.

In addition to submitting donor reports as scheduled, partners shall 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 the 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 shall lead to the development of an Action Plan for the next phase of the Strategic Plan.

5-YEAR BUDGET FOR THE ACTION PLAN (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 (Euros)	Year 2 (Euros)	Year 3 (Euros)	Year 4 (Euros)	Year 5 (Euros)	Total
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) increased.	1,588,734	1,588,734	1,588,734	718,278	718,278	6,202,758
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	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	571,770
Functional partnerships and networks at national, regional and continental levels.	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	571,770
5. Policy and Programme Development	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	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.	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	571,770
6. Institutional capacity development	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	571,770
Well governed, efficient and effective EOA Institutions.	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	114,354	571,770
Project coordination costs (Administration, communication, travel)	44,538	44,538	44,538	44,538	44,538	222,690
Lead Agency Management costs	842,550	842,550	842,550	842,550	842,550	4,212,750
TOTAL	5,268,228	5,274,228	5,274,228	4,099,098	4,099,098	24,014,880

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 at 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. four 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. Individual funders shall be encouraged to convert USD into their various preferred currency options.

To calculate one region's (cluster's) funding requirement, a division of the indicated budget for each budget line by three shall be needed.

To calculate the funding needs for one country, a further division of the cluster funding by four shall 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 Goodwill 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 strategies % 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 for 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 	

Key Priority Area (Pillar)	Key Result Areas (Outcomes)	Outcome Indicators	Key Assumptions
Policy & Programme Development	A harmonised understanding and awareness of the value and benefits of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among various stakeholders realized. 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.	<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	
Institutional capacity development	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	

MAJOR PARTNERS



The African Union Commission



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