



The Republic of Mali

The EOA Project

Draft Workshop Report for the National Platforms Establishment

CICB, Bamako, 25 Mars 2014

FOREWORD

A CALL ON THE INTEGRATION OF EOA INTO THE NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The workshop on the establishment of the national platform and coordinating bodies for the EOA is an African Union initiative. It follows other workshops on seeking information and knowledge of the actors in EOA (*February 2013*) and baseline survey for the EOA initiatives in Mali (*April 2014*)

In 2010, the African Union (AU) strongly committed to supporting organic and ecological agriculture, given its potential to meet the challenges of climate change while contributing to food security and poverty eradication. In 2011 the Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted a resolution (decision EX.CL/Déc.621 XVII) in favor of the biological and ecological agriculture.

The initiative aims to institutionalize the principles of organic and ecological agriculture in the policies and programs of agricultural development in the country by 2025. The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) committed to support pilot projects implemented in eight countries; Mali, Benin, Senegal and Nigeria in West Africa and Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia in East Africa.

After baseline studies conducted in various countries in 2012 and 2013, the operational phase of the project funded by SDC starts in 2014 for a period of five years. Biovision Africa Trust is the regional agency responsible for coordinating the implementation of the project. In each country, facilitation bodies and project management are provided whose national platform of ecological and organic farming, the steering committee of the EOA project, the democratic choice of the leader country and thematic organization responsible execution pillars.

This workshop aimed to establish the national platform and the various bodies for implementing the EOA project in Mali.

Preparation, reflection and exchanges during the workshop were organized with the support of a scientific committee based devices logistic, scientific and animation to achieve the objectives and expected results.

Participation in the workshop certainly exceeded expectation not only from the standpoint of the number of participants, but especially from the point of view of the variety of contributions from organizations active in the EOA; Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, health, trade and competition, the High Council of communities, the Commission Rural Development and Environment of the National Assembly; of the Association of Municipalities; national and international NGOs; representatives of international organizations (FAO), the network of journalists on EOA...

The workshop lasted one day. There was presentation of the results of the baseline study in Mali, the presentation of the EOA program document (2014 -2018) and proceeded to the implementation of the platform AEB and national bodies to implement the project . In addition, the workshop following the brilliant presentation of the pilot project AEB (2014-2018) by the Director of Biovision Africa Trust (*Dr David M Amudavi*). He shared on how to set up democratic transparent management bodies and coordination of the project but also on the selection criteria of the leader country and responsible for organizing thematic pillars.

We want to take the opportunity provided by this presentation to thank all the guests who have responded enthusiastically and participated in large numbers.

We thank the Commission of the African Union and financial partners: Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and all those who provided technical support.

We thank Dr. David Amudavi, the Director of Biovision Africa Trust for his working visit to Mali and its contribution to the process quality of the workshop.

We express our deep gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Bokary Théreta, Minister of Agriculture of Mali for its support and participation in the workshop.

We collect the suggestions made by the meeting of the seminar and reaffirm our conviction to continue our work together to integrate ecological organic agriculture in African development agenda in joint commitment to a respectful agrarian system of soil, water the climate.

Bamako, March 2014

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I. THE CONTEXT, JUSTIFICATION AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

1.1. Context

Conventional agriculture based on the intensive use of synthetic chemicals has shown its limits in terms of its adverse effects on the environment, biodiversity, human and animal health. The IAASTD report (International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development) describes the adverse effects of conventional agriculture and asserts its inability to feed the world. A significant portion of greenhouse gas responsible for global warming and climate change is due to conventional agriculture. In response to this situation, alternative forms of agricultural production have been developed keeping the center ecological processes and the development of natural resources and knowledge producers. Among these organic and ecological agriculture plays an important role and is presented as the option to combine durability trilogy ecology, economy and society. In this context, organic farming was introduced in Africa and the West African sub-region in the 90s and 2000s mainly by NGOs and some private business networks. Despite the encouraging results, the scope of the biological and ecological agriculture still remains limited and represents less than 1% of conventional production. Utilities and agricultural promotion policy have long remained on the fringes of the promotion of organic agriculture. To the 2010s, the African Union (AU) is strongly committed to supporting organic and ecological agriculture, given its potential to meet the challenges of climate change while contributing to food security and the eradication of poverty. In 2011 the Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted a resolution (decision EX.CL/Dec.621 XVII) in favor of the biological and ecological agriculture. The initiative aims to institutionalize the principles of organic and ecological agriculture in the policies and programs of agricultural development in the country by 2020. Switzerland Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) is committed to support pilot projects implementing the BTE initiative in eight countries including Mali, Benin, Senegal and Nigeria in West Africa and Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia in East Africa. After baseline studies conducted in various countries in 2012 and 2013, the operational phase of the project funded by SDC starts in 2014 for a period of five years. Biovision Africa Trust is the regional agency responsible for coordinating the implementation of the project. In each country, facilitation bodies and project management are provided whose national platform of ecological and organic farming, the steering committee of the AEB project, the choice / confirmation of the lead organization, the choice of implementing partners pillars. This workshop aims to build the platform and the various bodies implementing the project in Mali.

1.2. Purpose and objectives of the workshop

- ❖ **Purpose:** This workshop is primarily intended for the creation of the National Platform AEB and the introduction of various organs of coordination and management of the pilot and Ecological Agriculture (2014-2018) project in Mali. To recap, the AEB pilot project involves the institutionalization of organic agriculture in national environmental policies and agricultural development programs.
- ❖ **Workshop Objectives:** Specifically, the meeting aims to:
 - Present the Project AEB approved initiative and contribution of SDC 2014-2018.
 - Clarify and specify the role of the Initiative - AEB as a strategy for integrating the concept AEB as agricultural practices based on the potential of nature in national agricultural production systems in Mali.
 - Provide the framework for managing and coordinating the initiative AEB (2014-2018 project).
 - Create and launch the National Platform of the AEB and the bodies of coordination and management at the national level (the steering committee of the AEB project, the choice / confirmation of the lead organization, the choice of partners thematic execution by pillar).

