

Launch of the Kenya National Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Platform



Workshop Report

Held on 3rd April 2014

**At ICIPE Thomas Odhiambo Conference Hall, Duduville Campus
Kasarani, Nairobi**

With generous support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, (SDC) through Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), the Project Executing Agency

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List of Abbreviations

BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CLO	Country Lead Organization
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
EOAI	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
KIOF	Kenya Institute of Organic Farming
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
KNEOAP	Kenya National Ecological Organic Agriculture Platform
NPSC	National Platform Steering Committee
PIPs	Project Implementing Partners
SACDEP	Sustainable Agriculture and Community Development Programme
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Background of the Workshop

Worldwide, there is a lot of interest in organic agriculture as a sustainable form of agriculture. In Africa, the sector has received recognition and support from governments, the recent being endorsement of the Decision EX.CL/Dec.621(XVII), where African Heads of State agreed to support Organic Farming in 2010, thereby giving rise to the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA).

Towards this end, funding has been secured from SSNC and SDC to implement EOA activities in 8 African countries to support amongst other activities the establishment of National Platforms that will bring national actors together and be responsible for overseeing implementation of EOA activities at National level; follow up on the integration of EOA in government national policies, plans and strategies, creating links and partnerships among stakeholders; coordinating EOA activities including creating awareness and building a critical mass/voice on EOA.

In Kenya an interim steering committee, composed of Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), Pelum Kenya and Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP) was formed to fast track the process. In this regard, the committee identified key stakeholders from EOA actors in Kenya and organized a one day consultative workshop to deliberate and establish a Kenya EOA National Platform. The workshop had three objectives:

1.2 Objectives of the workshop

- 1) Create awareness of EAO Initiative among a larger stakeholder audience and introduce the project of mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into national policies, strategies and plans 2014-2018.
- 2) Create a national organic agriculture platform including structure and representation.
- 3) Identification and selection/endorsement of potential partners/stakeholders to be involved in the roll-out of EOA.

1.3 Expected Outputs

- 1) Increased awareness about Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI).
- 2) Establishment of the Kenya National EOA Platform.
- 3) Selection/endorsement of Country Lead Organization (CLO) and Pillar/Project Implementing Partners (PIPs), in the roll-out of the EOAI.
- 4) A National Platform Steering Committee (NPSC) and a strategy of ensuring synergies across from grassroots to national level.

1.4 Methodology

This was a one-day meeting (see Annex I for the forum programme). Adequate preparations were put into planning for the workshop. A total of four meetings under the chairmanship of KOAN National Coordinator were held in ICIPE to plan for the event.

Participants were drawn from key institutions and stakeholders of the organic agriculture sector in Kenya, (see Annex II) for fair representation. Over 50 participants attended the meeting. Participatory, rigorous and interactive methods were used to engage with participants during the meeting.

Presentations were made to inform participants on the EOAI pilot phase, results and lessons learnt. Another presentation was made on the EOA roll out phase, plans and expected outputs.

Participants were taken through the roles of the Country Lead Organization (CLO), Pillar Implementing Partners, (PIPs) and those of National Platform Steering committee. Guidelines were proposed on considerations to use in selecting the CLO and the PIP. Based on the expected roles and capacity of the organizations to deliver, the participants were requested to nominate possible organizations that are widely reputable and competent enough to take on those responsibilities. For each type of organization nominated organizations were further scrutinized in the plenary including being asked to briefly indicate what they do and experience in the areas nominated for. A secret ballot voting method was used to determine the final nominee by simple majority. This session was facilitated by Dr. David Amudavi of Biovision Africa Trust.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Self Introduction and Climate Setting by Ms. Wanjiru Kamau

The meeting officially kicked off at 9.37 a.m. with welcome remarks and introductions by Ms. Wanjiru Kamau, the KOAN Lobbying and Advocacy Manager and a prayer, from a participant, Ms. Regina Muthama.

Ms. Kamau asked participants to introduce themselves, by first knowing their neighbours (names, organizations, what they do and positions in the organizations) and later introducing their neighbour to the plenary. The exercise was quite interactive and helped develop a warm environment for the meeting.

