

INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT ON THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN SENEGAL HELD ON FEBRUARY 28th, 2014 AT LAT-DIOR HOTEL



With support from Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)



LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFRONET	African Organic Agriculture Network
ASPAB	Association Senegalaise Pour La Promotion De Agriculture Biologique
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CLO	Country Lead Organization
ENDA-PRONAT	Environnement et developement du Tiers Monde- Protection Naturelle
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
FENAB	Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique (National Federation for Organic Producers)
NESC	National EOA Steering Committee
PIP	Pillar/Project Implementing Partner
RENDERFER	Reseau Nationale Des Famnes Rurales Pour Le Dupment
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
ISD	Institute for Sustainable Development
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's development
NPCA	Planning and Coordinating Agency
AU	African Union
EU	European Union
SIDA	Swedish International Cooperation

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1. INTRODUCTION ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE EOA INITIATIVE

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) initiative in Africa comes as an effort to support and implement the African Union Council Decision on Organic Farming endorsed during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011, EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII) and stipulates as follows:

The Executive Council;

1. Takes note of the report of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 28 and 29 October 2010 on Organic Farming, and endorses the Resolution contained therein;
2. Expresses concern over the current practice of exploitation of the organic farmers in Africa;
3. Requests the Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:
 1. Initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and
 2. Provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;
4. Calls upon development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this Decision;
5. Requests the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

The first stakeholders were engaged in a meeting in Thika on May 2011, and then AU/EU Experts' consultative meeting was held in Brussels July 2011.

EOA Pilot phase was covering 9 African Countries in 2012, which were (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal & Benin). The project is funded by SIDA/SSNC; SDC and EU/AU.

Pilot and Rolling Out of EOA in Africa

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation supported pilot phase in 2012 in 6 countries namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Nigeria. Baseline studies were conducted in Mali, Senegal and Benin with SDC Support. SSNC is currently supporting rollout in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia from 2013 – 2015. SDC will be supporting EOA in 8 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia) in Eastern Africa and Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Benin in Western Africa from 2014 to 2018.

Action Plan for Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative

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.

Objectives of the EOA Initiative in Africa

1. To increase documentation of information and knowledge on organic agricultural products along the complete value chain and support relevant actors to translate it into practices and wide application.
2. To systematically inform producers about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivate their uptake through strengthening access to advisory and support services.
3. To substantially increase the share of quality organic products at the local, national and regional markets.
4. Strengthen inclusive stakeholder engagement in organic commodities value chain development by developing national, regional and continental multi- stakeholder platforms to advocate for changes in public policy, plans and practices.

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

The workshop started at 8am with the registration of the participants. In attendance was 71 participants drawn from various farmer organizations, civil society organizations, private enterprises, public sector, advisory services consumers, research and training centre's and finally the government leaders. One of the elders (Ngouda Tall) led the members with a word of prayer asking God to help our people to remain united in this initiative and that in the next five years we will all be happy on the outcomes and achievements. Afterwards Ibrahima (The EOA representative of FENAB) asked the members to introduce themselves by informing other participants their names and the institutions that they were representing. Ibrahima gave a brief introductory speech based on the EOA-SDC pilot phase that was implemented in West Africa. He informed the meeting that the national platform meeting being held that day had to meet the following three objectives:-

- I. Create awareness of EOA Initiative among a larger multistakeholder audience and introduce the into national policies strategies and plans
- II. Form Country Platform for EOA Promotion
- III. Establish a National EOA Steering Committee with clear operational procedures
- IV. Select a country lead organization (CLO) and main Project Implementing Partners (PIPs) for the technical centres of excellence.

Ibrahima gave a special welcome to the representative from BvAT and informed the meeting that Doreen had travelled from Far East to actively participate in the meeting and particularly guide the meeting through the selection process of the CLO and PIPs. Afterwards Ibrahima welcomed the president to make a speech.

2.1 Purpose and objectives of the Workshop:

The main aim of the workshop was for the formation of the National Structures of the EOA Project at the country level so that the national structure can be responsible for developing integration strategies and Ecological Agriculture in national policies and programs for agricultural development in 2014-2018 in East and West Africa, and more specifically in Senegal. It also gave the opportunity to 71 participants (see attendance list) to share more about EOA Initiative.

2.2 Objectives of the meeting:

1. Clarify and specify the role of the EOA Initiative as a strategy for integrating the EOA concept in national agricultural production systems and more specifically to Senegal and to provide an opportunity to FENAB to recall the priorities, guidelines and values of the EOA Initiative
2. Provide an opportunity for Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), which represents the Financial Partner SDC, to present the standard organizational structure of the project in all pilot countries and outline its role and responsibilities and the roles, responsibilities and requirements of Country Lead Organizations and Pillar implementing partners
3. Elect Country Lead Organizations Leader and implementing partners of the activity pillar organizations;

4. Create the National Platform of Senegal and develop its terms of reference outlining the roles and responsibilities;
5. This workshop would also create an opportunity for the various stakeholders to share and exchange information on the experiences in organic sector.