1.3. Expected Results.

- Educate stakeholders on the AEB project and the state of the ecological and organic agriculture in Mali;
- Select the leader of the implementation of the project in Mali AEB organization;
- Select holders organizations pillars;
- Establish the steering committee of the AEB national platform;
- Develop an action plan for the project AEB 2014 (by the responsible bodies).

1.4. Methodology

The workshop program is implemented through an interactive pedagogy accompanied by presentations (*see program for details*).

II. THE WORKSHOP PROGRESS

2.1. Official opening of the workshop

Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at the International Conference Center in Bamako (CICB), Minister of Rural Development of Mali chaired the official opening ceremony of the Workshop to launch the platform National Ecological and Organic Agriculture (AEB) of Mali. More than 60 people representing various farmers' organizations, ministries, NGOs, international organizations, the press, representative of the NGO Kenyan Biovision Africa Trust took part (*see attendance list*).

To put it into the context, a presentation on the general context of the EOA initiative was made by Mr. Sekou Diarra, expert Agro Ecology - Water and moderator of the workshop. In his introduction, he paid attention on the state of the world characterized by undernourishment, under nutrition affecting more than a billion people; a world where climate change is a serious threat with its corollary of flooding and drought; a world where the question of how to feed 6 billion human today and 9 billion in 2050 still pose. Supporting the conclusions of the IAASTD report (*International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development*) on the adverse effects of industrial agriculture and its inability to feed the world, Mr. Diarra did question **"by how friendly farming system environmental and climate must be adopted to overcome hunger? "**

Then it is important to note that we also live in a world of hope with enormous agricultural potential especially in Africa. Subsistence agriculture, peasants occupy more than 95% of the agricultural workforce. A world of hope with thousands of peasant organizations engaged over decades around the world in the development of ecological agriculture, food sovereignty. An Africa of hope where the African Union followed suit not through the Conference of Heads of State and Government in 2011 by engaging in the institutionalization of ecological and organic agriculture in national policies and development plans Continent of the pilot project initiative AEB (2014-2018) in 8 African countries (Mali, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria in West Africa - Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia in Africa 'EST). This pilot project is financially supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) for 2014-2018. The role of Lead agency is attributed to the Kenyan organization Biovision Africa Trust.

The African union deciding to position the EOA at the center of the development agenda in Africa made an act of recognition of efforts by national, regional and international organizations in their support for the EOA as a model sustainable agriculture. The African Union is reclaiming hit the key role of the EOA in **"sustainable development, food security, environmental security, food security, poverty eradication, preservation of indigenous knowledge, plant varieties, and animal breeds; adaptation to climate change, the resilience of communities to natural disasters but also the socio - cultural development. "**

This is followed in turn a welcome address by the President of the UNSCPC, Mr. Bakary Togola; an address by the representative of the Mayor of the Municipality of the District of Bamako III, and finally the opening of the Minister of Rural Development discourse. In addition, Dr. David Amudavi, the Director of Blovion Africa Trust was highly praised for its arrival in Mali, African land and its important role in the development process of the BTE initiative in Africa.

2.1.1. Opening Remarks

▪ Welcome from President UNSCPC

The President of the National Union of Cooperative Societies cotton producer (UNSCP) has on behalf of all farmers' organizations Mali extended his heartfelt greetings to the organizers of the workshop and guests from within the country, the District of Bamako, our brother Dr. David Amudavi came from Kenya and his Excellency the Minister of Rural Development of Mali, Mr. Bokary Théréta.

In addressing the issue of agriculture, he expressed his deep gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Bokary Théréta, Minister for Rural Development in Mali, for his commitment and support to the development of agriculture and the rural world.

In his remarks, he stated that the position of the African Union for the integration of ecological and organic farming (AEB) in the development agenda of Africa is a sign of appreciation of African values and practices in agriculture. He expressed all his commitment to contribute to the success of the AEB initiative in Mali. And he appealed to the union of all AEB actors and local and national governments, for him it is easier to destroy than to build. Referring to the institutional crisis in the MOBIOM since 2012, the President of the UNSCPC challenged the technical advisors to farming organizations on their share of responsibility in this conflict.

The President of the UNSCPC emphasized the key role of information and communication in support of rural process. He called the media to a higher standard in véhiculassions information. He also focused on the use of national languages and functional literacy as key success factors of the pilot phase of the EOA.

He concluded his remarks by thanking His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita President for his decision to raise the level of the national budget to 15% and the amount of agricultural input subsidies to 40 billion FCFA. Food security is a key issue for the future of our country. Aw or tie (thank you).

▪ **Address by the Municipal Mayor Bamako III District**

Dear representatives of the United Nations;

Distinguished representatives of inter-governmental organizations;

Distinguished representatives of organizations of multilateral and bilateral cooperation;

Distinguished representative of Biovision Africa Trust,

Honourable Representative of the Commission on Development and Environment,

Mr. Representative of the High Council of Collectives,

Gentlemen, ladies representatives of technical and financial services,

Mr. President UNSCPC,

The president of MOBIOM and Distinguished participants;

The theme of this national workshop "Establishing the national platform of EOA actors in Mali" falls in line with one of the expected Decentralisation "Promoting local development objectives promoting initiatives of different actors of civil society and the creation of a framework controlled by the people where they live. "

Mali is a predominantly rural country and rural communities occupy 98% of the total land area and are home to approximately 80% of the population. Agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing, cuелlette, crafts are their main activities and main source of their contribution to the development of their town and their country.

