
BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

**THE LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY AND HOST TO THE
EOA CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT**

REPORTING ON THE EOA SDC CONTRIBUTION

	Biovision Africa Trust Annual Report for 2017	Name of Responsible Person: Project Coordinator Dr. David Amudavi Signature and Date: 2 July 2018 
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BvAT Project No.: 81019446	Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa 2014-2018
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Reporting Period:	From: January 2017 to December 2017
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Project Manager: Venancia Wambua Date: 2-07-2018

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CLO	Country Lead Organization
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
NSC	National Steering Committee
PIP	Pillar Implementing Partner
PMU	Project Management Unit
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) is an Initiative that arose from efforts to support and implement the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming passed during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011, EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII). The initiative came into being in 2011 with initial from the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation (SSNC) and later Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The initiative has a mission to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing and policy making to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security.

1.2 The Project

The implementation strategy of the EOA Initiative assumes that mainstreaming of EOA in policies and practices requires a multi-stakeholder managed endeavor, best to be promoted through national platforms informed by scientific evidence and local experiential knowledge, supported by capacity development of the various stakeholder groups, broad information & communication efforts and strategic actions linked to regional and continental policy making bodies.

Mainstreaming EOA includes catalyzing changes in various spheres, including public policies and investment plans, technical standards and certification procedures, research agenda and training curricula, advisory and information practices and the organization of markets and value chains. Achievement of this requires consultation and agreement on coordinated and concerted action among the relevant public, private and civil society actors.

The implementation of EOA Initiative in Africa is expected to lead to improved welfare and livelihoods in a healthy environment for Africa's farmers, processors and marketers that contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

Specific outcomes to which the partner activities are supposed to contribute:

- a) EOA related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors are capacitated to translate it into practices and application;
- b) Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services;
- c) A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved;

- d) Multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.

The initiative embraces holistic production systems that sustain the health of soils, ecosystems and people, and relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions rather than reliance on the use of external inputs with adverse effects on people's total health (human, animal, plant and environmental).

The Initiative under SDC support is anchored on four separate but interrelated pillars namely:

1. **Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension (RTE):** The overall aim of this pillar is to build the body of scientific data supporting EOA by understanding gaps and implementing activities geared towards enhancing uptake of ecological organic agriculture practices along the entire commodity value chains. The key outcome of this pillar is to have scientific, indigenous knowledge, technologies and innovations on EOA application increased.
2. **Pillar 2: Information and Communication (I&C):** This pillar is an avenue through which EOA reaches out to a vast majority of stakeholders on the continent. It focuses on information and communication on EOA approaches, good practices (production, processes, and learning systems) developed, packaged and disseminated to stakeholders. Aims at awareness creation and deepened knowledge about EOA.
3. **Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD):** This is concerned with stimulating development of sustainable markets and increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce both at domestic and export levels within EOA. Through this pillar, EOA product value chain mapping, data collection, opportunity analysis and product/input vetting will be conducted, Business Development Strategies (BDS) for target businesses along value chains will be developed and the market share of EOA quality products at the national, regional and international markets increased.
4. **Pillar 4: Supporting and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management:** Effective implementation of the EOA Initiative requires strong institutions with effective, functional and responsive management systems. The pillar brings together components of the pillars aimed at developing capacities of implementing partners and institutions and is coordinated by Country Lead Organizations (CLOs).

1.3 Coordination and Management of the Project

1.3.1 Overall Oversight

The initiative is implemented under the overall oversight of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by African Union, DREA department. Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of Division, Rural

Economy and Agriculture Department, African Union Commission has been the Chair since 2013. The made of the CSC is to provide EOA in Africa and its membership with guidance, oversight, and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA in Africa.

The CSC is supported by a Secretariat, currently hosted by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) for an interim period of 5 years.

1.3.2 Overall Project Coordination

BvAT is the Lead Agency responsible for coordinating the implementation of EOA Initiative with SDC's contribution in four countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia) and four in Western Africa (Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal). The EOA Initiative is also supported by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). PELUM Kenya, a member-based organization based in Thika, Kenya, is responsible for supporting SSNC in coordinating the implementation of the initiative among partners in three countries in Eastern Africa (Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia).

1.3.3 The EOA Continental Platform

The EOA continental platform in Africa provides the opportunity for networking and sharing among the stakeholders of the EOA-I. It's supported by the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) and AfroNet. The CSC is the apex in the governance structure of EOA in Africa. The CSC members are appointed to serve on behalf of their institutions and not as individuals, and agree to represent the general interests of their sector.

The Continental Secretariat with guidance of the Chair successfully held two meetings with the first meeting being held in Windhoek in Namibia in May and the second meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, in December. The two opportunities supported the formalization of the Southern Africa Regional Cluster and inclusion of its steering committee membership into the CSC.

1.3.4 Regional Platform

The project is coordinated by Regional Platforms steered by Regional Steering Committees (RSC) and their secretariats to facilitate sharing of country experiences and integrating EOA in regional policies and plans. The initiative currently has two active clusters, the Eastern Africa cluster and West Africa cluster. The Southern Africa cluster is in place but it's not very much actively involved because of lack of financial support. The role of the regional clusters is to coordinate regional actors to implement the EOA agenda, engage with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to integrate EOA in regional and national policy and programs, mobilize resources to support EOA activities and develop rules of procedures and operations in the cluster management.

The steering committee of the Eastern Africa cluster is currently chaired by the East Africa Community (EAC) with co-chairing provided by Prof. Charles Ssekyewa previously of Uganda Organic Certification body (UgoCert). The Eastern Africa RSC meeting has representation by 16 members from partners in Ethiopia (ISD), Uganda (NOGAMU & Ugo-Cert), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN), BvAT and PELUM Kenya and IGAD Ethiopia and AfroNet. The West Africa Cluster is chaired by ECOWAS with co-chairing by Prof. Simplicie Vodouhe of Organisation Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB) while The Association of

Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) is the acting regional secretariat for West Africa. Members of West Africa cluster include but are not limited to Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Mali. 1.3.4 National Platforms

1.3.5 National Level

At the National level of implementation, the initiative is coordinated by the Country Lead Organisations (CLOs) and supported by Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs). The CLOs are responsible for coordination of pillar activity implementation by the PIPs and partners, disbursement of funds to the partners as per the proposal and signed work agreements, budgets and contracts, supervision and monitoring of pillar implementation, supporting building of networks and enabling experience sharing across pillars, catalysing the process of forming and strengthening National Platforms and reporting to National Platforms, Regional Steering Committee and Development partners.

The PIPs oversee implementation of activities within the Pillar Strategic areas. Assumptions have been made that all the CLOs and PIPs were appropriately and democratically selected by their National Stakeholders to undertake their mandate. So far, there has been steady progress though with some challenges.

In Tanzania, TOAM is the Country Lead Organization (CLO) taking on this role through Pillar IV (Support and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management) and coordinating the following Pillar Organisations;

- Pillar 1 (Research, Training and Extension- RTE) implementation is under the coordination of **Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)**
- Pillar II (Information and Communication) under the coordination of **Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Tanzania)**
- Pillar III (Value Chain and Market Development-VCMD) under the coordination of **TOAM in its Marketing department.**

In Kenya, national coordination through Pillar 4 is by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) which is also in charge of Pillar 3 (Value Chain and Market Development) and coordinates the following Pillar Organisations;

- Pillar 1 is under the implementation of **Egerton University**, a public institution
- Pillar 2 previously under ICIPE is now implemented by **BvAT through its Farmer Communication Programme (FCP).**

In Uganda, national coordination through pillar 4 is undertaken by National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) which also implements Pillar 3 and coordinates the following Pillar Implementing Organisations;

- **Uganda Martyrs University** implements Pillar 1
- **Makerere University** implements Pillar 2

In Ethiopia, the coordination through pillar 4 is undertaken by the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) which also implements Pillar 3. ISD coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisation;

- Pillar 1 by **Mekelle University** based in Mekelle.
- Pillar 2 has is yet to get an implementing organisation after collapse of **PANOS Ethiopia**

In Benin, the national coordination through pillar 4 is by Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAP) which also implements Pillar 1 (RTE) and coordinates the following Pillar Implementing Organisations

- Pillar 2 of Information and Communication dissemination is implemented by **Platform for Civil-Society Actors (PASCIB)** while Pillar 3 of Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) by **Crasteda**.

In Senegal, FENAB, a Non- Governmental Organisation Coordinates Pillar 4 and also coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations;

- Pillar 1 (RTE) is implemented by **ENDA PRONAT**
- Pillar 2 by **ASPAB (Senegalese Association for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture)**. Pillar 3 (VCMD) is under **AGRECOL Association for Agriculture & Ecology**.

In Nigeria, the national coordination is under the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) doubling as implementers for Pillar 3 (VCMD). NOAN coordinated the following Organisations in the reporting year;

- Pillar 1 University of Ibadan and **Kwara State University** in Malete
- Pillar 2 **Healthy Foods for Consumers Initiative**, Ibadan and Federation of Agricultural Commodity Association of Nigeria in Abuja
- Pillar 3 **NOAN** and **Organic Fertilizer Producer and Suppliers Association of Nigeria** based in Abuja

In Mali, the national coordination through pillar 4 is under Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) and coordinates the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- Pillar 1 is under **Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER)**
- Pillar 2 by **Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de recherche**
- Pillar 3 is handled by **REMATRAC-BIO**.

1.3.6 AfrONet

AfrONet is a membership Network that draws members from national, regional and continental organic agriculture organizations, associations, networks and companies in Africa. It undertakes the following functions deemed appropriate in meeting its objectives as cited in the Network's constitution.

- ✓ Unite and network organic agriculture actors and stakeholders across the continent.
- ✓ Undertake lobby and advocacy at high levels.
- ✓ Support capacity building for key players in organic agriculture across the continent.
- ✓ Mobilize resources for its endeavors in promoting organic agriculture on the continent.
- ✓ Provide management and administrative consultancy to like-minded programs and partners.
- ✓ Undertake any other functions as deemed necessary to address the course and objectives of EOA.

These functions are mostly conducted, as much as possible, by pooling and making use of members' own human, financial and technical resources. AfroNet continues to receive support from SDC to establish its structures of operations.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project is in its 4th year of first phase of implementation having commenced in 2014. This phase ends on 31 November 2018 with plans to seamlessly commence the next phase of the project (Phase 2) immediately. Project implementation has generally been on schedule with most partners implementing at least 72% of planned activities for 2017. The project implementation was worst hit in public institutions that experienced constant disruptions through students and lecturers unrest persisting for a period of approximately 6 months in Makerere University (Uganda), Egerton University (Kenya) and Institut Polytechnique Rural (Mali). Other partners that faced challenges during the implementation period (2017) were the Ethiopian partners, a situation catalyzed by collapse of Panos Ethiopia in charge of pillar 2 in 2017. Delays in recovery of funds lost under the management of Panos and selection of a new Organisation to take over pillar 2 implementation necessitated the lead agency (BvAT) to put on hold the release of funds to Ethiopian partners for them to hasten the process of addressing those major challenges.