2.2 Opening Remarks by Mr. Eustace Kiarrii - KOAN

Mr. Eustace Kiarrii, the National Coordinator of KOAN welcomed participants and made brief introductory remarks aimed at creating a common understanding of the workshop. He introduced the background, purpose and the expected outputs of the meeting. He introduced the programme and urged participants to contribute fully and enhance their commitments in driving the organic agriculture agenda in Kenya.

He gave a brief on how the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) supported the pilot phase in six countries among them Kenya. In the pilot, Biovision Africa Trust and Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) in Ethiopia led in the implementation of the Research, Training and Extension pillar (and SACDEP implemented the Training and Extension activities in Kenya) while BvAT was fully responsible for the implementation of the Information and Communication Pillar, and the Policy and Programme Development Pillar under pilot in Western Africa in the Francophone countries (Mali, Benin and Senegal). KOAN led the implementation of the Value Chain Development pillar and the Networking and Partnerships Pillar in Kenya.

Mr. Kiarrii noted that SSNC had committed funding for the rolling out of the initiative in four countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia). In Kenya, the same organizations will spearhead the rolling out of the pillars with SSNC support. In addition, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) has committed to support the initiative in 8 countries but requires that stakeholders establish a National Platform; nominate the Country Lead Organization (CLO); Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) and the Steering Committee (SC) in all the 8 countries before beginning to roll out the initiative. The purpose therefore for the meeting was to ensure Kenya meets these requirements and get nominees selected.

Mr. Kiarrii expressed his delight for the meeting as it had all organic stakeholders represented. He thanked the participants for coming and wished them good luck during the deliberations.

2.3 Perspectives from ICIPE by Mr. Willis Awori

Official welcome remarks were made by Mr. Willis Awori, the Human Resource Manager, on behalf of the ICIPE Director General, Dr. Segenet Kelemu who was on a mission out of the country. Mr. Awori welcomed all participants to ICIPE and asked everyone to feel welcomed and free. He underscored the work of KOAN in promoting organic farming which resonates well with the work of ICIPE in terms of its four core areas: Plant Health; Animal

3. PRESENTATIONS BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS

3.1 Farmer Organization Representative: Mr. Michael Ruchu

Mr Ruchu was delighted to represent the farmer organizations and it was a great deal being a farmer. Being a farmer, they face many challenges among them:

- a) Periodic drought
- b) Organic Pesticides - they do not have pesticides to use in the field and they end up using locally produced farm materials.
- c) Organic seeds are not readily available in the market, so they use conventional seeds.

Achievements:

The farmer noted that KOAN, Pelum –Kenya and SACDEP have contributed immensely in converting farmers from conventional to organic agriculture through imparting knowledge and skills in organic agriculture and linking them to markets.



The farmer has been supplying produce to Karen – Talishman Farmers Market, US Embassy Farmers Market, Bridges Restaurant, Kalimoni Greens and UNEP. In fact he had done deliveries to Bridges Restaurant the very morning he came to the workshop.

Recommendation:

Mr. Ruchu recommended that before going to national level; the project should be rolled out to the county level.

3.2 Agricultural Research Representative: Dr. Nyaramba

Dr. Jennifer Njaramba, an economist from Kenyatta University, studied organic Agriculture for her PhD. She shared her experience in gathering information on organic agriculture in Kenya which she confessed was very difficult to get. She attended two-week training at KIOF. She acknowledged KOAN and KIOF for providing support to undertake her postgraduate research work. She noted that a lot of development was happening in organic agriculture worldwide and it is high time Kenya embraced the same. Dr. Njaramba noted that there was gap between consumption and production and a lot of consumer awareness was required.

Dr. Njaramba challenged researchers to develop mechanisms of capturing data that would help scientists to analyse and advice on organic agriculture development. She also noted that the



government is not very supportive of organic agriculture because there are limited scientific studies done in Kenya to support its benefits. More research is therefore required in order to inform policy.