However, despite the potential of natural resources and agricultural assets, we assity a growing situation of poverty in rural environment: the 703 municipalities in the country, 140 are classified as very poor 2008 food and nutrition insecurity. lower revenues and the abandonment of villages by rural youth to cities, climate change and floods are among the current challenges of decentralization.

Distinguished participants, Speaking of promoting ecological and organic farming, we our expectations as local authorities are: poverty eradication, food security and nutritional, food safety, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and improving income in rural and urban areas, and socio-cultural development of our people.

Indeed, we reassure the Heads of State and Government of the African Union and the financial partner for the 2014-2018 period "unwavering support of Local Authorities Mali. We like you convinced of the virtues of Agriculture Ecological and Organic. We will work in

synergy with the national platform of EOA actors to facilitate its promotion and institutionalization in national programs and policies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is these words that I would like to conclude by thanking the President of the High Council for the invitation that you have kindly contact us as local authorities. I wish you every success in the work of the National Workshop "Establishing the EOA national platforms in Mali."

Thank you.

▪ **Address by His Excellency the Minister of Rural Development**

Dear representatives of the United Nations;

Distinguished representatives of inter-governmental organizations;

Distinguished representatives of organizations of multilateral and bilateral cooperation;

Distinguished representative of Biovision Africa Trust

Honourable representative DRE Commission of the National Assembly

Mr. Representative of the High Council of Collectives

Mayor of the Commune III

Distinguished representatives of technical and financial services

President of the UN-SCPC

The President of MOBIOM

Dear Participants

The theme of this national workshop "Starting the platform of Agriculture Ecological and Biological (AEB) in Mali" falls in line with the engagement letter assigned to my department. In October 2010, on the recommendation of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the Executive Council of the African Union is in favor of the integration of organic agriculture / ecological agricultural policies and a draft plan action was established.

Sustained by the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture Vision is to promote ecological dynamics of biological systems to improve food security and sustainable development in Africa. In addition, we must remember that the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the CILSS, after their Summit Conference held in Bamako in November 2000, adopted sustainable food security as a strategic framework to fight against poverty .

Ladies; gentlemen,

Industrial agriculture has the merit of having detonated yields and agricultural production worldwide, but the number of people suffering from hunger in the world was 848 million respectively in 2005, 1023 million in 2009 and 868 million in 2011. The proportion of hungry people remains highest in sub-Saharan Africa (30%). This dramatic current global food and nutrition situation is clear that the promise of eradicating hunger (Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals) would be difficult to achieve by 2015.

The current situation of hunger has its source in the mode of production and consumption. Hunger is a political issue. It must be seen not only as an issue related to agricultural production, but also as an issue related to the marginalization of small family farms, the growth of inequality and lack of social justice.

The IAASTD report (International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development) Group consists of more than 400 international experts (set up in the wake of riots 2007-2008) exposes "the adverse effects of industrial agriculture and asserts its inability to feed the world. It has serious environmental consequences because it is based on a toxic chemical that pollutes the soil and water, and loss of biodiversity. Agribusiness is responsible for a significant portion of the greenhouse gas and accelerates climate change. "

Ladies and gentlemen,

We like you convinced of the virtues of Agriculture Ecological and Organic, recognition of the values and principles of African agriculture. We will be 9 billion people in 2050 to the question of how to feed this population? It will involve the actuation of agricultural models, friendly farming systems of the environment and climate.

The pilot project (2014-2018) EOA Initiative "recommended by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union is one of the answers.

We welcome the choice of Mali as a stakeholder panel of eight African countries to exercise this project. It is heartening to note the central place given to farmers' organizations in the device management and coordination of the pilot initiative AEB. Subsistence farming has existed since the beginning of the millennia and occupies over 95% of assets with practices based on the same potential of nature.

In our case, the active participation of my colleagues is gained to the accompaniment of the national platform of actors AEB to facilitate its promotion and institutionalization in national programs and policies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are pleased to note that a comprehensive approach to food and nutrition security must reconcile the need for food and nutritional security with equitable sustainable management of natural resources in systemic approaches to adaptation /

mitigation climate change, sustainable livelihoods and resilience of populations. Our future and that of future generations depends.

It is these words that I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that the Government of Mali will support you and encourage you in this exciting work. I wish you every success and declare open the national workshop "Starting the platform of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Mali."

Thank you for your kind attention.

2.1.2. Workshop proceedings

Panel - 1: Presentation of the results of the study states places (Presented by Siaka Doumbia Helvetas)

Focus on the 6 pillars and the actors involved in EOA in Mali

Why the EOA Initiative?

- Integration of EOA in national policies and programs in Africa "
- Initiative supported by the African Union
- Promote effective integration of Agriculture and Ecological strategies in agricultural development in Africa

Six (06) pillars

1. The research, training and extension
2. Information and communication
3. Development value chain and marketing
4. Networking and partnership
5. Policy development and program development,
6. Development of institutional capacities

Pillar1: Research - Education / Outreach

Achievement;

- Existence of formulations of organic pesticides used by farmers (Neem, Koby)
- Production of cereals (millet, sorghum, fonio) on biological areas
- agroforestry practices contributing to the improvement of soil fertility

Challenges:

- No research program in the long term
- Poor collaboration between research / extension and producer organizations

- No link between training and research and university education.