There was however a positive trend towards attainment of EOA goal of mainstreaming the initiative into national policies, plans and programmes as follows across the countries as shown in Table 1 below

Analysis in table 1 shows that EOA work mainstreaming towards achievement of set goals and objectives registered a positive trend during the implementation period especially in countries like Benin and Kenya where highest percentages of set activities and output generation was achieved at 100% and 98% respectively while lowest implementation rates were experienced in Ethiopia at 13% with only Pillar 3 implementing some of 2017 activities. Mali, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania did fairly well

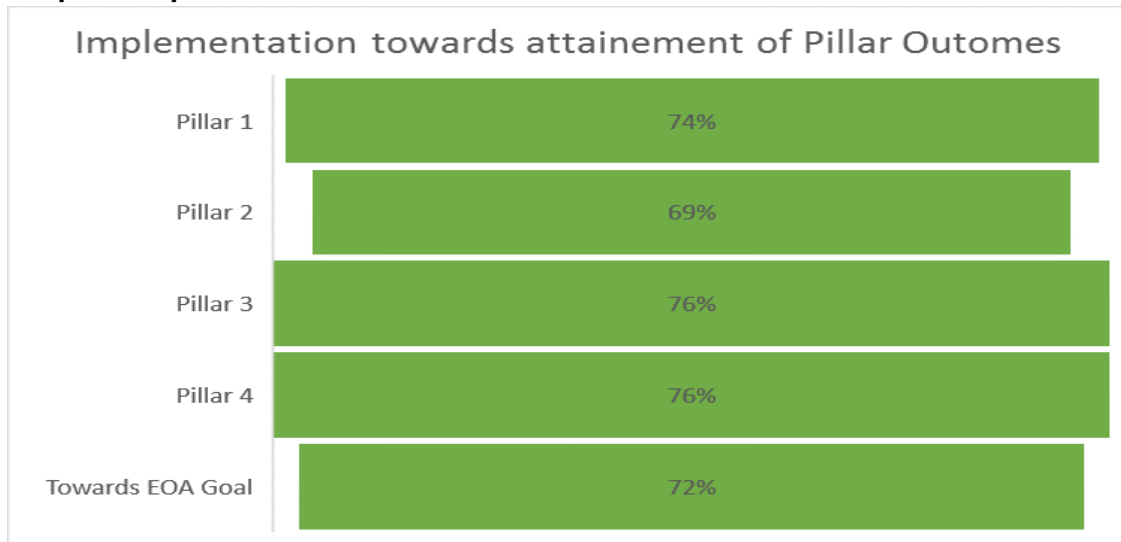
Table 1: Summary of Country EOA Implementation & Coordination

COUNTRY & LEAD ORGANIZATION	P1 – Research, Training & Extension (RTE)	P2 – Information and Communication (IC)	P3 – Value Chain & Market Development	P4 – Support and Cementing	Overall Country Implementation Status
ETHIOPIA Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)	0%	0%	0%	28%	7%
KENYA Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)	100%	100%	95%	95%	98%
TANZANIA Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)	76.9%	77.7%	61.5%	83.3%	75%
UGANDA National Organic Agricultural Movement of	100%	0%	79%	100%	70%

Uganda (NOGAMU)					
BENIN Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAP)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
MALI Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP)	62%	91%	100%	100%	88%
NIGERIA Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN)	76%	86%	74%	30.5%	67%
SENEGAL Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique (FENAB)	80%	100%	50%	100%	83%

In general, contributions to Outcome attainment by ensuring planned activities are implemented generally faired on well across all pillars with Pillar 3 and Pillar 4 doing comparatively quite well. This shows the work that partners put in place in value chain and market development as well as establishment and mobilization of national platforms and engagement of government in mainstreaming of various aspects of EOA. Research training and extension as well as Information and Communication pillars did well in their capacities.

Graph 1: Implementation towards attainment of set Pillar outcomes.



3.0 OVERAL LEAD COORDINATION BY BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4 : Fully functional multi stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains

Output 4.3. Capacity of Executing Agency (Biovision Africa Trust) to undertake its mandate in managing the implementation of EOAI strengthened

Collaboration with Country Partners

Implementation of programme activities by CLOs and PIPs has been going on reasonably well in 2017 in 7 countries with partners aligning their activities with the set objectives and budgets. Ethiopia partners managed to implement activities at a minimal level using carryovers from 2017 and through pre- financing of activities (**Annex 1: Tanzania Annual Report, Annex 2: Uganda Annual Report, Annex 3: Kenya Annual report, Annex 4: Mali Annual Report, Annex 5: Nigeria Annual report, Annex 6: Benin Annual report, Annex 7 Senegal Annual report, Annex 8: Ethiopia Annual report**)

Planning, fund management and reporting

All partners apart from Ethiopia received 1st funds disbursements amounting to 60 % of overall funds by April 2017. Ethiopia project implementation funds were put on hold due to collapse and closure of PANOS Ethiopia in September 2017. Funds were suspended due to uncertainties of funds recovery from PANOS and process of selection and bringing on board a new organisation to over Pillar 2 implementation. With the release of 60% 1st instalment, partners implemented planned activities for the first half of the year and submitted midterm 2017 reports on time.

- Ethiopia partners received their 2017 funds in November 2017 having satisfied and committed to strategies of recovering lost funds under Panos Ethiopia and also committing to a plan to bring on board a new competent organisation to implement pillar 2 activities. With the release of funds, the 2017 planned activities resumed immediately, and National Steering Committee and Platform members held a networking, sharing and planning meeting for the project. This has so far streamlined activity implementation in Ethiopia and strengthened the National Platform. (**Annex 9: Commitment letter from ISD to BvAT**)

- By end of 2017, 3 Country Lead Organisations (Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya) qualified and received 2nd instalment amounting to 40% of the overall fund thus totalling to 100% funds release for 2017. The rest of 5 partners had either not reached the burn rate of 75% or had not submitted financial supporting documents satisfactorily. Release of 100% funds to Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Ethiopia streamlined activities towards achievement of EOA set outcomes. The 3 partner countries continued to strengthen networking and partnerships of EOA stakeholders by holding National Platform meeting. Kenya and Uganda brought together partners and developed draft EOA National Strategic Plans to pave way for a domesticated road map of EOA

at National Level. Kenya also prepared the draft organic policy ready for submission to the permanent secretaries. The Draft organic policy will once have approved pave way for recognition and mainstreaming of EOA at National Level (**Annex 10: Kenya Organic Agriculture Draft**). In Uganda the National Platform having already a draft on Organic policy in place have brought the ministry of Finance on board who are now positive about giving the Certificate of Financial Implication for the draft National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP).

- Eastern Africa Regional Secretariat Pelum Kenya and AfroNet received 100% of its 2017 funds. AfroNet with this support finalised its Strategic Plan (2017-2022) to pave way for a private partnership building in the EOA arena. Pelum Kenya and BvAT made strides in their outreach to bring on board East African Community, the REC representative for East Africa made a visit as representatives of Regional Steering Committee to the East Africa Community to lobby for policy support on organic agriculture in the region. This contributed to relationship and network building, EOA awareness to EAC officials and also availability of a EAC representative during the 2018 BIOFACH.

- BvAT offered support to Ethiopia partners in giving guidelines and support to the recovery of project funds from PANOS and also selection of a new organisation to take over pillar 2 implementation. BvAT did this by organising a meeting with Ethiopian EOA partners especially the National Steering Committee members and Country Lead Organisation in September 2017. This meeting put back EOA in Ethiopia back on track towards achievement of set outcomes and goal. The Mission report has been shared with SDC (**Annex 11: Ethiopia Mission report by BvAT**). Funds were released in October 2017 after ISD met all the laid down requirements. ISD and National Steering immediately held their 1st meeting to plan for 2018 and plan on 2017 recovery. The support offered by BvAT coupled with support from NSC members and ISD brought back on track EOA implementation towards mainstreaming of EOA in Ethiopia back on track. (**Annex 12: SDC EOA Financial Report as at 31.12.2017**)

Partners Organisational Capacity Assessment

This was done with the purpose of assessing each partner's technical, human resources and organizational capacity, identify gaps in its ability to carry out its responsibility as a country lead organization (CLO) or pillar implementation partner (PIP), and deriving recommendations for action plans. The assessment is expected to draw map in the development of strong EOA partners at National levels

The main focus of the assessment is on the partner's capacity to plan, implement, monitor programmes and respond to expectations of the EOA initiative. TOR drafted and advertised in May 2017 where 10 applications were received, and 5 best applicants shortlisted for the interviews. Interviews for selection of experts for this exercise were done on 22nd June 2017 at BvAT boardroom.

Panellists

1. Dr. Janet Edeme - Chair, EOA Continental Steering Committee
2. Dr. David Amudavi - BvAT Director and EOA Project Coordinator
3. Mr Zachary Makanya - Country Coordinator, Pelum Kenya and CSC member
4. Dr. Sarah Olembo - CSC member representing women's interest in EOA
5. Dr. AdeOluwa Olugbenga - CSC member representing the West Africa CLOs (participated by skype)
6. Prof. Simplicie Davo Vodouhe - CSC member representing West Africa Steering Committee/Cluster (participated by skype)

ACatalyst a Kenyan based consultancy firm was selected. Two planning meetings were undertaken between

aCatalyst and BvAT team to agree and finalize on the inception report

Inception report was shared with CSC members for their inputs and finalized. The firm was engaged at a cost of USD 56,000 which was paid in 3 instalments. The task has been completed with both Capacity Assessment draft report and Financial assessment report being submitted in November with final reports planned for finalisation by 1st quarter of 2018. The Reports of the work were presented to CSC meeting on 4th Dec 2017 for their review, giving recommendations for revisions and approval.

Highlights of Capacity Assessment Exercise (Key Findings and Recommendations)

The capacity assessment served to identify partners weak capacity areas and seek ways of enhancement through capacity building support

- Ethiopia National Steering Committee had not been adequately involved in the selection of an organization to take over Pillar 2 implementation and therefore need to take lead in the sourcing and selection of a viable organization.
- It had been shown that ISD focused mainly on getting a partner from NGOs who are registered and working on advocacy. They need to look at other NGOs working in ecological and sustainable agriculture issues.
- There was no evidence that ISD has involved organizations that participated in the projects inception workshop in 2014. Recommendation is for them to look through the list and come up with viable organizations that could possibly take over pillar 2 implementation.
- Release of funds to the rest of Pillar Implementers in Ethiopia;
- NSC to liaise with ISD to prepare a report indicating various actions taken to address the PANOS issue and what measures would be taken next. The report to be signed by the NSC Executive Members.
- Formal letter from ISD showing demonstrated actions and commitment by ISD to account for or recover the money under Pillar 2 disbursed to PANOS in 2017. **(Annex 13: Organisational Capacity Assessment Report, Annex 14: Terms of Reference for selection of Organisational Capacity Assessment exercise partners, Annex 15: Selection report for Organisational Capacity Assessment exercise experts)**

Partner Monitoring Visits

- All 8 partners were visited and assessed at least once this year **(Annex 16: BvAT mission report of visit to TOAM and its ecological organic agriculture Tanzania)**

Key highlights from visits;

- FENAB the CLO in Senegal continues to show positive progress and growth- has employed 2 finance officers (Manager and Assistant to oversee EOA implementation)
- Nigeria has engaged more partners in order to spread out EOA Nationwide (Kwara State University located North West of Ethiopia, Organic Fertilizer Producer and Suppliers Association of Nigeria and Federation of Agricultural Commodity Association of Nigeria located North of Ethiopia in Abuja. They are currently bringing more partners on board from the South. **(Annex 17: BvAT Monitoring Report to Nigeria)**

- All partners currently have staff dedicated/allocated to EOA (technical and finance persons)
- Partners now have various important operations manuals like Finance manual, HR manual, travel and per diem policies which they did not have before (**Annex 18: SAT Tanzania Financial Policy, Annex 19: Uganda NOGAMU Financial manual, Annex 20: Tanzania AfroNet HR manual**)

4. PROGRESS UPDATES TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING OF EOA AT CONTINENTAL LEVEL

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4 : Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains

Output 4.5. A multi-stakeholder EOA in Africa Central Steering Committee established and operational

4.1 Key Progress of the Continental Steering Committee's Mandate to EOA Initiative.

The CSC Secretariat continued its support to CSC meetings with 2 being held in 2017. First meeting was held in May in Cameroon while the 2nd meeting was held in December in Mali. The committee during its meeting in Cameroon reviewed the annual partner progress reports and gave advice for their improvements. The support and advice of development of reporting templates has improved in capturing key milestones in the mainstreaming of EOA and also has helped in partners documentation of the initiative

The Continental Steering Committee (CSC) meeting held in Mali in December supported by giving guidance to EOA partners implementation of the project by drawing a road map for 2018 informed by giving guidance on development of EOA partner Action plans giving pointers of key aspects to be incorporated in the Action plans. With this support the plans were anticipated to give guidance in the mainstreaming of EOA activities at national, regional and national level.

During the meetings the Committee played a crucial role in kick-starting the Partners Capacity assessment exercise based on findings by the lead agency (BvAT) of weak partners in the sector. The need for recommendation for the exercise recognises the need to have stronger partners with strong structures if indeed EOA has to be mainstreamed by 2025 into national policies and programmes. The committee for this exercise offered support in the development of the TOR, selection of the consultants and support to the review and feedbacking of the final draft report. The committee has further recommended capacity building plans to be initiated for the support to growth of strong organisations and networks in the organic sector.