3. PRESENTATION ON EVOLUTION OF EOA (*Famara Diedhiou*)

Famara Diedhiou took the participants through the evolution of EOA Initiative since its inception in Thika. He led the meeting through the brief history of how the EOA initiative started with a meeting in November 2008 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) organized by FAO, SSNC, and ISD with over 80 participants from 15 African countries: Benin, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He informed the meeting that later there was a planning meeting in May 2011 held in Thika, organized by PELUM-Kenya and the African Union and with financial support of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). It was after this that the initiative was conceptualized, with vision and mission statements made.

Below is a summary of Famara *Diedhiou's* presentation.

1. Objective of EAO-I:

Making AEB dominant in national production systems in 2025 to preserve the environment, reduce poverty and ensure food security.

These include the:

- Strengthening the institutional capacities of actors,
- Participation in markets for better promotion of products,
- Integration into national policies and programs and sub-regional,
- Communication and information
- Synergy shares.

2. Issues of EAO-I:

- Agriculture: key sector for many African economies and sustainable development
- Unsustainable environmental degradation and agricultural practices;
- Climate change and increasing population pressure;
- Poverty and famine, especially in rural environment;
- Lack of or inadequate access to information / relevant knowledge;
- Failure of coordination between actors engaged in various initiatives;
- Insufficient financial resources to carry out strategies AEB
- Low support AEB in public policy;

- Health problems related to food and the food crisis of 2007/08 were hoisted atop agriculture on the international agenda;
- The small-scale producers and their methods (agro-ecological) are now subject to the attention of everyone.

3. History of EOA-I process:

- 2003: Maputo agreements - Africa still trying to improve agriculture through massive investments ;
- 2003: CAADP (2015) focuses on improving food security and nutrition and increasing incomes in based primarily on agriculture African economies.
- 2003-2010 : strong advocacy stakeholders for better management of the AEB in public policy
- January 2011: The Executive Council of the AU at its 18th Ordinary Session adopted a decision (EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII)) for AB .
- May 2011: In response to the EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII) decision, workshop organized by key stakeholders and hosted by PELUM in Thika, Kenya to enhance the historic achievement.
- 2012: Pilot Project: Kenya , Uganda , Tanzania, Ethiopia , Zambia and Nigeria; basic study in Senegal , Mali and Benin
- 2014: Implementation in 8 countries (2018).

4. Presentation of EAO-I:

The EAO Baseline Studies (reference Biovision) were driven by the FENAB; three pillars have been entrusted to AGRECOL and 3 to PRONAT. Here are the 6 pillars on which the initial studies focused:

- 1) Research, Training and Extension:
- 2) Information and Communication:
- 3) Value chain and Market Development:
- 4) Networking and Partnership
- 5) Development of Policies and Programs:
- 6) Institutional Capacity Development:

Out of these six pillars, three were selected for the project from 2014 to 2018:

- a. Research, training, extension,
- b. Information and communication
- c. Value chain and market development.

Pillars "Networking and Partnership ," " Development of policies and programs " and " institutional development " were considered less critical because in all countries, there are already frameworks for consultation as to strengthen the implementation of the platform will be responsible for monitoring the 3 pillars and advocate with policy makers.

We propose that the FENAB continues to bear the 2014-2018 project with a shared responsibility of the three pillars between AGRECOL AFRICA " Value Chain and Market Development ," ASPAB for " Information and Communication " and ENDA PRONAT for " Research, Training, Extension ".

4. PRESENTATION BY BVAT REPRESENTATIVE (Doreen Rima)

BvAT representative made the presentation between 11.30 and 12.30pm and with the help of a translator. The presentation emphasized on BvAT's role in the EOA Initiative under SDC's contribution and the guidelines for selection of Country Lead Organizations and Pillar Implementing Partners. The members of the meeting requested more clarifications about Biovision Africa Trust and its expectations from partners in this Initiative especially regarding technical and financial reports. The question of coordination and management was addressed adequately bearing in mind that BvAT was the lead agency of the EOA-SDC initiative and would be accountable to the Continental EOA Steering Committee and to Afronet. It was made clear that BvAT would support the organizations that would be implementing EOA project in other countries in the continent.

BvAT would therefore be responsible for management and oversight of all partner activities in the initiative. This means that BvAT would be accountable to the donor (SDC) and that was the reason why the issue of partner selection was very crucial at this stage to avoid dysfunctional reporting at later stages of project implementation. Participants were taken through the objectives of the national platforms as well as those of the national steering committee. The members of the meeting were very keen to find out the membership that would constitute the national platform as well as the National EOA steering Committee which was explained that they were required to form a country platform with a wide representation as possible. This meant that all the organizations and institutions that were represented in the meeting already formed a national platform but that it should not limit to those in attendance only, therefore other organizations with which we share proponents of the initiative were welcome to join the national platform in Senegal. The process of the project implementation would be proactive and would involve dynamic partnership of all stakeholders (national, regional and central platforms

4.1 Summary of BvAT presentation

1. Plan of Action for the Development of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa:

The overall project goal is to make sure that the ecological and organic agriculture will be recognized even institutionalized in the world and particularly in Africa.

The project vision is to have an ecological and organic agriculture to ensure food security and sustainable development in Africa.

The mission is to promote environmental practices and sound systems through strategies and actions ranging from production to marketing to reduce poverty and ensure food security and environmental protection.