Prospect

- Capacity building (technical skills, material and financial) entities national research.
- Build research programs and extension in the duration
 - Establish the link between the university and the research by the introduction of training modules on organic farming

Pillar 2: Information-Communication

Achievements

- Communication campaigns on organic farming and climate by NGOs in collaboration with local radio change
- Production of teaching materials on agroecology

Challenges

- No action coordinated information and communication on sustainable agriculture.
- Access to difficult market information for natural and organic products.
- Low dissemination of research results to users, policy makers and the general public

Prospect

- Support the design and implementation of a communication plan (website advertising, for example)
- Establish and device information on the market AEB products
- Capacity building of stakeholders on communication

Pillar # 3: Networking and Partnership

Achievements

- Emergence of networks in the processing of cotton (Network of Women)
- Existence of contracts with customers in the market as regional and international (Emile Christmas / Agrosourcing in France.
- Articulation between MFIs and organic producers especially in gardening

Challenges

- Lack of collaboration between producer organizations, research organizations, processors
- Quasi lack of partnership in the medium and long terms with the masses media
- Little or no formal relationship between training structures can allow capitalization of acquired

Prospect

- Support the development of a platform for exchanges on sustainable agriculture
- Networking industry stakeholders for better advocacy group of actors
- Development of the strategic partnership between the media and organizations implementing the EOA

Pillar # 4: Development of value chains

Achievements

- Installation of companies producing organic manure and export of organic products
- Good exploration of the local market (shea, mango, fonio, horticultural products)
- Initiatives for the recovery of biological products (eg organic cotton)

Challenges

- Difficulties for SMEs to meet international production standards and certification
- Less professionalism in marketing
- Lack of initiatives to create labels (made in Mali)

Prospect

- Support the development of a platform for exchanges on sustainable agriculture
- Networking industry stakeholders for better advocacy group of actors
- Development of the strategic partnership between the media and organizations implementing the initiative.

Pillar # 5: Policy Development and Program Support

Achievements

Good reference (the farm bill °)

Challenges

- Lack of concerted action strategy for the facilitation of the conduct of their business
- The AEB not integrated into current training courses in the country at all levels
- Inadequate or lack of clear vision medium and long-term activities

Prospect

- Conducting advocacy / lobbying political authorities for a strong commitment
- Support the inclusion of an AEB guidance in business development strategies.

- Support for the feasibility study of the integration of the training program in the educational curriculum

Pillar # 6: Capacity Building

Achievements

- Sign up the EOA to large organizations (WAEMU, ECOWAS, FAO, IFOAM)
- Registration AEB in the LOA
- Commitment some donors over time to the accompaniment of the AEB in Mali

Challenges

- Inadequate or lack of clear vision and long-term
- Lack of rigor and / or expertise in the quality control of products for export
- Low level of mastery of the field of ecological and organic farming

Prospect

- Internal Capacity organizations for strategic and operational planning activities
- Capacity building units in the defining lines of action / clear and precise instructions.
- Capacity building of commercial companies on product standards

Panel - 2: Description of the BTE initiative in Africa by Dr. David Amudavi Biovision Africa Trust

General Objective:

Ecological Organic Agriculture's mission is to promote environmentally practices and knowledge of the various stakeholders in the production, processing, marketing, political decision-making to secure the environment, improve the means of lives, reduce poverty and ensure food security.

Specific Objectives

- Improve the level of documentation of information and knowledge on organic agriculture products throughout the entire value chain and supporting actors to translate them into practical and wide application.
- Always inform producers on approaches and best practices and motivate their commitment by strengthening their access to counseling and support
- Improve significantly the exchange of quality organic products at the local, national and regional markets
- Build an inclusive manner the engagement of stakeholders in organic commodities development value chain by developing platforms foundry multi stakeholders at

national, regional and continental levels through advocacy to change public policies, plans and practices.

Recipient countries:

Promoting the pilot project will be done in 8 African countries.

West Africa: Mali, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria.

East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda.

Development partners:

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC): period 2013-2015 Countries: Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and, Tanzania.

The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC): Countries involved in the 2014-2018 funding: **West Africa:** Mali, Senegal Benin, Nigeria. **East Africa:** Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia.

2.2.3. Definition and principles of EOA

Organic farming is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all who are involved.

The principles of organic agriculture

- **The principle of health:** Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plants, animals, humans and planet as one and indivisible.
- **The Principle of Ecology:** Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological cycles and systems, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
- **The principle of fairness:** Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.
- **The precautionary principle:** Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of present and future generations and the environment.

2.1.4 - The pillars approved by the funding period 2014-2015

Research, training and extension: To conduct participatory research in a multidisciplinary and multicultural way to sensitize stakeholders and provide communities with the knowledge and appropriate solutions and innovative skills.