On the role of stakeholders on the growth of organic farming in Kenya, Dr. Jennifer Njaramba noted the work of various stakeholders represented in the forum but advised that such efforts need to be well coordinated and replicated including having more knowledgeable extension workers on Organic agriculture. Farmers are aware that the soils are fast being depleted but many do not know how to revive the soils using organic methods. She emphasized on the need to connect producers and consumers particularly on the consumer awareness.

3.3 Private Sector Representative: Ms. Ann Mbugua

Ann is the proprietor of Bridges Organic Health Restaurant in the City of Nairobi. The Organic Health Restaurant was started in 2005 because of her concern about growing cases of lifestyle diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure among others in our society. She comes from a family with diabetic relatives and she was motivated to provide solutions through an organic health restaurant to educate people on health lifestyles.

Organic Health is a choice people should make and awareness on health and benefits of organic is critical. People are dying and the government should support organic agriculture and healthy lifestyles through which it can save on hospital bills.

Key challenges in operating an organic health restaurant include:

- Farmers' inability to supply consistently in terms of quality and quantities.
- Credibility of supplies – do they conform to organic standards; farmers not renewing their certification.
- Consumer awareness which is still very low.
- Credible studies linking health and food; dangers of certain foods including chemical residues.

3.4 Medical Perspective: Dr. Peter Mokaya

From a medical doctor's perspective, Dr. Mokaya observed that sitting too much is a worse factor for creating a heart disease. Health is a concern of everybody and making the right choices can guarantee healthy living. The future is organic production and consumption. However, in Kenya organic consumption is not as pronounced as in developed countries mainly due to:

- Consumers are not aware of the benefits of organic produce and where to buy them.
- Very few organic food outlets in Nairobi, leading to shortages in supply.
- Organic food is more expensive than conventional food. It is not just a perception but personal experience.
- Very few residents of Nairobi link consuming Organic foods to health benefits.
- Limited availability of information on health benefits of organic consumption and where to find such information.

Dr. Mokaya advised that if we all adopt organic food we will avoid 50% of all world lifestyle diseases. The key message is to engage all stakeholders, including consumers, government and share all information so that the farmers/producers will produce more. Dr. Mokaya is spearheading Organic Consumer Alliance (OCA) that will bring together stakeholders to address the aforementioned concerns.

3.5 Key Address from the Ministry of Agriculture: Mr. Peter Mwangi

Mr. Mwangi gave a background of his experience during a visit to India in July 2013 to December 2013. He noted that India relied on agriculture to feed about 1.8 billion people. On his visit to Canatia State, he noted how farmers used integrated farming systems, where for example, one farm plot could produce adequate food, engage in zero grazing and produce manure for other farmers, have fish ponds, and produce from the farm also feed fish.

Born in Kiambu, he also noted that historically, he used to see potatoes and beans very green. He also used to make frequent visits to KIOF and see how fodder and manure were being made and learnt some organic technologies that he uses on his farm.

The Ministry of Agriculture deals in food security. Mr. Mwangi observed that what has happened in the country over the last 25 years is that farmers cannot feed the population and also animals. Kenya uses a lot of pesticides and fertilizers (237 metric tons per year) that are all imported. Kenya only produces 27 million bags of maize whereas 45 million bags are needed to feed Kenya. Organic agriculture provides hope for the country in terms of reviving the soils, increasing organic matter for increased carbon sequestration and increased production.

The Ministry of Agriculture supports organic agriculture and has developed a draft organic policy which will guide organic development in Kenya. Soon, the policy will be publicized and stakeholders will be requested to input to the policy draft. It is the intention of the Ministry to develop a policy that will address stakeholders' concerns and facilitate development of organic agriculture in Kenya. It is also the intention of the Ministry to set up Centres of Excellence in the former Agriculture Training Centres (ATCs), where organic agriculture should be a key component. He urged stakeholders to work together to develop the organic industry in Kenya.

3.6 The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative and Lessons Learnt from the Pilot By: Ms. Venancia Wambua

Ms. Venancia Wambua took participants through a presentation, which highlighted an overview of the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative and lessons learnt from a pilot project in Kenya.