The committee supported and participated in the 4th West Africa Organic Conference held in Bamako Mali from 5th to 7th Dec. The meeting was well attended by approximately 140 participants from key organic sectors. The main aim of the conference was to discuss and forge way forward on institutionalization of EOA in West Africa- Opportunity for niche creation of employment and investment. During the conference Ghana was selected as the next host of 5th WAOC. The main resolution passed by the conference delegates was that the institutionalization of ecological and biological agriculture must take into account the complexity of the ecological, economic, political and socio-cultural context of the African continent and the West African region in particular, and integrate into a holistic, inclusive the diversity of

categories of stakeholders'. This in recognition of the various challenges and gaps in organic sector (research, documentation, marketing and policies).

The members continued their support to mainstreaming of EOA at the Continental level by giving guidance to the development of a fundraising template, development of concept note for 'enhancing the visibility of EOA 'through the BIOFACH annual event in Germany a trade fair believed to link and network EOA/organic networks with international markets and support to National policy makers attendance to BIOFACH. Due to this exposure majority of key national policy makers have developed actions plans on how to mainstream EOA at the national level with policy EOA mainstreaming bearing fruit in countries where policy makers attended Biofach like in Uganda where a financial implication of implementation of the Uganda Organic policy has been drawn, while in Kenya the draft organic policy has been presented to the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. In Tanzania the support has seen key elements in organic practices being entrenched in the Ministry of Agriculture key programmes while in Benin the Deputy Minister has been a key ambassador of EOA after attending a BIOFACH event in Nuremberg, Germany.

The committee during the implementation period supported the recruitment and appointment of the Continental Secretariat Coordinator through the development of the TOR and participating in the recruitment process. The process was chaired by Dr. Janet Edeme the Chair of CSC who is also the head of Rural Economy and Agriculture Division within DREA, AUC. The Continental Secretariat is now fully set up at BvAT and fully functional with Mr. Alex Mutungi on board as the coordinator. The secretariat will serve a key role in supporting the functions of the CSC members whose mandate is to provide EOA in Africa and its membership with guidance, oversight, and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA in Africa. (**Annex 21: 7th Continental Steering Committee meeting minutes; Annex 22: 8th Continental Steering Committee minutes**)

4.2 EOA CONTINENTAL SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat office having been set up in Biovision Africa Trust has been key in undertaking some fundraising initiatives. The Organic sector is under financed with the EOA Strategic Plan showing a gap of 60% to 40% of available funds from 2 key donors (SDC and SSNC) and also support to organic market training and conferences by African Union.

Mainstreaming of EOA especially support to farmers to enhance their capacity in organic practices and also support to the research sector to generate more evidence driven documentation in EOA requires funding. In efforts to fill the 60% gap, the secretariat during the reporting period approached and ear marked the following donors and sectors with plans to approach and submit concept notes and proposals (**table 2**)

Partnerships

Mapping out partnerships and development of a donor matrix based on sectors, programmatic thematic areas, donor areas of interest etc. (Both existing and new) and also focusing on partners programming around youth to leverage on it to bring out the youth aspect as envisaged in the Strategic Plan.

Table 2: Fundraising in 2017

Name of Proposed Partner	Type of Support	Status
Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)	Response to a Call for Proposals (Rural Women empowerment-Small Holder Farmers in Africa)	Waiting for Response pushed to August 2018
Turing Foundation	General Enquiry	Concept note for USD200,000 submitted (Turing to support 50,000)
Opec Fund for International Development (OFiD)	Response to Funding cycle 2017-2018 (Rural farmers empowerment in Africa)	Feedback by June 2018
Africa Climate Change Fund(ACCF)	Response to Calls for Proposals to supporting small-scale or pilot adaptation initiatives to build resilience of vulnerable communities.	Full Concept Note submitted as per the call requirements
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation(NORAD)	RFP-Empowering rural smallholder farmer	Concept Note submitted as per call requirements
AU Research Grant 2018	RFP	Proposal development ongoing
DfID call for proposals 2018	RFP	Proposal to be submitted in June 2018
Ekhaga Foundation	Open call	Proposal to be submitted BY June 2018
Others (Letters of introductions and enquiries sent to various missions, corporates and foundations about the EOA-initiative)	General enquiries	Waiting for responses and meetings

5. PROGRESS UPDATES TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING OF EOA AT NATIONAL LEVEL

5.1 OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017

This report provides a synthesis of country project implementation focusing on various aspects of project implementation, an overview of how best partners implemented the project and key highlights of the project covered. The countries continued to reach majority of key beneficiaries especially the farmers with a total outreach of approximately 300,000 farmers reached through various ways.

Most of the partner countries have also made strides in mainstreaming EOA at the National level through starting off and finalizing the development of organic policy documents with Kenya and Uganda having so far developed Organic draft documents which are at different stages of approval by the policy-making structures. National Organic Policy in Kenya has been finalized with support from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and is now ready for presentation to the permanent secretaries. In Uganda having already a draft Organic policy in place have brought ministry of Finance on board who are now positive about giving the Certificate of Financial Implication for the draft National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP).

Tanzania so far has introduced Organic Agriculture strategic statements in the National Agricultural policy while in Benin an MOU has been developed between private practitioners and government to fix the purchase price of organic cotton. Nigeria has so far introduced an organic agriculture bill among other many efforts. Ethiopia has in its bid to mainstream EOA has set up an organic desk with a full-time officer from the Ministry of Agriculture. All these efforts show that recognition and acceptance of EOA is growing at a fast pace.

All countries have so far held strategic meetings with key policy makers in their ministries of agriculture with countries like Senegal having the President, His Excellency Macky Sall, attending their organic events. The pie chart below shows the project reach by numbers to date.

Project implementation during the reporting period in most of the countries started earlier in February compared to 2016 where implementation started off late in April in most countries. This commendable early project starts off resulted in better project planning and implementation thus touching on contributions to set goals and outcomes. Mainstreaming of EOA into national policies, plans and programmes and engagements with national governments continued to bear fruits in 2017. Kenya has a final Organic policy draft that is ready for submission to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture. In Uganda the Draft Organic policy is in place. In 2017, 160 sets were printed and distributed to cabinet members. A financial implication strategy has also been developed to guide the road map of the policies implementation.

National EOA Strategic Plans developed by National partners. The strategic plans draw a national road map to the implementation and mainstreaming of EOA at national level. The plans draw from already development continental strategic plan being implemented for a period of 10 years

Mainstreaming of EOA into learning institutions through introduction of EOA/Organic/Agroecology curriculum achieved tremendous milestones in 2017. Uganda Marty's University has currently enrolled 40-45 students undertaking MSc in Agroecology and 10 PhD students in Agroecology, a course that commenced in 2017 (**Annex 23: Uganda Umu Course Outline**). In Senegal, EOA partners have collaborated with University of Dakar (UCAD) as part of the implementation of the professional curriculum in Organic and Ecological Agriculture (EOA) which started in April 2017 with 30 students and is currently ongoing. (**Annex 24: Senegal EOA curricula license**); (**Annex 25): Course Brochure for a degree in ecological and organic agriculture at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stkTyMahqfk>)**). In Tanzania, this was realized by incorporation of EOA into curricula of learning institutions like Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). SUA has developed curriculum on Ecological agriculture and enrolled 4 and 2 students at Master and PhD level respectively. Nigeria and Kenya have so far lobbied the curriculum government institutions to accommodate organic agriculture in their learning institutions as part of the mainstream curriculums.

5.2 TANZANIA

In Tanzania, all PIPs did well in their activity implementation with all the pillars partners achieving encouraging milestones. About 75% of activities planned were implemented. The 25% that were not implemented were due to delays in commencing implementation and submitting reports that are usually tied to funds disbursements.

TOAM continues to coordinate the PIPs successfully with commendable control in overall coordination. TOAM and partners consolidated and submitted work plans and budgets for 2017 and mid-term and annual reports PIPs on time.

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by SAT
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Pelum Tanzania
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by TOAM
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by TOAM

Achievements Highlights

Pillar 1: Towards Contribution of Outcome 1: Ecological Organic Products related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors capacitated to translate it into practices and application.	
Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire	✓ On station EOA research demonstration sites have been established for dissemination and update of EOA related knowledge and practices. Two sites in Morogoro and Arusha (1 site/region) have been selected to conduct farmer trials on botanicals and Hakika fertilizer. These trials

value chains available	intend to validate Hakika fertilizer effectiveness realized from the on-station researches (Dar es Salaam and Dakawa) done towards end of 2017. Other research inputs were Amaranths, African eggplants and cowpeas crops, inorganic fertilizer and FYM. The findings indicate Hakika fertilizer ability to improve mineral nutrients compared to a non-fertilized soil. In general soil improvements for inorganic fertilizer had high nutrients level except for OM and total nitrogen, followed by FYM.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Positive trend towards mainstreaming of EOA into National Programs through institutionalization of EOA in National Learning Institutions. This was realized by incorporation of EOA into curricula of learning institutions like Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). SUA has developed curriculum on Ecological agriculture and enrolled 4 and 2 students at Master and PhD level respectively. ✓ Some processes are going on for curriculum reviews of middle level agricultural institutions; the process has been slow one due to solely relying on government directives and funding
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	✓ 76.9% implementation of all planned activities for 2017 was achieved.
Contribution towards Outcome 2. Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services	
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in awareness and knowledge of EOA practices among farmers and extension agents was achieved through information dissemination of 4,000 copies (1000 copies/title) of four titled brochures. Brochures titles are compost preparations and application, mulches use and benefits, cover crops use and benefits, push and pull technology in controlling Striga and stalk borer.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EOA sensitization reached at least 2,000 number of stakeholders through information sharing and capacity building ✓ 1,500 number of farmers participated in organic marketing during the reporting period due to enhanced information dissemination and capacity building.
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar	✓ 77.7% implementation of activities planned for 2017 was recorded with shortage of time due to delays in receiving funds from CLO being pegged

activities enhanced	as the main reason.
Contribution towards Outcome 3: A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved	
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support to 3 organic markets continued during the implementation period. Mesula, Arusha, Oysterbay, Dares Salaam an Organic Shop in Morogo. Support offered through promotional materials like gazebos, banners and consumer awareness brochures. ✓ Brochures explaining organic products, benefits and mark for organic products were distributed to buyers. TVs and local radios interviewed some buyers on how the farmers' markets meet their organic products demand in terms of quality and quantity. The farmers markets and selling outlets were also supported with printed Kilimohai marks on their products, crates and front areas.
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A study on sesame sub-sector value chain in Tanzania was done to identify key players in the sesame value chain. The study identified nine (9) value chain actors and their respective roles and locations. Several recommendations have been made in relation to development of the sesame sub-sector like increasing productivity and production to meet the demand of millers and processors, to increase availability and distribution of improved seeds and increase access to financial products and services by strengthening existing SACCOS and VICOBA schemes ✓ A training on value chain development conducted from 27th to 29th April 2017 at Amabilis Conference Centre, Morogoro. Participants to the training were 20 stakeholders including lead farmers from 8 farmers' organizations working with RUCODIA, SAT, Floresta, Caritas-Mahenge, Caritas Mafia, Kinole, Upendo Women group of Kisarawe and ASDP Zanzibar. The training aimed at enabling participants to make informed decisions on opting market system that responds to their needs and aspirations. The training ended by each organization/group developing an action plan clearly detailing how to develop and participate profitably in the market value chains of theirs ✓ Other six (6) farmers groups (Mafia, Nkombo, Mahenge, UWAMATAM, KIWATA and Frank Horticulture Ltd) have been linked to Gron Fokus, a Danish company seeking to buy organic spices, sesame and sunflower, coconut, beans and fruits products from Tanzania.
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TOAM in collaboration with Tan-Cert expert, Mr. Mtama has facilitated

assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	third party certification to ICS groups for fully organic production. Third party certification process to 4 ICS groups (KIWATA, Nkombo, UWAMATAM and Frank Horticulture Ltd) is in progress.
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	✓ Implementation and attainment of 2017 targets was placed at 76% because of short time between receiving funds and time available for implementation
<p>Contribution towards Outcome 4: Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.</p>	
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Organic Sector Development Program (OSDP) drafted in 2017 was updated during the reporting period. The updates were made in line with obtained knowledge from BIOFACH event platform in 2017. The updates made entail; changing the OSDP draft from its initial program concept to project concept in to avoid having two similar programs under the MALF and budget. That all EOA initiatives follow under ASPD II. The OSD Project document revision is almost done, arrangements for its submission to the Permanent Secretary, MALF are in progress. ✓ As all EOA initiatives follow under ASPD II, the proposed OSD project will be mainstreamed in specific thematic areas of the ASPD II. ✓ On 10th April 2017, TOAM jointly with MALF conducted one-day National Organic Policy Forum at NSSF Mafao House, Dar es Salaam and had 35 persons attend from Government and Non-government institutions including MALF and media. Aim of the forum was to influence mainstreaming of Organic Agriculture into government policies, programs and strategies. Participants shared different information related to organic sector development in Tanzania, including; organic policy briefs, status of organic agriculture in Tanzania, Policy advocacy process, Organic Sector Development Project (OSDP) and TOAM Strategic Plan.
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions	✓ Support to programme and finance officers to attend meetings and monitoring visits with Pillar Implementers continued to strengthen project implementation. Due to these stringent meetings, the mid-term reports for 2017 and Annual Work Plans and Budgets for 2018 were prepared and

strengthened	submitted. ✓ Activity implementation and coordination by TOAM continued without major interruptions.
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Conclusion on Tanzania progress

TOAM and EOA stakeholders continue to expand their space in the policy sector by creating strong linkages with high-profile policy-makers from the mainstream ministry (the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries) and the Director for Crop Development who were planned to participate in the BIOFACH event 2017. The Organic Policy Action Paper (OPAP) has also been developed and shared with the Minister and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, 2 Parliamentarians and the Chairperson of the Agricultural Parliamentary Committee.