2. Phase and studies of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Project in Africa

pilot phase was launched in 2012 by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation in 6 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Nigeria).

The first studies were conducted in Mali, Senegal and Benin by the support of SDC.

Studies are underway in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia (2013-2015).

This project will be supported in 8 countries ((Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia) in East Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Benin in West Africa (2014-2018).

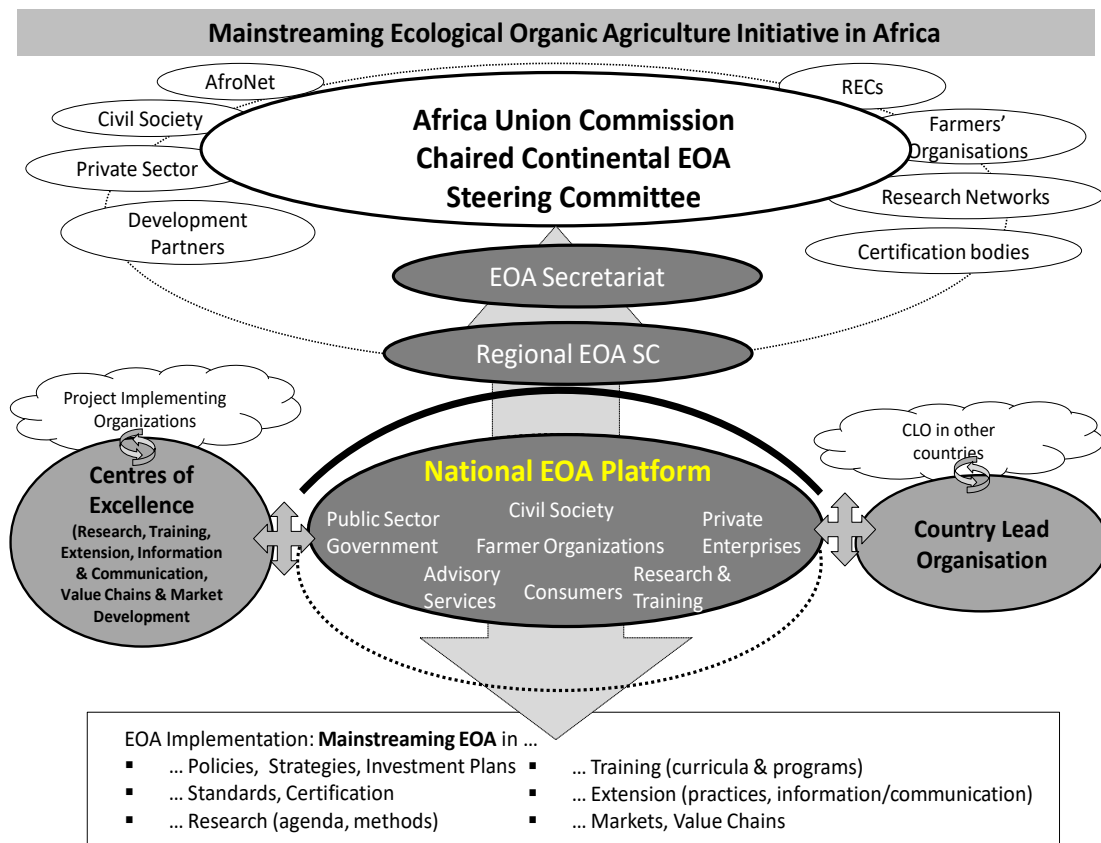


Figure 1: The Organizational Structure of EOA Initiative

We have here a chart of ecological and organic agriculture project in Africa composed of the Commission of the African Union, General Secretariat, the Regional Secretariat for Agriculture and Ecological and National Platform of the EAO with the organization leader and centers of excellence.

NB: The governing bodies or those who compose the different levels of the organization are made by institutions, but NOT by individuals.

3.1 Mandate of the National EOA Platforms

The mandate of the National EOA Platforms will include:

1. Streamlining EOA's operations at country level.
2. Rallying of partners/actors in EOA at country and continental level.
3. Facilitating the sharing of achievements, lessons and experiences.
4. Supporting/lobbying of policy change, investment plans, etc.
5. Shaping the national research and development EOA agenda.
6. Facilitating selection of and providing support to Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and project implementing partners.

3.2 Objectives of the National Platforms

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

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

The national platforms will promote specific strategic actions such as organizing policy formulation competitions among high school or undergraduate students, awarding farmers for outstanding performance or recognizing politicians for their pro-EOA political work. With experience, the national platforms may as well formulate benchmarks for "good" policy work in the various agro sectors. This will enhance implementation of the EOA initiative with strong integration and synergy across thematic areas and sectors. The platforms will be expected to become visible and recognized actors ensuring professional quality in management of the EOA projects.

3.3 Membership of the National Platforms

The membership of the country National Platforms will include:

- Agriculture and other relevant sector ministries
- Research and Educational Institutions
- Private sector
- Civil Society Organizations

- Farmer Organizations
- Policy research and development Institutions (e.g. KIPPRA, TEGEMEO for Kenya)
- Certification and regulatory agencies
- Development Partners which will be open to who may wish to join

4. National EOA Steering committee (NESC)

It is envisaged that stakeholders will democratically elect/nominate a National EOA Steering Committee (NESC) to provide leadership and overall supervision of EOA at the country level. Representation in the National Committee will be based on institutions rather than individuals.