The presentation focused on the brief background of the initiative, partners, objectives, activities, results, priorities areas, challenges and lessons learnt. In particular, the presentation provided the following highlights:

- The EOA Pilot Phase Project was developed as a practical response to African Union (AU)'s Heads of States decision EX.CL/631 (XVIII) of 2011 whose major aim is to mainstream organic farming in Africa's national production systems by the year 2025 in order to ensure food security.

- The pilot phase was supported by the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation (SSNC).
- The pilot covered six countries, namely; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Nigeria.
- The project was initially designed to be implemented through six thematic areas/pillars; but it was eventually implemented through five pillars.
- EOA Pilot Phase commenced in January 2012 and ended in December 2012.
- Baseline studies conducted in Mali, Senegal and Benin with SDC Support.

3.7 Project Goal, Objectives, Pillars

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

The SDC supported project is anchored under the following four pillars:

- Research training and extension;
- Information and communication;
- Value chain and market development;
- Coordination and Management of EOA in Africa.

3.8 Key Issues

- EOA initiatives are dynamic and that we have increasing number of actors getting involved.
- Policy support is still a missing link in the development process of EOA.
- The public awareness about the necessity of developing EOA is actually higher now than before thus policy makers will be obliged to have more attention to EOA.
- In West Africa, organic agriculture has gradually taken shape in many countries; in fact, Benin, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali, and Ghana are positioned on organic labels and organic fair-trade.

3.9 Project Challenges

A number of challenges were identified. Key challenges include:

- Women farmers in the pilot areas have strong attachment to conventional agriculture and were reluctant to adopt EOA

- Difficult to find large scale farmers practicing EOA to be involved in exchange visits in the pilot areas.
- Inadequate manpower to train on EOA.
- Limited government support to the initiative (at country level) - lack of appropriate policies and backing to EOA;
- Coordination within- and between countries (Non-responsive partners);
- Limited access to EOA information from partners (Lack of information sharing among partners).

Lessons Learnt

- Effective partnership and networking are key to the realization of sustainable development. These ensure synergy and efficiency in resource use.
- Farmers will always support initiatives or adopt technologies as long as there is evidence that they can derive some benefit from the same. There has been an increase in the visitation of the resource centres by farmers and demand for more resource centres with increase in benefits flow from the centres.
- Recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge in the initiatives is necessary for effective adoption and enhanced sustainable development.

Opportunities Leading 2014-2018

- Lessons learnt from the pilot present an opportunity for better project implementation.
- SDC will be supporting EOA in 8 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia in Eastern Africa and Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Benin in West Africa (2014 – 2018).
- SSNC currently supporting roll-out in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia (2013 – 2015).
- In West Africa the baseline studies will inform the basis for decisions for rolling up.

3.10 Presentation to Create Awareness on EOAI and Share Results of the Pilot and Plans for the Next Phase of the Initiative by Zachary Makanya – Pelum Kenya

Mr. Makanya the Country Coordinator of Pelum Kenya presented the background of the EOAI, in terms of the target beneficiaries and the history of its development. The idea was to inform participants the journey of EOAI including how the pilot was implemented. Below are the highlights of his presentation.

Target Beneficiaries of EOA Initiative

Small scale farmers dominate agriculture production in Africa. These farmers practice diversified crop production systems and not specialized mono cropping. Chemical use is extremely low because they cannot afford high input agriculture and mechanization is nearly non-existent. All development efforts in Africa are out mainly to improve on the livelihood security of this target group (small scale farmers) and hence they are the ultimate beneficiaries of the EOA Initiative.

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

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

- Provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform
- Provide guidance in the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;
- Called upon development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this decision;
- Requested the AU Commission to keep on making regular reports on the implementation of the Decision.

Serious attempts to implement the AU heads of state decisions

One of the first serious attempts by Civil Society Organizations was the Organic Agriculture Meeting held in November 26-28, 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference was organized by ISD with support of AUC, UN FAO and SSNC.

The conference brought together over 80 participants from 15 African countries namely: Benin, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe Formed an Africa Organic Agriculture Standing Committee (2 people per country).