In the Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar, an organic training manual for colleges and universities was developed. The pillar gathered 47 research abstracts giving a picture of which areas under organic farming have been covered by research. Under Information and communication pillar, information dissemination on EOA continued to be undertaken through brochures, flyers and radio programmes while in the value chain and market development pillar, marketing linkages continued to be strengthened.

TOAM focused more on organic certification process and ensuring more farmers are certified where 42 PGS have been developed since 2014, out of which 12 bear active licenses under the East African Organic Products Standard and therefore can use the East African Organic Mark. Some of these PGS have been supported by EOA.

5.3 UGANDA

EOAI project activities were smoothly implemented by all the PIPs apart from Makerere University during the year of 2017 (January - December 2017). Makerere only implemented carried forward activities from 2017. This was due to the university closure of the University at the end of 2017 that went through the start of 2017 and thus became impossible for the EOA implementing team to access funds for the project implementation from the Finance department in the University

The initiative is currently under the following Organisations;

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Uganda Martyrs University (UMU)
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Makerere University (MAK)
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Market Development Pillar - Implemented by NOGAMU / CLO
- ✓ Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by NOGAMU / CLO

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In regard to increasing available information on EOA along the entire value chain, Uganda now has a research data base on EOA that is available to the public. The data has targeted and reached 15000 Youths and 600 Adults ✓ New EOA research areas continued to be undertaken and documented in the implementation period (Annex 26: Uganda Knowledge Level on Human beef Cattle Handling In Transit And Perception Of Beef Quality Attributes In Uganda) ✓ Indigenous knowledge on EOA application gathered nationwide (38% of the country) is also now available. In the implementation period 35 respondents were reached from each sample, coming up with a total of 190 respondents from all the four ecological zones. (Annex 27: Uganda available Research data base on EOA) ✓ Various trials to validate research have been undertaken with some EOA work being published in journals. Various dissertations were also produced by Master of Science student. 2 key trials were done in the implementation year as follows 'determination of Insecticidal properties and seed protective effects of Pawpaw leaf powder'. (Annex 28: Uganda Validating Research Findings in EOA Practices)
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organisation and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The EOA curriculum continued to be strengthened in 2017. Two short course trainings materials on 'the organic sector short course and 'scientific data management training for students and staff to be taught in 2018' were developed and completed with 25 persons being trained. The EOA Cartoon handbook to train school going children on organic farming practices was completed also finalized and is available for distribution. (Annex 29: Uganda Support Review of Curricula and Training Materials for Local Training Institutions) ✓ EOA curriculum mainstreaming in UMU is ongoing. UMU has short courses that are currently running an approval done in July 2017. UMU currently offers Bsc in Ecological Organic Agriculture which has generated an Msc in Agroecology. A Phd in Agroecology and Livelihoods has also been developed and first students reported on 1st August. The Masters programme has all elements of EOA and the National council for higher education so far has approved the course. The Msc in Agroecology is in partnership with Mekelle University and Swedish University Students have been supported to undertake research on EOA at the PhD and master's

	<p>level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A cartoon book for kids to learn about EOA practices in a child friendly way has been developed and finalized
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An End of period Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) was undertaken and a report was produced and is available at UMU for all stakeholders (Annex 30: Uganda Monitoring and Evaluation Report for Uganda Martyrs University) ✓ Implementation was rated at 79%
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To promote awareness and visibility of EOA, around 150 stakeholders (students, lecturers, public) were either reached through material dissemination and training and also through social media platforms that shared information about organic practices. ✓ EOA sensitization reached 150 number of stakeholders through information sharing and capacity building ✓ 3,000 number of farmers participated in organic marketing during the reporting period due to enhanced information dissemination and capacity building.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All Organic app launched on play store (now available for android phone users). During the reporting period the app was used by 1,800 number of stakeholders.
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This pillar attained 100% implementation of rolled over 2017 activities and 0% implementation of planned 2017 activities.
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the implementation period the traded volume of organic products was at 1,500 and 3,000 of new markets identified. ✓ Based on the marketing tools developed and updated in the reporting period, 4,000 of actors used the market information and data to trade in the market ✓ Review of the East African Organic Standard (EAOS) commenced in the reporting period. The review will bring on board fisheries issues that were not considered during its development. This will give an opportunity to the

	<p>organic animal sector that has been ignored for a while.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Updated EOA database including all key EOA Actors in Uganda
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To enhance capacity in value chain development, Bufumbo Organic Farmers' Association (BOFA) was trained and supported in business plan development and entrepreneurship. This will aid growth into the coffee value chain with focus on strategies for them to sale organic arabica coffee in the local market in Uganda ✓ 2 Organic farmer markets were facilitated in the course of the year and a total of 22 farmer groups benefited from these organized markets. (Annex 31: Uganda Organic Farmers market report at Fairways Hotel); (Annex 32 Uganda Organic Farmers Market report at Fairways Hotel) ✓ 6 EOA SHEA NUT trading companies were facilitated to address critical quality management aspects which resulted in OA certification and access to lucrative cosmetic Shea nut produce Markets.
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Numbers of certified organic groups increased in the reporting period. 2 members Sage Uganda and Ankole Coffee acquired orders from European buyers and also acquiring leads for purchase of organic certified Sesame from Uganda¹. (Annex 33: Uganda BIOFACH 2017 report)
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and attainment of targets was rated at 79%
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Uganda National Platform and its Steering Committee is fully operational and continues to grow with an approximate number of 39 stakeholders who convened for the National platform meeting including organic farmers and traders, civil society, research institutions. During the platform meeting experiences and challenges were shared and lessons learnt. ✓ Sensitization on value of EOA reached 300 stakeholders who also took part and gave inputs into the development and finalization of the EOA Uganda Strategic Plan ✓ The EOA Strategic Plan was finalized and published during the reporting period. The plan draws a road map for EOA mainstreaming in Uganda for the next 5 years.

<p>Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Uganda partners managed to get all their funds disbursed to them in 2017 (100% funds released) after they met the set burn rate of 75% ✓ However, this implementation was key for Pillar 1, Pillar3 and Pillar 4. Pillar 2 which Makerere University is in charge of did not implement activities in 2017 due to a backlog of activities from 2017 and University closure for a period of approximately 6 months. <p>Implementation towards mainstreaming the initiative was accomplished at 72% with all contractual obligations met. (Annex 34: Uganda Field Visit report); (Annex 35: Uganda Partner Implementation Performance review meeting report)</p>
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5.4 ETHIOPIA

Implementation of EOA in Ethiopia continued to experience challenges with the closure of PANOS Ethiopia mid-year in 2017. The closure of PANOS Ethiopia has brought many setbacks key among them being derailed implementation of activities for Pillar 2 as well for the rest of the pillars. This was due to unexplained delays by ISD to follow up on funds accountability by PANOS and delays in bringing on board another Organization to take over implementation of pillar 2. The delays were coupled by continuous illness of ISD Director, Sue Edwards who was on medical leave during the implementation period, yet she was a key person in the implementation of EOA in Ethiopia.

Implementation in Ethiopia is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Mekelle University
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Not yet on board
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by ISD

With support of BvAT in September 2017, an urgent meeting was called and held between BvAT Executive Director and EOA stakeholders in Ethiopia to try and address the stalemate in selection of Pillar 2 Organization and recovery of funds held by PANOS Ethiopia. In the meeting ISD and NSC agreed to send commitment letter to BvAT () showing their plans to recover funds from PANOS Ethiopia and their commitment to refund lost funds to BvAT **Annex 9: Commitment letter from ISD to BvAT and Annex 11: Ethiopia Mission report by BvAT)**

Once the commitment letter was submitted by Sue Edwards the Executive Director for ISD, BvAT released funds for 2017 to the 3 active pillars (ISD and Mekelle University) and withheld funds for Pillar 2

Pillar Implementing Partners and National Steering Committee held a planning meeting in November to plan for the next year (2018) and submitted the activity plan and budget for 2018 to BvAT.

5.5 KENYA

Implementation of EOA in Kenya went on smoothly during the year 2017. In Kenya, 2017 was an election year, which saw the country undergo two national elections in a period of less than six months apart. This had significant impact on agriculture in general and overall political stability in the country. During the year also, there was a ban of export of avocados due to limited supply which affected Organic avocado exporters.

On a positive note the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries together with the stakeholders finalized the Kenya Organic Agriculture Policy, which was submitted to the Principal Secretary in the last quarter of the year. A number of County Governments expressed interest in EOA and it is envisaged that this will be translated into policy formulation and budgetary allocation.

For more impact and synergy, KOAN has been involving the Pillar Implementing Partners, (PIPs) in bringing them together for planning and implementation of activities. To increase outreach, six contact points have so far been established to disseminate, collate information and create awareness in the various regions. The idea is to have organizations collect information from the ground and bring to the national level and at the same time disseminate information on what is happening in other regions to the local areas where the Contact points are located.

Strong supporters of organic agriculture activities and services from different regions in the Country have so far been engaged to expand the network and communication flow between members and like-minded organisations willing to enhance the visibility of Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative. These Organizations in partnership with the CLO have collated information, disseminated and created awareness on Ecological Organic Agriculture in the various regions in the Country.

Implementation in Kenya is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners:

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Egerton University
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Biovision Africa Trust
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Market Development Pillar - Implemented by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
- ✓ Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)

Table 4: Growth of Organic Agriculture Sector in Kenya in 2017

Description	Numbers
Farmers introduced to the Organic sector in 2017	37,000
Customers purchasing organic products	3,000
Market linkages	60 farmers

Farmer Incomes	USD 24,000 per farmer annually
PGS certification	15 farmers
3 rd party certification	19,000 farmers

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Functional systems established for dissemination and update of EOA related knowledge and practices in Egerton University have been established through an online repository www.eoai.org/research. The repository has over 300 documents on livestock and crop related topics have been collected during the project period (2014-2017). In 2017, 57 publications concentrated on research in crops while 29 publications concentrated on research in animals. ✓ Has documented local knowledge/ indigenous knowledge and practices of the Ogiek community in production and conservation of crops, livestock, honey, medicinal plants and water catchments. Ogiek community living in the Mau forest possess extensive knowledge on harmonious interaction of people with the environment for livelihood support and for posterity. The study investigated the knowledge, practices and transition of the same from one generation to the next and the preferences of contemporary agricultural practices to traditional practices. ✓ Demand driven research continues to be supported and generated. During the implementation period, a Master student of Egerton University, Ms. Teresa successfully defended her Masters Research Proposal on “ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN EXOTIC VEGETABLES SOLD IN SELECTED MARKETS IN NAKURU TOWN, KENYA”. Moi University was identified as the best laboratory to conduct her study. The Masters student has since finished analysing her samples of organic and conventional vegetable produce sourced from different markets in Nakuru and Nairobi.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organisation and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	Egerton University continued to support various short courses in the organic sector. During the implementation period they supported the following; Organic Soil Fertility Management, Crop field and storage pests, diseases and control, Organic, standards, certification and audits, Setting of ICS, Documentation required for certification, Enterprise selection, Marketing Channels, Group marketing contract farming, Record keeping, Profit & Loss calculations and Entrepreneurship.

Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	✓ 100% implementation of planned activities was achieved however with majority of activities ongoing and rolled over to 2018
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in uptake of ecological organic farming technologies and innovation by farmer advisory and information services as well as awareness creation on EOA practices continued to increase through establishment of school gardens in 2 primary schools (public and private schools.). Notable uptake and motivation of school going kids and teachers in organic farming was noted. The 2 schools have a population of 600 pupils and 40 teachers who notably have embraced the EOA school gardens concept. School children sell the produce (indigenous vegetables) to teachers and neighboring communities and use the proceeds to buy school uniform and school learning equipment's. The school gardens have increased their skills and knowledge in nutritive value, production and marketing of indigenous vegetables. (Annex 36 Kenya School gardens establishment report) ✓ In bid to enhance awareness and uptake of EOA practices by farmers, Manuals targeting farmers and extension officers and entire public have been compiled and produced awaiting printing. The content of the manuals is on benefits, production practices, harvest and post-harvest management of different crops, namely cowpea, amaranth, spider plant, black night shade, pumpkin, jute mallow. ✓ Farmer field day that reached 78 stakeholders (farmers, extension agents, input suppliers, extension agents) was held in the year. The farmer field days are part of EOA awareness, sharing experiences, solving solutions and strengthening networks with various stakeholders especially linking farmers to organic input suppliers. (Annex 37: Kenya Farmers Field Day report) ✓ Enhancing awareness was also reached through production of 6 reference books using The Organic Farmer Magazine (TOF) editions, from No. 1 published in April 2005 to No. 148 published in September 2017 have been produced for use by field staff as reference material. The magazine directly reaches 34,000 stakeholders especially farmers and more indirectly through sharing and learning. ✓ EOA website was continuously updated during the reporting period. www.eoa-africa.org. The website serves as a source of up to date information on EOA as well as dissemination tool both for information on EOA technologies as well as events taking place.

<p>Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The two resource centers under the EOA programme based in Western Kenya (Kakamega and Busia counties) continued to be supported with resources to ensure efficient service delivery to farmers. They carry out farmer and youth trainings on relevant and appropriate sustainable technologies and practices. A total of 5,860 (4,100 female, 1760 male) farmers and youth were trained by the field staff. (Annex 38: Kenya Rebranding of the Farmer Resource Centers) ✓ A meeting held with Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA) to establish areas of collaboration and discussions are ongoing.
<p>Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 supervision trip was carried out to KALRO Kakamega Resource Centre in June 2017 ✓ During the visit, farmers trained by the field staff were visited to assess adoption of technologies trained on. ✓ 90% implementation of set activities was achieved with setbacks due to disruptions of 2 National Presidential elections undertaken within a period of 6 months.
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 20% increase in traded organic products was achieved in 2017. This was due to increased support to organic retail outlets through branding, awareness creation and information dissemination. (Annex 39: Kenya Rebranding of a retail outlet supermarket called Carrefour Supermarket report) ✓ Directly reaching 3,000 potential organic customers ✓ Benefitting 60 organic farmers through market linkage enabling them to earn Ksh 200,000 monthly.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facilitating 100 trade linkages for organic traders' thereby increasing trade for organic products.
<p>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Building capacity of 19,000 smallholder farmers in third party certification and 15 farmers on PGS enabling increased compliance in organic standards.
<p>Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 PGS training done and trained 45 stakeholders ✓ Mentoring programmes to support entrepreneurship business development continued to grow through Training of Trainers (TOTs) and

regional or export markets is enhanced.	Master of Trainers (MTs) with a total of 15 supported
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	✓ 100% of activities undertaken
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Kenya EOA national platform has been fully in operational with the National Steering Committee following keenly on the progress of EOA implementation at the country level. The NSC held 2 meetings in 2017 in which partner workplans, progress reports and exchange sharing were done. The NSC has been key in keeping track of the project implementation by giving advice and support especially in creating synergies of the implementing partners. (Annex 40 Kenya National Steering Committee meeting report) ✓ Mainstreaming of EOA into National Policies continued to be one key activity with current draft final policy document presented to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture. This is great progress towards mainstreaming of EOA in Kenya. (Annex 41 Draft Kenya National Organic Policy) ✓ A national stakeholder platform meeting that attracted 2,000 number of participants was held in November. Stakeholders were made aware of the progress of EOAI and the highlights for the upcoming plans, carried out the SWOT Analysis for the Sector, Stakeholders needs analysis conducted based on areas of interests/thematic cluster during the stakeholders meeting.
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	✓ A PIP meeting was organized to discuss the 2017 Work Plans and to identify activities that could be implemented jointly, the EOA Strategic Plan- Dates, venue and the process, Reporting/Finance Formats, and Joint Fundraising opportunities

5.6 NIGERIA

The implementation of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Nigeria commenced with the identification of three strategic partner organizations in Eastern Nigeria. This was aimed at expanding the coverage of the initiative to the region. This process was concluded by May 2017 with three organizations being identified: Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka - Pillar 1 (Research, Training and Extension), Justice Development and Peace Commission, Uyo - Pillar 2 (Information and

Communication) and Ikot Ekpene Women Food/Cash Crop Multipurpose Cooperative Society - Pillar 3 (Value Chain and Market Development). Details of EOA implementation partners are presented below.

The expansion of the project and inclusion of new partners allowed for the implementation of the resolution of the National Platform meeting of 28th April 2017 at the Emmanuel Alayande Resource Centre, with seventy-six (76) participants. This resolution called for the reconstitution of the National Steering Committee to accommodate representatives from the three old regions of the country. The new committee consists of three representatives per region (Western, Northern and Eastern): the regional chair, secretary and any other strategic person. Other members of the National Steering Committee are the Chair (representative of the government), the Country Coordinator and the Project Manager.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the implementation period, available organic research continued to be documented by looking at Identifying the available organic agriculture research output and technological innovations, determining areas of organic agriculture research, Determining the research findings dissemination strategies, Identifying the number of farmers reached and Identifying the challenges in disseminating this information. An average of 4.49 of the research findings/innovations were published in journals while some were published in proceedings (2.63) and technical report (1.44) which may not easily get to the farmers (with radio as the most widely used means of information dissemination). (Annex 42: Nigeria research data base) ✓ The level of awareness of EOA among Northern Nigeria farmers is very high (at 73.8%) as it is an age long practice particularly in vegetables and tuber crop production. (Annex 43: Nigeria Survey and analysis of knowledge gaps, needs, and priorities by gender in the development of ecological organic agriculture commodity value chains) ✓ The major challenges being encountered by the practitioners of EOA is labour intensiveness in production and application arising from the bulky nature of organic fertilizers raw materials and long duration of composting large quantities and that only very low percentages of the farmers are involved in commodity value chains addition vis a vi-produce processing, packaging, storage, merchandizing etc... ✓ The results also revealed that there are wide knowledge gaps in increasing order thus: standards and markets, cultural practices, preservation of produce, processing Organic crop protection. ✓ A database containing 100 articles in eight thematic areas was developed and a total of 203 articles were documented as follows:

	<p>Agronomy (131=65%), Plant health (43= 21%), Food quality (4=1.9%), Extension (10=4%), Socio-economics (3=1.4%), Policy issues (3=1.4%), Organic livestock (5=2.4%) and Organic aquaculture (4=1.9%).</p> <p>✓ In order to boost application of local knowledge in EOA, a Phd student has been engaged to document available knowledge. Thirty-eight (38) plant species from twenty-four (24) plant families were documented to be used for various crop and animal management in the two geo-political zones investigated. Fabaceae and Arecaceae families were the highest entries.</p>
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organisation and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<p>✓ Nigeria key curriculum development stakeholders (Mrs. Laurreta Achor of National University Commission (NUC), an Assistant Director Monotechnic and Principal Officer at the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) Dr. Ibrahim Rufai and Mr. Nsan Nsan Tiku, Mrs. O. Fabiyi of Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, Mr. Abara and Mrs. Igoh Janet of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and others) were sensitized on EOA curriculum and supported its mainstreaming at National Level by requesting a validation workshop to commence for its fast mainstreaming.</p> <p>✓ Various stakeholders were also supported to attend some short courses on EOA (5 strategic stakeholders each were enrolled in a 4 months Training of Trainers programme in Northern and eastern part of Nigeria). The training focused on various aspects of Organic Agriculture such as Basic Principles in EOA, benefits and opportunity, organic crop production, organic animal production, organic seed production, standards and certification in organic agriculture, value chain and marketing, extension issues and curricula development for trainers</p>
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	<p>✓ 100 % of the fund received has been disbursed to PIPs with 100% implementation of planned and ongoing activities.</p>
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<p>✓ For creation of EOA awareness, various media dissemination tools were used. Caritas Internatina Uyo state in July developed and produced an advertorial jingle in two languages (English and Igbo) English aired on Atlantic radio station in Akwa Ibom and the Igbo was for Anambra State for the National Organic Business Summit 2017.</p> <p>✓ Strategic dissemination media platform especially the radio was used like through Atlantic FM. Uyo. Theme: Organic Agriculture & You. This activity was implemented by Pillar 3 and Pillar 2. Favour FM Port court</p>

	and Inspiration FM, Uyo. Theme: Organic Agriculture & You. Inspiration FM, Uyo. Unity FM. Awka.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two communication centers were established and situated in Federation of Agricultural Commodities Association secretariat in Abuja and Justice Development and Peace Commission. The communication centers comprises of a desktop computer, printers, internet facilities, audio recorder, projector and other equipment relevant in each communication center. The facilities will be used to service the information need of all stakeholders. ✓ The types of promotional materials produced for the sensitization and awareness Ecological Organic Agriculture stakeholders for this activity included 250 pieces of face cap, 200 pieces of branded pen, jotters and stickers, which were all utilized during the National Organic Agriculture Business Summit at Finotel Classique Hotel, Awka, Anambra State in July 2017 and still been utilized for all EOA sensitization programmes conducted across the country. These promotional materials were used to sensitize stakeholders and the general public on EOA initiative in Nigeria.
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ . Monitoring visit was undertaken to Ago Owu and Elekuru Organic Farmers' group. ✓ A feedback questionnaire was also developed to assess the implementation of the activities anchored by the PIPs and other executors ✓ 100 % release of funds leading to 100% activity implementation
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The EOA National directory for Nigeria continues to be updated on an annual basis with a total of 92 actors. It has nine sections / categories in which actors were grouped. These sections are: Farms, Farmers' group, Market and Outlets, Certification and quality control, input dealers, Training and consultancy, Research, Processors and Media and advocacy. The forty pages directory entails 20 farms, 20 farmers group, 8 market and sales outlets, 3 certification and quality control organizations, 11 input dealers, 4 processors,8 organizations involved in training and consultancy, 11 research institutes and 7 actors / organizations for media and advocacy. (Annex 44: Nigeria EOA National directory for Nigeria) ✓ National Organic Agriculture Business Summit held at Finnotel Classique Hotel, Awka, Anambra State from 11 to 13th July 2017 where 5 strategic stakeholders were supported to attend. The produce exhibited was yam, cocoyam, mango flavour-ginger, turmeric and Hibiscus sabdariffa. The

	<p>products were gaari (processed cassava), turmeric paste, turmeric tonic, and packaged organic seeds. The exhibition also featured awareness and advocacy with the sharing of EOA brochures.</p>
<p>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An exchange visit to Pristine Pasture Organic Farm was undertaken by 15 participants. Participants were exposed on various organic farming practices like How to raise poultry organically, Fermentation of conventional feeds to break all the synthetic materials in it, Fermentation of fruits in water and such is given as multivitamins, The use of botanicals and spices as antibiotics, The use of vinegar and lacto-bacillus solution as disinfection agents, The restriction of visitors from moving near the pen as a form of bio-security, The use of previously used litter to brood new chicks among other organic practices. ✓ Number of people participating in various organic commodity value chains continued to increase during the implementation period through a training of forty-seven (47) people in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The trainees were extension agents, lead farmers and input supplier. The training took place as a session of the National Organic Agriculture Business Summit held at held at Finnotel Classique Hotel, Awka, and Anambra State from 11 to 13th July 2017. They were trained on general principles of Organic Agriculture, Organic Crop and Livestock production, Value Chain development, Pest and Disease Control in Organic Agriculture, Marketing, Standard and Certification of Organic Produce.
<p>Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 47 local inspectors were trained to operate in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The trainees were extension agents, lead farmers and input supplier. The training took place as a session of the National Organic Agriculture Business Summit held at Finnotel Classique Hotel, Awka, and Anambra State from 11 to 13th July 2017. The trainees were trained to certify for Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) mode of certification. ✓ Awareness on implementation of third party certification approach was undertaken through a speech given by Mr. Jordan Gama during a session of the National Organic Agriculture Business Summit held at Finnotel Classique Hotel, Awka, and Anambra State from 11 to 13th July 2017. Mr. Jordan Gama, President, Africa Organic Network gave a presentation on Third Party Certification and Opportunities within BioFach (the annual world largest organic agriculture trade fair at Nuremberg, Germany).
<p>Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100% release of funds resulting to 100% implementation of activities

Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
<p>Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Platform for Nigeria chapter is in place and continues to grow and spread in other parts of Nigeria. In 2017, Eastern Nigeria platform was formed comprising of 41 stakeholders. This activity took place on the 28th February 2017, at the main hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Awka, Anambra State bringing together EOA stakeholders in eastern Nigeria, 41 people in attendance. The meeting was the inception meeting of EOA stakeholders in the region comprising 11 states which are divided into two main regions namely; southeast and south-south region. During the meeting, different organizations were nominated to serve as IP for pillars 1, 2 and 3. Presentations were made on the core value of EOA and progress made so far in the country. ✓ In bid to support and engage the government to support EOA Initiative in Nigeria, awareness on the Malabo declaration and on EOA was undertaken on 100 senior government officials resulting into their interest in further trainings and awareness on EOA and its support. The generated interest among senior government officials is anticipated to help them know how to mainstream the benefits of EOA into domestication of the Malabo Declaration in the country. ✓ In efforts to bid for EOA policies integration into national policy frameworks, a draft Nigeria Organic Agriculture Bill has been developed. The first draft is already developed and forwarded to a member of the house of representative; Hon; Daniel Asuquo, for review. The 10 pages document is divided into thirty sections. It has undergone third review with input from stakeholders nationwide. ✓ National EOA stakeholder's data base was updated to 504 members during the implementation period. ✓ Various EOA awareness creation fora's were also held and support to stakeholders to attend offered. The 4th West Africa organic conference with the theme "Opportunity of niche creation for employment and investment" was successfully held in Bamako, Mali on Dec. 5 – 6, 2017 to appraise the development of Organic Agriculture in the sub-region and also marshal a way forward. Attendance of over 140 stakeholders was recorded. The conference was a good platform for experience that can contribute to development of EOA in Nigeria, tapping the experience of others from other regions of Africa. ✓ During a side West Africa cluster meeting, the ECOWAS representative, Mr. Ernest Aube informed that the Regional body has earmarked the sum of €8M for the development of Ecological Organic Agriculture in five francophone member states namely: Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast,

	Togo and Burkina Faso and directed the fifteen-member states in the sub-region to factor in organic agriculture into their future plans, partner with relevant bodies in the continent and invest in agriculture budget of their states.
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A national platform meeting held at Finnotel Classique Hotel, Awka, and Anambra State from 13th July 2017. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Igoh Janet of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development who represented the chair Mr. Isah Adamu with about 188 people in attendance. ✓ Four members of staff of the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria and the finance officer of Hefci were trained in the use of quickbooks. The quickbooks was also purchased by NOAN and Shared with Hefci to improve their operation.

5.7 BENIN

In Benin, the implementation of pillar 1 and 4 is coordinated by OBEPAB while pillars 2 and 3 are coordinated respectively by PASCiB and CRASTEDA organizations that implemented activities for 2017. The PIPs recorded 100% implementation of activities that they planned to undertake and this was very commendable. There were no concerns or challenges that derailed the implementation.

Implementation in Benin is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by OBEPAB
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by PASCiB
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by CRASTEDA
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by OBEPAB

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Major gaps in organic livestock sector are currently being experienced in Benin. A study assessing the capacities of organic livestock systems in order to identify the bottlenecks of and designs research protocols to address them was undertaken. Revealed that Livestock breeder who experiment ecological and organic livestock have not yet been trained in the field. Each one relies on his endogenous knowledge to practice ecological livestock. (Annex 45: Benin report on Assessment to organic livestock systems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establishment of knowledge gaps, needs and priorities by gender during the implementation period target consumers. Assessing the consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product (in order to identify awareness raising strategies) was undertaken and showed that consumers will purchase organic products based on the following aspects chronologically; i. income level, ii) Steadiness/firmness, iii) taste, iv) color, v) lack of damage, and vi) nutritional value (Annex 46: Benin report on Consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product) ✓ Validation of EOA research findings during the implementation period targeted experimenting ABC Grower and products of Bio phyto on tomatoes, pineapple, based on participatory approaches. Results revealed that the ABC grower should be used in the 2nd and 8th week of tomatoes development. (Annex 47: Benin Validate research findings in EOA practices) ✓ Establishment of demonstration plots on tchotchokpo (palm oil cake) and Benin food spray on cotton farming, using participatory approaches was undertaken and its effectiveness on organic cotton and 12 facilitators from Farmer Field School and 15 producers trained on the technology.
<p>Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The need to build the capacity of organic cotton farmers and extension agents was identified and undertaken. ✓ The review of the curricula with regard to the training needs in EOA showed a weak diversification of the curriculum with too much concentration on crop production aspects and little focus on organic and ecological animal production that is not yet well developed. And therefore, there is no training on organic and ecological animal production (Annex 48: Benin Review of the curricula with regard to the training needs in EOA) ✓ A short course on pest management and integrated management of soil fertility in organic production to 40 organic cotton producers and extension agents was undertaken. This is anticipated to increase production yields of cotton and therefore earn organic farmers more revenue.
<p>Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring and evaluation strategy developed, M&E field visits undertaken and Pillar management meeting organized
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>

<p>Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In efforts to increase awareness and knowledge on EOA, training modules to better equip journalists to communicate and inform about EOA were developed and for visibility enhancement 100 EOA t-shirts with awareness messages and 100 hats were developed and distributed (Annex 49: Benin EOA t-shirts and caps photos) ✓ Various stakeholders were also sensitized through 10 Radio broadcasts on ecological issues and chemical poisoning and also through creation site web for communication about EOA web site: www.pascib.org.
<p>Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On June 2017 at Bel Azur Hotel Grand Popo, 15 producers were trained on the use of smart phones and social networks to inform and communicate on EOA. The training has improved producers access to the market for organic producers through ICT use ✓ An EOA Newsletter was produced in the implementation period. The newsletter promotes information and communication about the project and good visibility, ensures better sharing and dissemination of information between actors, and promotes ownership, understanding and visibility of the actions, progress and achievements of the project. (Annex 50: Benin EOA newsletter)
<p>Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The main difficulties experienced during the implementation period concerned the relatively short time to ensure the implementation of activities and the budget lines of some activities were too weak to fully realize these activities ✓ Findings on the on the use of ICT were that almost all trained producers use the calendar or agenda of mobile phones to plan an activity. The use of this tool has helped to improve the implementation of the agricultural calendar in time and that Producers use WhatsApp to share market information and soil and pest management information with each other. ✓ Findings also show that not all producers have an android. Those who own have difficulties related to the activation of Internet packages and challenges of recharging the phone due to lack of electricity. ✓ All activities planned by pillar 2 for 2017 were implemented.
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In efforts to increase numbers of actors using organic market information and data, a database was updated and a national EOA promoting organizations directory elaborated containing over 78 EOA promoting organizations (Annex 51: Benin EOA national data base) ✓ 1 new organic and ecological farmer market created near the new office

	<p>of CRASTEDA at Togoudo. This selling point is equipped with shelf to facilitate separation between organic products and non-organic products in the shops. Currently a total of 6 new EOA selling points created at end of 2017 by the EOA project with a total of 9 EOA products selling points available in Benin by end of 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exchange visits to the soybeans and sesame producers in Tanguieta and Kouandé (Atacora region, North Benin) were undertaken. These visits showed the potential of organic soybeans and sesame in intercropping with organic cotton (more than 2500 organic cotton producers were involved)
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers trained on value chain development. Each trainee is coaching about 20 farmers, meaning that this training will impact about 300 new farmers. ✓ Exchange visits to the soybeans and sesame producers in Tanguieta and Kouandé (Atacora region, North Benin) were undertaken. ✓ A TOT training session was organized for 15 extension agents, service providers and lead farmers. (Annex 52 Benin TOT Training report for service providers) ✓ At least 1 exchange visit undertaken to expose producers to Pulp and oil for organic baobab processing and marketing. ✓ 2 Referential Technical Economic developed for soybeans and mango juice and shared with potential business actors in organic sector. The technical and economic reference of organic mango juice processing and soybean processing will allow the development of the organic mango and soybean juice in the market
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In addition to the local facilitators trained by CRASTEDA in 2017, one local inspector was trained by ECOCERT in 2017. ✓ Internal Control Systems (ICS) were set up for 2 groups of organic soybean production in Northern part of Benin for third-party certification.
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Activity implementation was at 100% with report submission done on time.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The National Platform and Steering committee are in place and operational with sustained numbers of stakeholders interested in the

<p>Committees established and strengthened.</p>	<p>organic sector. A multi stakeholders' workshop at COTEB Hôtel at Parakou was held on 19 to 20 June 2017 with 34 participants and was an opportunity to understand deeply the EOA project document and for sharing on benefits of EOA. (Annex 53 Benin EOA national multi stakeholders' workshop)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inclusion of EOA into "Plan Stratégique pour le Développement du Secteur Agricole", cf. Page 36 Action 3.1.3. ✓ 4 members with agricultural ministry secretary were supported and facilitated to attend to the BIOFACH at Nuremberg, Germany from 13th to 19th February 2017. Linkages were established with 2 German companies that are currently planning to export products from Benin. The deputy minister of agriculture after her visit to BIOFACH Germany became an ambassador of organic initiative in her ministry and has enough knowledge on EOA to understand challenges in the EOA sector and support in addressing the issues at the ministry level.
<p>Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All activities planned for all pillars in 2017 were monitored and 100 % implementation undertaken with annual reports written and submitted.

Key Highlights

- ✓ 1 new EOA products selling points were established
- ✓ Farmers and extension agents have been trained on the use of communication strategies related to use of smart phones and sms platforms.
- ✓ Through the various regional and international trade fairs, the visibility of EOA Benin products was increased especially support to deputy minister of agriculture to attend BIOFACH trade fair in Germany.

5.8 SENEGAL

In Senegal, implementation of activities went on uninterrupted at an average implementation percentage of 98% of planned activities for 2017. Partners in charge of activity implementation are as follows:

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by ENDAPRONAT
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by ASPAB
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by AGRECOL
- ✓ Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by FENAB

Progress in summary

- ✓ The reach of EOA in Senegal is at 22,000 persons.
- ✓ 20% increase of the number of farmers practicing EOA in 2017 compared to 2016. 22,000 people are practicing EOA within the country.
- ✓ The research data base created in 2014 was continuously updated in 2017.
- ✓ Various participatory research studies have been carried out with 4 being carried out in 2017. The results were shared with more than 90 people (from NGOs, Ministries, research and training institutions, etc).
- ✓ The creation of a professional EOA degree in the University of Dakar was a big step towards institutionalization of EOA in the education curriculum.
- ✓ The consolidation of the training module in organic horticulture which is implemented by the agro-ecological farm school of Kaydara was also a big step in the institutionalization of EOA in Senegal.
- ✓ The state now recognizes EOA stakeholders like FENAB and Enda Pronat and listens to them. This has been through a national policy advocacy workshop with the Ministry of Agriculture to integrate agro ecology in public policy.
- ✓ Senegal attained 60% adoption of organic interventions by farmers who had been reached through various strategies like trainings and awareness creation.
- ✓ A “House of Knowledge” as support communication infrastructure has been created (EOA information and agricultural documents, databases and indigenous and scientific knowledge is available in this house of Knowledge in Thies) and will be extended in FENAB 4 Agroecological zones this year. 330 people visited the house of knowledge and were satisfied.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Various participatory research studies have been carried out with 4 being carried out in 2017. The results were shared with more than 90 people (from NGOs, Ministries, research and training institutions, etc). (Annex 54 Senegal Compte rendu de l’atelier de partage des résultats de recherche en AEB) ✓ The state now recognizes EOA stakeholders like FENAB and Enda Pronat and listens to them. This has been through a national policy advocacy workshop with the Ministry of Agriculture to integrate agro ecology in public policy. ✓ The database that was created in 2014 has been updated by integrating

	<p>the new searches available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For documentation of application of local knowledge to development of EOA, 4 documentary films were produced and are available in French and in English. The films were shared with more than 100 people during a conference organized by Enda Pronat during the Biological Fair in Thiès and during the national advocacy workshop on agro ecology.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The creation of a professional EOA degree in the University of Dakar was a big step towards institutionalization of EOA in the education curriculum. ✓ The consolidation of the training module in organic horticulture which is implemented by the agro-ecological farm school of Kaydara was also a big step in the institutionalization of EOA in Senegal. ✓ Short course training was carried out in 3 days in the Niayes with thirty producers / trainers and technicians themed Biofertilizers
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and reporting went on smoothly without major challenges.
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The gap analysis in information and communication strategies beyond the coverage of the pilot phase was undertaken and a strategy developed ✓ More than 22000 stakeholders and actors in the EAO value chains were sensitized through workshops, media and FENAB's website. 60% adoption of interventions.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A "House of Knowledge" as support communication infrastructure is created (EAO information and agricultural documents, databases and indigenous and scientific knowledge is available. Other houses of knowledge will be extended and open in FENAB 4 Agroecological zones. In the year 330 people visited the house of knowledge and satisfied. ✓ At least 10 representatives of CBOs in project areas trained on how to use ICT tools to promote EOA at the end of each year. At least 20 extension workers trained on how to access and disseminate information on EOA each year.
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and reporting went on smoothly without major challenges.

Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A national data base of 50 actors (producers, processors, traders, consumer, regulators) in the organic commodity value chains developed ✓ 3 selling networks of EAO products are supported through capacity building of 5 of their members (managers and sale's persons) <p>(Annex 55 Senegal Guide_Commercialisation_AA2017_VF)</p>
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 15 stakeholders were trained in entrepreneurships and development of business plans ✓ Actors of 4 value chains (32 persons) were supported for exchange visits for training and exposure
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 75 managers of local markets were trained ✓ 10 Master Trainers including women and youth were trained on value chain development with 7 training others. <p>(Annex 56: Outils de collecte des données pour le Système d)</p>
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and reporting went on smoothly without major challenges.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Due to sensitization strategies being applied, 22,000 have farmers have joined the EOA network and farmers are practicing EAO within the country. ✓ A national data base and directory of national members of the platform was developed. More than 100 organizations are already in the repertoire
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FENAB organized two workshops for strengthening its capacity and PIPs in project coordination and implementation.

5.9 MALI

In Mali, implementation in 2017 started off well and as planned with the following Pillar Implementing Partners taking lead:

- 1) Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) as the CLO
- 2) Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER) to take lead in Pillar 1 implementation
- 3) Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de recherche Appliquée to take lead in Pillar 2 implementation
- 4) REMATRAC-BIO to take lead in Pillar 3 implementation

All activities planned for the year 2017, despite the delay in the first quarter, have been achieved to the satisfaction and unwavering involvement of all stakeholders. From 44% implementation rate in Q1 2017, the rate posted at the end of the reporting period was at 100%. This denotes the work that pillars did to achieve this result. The figures, the interviews, the reports, the photos available in each activity report are some testimonies of the actors who participated in activities.

Key Highlights.

- ✓ The EOA database on organic and ecological agriculture is also available.
- ✓ Access to market information and data on EOA products, capacity building in the development of organic value chains, capacity building to support the quality of collective marketing of organic products national, regional or export markets are the results of activists and strategies to ensure the institutionalization

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In depth assessment to document available EOA research has been ongoing having commenced in 2017 ✓ A national data base of research into use was created under Microsoft Access for the capitalization of all information on organic and ecological agriculture at the research level. This database is functional in electronic version
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	

Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A big awareness of EOA was done by IPR. It brought together various stakeholders but its main aim was to create awareness on EOA to IPR students and attracted a gathering of 200 participants. The publicity created a lot of interest among the students and the community around IPR with many phone calls and enquiries about EOA being made. The County Governor of the area attended. The event was covered by about eleven (11) media houses Bamako, Koulikoro and ORTM of Koulikoro. ✓ The conference attracted Directo General of IPR and the Secretary General, heads of departments, professors, representatives of pillars 3 (REMATRAC bio), external personalities. The President of the AOPP, the Honorable Tiassé Coulibaly Member of Parliament honored his presence and sponsored the ceremony.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National data base of organic actors was updated. They have 2,656 actors engaged in ecological and biological agriculture, mostly located in the Malian territory. These data refer to farmers' organizations, agricultural enterprises, processing products, commercial enterprises, state technical services, service providers, microfinance institutions, the press and training institutions. ✓ Various forums were attended for exposure purposes and linking with relevant networks like the Africa-France Summit an exhibition fair to promote Malian craftsmen.
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mapping of organic products has been done and data is available. Mapping available with all the actors of the Ecological and Biological Agriculture in Mali for the year 2017. (Cartography AEB-Mali 2017) ✓ Farmers were trained on dying their organic cotton materials as a way to improve their value chain development. ✓ An exchange visit between the AEB-Mali market gardeners at Perimeter Samanko market gardener. This visit brought together the market

	<p>gardeners of the Koulikoro region (Kolebougou, Tadiana, Kanabougou and Djoliba) and the FENABE of Bougouni.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An exchange exposure visit took place all day on at the Maraîcher perimeter of Samanko and was attended by 12 maraichers from: kolebougou, Tadiana, Kanabougou, Djoliba, FENABE of Bougouni and Samanko, with 2 people per locality.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
<p>Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A meeting of the pillars with the CLO is held to define the procedures relating to the operation of the CLO and the pillars for the harmonization of the operating principles within the 4 pillars: the debate focused on: (- Members traveling on mission in the framework of AEB activities in Mali, - Accommodation, -Per diem, embers traveling on mission among other organizational procedures. ✓ Long term goals and objectives of the National platform were developed to act as a guidance n national platform operations and roles of the National Steering Committee. ✓ Participation in regional for a way through the participation of the CLO through the transformers at the exhibition fair at the Africa France Summit. A dozen women were invited with organic products (Fish from the technique of black soil, organic market gardening on irrigated board from the drainage of the bins above ground. The high-level personalities present at the summit were invited to visit the stands.
<p>Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.</p>	

6. REGIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING OF EOA AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4 : Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains

Output 4.4. Fully functional Regional platforms with Steering Committees established

Ecological Organic Agriculture mainstreaming at the regional level continued to grow during the reporting period. EOA support under SDC is currently on two regional clusters of Eastern Africa and West Africa. In East Africa countries involved are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia while in West Africa countries under SDC support are Mali, Nigeria, Benin and Senegal.

The regional clusters have well established Regional Steering Committee (RSC's) chaired by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of ECOWAS and East African Community. Th RECs are key in integration of EOA in regional and national policy and programs. Co-chairing is offered by OBEPAB in West Africa and by Prof. Charles Ssekya of UgoCert in Eastern Africa. The Regional Steering Committee's continued to be strengthened during the implementation period.

6.1 West Africa Regional Platform

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) joined EOA platform in an active capacity by appointing a representative Mr. Ernest Aube. He joins the EOA platform to represent ECOWAS in the CSC meetings and to chair the West Africa Cluster meetings. Mr. Ernest Aube came with good news too that Regional body has earmarked the sum of €8M for the development of Ecological Organic Agriculture in five francophone member states namely: Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo and Burkina Faso. Furthermore, ECOWAS has directed the fifteen-member states in the sub-region to factor in organic agriculture into their future plans, partner with relevant bodies in the continent and invest in agriculture budget of their states.

The entry of ECOWAS is key in the raising the visibility of EOA at the regional level especially in integration of EOA in regional and national policy and programs as well as funds mobilization.

Establishment of West Africa Regional Secretariat in Nigeria was another key milestone during the reporting period. The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria will host the secretariat for a period of 2 years. Their key mandate is to coordinate and support the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) EOA activities. The RSC main mandate is to mobilize for mainstreaming of EOA at the regional level by engaging with regional bodies like ECOWAS and also undertake strategic resource mobilization initiatives for the initiative. With the secretariat in place, the RSC activities will be supported in a more strategic coordinated manner.

The 4th West Africa Organic conference (WAOC) took place in Mali. The conference was held in Bamako Mali from 5th to 7th Dec 2017 and was attended by approximately 140 participants.

The main aim of the conference was to discuss and forge way forward on institutionalization of EOA in West Africa- Opportunity for niche creation of employment and investment. During the conference Ghana was selected as the next host of 5th WAOC. The resolution passed by the conference delegates was that ‘ the institutionalization of ecological and biological agriculture must take into account the complexity of the ecological, economic, political and socio-cultural context of the African continent and the West African region in particular, and integrate into a holistic, inclusive integrating the diversity of categories of stakeholders’, this in recognition of the various challenges and gaps in organic sector (research, documentation, marketing and policies) **(Annex 57 Quatrième Conférence Ouest Africaine de l’Agriculture Ecologique et Biologique)**

The West Africa cluster members held a side meeting during the 4th WAOC in which CLO and PIPs shared project updates, shared experiences and developed the Regional West Africa Work Plan and budgets in a participatory manner. The development of the Regional Work Plan was key in setting the pace for EOA mainstreaming at the regional level for the year 2018. During the meeting, Regional members also agreed to move hosting of the secretariat from OBEPAB in Benin to NOAN in Nigeria

6.2 Eastern Africa Regional Platform

The EOAI Eastern Africa Cluster has its secretariat hosted under Pelum Kenya. The secretariat is charged with supporting the implementation of activities of the Regional Steering Committee members.

During the reporting period, activity implementation was recorded at a rate of 90%.

Visit to EAC - In efforts to bring EAC on board in a more active and accountable role, strategic visit was made by a section of the members of the Regional Steering Committee (Prof. Charles Ssekyewa, Dr. David Amudavi and Mr. Zachary Makanya) to the East Africa Community on 3rd July 2017 at the EAC headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania. The EAC was represented by the Deputy Secretary General productive and Social Science, Director productive sector, Principal Agriculture Economist and Agricultural Programme Specialist. The objective of the meeting was to initiate contact with EAC as well as lobby for policies in favor of organic agriculture in the region. The visit and linkages created led to awareness creation of EOA among EAC key senior staff members who pledged to support the initiative. After the in-depth discussions, EOAI delegation made the following requests to EAC:

1. The EAC to occupy and play its rightful role as the Chair of the EOAI RESC
2. The EAC to be a member of EOAI Continental Steering Committee Chaired by the AU
3. The EAC to participate in future events and forums organized and rolled out by EOAI.

This contributed to the availability and support of EAC in nominating a representative to attend BIOFACH 2018 a move anticipated to bear more fruits in mainstreaming of EOA policies at the regional level as well as resource mobilization and support by EAC at the regional level.

Trainings on EOA: of the key role of the Regional Platforms is to support its regional members to attend trainings on EOA and other related courses that can enrich and enhance their capacity to deliver in various activities that boost presence of EOA at the regional and national levels. During the reporting period, 40 students from the region supported partially to attend an

International Training Course on Organic Agriculture (ITCOA) learning and exposure on organic agriculture that took place in Kampala from July 16th to 5th August 2017. The students were from (UoN- 10 students, Makerere Uni.- 10 students, Uganda Martyrs- 11 students, Sokoine Uni- 10 students, Bahir Dar- 2 students.

Following the exposure and learning visit, 14 students have been able to set up their own enterprises such as Apiary, hibiscus, poultry while Eight (8) students have also been employed by organic farms / firms in various capacities.

Eastern Africa Organic Directory: the directory developed in 2016 covering six Eastern Africa Countries namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi continued to be updated with entry of new actors and documented with 1500 copies printed and shared with the respective partners. Printed copies were sent to the region via courier services to the partners in the region. The directory serves as a regional networking for EOA stakeholders in the region because it contains updated contacts (email and phone number) that the actors can use to link with each other and thus it has greatly contributed to the networking of EOA in the region.

Sharing and creation of Linkages: An exchange meeting was organized by Pelum Kenya and hosted by Pelum Uganda on 31st August to 1st Sept 2017 in Kampala Uganda. The meeting brought together country representatives to share experiences and lessons on EOA. During the exchange workshop, 16 Success stories from Pillars, 1,2,3 and 4 Representatives were shared, scrutinized, reviewed and comments for improvement shared by the participants for improvements in order to ensure messages shared as success stories are clear in passing the message and thus would serve an important purpose in selling the EOA agenda especially with policy makers.