The platform steering committee will be responsible for:

- a) Providing leadership, guidance and overall supervision of EOA at the country level
- b) Exploring ways of integrating EOA within national plans, strategies and investment plans
- c) Developing national structures for implementing the Initiative
- d) Developing a country's national platform's long term goals and strategies
- e) Reviewing national progress reports on a regular basis
- f) Initiating high-level coordination of EOA activities
- g) Establishing and implementing partnerships and resource mobilization for EOA at national level.
- h) Creating linkages of country level EOA activities with regional and continental activities

All these responsibilities will be done in consultation with all the stakeholders. The National Platform Steering committee shall meet at least twice a year.

4.1 Representation at the National EOA Steering Committee

The proposed National Steering Committee would include the following:

1. Chair
2. Vice Chair
3. Secretary

Other Representations from:

4. Research and Training
5. Private Sector
6. Government (e.g. Agriculture Sector Coordinating Unit - ASCU)
7. Civil Society Organization
8. Farmers Organization
9. Development Partners who may wish to join

The national platforms will be supported by country lead organizations (CLOs) and project implementing partners (PIPs).

The Country Lead Organizations (CLOs)

The CLOs, with the endorsement and support of the National Platforms will be responsible for the followings tasks:

- a) Coordinate project activity implementation at country level
- b) Disburse funds to project implementing partners as per the proposal and signed work agreements and contracts
- c) Supervise and monitor implementation of project activities
- d) Support building of networks and enabling experience sharing across pillars
- e) Catalyze and support the process of forming National Platforms
- f) Provide secretariat facilities for the NPSC
- g) Report to NPs, AfrONet and development partners

5.1 Selection of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs)

Stakeholders will be required to carefully choose and approve a reputable organization to be the CLO. This is a crucially important position that should not be given to any organization without due diligence being undertaken into the organization. Many national, regional and continental projects and programmes fail because of not having competent and transparent organizations as the lead organizations. In selecting a CLO, a potential organization for this responsibility must meet the following requirements:

1. They should have a national appeal
2. They should be proponent of ecological organic agriculture
3. They should have established structures/systems of management
4. They should have the ability to mobilize and rally other actors from different sectors and institutions
5. Ability to network and grow the EOA initiative
6. Ability to monitor and hold project implementing partners accountable
7. They should be mandated by the National Actors for enhancing a broad-based buy-in.

5. Project/Pillar Implementing Partners (PIP)

Country activities will be undertaken by reputable partners selected and approved by the stakeholders through the national platforms.

The PIPS, with the endorsement and support of the National Platforms will be responsible for the followings tasks:

- a) Implement in partnership with other partners assigned project activities in the country.
- b) Support building of networks and experience sharing with other stakeholders.
- c) Report progress and results of project implementation to NPs and development partners

The national forums will be encouraged to use the following decision-making criteria to select competent PIPs who will be involved in implementing EOA project activities:

- Identify potential partners and assess their capacity to contribute effectively to project objectives and impact pathway as described by the needs of the project.
- The partners should have at least two years of proven experience working on successful projects benefiting farmers and rural communities.
- Evaluate partners' track record of capacity to deliver on obligations and expectations, and if it has a presence in the geographic areas where the project will be implemented.

- Evaluate the partners' capacity for administrative requirements in terms of procurement and financial management and their track record in managing organization's and project funds.
- Assess their capacity to leverage collaboration in the setting of the project (respect/standing of the partner, reputation for getting things done, partner's own networks of influence etc.) and whether they have experience working through community-based organizations to deliver services and/or carry out other project activities at the village level.
- Cross check with the project donors about their previous experiences with the partners.
- Assess PIP's shared values and commitment to development and achievement of the desired outputs.

6. Proposed Activities

Objective 1: To integrate EOA in government policies, strategies, plans and programmes

- a) Undertake policy gap analysis on the current country policies and evaluate the extent to which they support EOA development.
- b) Align EOA initiative with national policies, based on the recommendations of the policy gap analysis.
- c) Work closely with County Agriculture Directors or equivalent to integrate EOA in county policies, strategies and investment plans.

Objective 2: To link and coordinate EOA activities at country level including sharing of information and experiences among stakeholders.

- a) Link EOA with other relevant ongoing activities
- b) Undertake programmatic information sharing through:
 - Developing a national platform website
 - Establishing national clusters around thematic areas such as research, training, production, trade, among others
 - Organize special forums for the clusters to meet, share information and success stories and plan for pertinent issues affecting the cluster.
 - Undertake programme monitoring, evaluation and reporting
 - Organize regular programme review meetings for the National Platform Steering Committee and implementing partners
 - Organize stakeholders' forums to review and decide on the way forward on EOA initiative
 - Follow up on implementation of the way forward ideas from stakeholders meeting in consultation with project coordinators.

Objective 3: To create awareness and increase the critical mass and voice of proponents of EOA

- a) Recruit stakeholders to join the country national platform
- b) Establish county/district/zonal contact points. These are organizations at county/district/zonal level who will be responsible for coordinating activities at the unit level. They will be useful links to disseminate EOA information at country level down to the grass root and provide feedback from these levels to the national level.