Although this did not take off, it is important to note that some of the participants from the 2008 Addis meeting have been very active in the EOA. Some of the individuals include Sarah Olembo (Kenya), Sue Edwards (Ethiopia), Dr. Olugbenga Adeoluwa (Nigeria), Zachary Makanya (Kenya) and Dr. Charles Ssekya (Uganda) and Karin Hook (SSNC).

The second attempt has been in response to the AU Heads Decision on Organic Farming, an inception workshop was organized for Key stakeholders/actors in Ecological organic Agriculture.

The workshop was organized by PELUM-Kenya and African Union Commission and with financial support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) in May 2-3, 2011 in Thika, Kenya. The main aim was to prepare a roadmap and an initiative to implement the AU Heads of State Decision on Organic Agriculture.

Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)

EOA is a production management system that considers the agro-ecosystem in all its diversity, focusing on biological diversity, healthy use of soils, air and water and relying on renewable resources in locally organized agricultural systems while minimizing the addition of external inputs like agrochemicals and inorganic fertilizers that may have adverse effects on these systems.

EOA combines modern science, innovative practices and traditional knowledge. Examples of farming practices in EOA include Organic farming, Sustainable agriculture, Bio-intensive agriculture, Permaculture and Ecological farming.

EOA Initiative (So far)

The SSNC Support

- SSNC's mandate is supporting the EOA Initiative through CSOs and NGOs working with grassroots farmers and communities.
- PELUM-Kenya is coordinating the SSNC supported part of the initiative.
- SSNC supported a pilot EOA initiative phase in 2012; the initiative was rolled out in six countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Nigeria. This was rolled out via the pillar coordinating organizations: Biovision Africa Trust/ISD, Biovision Africa Trust, NOGAMU, TOAM and PELUM-Kenya.
- SSNC is supporting EOA Initiative phase 1 - 2013 – 2015 and this is being rolled out in four countries of East Africa (Kenya, Uganda Tanzania, and Ethiopia) and being implemented through the following Country Lead Organizations:
 - PELUM-Kenya - Kenya,
 - NOGAMU - Uganda,
 - TOAM- Tanzania and –
 - ISD- Ethiopia.
- Each Country Lead organization selected implementing partners in each country. In Kenya, the implementing partners are: KOAN, SACDEP, Biovision Africa Trust and PELUM-Kenya.

Strategy of implementation of the EOA Initiative (SSNC supported) – rolled out through six pillars:

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

The EOA Initiative - SDC supported

- Coordinated by Biovision Africa Trust.
- Supported baseline studies conducted in Mali, Senegal and Benin.
- BvAT also coordinated the baseline studies in three West African francophone countries (Senegal, Mali and Benin).
- The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) has agreed to support work in 8 countries, 4 in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia) and 4 in West Africa (Senegal, Benin, Mali and Nigeria) for 5 years, 2014-2018.
- SDC is keen at the higher level of policy making as part of its Global Program for Food Security (GPFS). This includes supporting government development processes and providing ambient and enabling environment.
- The final proposal was developed and approved and has already started.

- Set out to start with the establishment of a strong National Platform.

Strategy of implementation of the EOA Initiative (SDC supported) – rolled out through four pillars, namely:

1. Research, Training and Extension
2. Information and Communication
3. Value Chain and Market Development; and
4. Supporting and Cementing: Steering, coordination and management.

The Projected Budgets

- EOA Initiative (SSNC supported) 2013) – 2015: 13,425,000 SEK (Euro 1,342,500) (three years)
- EOA Initiative (SDC supported) 2014 – 2018: **Euro 5,333,332) (Five years)**

Lessons Learnt

- Success depends on functional partners and their commitment hence partner selection is very crucial.
- Different countries have different needs and therefore require well thought-out strategy of collaboration and engagement.
- Participatory development and adoption of documentation formats essential – e.g. monitoring, reporting.
- It is critical to understand what makes partners to cooperate, hence need to examine what makes productive partnerships and enforcement of agreements.

Recommendations

- Need serious and committed partners willing to play by the rules and regulations.
- Coordinating organizations should have authority and power to discharge their mandate and enforce contractual agreements.
- Capacity building among implementing partners should be prioritized to improve efficiency of operations.
- Measures should be put in place to step up accountability and transparency.
- The EOA should reach out to the other similar initiative for optimal collaboration and hence increased synergy and impact.
- There is need for all partners to be more passionate, more united and more collaborative.