Creating linkages with non EOA supported partners in the region: Rwanda and Burundi partners were represented by representatives from Burundi Organic Agriculture Movement (BOAM) and Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) during the exchange sharing workshop in Kampala, Uganda. They shared about progress made in incorporating the two countries in engaging in Ecological Organic Agriculture.

Progress made by BOAM included; Developing a BOAM Strategic Plan 2017-2019; • Conducting meetings with policy makers (Members Parliament, Government) on EOA; Increasing public awareness ; Organic production and value addition for some products (pineapple, sunflower, soy beans, cassava, fruits and vegetables): juices, wines, soy beans milk and food, cassava flour, dried F&V (in progress); Production of neem tree plants for natural pests and diseases control; Market linkage between producers and buyers; Collaboration with other NOAMs (meetings & visits).

Progress made by ROAM included; Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) that had been championed by ROAM. Such efforts had led to acquisition of PGS crops such as Bisate potatoes, Kinigi Garlic, tree Musanze-tomatoes, Musanze-Avocado, Horana imbuto Nyamagabe, Nyagakecuru's coffee, urutoki Gisagara, kamara (in creation), Mbyo fruits, Juru fruits, and Mwogo

7. STATUS OF AFRONET PERFORMANCE

The African Organic Network (AfrONet) a continental entity works alongside other organisations in EAOI implementation. The collaboration under the initiatives gives an opportunity for a wider intervention to ensure EOA is reached to all the corners of the implementing countries and beyond to the rest of Africa. Through this, it will benefit the initiative in terms of project visibility for the initiative and enhanced capacity in contributing to timely attainment and realization of the overall goal shall be achieved.

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4 : Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains

Output 4.6. Fully functional continental umbrella (AFRONET) with relevant institutional structures (e.g. Board of Governance, Secretariat and Programme Units) established.

Since inception of SDC supported project in 2014, AfrONet continues to be supported to continue establishing relevant institutional structures for its operationalization. Under SDC support, the secretariat has 3 staff, 2 under Communications unit and 1 staff Administrator. The established institutional structures especially with staff have continued to support AfrONet. In its bid to bring together organic sector private actors especially outreach efforts to North and Southern Africa. AfrONet has currently a wide outreach in Eastern and Western Africa countries.

Key Progress Highlights

Strengthening of NOARA chapters: Advocating and Strengthening of research component among organic actors in collaboration with research institutions and universities has been effectively done by visiting research station in Morogoro which is government owned and discussions on possible research collaborations were discussed. The research station is willing to partner with private sector to increase research and conduct research on organic agriculture. One NOARA chapter was formed in Uganda and 3 members of NOARA secretariat were facilitated and attend a research meeting organized in the island of Kalangala, Uganda in December 2017.

4th West African Organic Conference: AfrONet board and secretariat participated at the West African Organic Conference held in Bamako, Mali from 5th to 6th December 2017 where they supported the event and organizing the conference through fundraising by sourcing for partners/donors to support the conference as well as enhancing the visibility of EOA through awareness creation of the conference

Participation to CSC meetings: AfrONet as member of CSC participated in the 2 continental steering committees in 2017 (May and December) with the first in Cameroon in the month of May and the second CSC took place in Bamako, Mali December 2017. The CSC meeting was

attended by coordinators of EOA-Initiatives implemented project, where members' discussions focused on project progress, challenges and solutions to hindrances to effective implementation.

Organic World Congress (OWC) in India: Discussions revolved around Africa's potential and linkages. The Organic world congress was an avenue that AfrONet utilized to **engage with other organic actors across Africa to discuss successes, challenges and opportunities organic agriculture have to improve it and engage with buyers and other stakeholders from other parts outside Africa.** This brought together African organic to a round table and discuss about organic farming in Africa. So far during the OWC, Africa was united from North Africa, West Africa, East Africa and southern Africa

5 years strategic plan (2017-2022) for AfrONet: Capacity building of some board members and AfrONet secretariat in developing of 5 years strategic plan (2017-2022) for AfrONet. This training conducted by AHA led to useful information that was generated for the development of the strategic plan. The strategic plan was finally developed, printed and many stakeholders have received them. The strategic plan booklets were distributed to NOAMs that attended West Africa Conference and CSC, OWC in India, while the rest have been distributed to stakeholders and development partners.

A policy symposium on organic agriculture in Arusha: In the month of June 2017 (1st and 2nd), AfrONet with support from Donors and development partners held a policy symposium on organic agriculture in Arusha that was attended by many stakeholders in organic sector ranging from Governments, development organizations, hospitality industry and farmers. The symposium was a success as milestone was reached towards organic agriculture in East Africa. Among the participants supported to attend and contributed towards the symposium were board members, east African legislators, government technical officials and researchers from both educational institutions like universities and research bodies in East Africa. During the organic policy symposium, a survey analysis of organic policies in East Africa was presented by AfrONet team, which led to group discussion that **led to development of action plans.** After the policy symposium, **a report was developed with actions and shared to all members who attended the conference.**

8. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS UNDER EOA-I

Dr. David Amudavi the Executive Director of BvAT **and Dr. Hans Herren** the President of Biovision Foundation joined IFOAM-OI World Board.

- On 12th of November 2017, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) General Assembly in India elected a new World Board for the tenure 2017 to 2020. Their joining the IFOAM Board will spearhead EOA agenda at the global level.

Organic World Congress (OWC) in India: Discussions revolved around Africa's potential and linkages. The Organic world congress was an avenue that Biovision Africa Trust utilized to **engage with other organic actors across Africa to discuss successes, challenges and opportunities organic agriculture have to improve it and engage with buyers and other stakeholders from other parts outside Africa.** This brought together African organic to a round table and discuss about organic farming in Africa. So far during the OWC, Africa was united from North Africa, West Africa, East Africa and southern Africa

9. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD

9.1 CHALLENGES

- ✓ Partners' inability to utilize funds at their disposal at the required burn rate of 75%. This challenges the notion that the partners are prepared to drive the agenda of EOA. Moreover, it doesn't augur well for efforts in fundraising.
- ✓ Lack of funds to support key activities like those of CSC meetings, travel budgets to undertake monitoring visits and key capacity building trainings. The commitments are huge but resources tight.
- ✓ Withdrawal of support of key EOA partners like EOA Tanzania partners and recently NOGAMU by one of EOA key donors (SSNC). This has been attributed to partners' failure to comply with transparency and contractual agreements. The situation presents a big challenge and frames negative perception of some of the key actors of the organic movement in the region.
- ✓ Most partners currently do not undertake Organizational annual audits. This complicates the ability to ascertain their financial management credibility. This as well doesn't provide the organizations with opportunity to learn from audit recommendations.
- ✓ Closure of Universities has greatly affected project implementation in 2017 under pillar 1 especially in Kenya, Mali and Uganda.
- ✓ Organizational instabilities and uncertainties: closure of PANOS Ethiopia and lack of commitment by ISD to source and bring on board a credible organization continues to be a challenge.
- ✓ The roles of National Steering Committee's (NSC) have not been taken seriously. A case of Ethiopia where NSC has not been taking lead on offering oversight on EOA implementation at the National level
- ✓ Support of EOA-I by RECs (EAC&ECOWAS) has not fully been realized. The engagements are still at nascent stages.

9.2 OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Country Lead Organisations need to take lead in coordination and monitoring activity implementation by Pillar Implementing Partners especially in proper use and accountability of project funds and Pillar Synergies.
- ✓ Country Lead Organisations need to work closely with EOA National Steering Committees and National Platforms to ensure EOA is nationalised. The current worry is that EOA has not been nationalised as it was envisaged with some CLOs not fully engaging the National Platforms.
- ✓ Partners at country level need to have joint planning meetings where they can plan and ensure that pillar activities feed into each other. This should be undertaken to ensure

that strong linkage and synergies between CLOs and PIPs are formalized. The current situation shows that some partners appear to operate oblivious of what the rest are doing.

- ✓ More resources need to be mobilized especially at the National level by National partners and National Steering committees to strengthen the Country Lead organizations and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs).

9.3 LESSONS LEARNT FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ Stability and success of EOA will be determined by functional and committed partners, with strong governance & management systems, and adequate human capacity.
- ✓ Different countries are different levels of have partner collaboration, needs and capabilities and hence a well-thought-out strategy of collaboration and engagement should be pursued.
- ✓ Resources are needed for developing and scaling up the initiative at country level and to majority of small-scale farmers in Africa.
- ✓ To move forward boldly, we must continue to influence policies, strategies and actions towards sustainable ecological agriculture programmes contributing to food security, incomes and improved welfare of communities.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT (ANNEX 77)

PROJECT TITLE:	EOA- SDC				
Project Number SDC:	81019446				
Project Number Partner Organisation:	B4238G				
Project Period:		1st January 2014 - 31st December 2018			
Current Reporting Period:		1st January 2017 - 31st December 2017			
Reporting Currency:	USD				
Donor:		Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)			
		BUDGET		ACTUAL	VARIANCE
		Jan 2017 - Dec 2017		Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017
INCOME					

	Balance B/F (Cash Held by BvAT)	456,588.07		456,588.07	-
	Balance B/F (Funds Held Partner Balances)	539,865.25		539,865.25	-
	Income for the Period	992,914.86		1,219,763.61	(226,848.75)
	Mid Term Review	-		-	-
	Interest Income	-		811.28	(811.28)
	TOTAL INCOME	1,989,368.18		2,217,028.21	(227,660.03)
	1. Personnel				
	1.1 Coordinator	36,073.26		34,139.34	1,933.92
	1.2 Project Manager	61,840.42		43,722.39	18,118.03
	1.3 Project Accountant	30,919.58		23,821.19	7,098.39

	Subtotal	128,833.26		101,682.92	27,150.34
	2. Travels				
	2.1 International Travel	26,271.58		26,234.53	37.05
	2.2 Local Travel	2,000.00		1,339.21	660.79
	Subtotal	28,271.58		27,573.74	697.84
	3. General Investment/Equipment				
	3.1 Office Equipments	2,000.00		680.00	1,320.00
	Subtotal	2,000.00		680.00	1,320.00
	4. Country Lead Organization				
	4.1 Kenya KOAN	189,230.24		117,463.19	71,767.05
	4.2 Uganda- NOGAMU	152,830.01		110,525.35	42,304.66
	4.3 Tanzana- KOAN			131,394.97	21,703.13

		153,098.10			
	4.4 Ethopia- ISD	160,438.92		41,395.99	119,042.93
	4.5 Nigeria- NOAN	192,386.08		157,210.14	35,175.94
	4.6 Senegal- FENAB	125,644.28		107,180.67	18,463.61
	4.7 Benin- OBEPAB	84,661.56		96,733.73	(12,072.17)
	4.8 Mali-AOPP	153,852.64		141,177.94	12,674.70
	4.9 BvAT IC Pillar	34,875.80		35,103.21	(227.40)
	Subtotal	1,247,017.63		938,185.19	308,832.44
	5.Support and Cementing				
	5.1 Central Steering Committee	31,578.95		27,866.56	3,712.39
	5.2 Afronet	28,876.32		30,549.77	(1,673.45)
	5.3 Executing Agency Support Function			51,875.45	(8,307.22)

		43,568.24			
	5.4 EOA Regional Cluster-West	77,812.98		37,224.12	40,588.86
	5.5 EOA Regional Cluster-East	88,920.86		68,892.07	20,028.79
	5.6 EOA Secretariat	65,637.59		42,659.62	22,977.96
	5.7 Capacity Assesment	70,000.00		68,350.57	1,649.43
	5.8 Mali-Funds (2014-2015)	154,481.10		51,948.69	102,532.41
	Subtotal	560,876.03		379,366.86	181,509.17
	Total Direct Cost 1	1,966,998.50		1,447,488.70	519,509.80
	6. Other Costs				
	6.1 Auditing Cost	21,226.53		17,263.00	3,963.53
	Subtotal	21,226.53		17,263.00	3,963.53
	Total Direct Cost 2			1,464,751.70	523,473.32

		1,988,225.03			
	7. Overheads				
	7.1 Institution Cost (Bvat)	1,143.16		1,143.16	-
	Subtotal	1,143.16		1,143.16	-
	Total Including Overheads	1,989,368.18		1,465,894.86	523,473.32
	Excess of Expenditure over Income			751,133.35	