- c) Appoint a regional platform representative who will be the link between national and regional steering committees and regularly report to the national level and to the regional level.

Project Management and Coordination by BvAT

Management and coordination of the EOA Initiative and the SDC support towards the initiative will be undertaken by the Biovision Africa Trust in Kenya. As the lead agency of the initiative, BvAT acts on behalf of and is accountable to the Continental EOA Steering Committee and to AfroNet. BvAT will closely work 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). BvAT will facilitate the establishment of National Platforms and the selection of CLOs and will be responsible for management, accountability and general oversight of all partner activities.

The five-year plan will be implemented in an **annual cycle** of planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting. **M&E for the EOA activities** and their impacts will be an integral part of the Initiative. In developing the M&E system, particular attention will be given to participatory monitoring and training of the field practitioners on how to use results to improve service delivery and encourage learning by the beneficiaries. Moreover, a database will be developed and maintained of a) ecological-based technologies and practices, b) ‘best-fit’ methodologies and approaches (processes) from which African implementing countries can take lessons, and c) EOA actors interested to share their expertise.

Overall annual plans and budgets of the Initiative and corresponding reports on achievements and management will be prepared by the EOA Project Manager in collaboration with the CLO and approved by the EOA in Africa Steering Committee. In the framework of the contract between BvAT and SDC an annual financial and operational reporting directly to SDC is foreseen. National Platform EOA Steering Committees will develop the necessary structures for implementing the initiative at country level including reviewing national progress. Regional Cluster Steering Committees and Pillar Steering Committees will proceed in similar ways, focussing on the ways the uptake of technologies will translate into improved welfare of farmers, processors and marketers. At the end of year one, SDC will undertake an institutional assessment of the financial management and administrative framework and procedures of BvAT.

4.2 DISCUSSIONS/EXCHANGES ON THE PRESENTATION

The discussion and exchanges were all centered on the presentation made by BvAT representative. This included membership, guidelines, reporting, budgets and accountability. Some of the major questions and concerns that came up were as follows:-

- I. Who would Biovision Africa Trust sign contracts with?

- II. During the pilot phase there existed six pillars to be implemented among which policy and program development was one of them. The participants were concerned that this was not one of the pillars in the project implementation phase. They felt that this pillar was very critical due to its advocacy purpose and they needed to know how this would be taken care of during this phase.
- III. The participants also wanted to know whether business people who had connections with key government officials could join the national steering committee.
- IV. Other organizations who would not be selected to be the pillar implementing partners inquired whether they would join in the project implementation.
- V. The participants also inquired how the budget would be distributed among the various organizations and stakeholders.
- VI. Lastly FENAB inquired whether BvAT would be willing to provide training on the key financial management aspects that partners would need to observe for purposes of easy and clearer reporting.

4.3 RESPONSES TO THE DISCUSSIONS

- BvAT would enter in a partnership with the country lead organization in each country and this Country Partner will in turn enter in a partnership with the pillar implementing partners in their country with whom they would implement the project pillars in that particular country.
- The question of policy and advocacy would now be addressed at a higher level with support of CLOs and by the different platforms i.e National Platforms, Regional Steering Committee, EOA secretariat (yet to be formed) Afronet and the Continental EOA Steering Committee . This meant that the other two pillars (Institution and capacity Development, Policy and Program Development) had their activities merged under the fourth pillar (Cementing and Support Pillar) in the project implementation phase
- The National Steering Committee would be based on institutions rather than individuals in the country. Therefore if the prominent business people belonged to an institution or organization like Agriculture ministry, Research and Education, Private Sector, Civil Society, Farmer Organization, Certification and Regulatory bodies or Development Partner they were welcome to express their interest but they would have to go through the selection process like others.
- The implementation of the Initiative was not limited to the CLO and PIPs only. The implementation of the initiative would involve dynamic partnerships and collaboration

among various institutions even those not selected to be country lead organization or PIPs. This means that a particular PIP could subcontract an individual from another organization with special skills to help implement a certain activity in the specific pillar according to the provided terms of reference. This was received with a very positive spirit and enthusiasm in the meeting. The participants expressed their willingness to remain united throughout the project implementation and offer support to the selected CLOs and PIPs.

5. FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL EOA STEERING COMMITTEE ***(Ibrahima Seck)***

Ibrahima informed the participants that they needed to nominate members of the National EOA Steering Committee that would provide overall supervision of EOA in Senegal. It was emphasized that representation in the National Steering Committee would be based on institutions rather than individuals.

The participants of the meeting agreed that they would nominate the chair, vice chair and secretary for the NESC on that day but other representations would be nominated and confirmed another day on a separate meeting. This was agreed upon due to the fact that we had limited time and also because they felt that if this was done in a rush we would leave out some organizations that were not represented in the Inception meeting that particular day.

How will the National Platform be?

It will be a broad and open to everyone (research organizations, private actors, state structures, POs, NGOs) platform. Any person or institution that shares the same vision as the Bio Vision Africa Trust may be a member of the platform. The platform shall have a Bureau consisting of at least three members (President, Vice President and Secretary). A steering committee will be elected / appointed shortly. The platform must meet two times per year.