3.11 Importance of KNEOAP Including Structure, Organizational Representation including CLO and PIPs by: Dr. David Amudavi, Director Biovision Africa Trust

Dr. Amudavi took participants through the SDC supported component and the requirements in its rolling out. In particular he clarified that in each of the 8 countries that EOAI will be rolled out with SDC support, stakeholders should establish their own National Platforms; identify a Country Lead Organization (CLO), Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs), and a National Steering Committee. Biovision Trust Africa (BvAT) will be the overall coordinator of the programme. He summarized the different roles as follows:

Role of Biovision Africa Trust

- Manage and coordinate the EOA Initiative under the SDC support contribution.
- Act on behalf of and be accountable to the Continental EOA Steering Committee and to AfroNet.
- Work closely with the organizations and structures put in place to support implementation of EOA projects on the continent – the Continental EOA Steering Committee, Regional EOA Steering Committees, National EOA Platforms and the country lead organizations (CLOs).
- Facilitate the establishment of National Platforms and the selection of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) & Project implementing partners (PIPs).
- Provide guidelines and receive reports from Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) for submission to SDC and other development partners.

Mandate of the National EOA Platforms

The mandate of the National EOA Platforms will include:

- Streamlining EOA's operations at country level.
- Rallying of partners/actors in EOA at country and continental level.
- Facilitating the sharing of achievements, lessons and experiences.
- Supporting/lobbying of policy change, investment plans, programmes, etc.
- Shaping the national Ecological organic agriculture and development agenda.
- Facilitating selection of and providing support to Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and project implementing partners.

Objectives of the National Platforms

On the basis of the above mandate, three main objectives will be undertaken by the national forums:

- Catalyse integration of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) in government policies, strategies, plans and programmes.
- Link and coordinate EOA activities at country level including sharing of information and experiences among stakeholders.
- Create awareness and increase the critical mass and voice of proponents of EOA.

3.12 Nomination/Election of CLOs, PIPs, and NPSC

After roles of the various structures/positions were spelt out, Dr Amudavi requested the stakeholders to nominate organizations that have reputation, capacity and experience to perform the roles. The nominated organizations were asked to introduce their organizations, their experience and capacity and whether they would actually take up the roles. A secret ballot voting system was used to determine the final nominee. For the Country Lead Organization, KOAN, PELUM and SACDEP were nominated. However, PELUM Kenya declined the role and supported KOAN to take up the role of CLO.

Below are the results of the voting exercise.

Country Lead Organisation (CLOs) Nominees	
1) KOAN votes	40
2) PELUM (K) votes	6
3) SACDEP (K) votes	0
Pillar Implementing Partner (PIPs)	
A. Research, Training and Extension	
1) Kenyatta University	5
2) Egerton	23
3) SACDEP	13
4) KIOF	5
B. Information and Communication	
1) ICIPE (Biovision Farmer Communication Programme)	33
2) KARI	2
3) KIOF	7
4) PELUM (K)	3
C. Value Chain and Market Development	
1) KATES ORGANICS	13
2) KARI INADES FORMATION	3
3) SACDEP (K)	10
4) ORGANIC AFRICA	2
5) KOAN	17

As such, for Kenya the following were identified:

1. The Country Lead Organization is **KOAN**
2. Research, Training and Extension Pillar Implementing Partner is **Egerton University**
3. Information and Communication Pillar Implementing Partner is **ICIPE (Biovision Farmer Communication Programme)**
4. Value Chain and Market Development Pillar Implementing Partner is **KOAN**.

The following institutions were also nominated to represent the National Steering Committee:

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE	
1) NGO/CSOs	1 PELUM (K), KIOF
2) PRIVATE SECTOR	1 KATES ORGANICS
3) RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS/POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS	1 SACDEP (K), KIPPRA
4) FARMERS ORGANISATIONS	2 REGINA MUTHAMA, PETER

	MELONYIE
5) AGRICULTURE SECTOR MINISTRIES	1 CABINET SECRETARY MoAL
6) CERTIFICATION AND REGULATORY BODIES	1 ENCERT/(NESVAX CONTROL)
7) CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS	1 OCA

Dr. Amudavi informed the meeting that BvAT will enter into contracts with all the eight CLOs after finalization of the 2014 workplans and budgets. BvAT will also provide guidelines on reporting and monitoring of progress.

4. PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

- Yash, a trader of organic produce advised that farmers should be trained on how to produce good stuff so that they can meet market requirements and make money. He also advised that there should be **less talk, less meetings and more action**. He emphasized that solutions for good seeds and good organic inputs should be found through collaboration with public and private stakeholders.
- Egerton University's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Prof. John Gowland Mwangi said that from all the presentations made, it was clear that information was critical. He also gave the participants opportunity to share their experiences, work and views on the weekly newsletter (*Seeds of Gold*) published by Egerton University and the Nation Media Group every Saturday. He also advised on the dissemination of information about how organic and healthy lifestyles can be effective tools to manage lifestyle diseases. More efforts should be made to engage county governments especially the ministries of Agriculture.
- Jack Rware asked the EOA Initiative to encourage county indigenous knowledge at the grassroots and develop mechanisms of documenting those innovations. He also proposed demarcating GMO free Zones.
- Dennis Andaye a vibrant youth from the Organic Farmers Market, emphasized on proper consumer awareness and more interactions between farmers and consumers.
- Kate of Kates Organics is happy with the EOA Initiative and she has been doing a lot of training on healthy consumer knowledge promoting EOA. She has been buying some of her products in Uganda and challenged organizations working with farmers to work together so that she can be buying from Kenyan farmers as well.
- Ferdinand Wafula – Bio Gardening Innovation (BIOGI), stressed that the role of initiative had been made clear, and the key thing now was proactive working with the government and involving all the stakeholders.
- Lilian Kanari of Kalimoni Greens, said she had been in the market for five years and they look for farmers to come and supply them. There is gap between consumer awareness and what farmers are producing. For example, Mr. Ruchu comes from outside Nairobi to Kalimoni once a week to supply 70kgs of pineapple. As such there is need to have more outlets including outside Nairobi. In order to increase her sales Lilian had to use other tactics of marketing such as basket deliveries. There is dire need to have more commercial organic farmers and more outlets.
- Margaret Kisili was concerned that the organizations to implement the initiative were the only ones represented in the meeting. She advised on the need to look out for more and more stakeholders to engage.

Dr Amudavi answered all questions by saying that he was quite positive the initiative will be rolled with all the participants being involved. Although policy was not ready, EOA will be integrated in government policy working with pillar stakeholders and the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of the Organic Agriculture Policy. They will align the study on policy and come with policy briefs. They will work with the county level and that is why

the national steering committee will be very important. It will also depend on the involvement of the stakeholders for this initiative to succeed.

It was also noted that the initiative will be successful if small holder producers benefit from the initiative. As such it was advised that it has to be taken to the grassroots and involve as many stakeholders as possible including line ministries and key government organs such as KEPHIS, KARI among others.

5. ACTION PLANNING/NEXT STEPS

- a) The Partner Implementing Partners (PIPs) to meet the following week and develop their 2014 work plans which will be consolidated by BvAT and submitted to the Continental EOA Steering Committee for approval.
- b) The steering committee will meet immediately after the work plans are approved and contract between BvAT and KOAN signed. In the first meeting the committee members will nominate Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and other officials.

Finally, Mr. Kiarri thanked everyone for nominating KOAN to be the County Lead Organization (CLO) for Kenya and congratulated the other organizations nominated as Pillar Implementing Partners.

Anne Murangiri of SACDEP gave a vote of thanks. She remarked that everyone should participate in this initiative because the future of organics keeps on growing.

The meeting ended with a word of prayer from a volunteer participant.