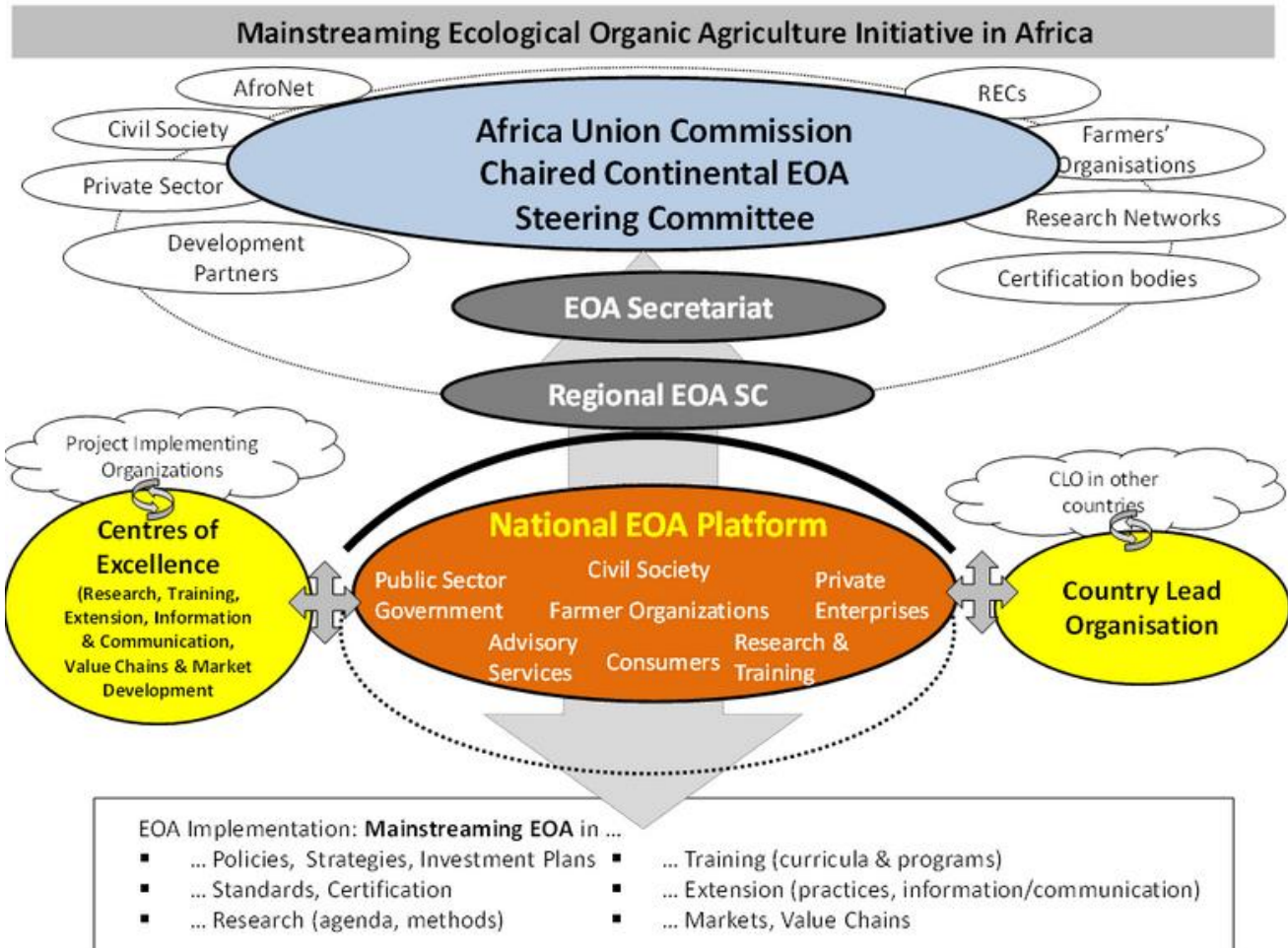
Information and communication: To develop information and communication strategies to educate stakeholders and the public practices and benefits of organic agriculture.

Value chain and market development: To facilitate the trade of African organic products to local, regional and export markets.

Coordination by the Country lead organization; this comprises pillars 4, 5, 6 of the 6 original pillars of the EOA initiative:

- **Network and Partnership:** To strengthen the synergies between stakeholders and beneficiaries to support organic agriculture through networks and partnerships.
- **Policies and programs of support:** To establish policies and implement programs favorable to the development of organic farming.
- **Institutional Capacity Building:** To establish, develop and support organizations involved in organic farming in Africa.

2.1.5 The organizational structure of the BTE initiative



a) National Networks and Platforms

National platforms will be responsible for various tasks, including:

- Ensure implementation of AEB activities at national level;
- follow the process of integration of the AEB, government policies, strategies and national plans;
- create links and partnerships between various stakeholders and coordinating the activities of organic agriculture in any country, including raising awareness and creating a critical mass of opinion on the AEB and the strengthening of regional and continental platforms.

A national platform will be a forum that brings together facilitates, advises and monitors the progress of the implementation of the EOA in general and organic farming in particular. Generally, the national platform is open multi-stakeholders to support the development of EOA within the country.

The mandate of national platforms will include:

- Streamline operations AEB at country level
- Rally partners / stakeholders in the AEB
- Facilitate the sharing of results, lessons and experiences
- Support the advocacy / lobbying for policy change, investment plans, etc.. in favor of the BTE
- Set the AEB in the national development agenda
- Facilitate the selection and support of the lead organization (CLO) countries

National platforms will promote strategic actions such as political organization, formulation of competitions between high school or undergraduate students, allocation to farmers for their outstanding performance and politicians for their work of political support for AB . With the experience they may well define the criteria of "good" policy work in various agricultural sectors. This will strengthen the implementation of the BTE initiative with strong integration and synergy between the components and sectors. Platforms are expected to become visible and recognized professional in ensuring project management stakeholders.

Members of the National Platform will include:

- The Department of Agriculture and other ministries (health, environment, trade ...)
- research institutes, extension and training
- Private Sector
- Organizations of civil society

- Farmer organizations
- Development Partners
- Institutes policy
- structures certification and regulatory
- Development Partner

b) The EOA Steering Committee

It is expected that stakeholders will democratically elect / appoint a national AEB will play the role of steering committee to provide leadership and general supervision of AEB at the country level. Representation in the National Committee will be based on institutions rather than individuals.