Suggestions from the participants:

- Treat all participants of the workshop as members of the platform.
- The FENAB must choose the members of this platform.
- The carrier project organizations must be members of the Steering Committee.
- The FENAB must go to the base to collect the views of farmers' organizations before the establishment of this platform.
- Board members must be only Bio producers.

6. THE ACTUAL NATIONAL PLATFORM

6.1 NESC Chair

The Fédération Nationale de l'Agriculture Biologique (FENAB) was therefore nominated to provide chairmanship to the NESC and would be represented by Mr. Doudou Diop its President. At this point it became very political because some participants were feeling that FENAB was domineering in all the positions. This was because earlier FENAB had been proposed to be the CLO. Some of the members of the meeting felt that since the NESC was meant to offer guidance and supervision of the EOA initiative in the country it would then not make sense for FENAB to provide the needed guidance to itself being a CLO. Other participants felt that it was indeed very prudent for FENAB to take the chairmanship position since it would be the country lead organization in Senegal meaning that it was central to the initiative and this would help them catalyze and support the initiative better.

6.2 NESC vice Chair

R`eseau National Des Famnes Ruraales Pour Le Dupmt (RENDFER) was nominated to take the vice chair position. RENDFER would be represented by Mrs. Tine Ndoye. This decision was reached after the participants appeal to ensure that there was some female representation so as to ensure gender equality in the NESC. Mrs. Tine Ndoye is a very vocal lady who used to be a farmer and now lobbies for trading or selling of organic fresh products. Mrs .Ndoye has now been selected to be the president of Senegalese Rural Women Network for Development (RENDFER) and has also been nominated to be a member of the Senegalese Council for Economic Environmental and Social Business. This is a national body or committee that is very close to the president of Senegal and has more than eight ministers as members.

6.3 NESC Secretary

Fahamu Africa was nominated to take the secretarial position and would be represented by Famara Diedhiou. Fahamu Africa is distinctively placed as a pan-African organization supporting and working collaboratively with social movements over the long term. Rather than imposing generic solutions to address the needs of and to strengthen movements, Fahamu is committed to ensuring that their interventions are relevant, timely and significant to the movements they serve. It comprises a small core of highly skilled and experienced staff based in Nairobi, Kenya; Cape Town, South Africa; Dakar, Senegal and Oxford. For more information one could visit their website on www.fahamu.org

The participant agreed that the above representations were just nominations which would require to be confirmed on a separate meeting when selecting the other representations on the NESC. Also participants noted that they needed to reconsider if FENAB should take the chairmanship of the NESC since it was also nominated to be the Country Lead Organization

6.4 CONFIRMING OF THE COUNTRY LEAD ORGANIZATION (*Famara Diedhiou*)

On a separate meeting before the day of the Inception Meeting, FENAB had been proposed to be the country lead organization. FENAB was established in 2008 with 18 (5 NGOs and 13FarmerOrganizations) founder member organizations. FENAB is non-political, non-religious and non-profit body open to all the populace in Senegal for membership. Currently it has a membership of over 18000 small scale holders and its board members are only farmers. Its mission is to change the people's mentality and enhance environmental protection and ensure food security among smallholder farmers in Senegal. FENAB offices are located in a region called Thies. Thies is around 75km from Dakar and on a good day it would take one an hour to drive from the airport. FENAB is housed within the Agrecol offices.

FENAB was the EOA lead organization in Senegal during the pilot and was the host of the National Inception Meeting. The participants of the meeting agreed to confirm FENAB as the CLO since it had a national appeal in Senegal. Senegal had already gained some experience during the pilot and also had managed to win support from the ministry of agriculture. One of the member organizations of FENAB (ASPAB) was the first to promote organic Agriculture in Senegal. The participants of the meeting agreed that FENAB had the capacity and experience to coordinate, monitor and supervise EOA activities in Senegal. It was therefore agreed and recorded that FENAB would lead the initiative in Senegal.

6.5 SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF PILLAR IMPLIMENTING PARTNERS (*Famara Diedhiou*)

Several organizations had been nominated to implement the pillars and it had been documented. Famara announced the organizations and asked the participants to confirm one organization per category to implement the specific pillars. It was made clear that the selected organizations would work in close collaboration with similar organizations in the country to implement the pillars.

I. Research Training and Extension Pillar

The participants confirmed that the Research and Training pillar would be implemented by an organization called ENDA-PRONAT. It was formed in 1982 and is a civil society organization

with its offices located in Dakar. It deals with Advocacy Research and Training on Agriculture. It is currently also dealing with processing and marketing of organic products. It supports a weekly Organic Market in Dakar Senegal and supports over 10,000 producers. For more information one can visit their website on www.endapronat.org.

II. Information and Communication Pillar

The participants confirmed the Association of Senegalaise pour Le Promotion de L` Agriculture Biologique (ASPAB) to be the Organization that would be in charge of information and communication strategies used to enhance farmers access to information. ASPAB is a farmer organization based in Thies. It is a communication association that currently runs two farmer schools. ASPAB was created in 1987 and has more than 8,000 members from six regions of Senegal.