ANNEX I: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Launch of the Kenya National Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Platform and Rolling Out of the EOA Initiative

Workshop Programme

Objectives:

- a. Create awareness of EOA Initiative among a larger multi-stakeholder audience and introduce the project of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture (EOA) into national policies, strategies and plans 2014-2018
- b. Create a national organic agriculture platform including structure and representation
- c. Identification and selection/endorsement of potential partners/stakeholders to be involved in the roll-out of EOA.

Expected outputs:

1. Increased awareness about EOAI
2. Establishment of the Kenya National EOAI Platform
3. Selection/endorsement of country lead organization (CLO) and Pillar/Project Implementing Partners (PIPs), in the roll-out of the EOAI
4. A National Platform Steering Committee (NPSC) and a strategy of ensuring synergies across pillars from grassroots to national level.

Time	Activity	Objective	Facilitator
8.30- 9.00am	Registration		Mary/KOAN
9.00- 9.30a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Break the ice and participants to know who is the room	KOAN
9.30 – 10.00am	Opening Remarks from key Stakeholders	Perspectives from <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome Remarks by the ICIPE Director General2. Farmer Organization Representative3. Agricultural Research Representative4. Private Sector Representative	KOAN
10.00 – 10.30am	Key Note Address	Key Note Address from the Ministry of Agriculture	

		Representative	
10.30 -11.00 a.m.	HEALTH BREAK		KOAN
11.00 – 11.45a.m.	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative and Lessons Learnt from the Pilot	Create awareness on EOAI and share results of the pilot and plans for the next phase of the Initiative	Makanya/PELUM (K) Venancia Wambua, Biovision Africa Trust
11.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	Need for National Platform, National Committee and clusters	Introduce importance of KNEOAP including structure, organizational representation including CLO and PIPs	Amudavi, Biovision Africa Trust
12.30 – 1.00	Discussion		
1.0- 2.00 p.m.	Lunch		
2.00- 4.00 p.m.	Nomination/Election of, CLO, PIPs, and NPSC	Select a CLO and PIPs and establish key members of National Platform Steering Committee	Biovision Africa Trust/KOAN
4.00-4.30 p.m.	Action Planning		Pelum Kenya/KOAN
4.30 p.m.	Vote of Thanks and Departure.		

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NO	Name	Organization	Contact/Email Address
1	Regina M. Muthama	Katoloni Mission CBO	reginamuthama@yahoo.com
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23	Robert P. Wenani	DESECE	0726424161
24	Dennis Andaye	Organic Farmers Market	0727929533
25	Muchiri Hunja	Muhuri RD Organic	0720239930
26	Michael Ruchu	Ruchu Farm	0713823292
27	Pauline Mundia	BIOVISION FCP	0722313291
28	Caroline Kwamboka	BIOVISION FCP	0723804884
29	Venancia Ndo	BvAT	0721766628
30	Dr. David Amudavi	Biovison Africa Trust	0717627098
31	Doreen Rima	BvAT	0720401681
32	Wanjiru Kamau	KOAN	0722354582
33	Jack Juma	KOAN	0721965760
34	Eustace Kiarri	KOAN	0707027728
35	Dr. Jennifer Njaramba	Kenyatta University	0719407670
36	Peter Melonyie	Ngong Organic	0722614583

37	Kate Kibarah	KATES Organics	0721385883
38	Willis Awori	ICIFE	0722613250
39	John W. Njoroge	KIOF	0733799072
40	Michael Waweru	KIOF	0734867987
41	Hudson Wereh	BvAT	0726395415
42	Ruth Nyambura	African Biodiversity Network	Ruth2africabiodiversity.org
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45	Mary Otieno	KOAN	maryo@koan.co.ke
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48	Lydia Wanjiru	Muhuri Organic Group	0728691011
49	Esther Kinithi	CSHEP – Kiserian	0727977009
50	Zachary Makanya	Pelum-Kenya	0714642916
51	Samuel Ndungu	KOAN	0734644753

ANNEX III: WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Workshop Participants Photo by: xxxxxxxx - KOAN, 3rd April 2014



Participants during stakeholder consultative workshop: 3rd April 2014



Participants during stakeholder consultative workshop: 3rd April 2014



Dr. Amudavi chats with Ms Kisili



Mr. Yash and Mr. Njoroge of KIOF