The Steering Committee will:

- Provide leadership, guidance and general supervision of AEB at the country level
- Investigate strategies to integrate the AEB in the context of national plans, strategies and investment plans
- Establishment of national structures for implementation of the AEB Initiative
- Development of national platform the long-term goals and strategies
- Review the national reports on a regular basis
- EOA coordination
- Develop and implement partnerships and resource mobilization for AEB at national level.
- Creating links to national level AEB with regional activities and continental activities

All these changes will be made in consultation with stakeholders. National platform AEB steering committee should meet at least twice a year.

c) Functions of the country Lead Organizations (CLO)

The CLO with the support and backing of the national platform will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Coordinate the pillars of implementation of the AEB activity
- Pour funds to implementing partners on the basis of agreements and contracts
- Supervise and monitor the implementation of the activities of pillars
- Support the networking and sharing of experiences between pillars
- Catalyse the process of forming National Platforms
- Secretarial services for the NPSC
- Report to NPS AfroNet and development partners

d) Considerations for selecting CLOs

- Should be national
- Have the structures and systems of operational management
- Should have the ability to mobilize and rally other players from different sectors and institutions
- Networking capability
- Ability to monitor and maintain responsible partners
- Be registered in the official registry countries

e) Regional Platforms and Networks

In the EOA pilot phase in regional areas of East Africa and West Africa project. These platforms should be comprised of representatives from members of national platforms and in close collaboration with the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs). The regional platforms strive to strengthen their groups in terms of:

- Coordinate regional players in their field for the implementation AEB
- Engage with the RECs to integrate AEB in regional policies (ECOWAS and SADC) and national programs and to improve their livelihoods.
- Facilitate the mobilization of resources from partners to support AEB activities in regional groupings.
- Development of own rules of procedures and operations under the management of their combinations.

f) Management and coordination of the AEB project (2014-2018)

Management and coordination of the EOA project and management of financial support from the SDC will be provided by Biovision Africa Trust, from Kenya. As lead agency, Biovision act on behalf and is liable vis-à-vis the Steering Committee and AfroNet Africa. Biovision work closely with organizations and structures put in place to support the development of EOA initiative on the continent: the Africa Steering Committee, regional grouping; flat and national organizations leading countries forms. It will facilitate the development of platforms and the selection of countries CLOs and ensures accountability and accounting and general supervision of the activities of all partners in the EOA initiative.

Urgent recommendations of the Director of Biovision Africa Trust at the workshop:

- Democratic and transparent selection of the leader country and organization responsible for Pillar 4
- Choice of three thematic pillars of responsible
- Setting up not members of the steering committee
- Development of the Action Plan in 2014.

Panel 3: Work of Technical Support Group MOBIOM and Biovision Africa Trust, moderated by Sekou Diarra

a. Establishment of the Technical Group and expanded mandate

The Technical Support Group and MOBIOM Biovision led workshops in February and April 2013 were: MOBIOM, IER Sikasso, IPR / IFRA, FIBL / SYPROBIO, CSP, HSI, DDC, GIP Bio. Decision of the workshop on March 25, the original group was extended to structures AOPP, IPM, OHVN, APCAM, Municipality Bancoumana with a mandate to make a proposal for a democratic choice of the operative provisions of the EOA project (2014 - 2014): the choice of leading countries, officials of the 3 pillars and members of the steering committee organization.

List of members of the technical support group expanded.

Name	Organisation
Souleymane Coulibaly	GIPD
Fagaye Sissoko	IER/CRRA
Habouré Sissoko	AOPP
Adama D Camara	AMM Mairie de Bancoumana
Abdramane Tamboura	Gip-Bio
Aly Sangaré	IPR.IFRA
Mamadou L Sylla	OHVN
Laurent Glin	FIBL
Siaka DOUMBIA	HELVETAS
Sékou Diarra	Modérateur
Djibril Traoré	MoBioM

b. Validation report selection bodies responsible for management of the platform of the EOA initiative in Mali

The proposal of the Technical Support Group was submitted on a validation workshop in plenary. Following open discussion, the following structures were identified:

b.1) – The Country Lead Organization: Mobiom (Mali Organic Movement)

Criteria	Performance	Comments
It's an organization active in EOA	4	Active with over 85 Coop
Should be national in scope	3	
Must have in place structures and management systems	4	
Should have the ability to mobilize and engage other stakeholders from different sectors and institutions	3	Getting more connections with partner organizations: strengthening advocacy lobbying
Network capacity	3	Better value connections with partners structures

Monitoring and evaluation capacity and maintain responsible partners need	2	support in monitoring and evaluation
It must be accepted by national actors	4	

Very good: 4; Good: 3; Fair: 2; Poor: 1

b.2): Thematic Leaders: Pillars

- Selection criteria Thematic Leaders: Pillars
- Being a structure / organization active in EOA
- Ability / staff and appropriate skills
- Have Credibility and availability
- Member of the national platform AEB Being
- Being known by national actors (public and private)

Pillars	Organization	Competence
Research, Training and Extension	IER/CRRA-Sikasso	Research and Extension
Information Communication	AOPP	National Farmers' Organizations
Value Chain and Market Development	REMATRAC Bio	Transformation/ value addition to organic products

b.3) Steering Committee

- Chairman: Ministry for Agriculture
- Vice President: UN-SCPC
- Secretary: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Members:

- Ministries: Ministry of health, trade and competition
- Communities: AMM / Mayor of Bancoumana
- Farmers Organization: Guiriyaawés Koro
- University / Research: IPR / IFRA Katibougou
- Private Sector: IB Trading
- Technical Services: Office of the Upper Niger Valley
- Cell Planning and Statistics: CPS / CSD
- NGOs: GIP-BIO,
- Women Organization: FENAFER
- Press: AEB Network
- Observer: FIBL