III. Value Chain and Market Development

Agrecol Afrique was confirmed to be the organization that would lead the implementation of the Value Chain and Market Development Pillar. Agrecol is a civil society organization whose offices are located in Thies. It was created in 1996. Agrecol as an organization is involved majorly in trade and processing and has around 700 direct beneficiaries spread out in six regions in Senegal. For more information one can visit their website on www.agrecol-Afrique.org

6.6 CREATION OF THE NATIONAL EOA PLATFORM (*Famara Diedhiou*)

It was discussed and agreed that all the organizations represented in the National Inception Meeting formed the National Platform but others not present that day were not limited from joining the forum. This is the platform that would therefore help shape the national research and development of EOA in Senegal. It was agreed that more meetings with similar representation or more would be held frequently to facilitate sharing of achievements lessons and experiences. The same platform would be responsible for creating awareness and enhancing the voice of proponents of EOA in Senegal.

Opportunities for the National Platform

- The city of Thies has a program to promote urban agriculture and urban perished. The platform may be involved in this initiative is focused only on the EOA.
- The Minister of Fisheries has ordered coconut of which will be reserved for FENAB after the Minister's representative.

- Bernard Geier will be in Senegal from 12 to 17 March 2014 to visit areas where EOA is practiced. It will also hold a press conference on the dangers of pesticides

7. CLOSING REMARKS (Doudou Diop)

The president of FENAB expressed his optimism that EOA was a huge initiative and he felt that it was going to succeed. Mr. Diop expressed his appreciation to all the participants for gracing the meeting and especially BvAT for providing their useful guidelines for selection of NESC representatives, CLOs as well as the PIPs. Mr. Diop felt that we needed more time and would have loved to continue with the discussion to deliberate on a few issues that needed further clarification and thought. He however felt that even if we were given another day we would still feel like extending the talk. Mr. Diop therefore asked the participants to note issues that were not clear so that they would seek clarification in future meetings.

The representative from the ministry (Mr. Ali) expressed his gratitude to Ibrahima Seck of FENAB for organizing and moderating the meeting. He felt that the EOA Initiative was being implemented at the right time and promised to ensure that the ministry programs run parallel with those of EOA. Mr. Ali informed the meeting that the ministry of agriculture had bought three containers of cocoa and that FENAB would be one of the beneficiaries just to appreciate the good work of the federation.

Doreen summarized the highlights of the meeting noting that the meeting had achieved its objectives especially in creating a national platform, forming the NESC and selecting the CLOs as well as the PIPs.

Ibrahima informed the meeting that Laure Brun Diallo of Enda Pronat was in charge of rapporteuring and would be sharing the report for the meeting as soon as possible. He further informed the meeting that he would communicate the other representatives of the National EOA steering Committee in due course. Lastly Ibrahima informed the participants that the EOA project had now officially taken off and expressed his hope that we would remain united and collaborate so as to achieve the intended outcomes.

8. CONCLUSION

Ecological and Organic Agriculture is the only viable alternative to achieve food self-sufficiency. Pesticides are a real danger to our health and our environment. This platform has a lot on the board. It must work for the good promotion of EOA. It should emphasize communication to influence the policies of the State so that the EOA occupies a prominent place.

Appendix 1: Program of the National Inception Meeting

Temps	Sujet	Facilitateur
8:00-8:30	Arrival of participants	
8.30-9.00	Registration of participants /Installation	Jeanne Ngane DIATARA (Finance's Resp. of FENAB) and Maguette DIOP (GS of FENAB)
9.00-9.30	Welcome word	FENAB President
	Speatch of the Mayor of the city of Thiès	Mr. Yankhoba DIATARA
	Speatch of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment	Dr. Papa Abdoulaye SECK
	Opening of the Meeting by the MARE	Dr. Papa Abdoulaye SECK
10:05-10:30	Thé/Pause café	
Plenary : Progress of the Development of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa		
11.00-11.30	Evolution of EAO-I – The road map since Thika by Famara DIEDHIOU	Gora NDIAYE (Vice-President FENAB)
11.30-12.00	The EAO Project Document and the contribution of SDC 2014 – 2018 by Famara DIEDHIOU	Gora NDIAYE
12.00-12.30	Role and Responsibilities of Biovision Africa Trust (BvT) Guidelines for Development and Management of National Platforms for Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa 2014-2018 by Dr. Doreen Rima (BvT Kenya) Traduction: Famara DIEDHIOU	Gora NDIAYE
12.30-13.15	Discussions / Exchanges	Gora NDIAYE
13.15-14.30	Lunch Break	
14: 30-15: 00	Confirmation of the Country Lead Organization of EAO Project in Senegal	Famara DIEDHIOU / Gora NDIAYE
15: 00-15: 30	Confirmation of the Pillars Implementing Organizations of EAO Project in Senegal	Famara DIEDHIOU / Gora NDIAYE
15:30-16:45	Creation of the EAO National Platform in Senegal	Famara DIEDHIOU / Gora NDIAYE
16:45-17:30	Pause Prière	

17:30-18:00	Closure of the Meeting of implementation of the National Platform to plan how to integrate Ecological Agriculture / Organic in national policies and agricultural development programs 2014-2018 in East Africa and West and more specifically in Senegal . The meeting will provide an opportunity for Senegalese partners working in the promotion of Ecological Agriculture / Biological share more on Ecological Agriculture / Organic Initiative (I-AEB).	Doudou DIOP Président de la FENAB Ibrahima SECK Coordinateur du Projet AEB au Sénégal
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Appendix II: List of Participants – EOA National Platform Inception Meeting In Thies, Senegal 28th February 2014