III – LAUNCHING OF THE INITIATIVE AND CLOSING CEREMONY

3.1 - About the Mayor of the rural commune Bancouma / Kati

On behalf of the local Mayor Bancouma, Koulikoro Region, Mr. Mamadou Coulibaly thanked all the participants for the quality of their participation in such an important issue in our country: the ecological and organic farming, known as the "senna horon "in Bamanakan national language. He indicated that he is mayor but he is a young rural lives of organic farming in his village Samako. He narrated the precarious situation of the majority of rural youth unemployment, underemployment, lack of income, abandonment of villages for the benefit of traditional gold mining areas or forced exodus to the cities or to abroad ... He focused on the place and role of municipalities in the development of agriculture including organic farming. In his remarks, he stressed the need for young people to agriculture more attractive to young people to return to rural land. The innovative young farmer and local councilor assured the audience to support the development of the pilot project AEB initiative by mobilizing peasant farms but also by promoting rural entrepreneurship. He wished success to the national platform AEB Mali.

3.2 About Dr. David Amudavi, the Director of BioVision Africa Trust

The Director of Africa BioVion trust in his closing testified that day workshop was very successful. The multi-stakeholder approach used has allowed several players to work together stakeholders: representatives of farmers' organizations (MOBIOM, UNSCPC, FNAFR, AOPP, CNOP ...), technical services (OHVN, CMDT, IER, IPR / IFRA, DNA, CPS ...) Ministries (rural development, health, trade ...), national NGOs (GIP-Bio) and International (HELVETAS, Elephant Green ...), the agricultural service (GIE DORA), representatives of regional organizations (WAEMU, ECOWAS ...) and international (FAO), the public and private media

Dr. David welcomed the presence of the Minister of Rural Development. He said that even if the Minister has admitted not to be aware of the initiative, but only from the workshop he knows and he thinks that the President of the Republic will be aware of AEB African Union initiative. He congratulated the MOBIOM (Mali biological Movement) on his appointment by participants as leading country Organization. He asked MOBIOM, the Steering Committee and thematic starting work immediately responsible. He reassured responsible for the organizational structure of the AEB of Mali's support organization BioVision Africa trust in the construction of the strategic objectives of AEB initiative project in Mali initiative.

3.3 Message from the President MOBIOM

President MOBIOM, Pastor Luc peasant Cisse on behalf of 10,000 farmers forming cooperatives 80 MOBIOM and other non AEB actors (producers of sesame farmers in Koro, Banamba, organic vegetable belt Bamako ...) sent its bright thanks to all participants, technical support MOBIOM Group, the Director of Biovision Africa Trust, the President of the UNSCPC and Minister of Rural Development. He said that the success achieved by the workshop honors Mali. He expressed his gratitude to all participants for their confidence in the country as a leader MOBIOM Organization. He says the challenge is great but Mobiom despite the crisis he went through is committed to being at the height of the assigned responsibility.

President MOBIOM reports that farmers engaged in organic farming see in the pilot initiative AEB an opportunity to consolidate the gains of production, processing, marketing construction process since the late 1990s project. He finds the great weakness of organic Agriculture in Mali was that governments have long remained in the margins of his promotion. Freshly from a trip to Burkina Faso, he questioned the representative of the Minister of Development of lack of support from the Malian government contrary to neighboring Burkina Faso and Senegal.

For the success of the initiative in Mali AEB has focused on the development of diversification techniques soil protection, development of adapted crops, training and learning practices of farmers (particularly young people and women) and the organization of peasant farms in their role as political and technical carriers of AEB communal level, country, regional and continental levels. President MOBIOM thanked the African Union Heads of State and Government and Bivision Africa Trust for their commitment to position and promote the African peasantry politically through ecological and organic agriculture initiative. He also sent his greetings to the SDC for its financial support. He reaffirmed the commitment to support MOBIOM Platform AEB Mali, the Steering Committee and the heads of the pillars in achieving the expectations of the project in Mali.

3.4 Closing Remarks Mr. Diallo SeydouNour, Technical Advisor Ministry of Rural Development.

Distinguished participants The Minister of Rural Development, prevented me to preside in his name, the closing ceremony of the workshop launch of the National Platform of ecological and organic farming in Mali.

You wanted in a day area, make the Bamako meeting point of peasants actors, politicians, members of civil society, NGOs, technical services, service providers, financial partners, to agents of international cooperation from 8 regions and the District of Bamako, to lead the dynamic reflection on the AEB pilot initiative of the African Union project profit of 8 African countries including Mali. You also qualitatively in the creation - launch of the platform AEB Mali and the selection of the leader countries Mobiom and three theme leaders (CRRRA, Sikasso, AOPP and REMATRAC-Bio) organization. On behalf of the Minister for Rural Development, let - me reassure the Amudavi brother David, the Director of Africa BioVision trust the commitment of the Ministry of Rural Development to translate the workshop proceedings in line with the specific objectives of the pilot initiative AEB. The workshop won the bet of the organization, because all targets have answered the call. All players involved in the food safety, ecology, biodiversity, climate ... were represented. Panel discussions proved interesting, relevant and fruitful. Challenges were discussed.

The workshop is relevant, aiming among other things, the establishment of the framework of e pilot's AEB institutionalization of organic ecological agriculture in national policies and programs for agricultural development project. This is to better defend the interests of those AEB at the political level. In addition, the workshop noted that the Ministry of Rural Development is not sufficiently informed of the pilot initiative AEB. We need information and support. The Director of BioVision Africa Trust is always welcome in Mali African earth. On behalf of the Minister, I reassured him the department's commitment to support the promotion of AEB project in Mali.