N°	Name	Surname	Gender	Structure / Fonction	Telephone E-mail
1	SECK	Ibrahima	M	FENAB /Coordinator project	221774424029 iseck@yahoo.fr
2	Diédhiou	Famara	M	FENAB	dfamara@hotmail.com
3	Doreen	Rima	F	BV AT	dkirema@icip.org
4	Mandiang	Bacary	M	AAJAC/colififa	771639075
5	FAYE	Abdoulaye	M	AKS / Sudgks@yahoo.fr	775510236
6	FALL	Ngouye	M	Consultant	775109633
7	DIEME	Seydou	M	Directeur ADT GERT/Th	775526524
8	SQUARE	Amadou Guindo	M	YNW	774561826
9	KANE	Moussa	M	AVRB	772002764
10	NGOM	Papa Momar	M	READ	773582873
11	FALL	Moussa	M	ARAN	776225625
12	NDIAYE	Daouda	M	Président APROPAMED	775680631
13	KA	Amadou	M	Takku Liguey	774242800
14	NDAW	Moustapha	M	Takku Liguey/Kaf	773458765
15	DEME	Mbaye	M	CJ/FAPD	706070352

16	GNINGUE	Ibrahima	M	FNGIEH/S	775331423
17	DIAW	Mamadou Tandiang	M	ENSA Enseignant	776561499
18	SAMBA	Diallo	M	ASPAB/SOKONE	778127000
19	ADIE	Diatta	F	ASPAB/Sédhiou	775655142
20	NDOYE	Matar	M	FAPD	771246946 / 766618967
21	CISSE	Malick	M	Consultant	776362894
22	AIDARA	Abdoulaye	M	QUABCOO	773809445
23	DIOUF	Ndeye	F	Dir Horticult	775357824
24	SECK	Coumba Diouf	M	CONGAD/PC	775326952
25	FAYE	Samba	M	GIE ALL YANA	768303126 / 777869705
26	NDIAYE	Idy	M	Conseil Reg Thies	776529656
27	DIOP	Doudou	M	FENAB Président	763929128 / 774736465
28	MBAYE	Abdoulaye	M	ITA	772248654
29	THIALE	Diakhou	F		777104312
30	SY	Ramata	M	Takku Liguey	776679348
31	DIOUF	Khalipha	M	GIE Keuri Kaw	771600229
32	DIOUF	Assane	M		776345836
33	NDIAYE	Mamadou Papa	M	GREEN SEN	771139716
34	THIAM	Djibril	M	AGRECOL	774487546
35	NIANG	Ousmane	M	HEKS	775358545
36	DIENG	Maa Samba	M	GIT	775526525
37	BADJI	Bocar	M	ADARS	775539862
38	NDIAYE	Diémé	F	RNFR	774289432
39	DIATTARA	Jeanne	F	FENAB Trésorière	775698249
40	BASSOUM	Souleymane	M	Eco-Téranga	339510178

41	GUEYE	Amadou	M	HEKS	775146616
42	MANGASSOUBA	Mamadou	M	C Inter ONG	776137651
43	BALDE	Babacar		Cayar FA	774067965
44	DIOP	Djibril	M	REPAOC Chef Projet	771517514
45	NDIAYE	Gora	M	Jardins d'Afrique Président	773745261
46	SALL	Thierno	M	ENDA PRONAT	779439704
47	CISSE	Mohamed Talla	M	Université Thiès	77839341
48	SECK	Sidy	M	ENDA PRONAT	775398752
49	SANO	Ibrahima	M	GIT	773300028
50	DIALLO	Mamadou	M	UCT	776364007
51	TALL	Ngouda	M	COOPEBAN	
52	NDIAYE	Cheikh	M	UR/COPAGE	773673360
53	DIA	Mamadou	M	Ministère Pêche	775646079
54	DIOP	Djibril	M	Ministère Pêche	776313328
55	FALL	Abib	M	UGPM	774415310
56	DIALLO	Laure Brun	F	ENDA PRONAT	776528685
57	DIONGUE	Masseye	M	FNPM	772131259
58	MBAYE	Mor	M	UMT	773210696
59	DIOP	Ibrahima	M	UMT	772136359
60	NDIAYE	Alihou	M	ASPS/Coordinateur	773,210,696
61	GUEYE	Ousseynou	M	AGRECOL	775,154,981
62	SALL	Cheikh	M	AGRECOL	776,582,942
63	DIA	Pathé	M	UGPN	776,472,462
64	DIALLO	Nafi	F	GIE IDEAL	775,438,039
65	BA	Kiné	F	AOR	765805363
66	SY	Moustapha	M	Univers Env Agro	774093178

67	WADE	Alassane	M	PNIA	775463167
68	SAMOURA	Abdoulaye	M	Mairie Thiès	775,629,998
69	DIOP	Magatte	F	FENAB/ SG	776,550,914
70	FAYE	Meissa	M	FENAB/ SG-Adjoint	708973224 / 763368265
71	SARR	Moustapha	M	Consultant	776557365