It is on this note that I would finish fraternal my remarks, declaring closed the workshop launch of the national platform of ecological and organic farming in Mali. Thank you for your kind attention. The meeting is adjourned.

ANNEXES

Programme de l'atelier

Horaires	Sujet	Facilitateur
8:00 - 8:30	Accueil des participants	MoBioM
8.30 - 9.00	Inscription des participants /Installation	MoBioM
9.00 - 9.15	Mot de bienvenue	Président UNSCPC
9.15 – 9.30	Discours de Mr le Maire de la commune II	Modérateur
9.30 – 9.45	Discours d'ouverture par Son excellence Mr le Ministre de l'Agriculture	Modérateur
09.45 -10.15	Pause café et retrait des officiels	
Le Développement de l'Agriculture Ecologique/Biologique en Afrique		
10.15-10.45	Présentation des résultats de l'étude état des lieux au Mali	Helvetas
10.45-11.45	Présentation du document Projet AEB et la contribution de SDC 2014 – 2018 Cadre de gestion et de coordination du projet initiative AEB (Rôles et responsabilités : plateforme nationale, comité de pilotage, organisation leader, partenaires d'exécution thématique/pilier)	Biovision/BvT
11.45-13.00	Discussions / Echanges	Modérateur
13.00-14.30	Pause Déjeuner	
14.30-16.00	Mise en place de la Plateforme Nationale AEB et des organes de mise en œuvre du Projet <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Objectif et rôle de la plateforme- Membership (revu de la liste atelier de validation)- Mise en place du comité de pilotage du projet- Confirmation de l'Organisation paysanne leader au Mali pour le Projet AEB : raisons du choix et critères de choix- Choix/désignation des partenaires d'exécution thématiques (par pilier)	Modérateur
16.00-16.30	Pause café	
16.30 -17.30	Lancement de la plateforme	
17.30-18.00	Clôture de la Réunion	

Listes des participants

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACTS
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DR TOURE QUMAN	DRA-BRO	66076634
SAYLOU DOULOURE	CPS/MDR	75660959
MOUSSA DIOULA	CFPM	76971919
HAMED TRHORE	UPSB	76119858
ALASSOME CUSSE	OUSA-DVRN	74502302
RAYMOND DAOSOKO	UNSCPC	66134264
VAMOZA SANOGO	UNSCPC	76369778
OLA AFOUDA	UNSCPC	71452451
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ALY SANGARE	IPR/FFRA	66878826
SADA SOW	CPOMT FOCAL	76036272
NOUSSA GANARA	JOUZNA LUSTE	76392576
LOUKA CISSU	MCOBUEAN	75410956
SEYDOUNOUR DIALLO	CT/MDR	66544769
DJIBRIL GLAOLE	AP/NOBIOY	76065669
COULIBOLY DJRRIBOU TRAOLE	CT/APCAA	63553727
ADAUULA D GAUUAA	NAUAL/ANN	74075984
TIOSSI COULIBODY	AOPP	76413102
ABDOUL KARIMA TRTOKE	IER	66791141
MAMADOU L SYLLIA	OHUN	73142744
SIMON DIOH	ELEPHENT VERTSA	75994205
PIERRE YUES SUTER	HERVETAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION	75156880
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ABDHAMANE TAMBOUA	GIP-BIO	76033429
ADAMA SOUKO	CIFA/URAE Centu inrigu Agianonyi	78780893
MAHAAMADOU CAULILALY	COUSUEL CAMMUNAL BANCOUUMANA	79480592
MONE COULIBOLY TARA DJIRE	DPROCA	76472200
UAMADOU LAMINE DOUMBOUYA	DGCT	76153089
DUAMOUSA KANE	PRODUCTION BOO CHO	76314867
JBZALIMA TRAORE	DNS	76385967
NME YEFFEU FOMBA	CAFO	76039703
MOUSSA-BAGAYOKO	REHATRAC-BIO	76444579

KEFFA DEMBELE	DNA	79152427
BOWA NIOUMANTA	DNPIA	76481185
BADJE KONATE	KANABOUGOU	62744029
ALFIADOU COULIBALY	CPS/ATFSI	74132171
ANBOUMA KONAKE	RADIO KATI	69884974
NAMADOU DIAWOYE GOULIBODY	ETUDIANT	75490544
JEAN MICHEL SENE	ELEPHANT VELT NALI	75994225
HAROUNA KONOTE	DNCC	76445880
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ROKIA KAMATE	HOTESSE	76274442
NAKADIDIATA TOURE	HOTESSE	76047204
KOZOTOUMOU SANOGO	HOTESSE	76376709
AWA NAIGA	HOTESSE	77326585
AMI DIAUA	HOTESSE	66788767
ADAM DIATTO	HOTESSE	76305947
AWA KOME	HOTESSE	91675027
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ASTAN SANGOLE	HOTESSE	76996200
BINTOU SAMAKE	HOTESSE	66776458
NASIEYOU KOUYATE	HOTESSE	76420081
FOUSSEGUI TRAORE	FAO-MALI	76420081
SOUDEYMANE COULIBALY	GIPD/DNA	66554736
AMADOU KOITA	AMGES/MOG	60968085
NAUADOU DIANNA	CNOP	76207760
LAKA COULIBALY	LOZA	66879546
HABOUCHE TOBOKO	AOPP	66981670
FAGAGE SISOKO	IER	66798171
UAMADOU KONE	IER	66099886