

## EOA INITIATIVE IN AFRICA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

REPORT ON THE  
INAUGURATION OF THE  
ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME HELD ON 04TH  
APRIL, 2014 AT PEACOCK  
HOTEL, DAR-ES-SALAAM.



**Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement**

This is a report on the Inauguration event of the Ecological Organic Agriculture country program and the national platform. The country programme is domesticated from the continental initiative with goal of Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa from 2013-2018.

### **The report covers**

- Opening remarks
- Introduction on the Background to EOA Initiative and Continental Structure
- Objectives of the EOA Initiative in Africa
- Functions and coordination of National Platforms CLOs, Steering Committees, & PIPs.
- Discussions around critical issues Needs/Gaps/Opportunities and their explanations
- Domestication of EOA Programme in Tanzania
- Tanzania EOA Platform and coordination.
- Way forward and Conclusion

### **Acknowledgement**

Thanks to Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) for their support on Ecological Organic Agriculture.

Appreciations should go to the TOAM board Chairperson Dr. Mwatima Juma and the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives (MAFC) Ms. Adah Mwashu, for gracing and chairing the event.

Finally thanks to different participants for offering their valuable time and active participation during the launch.

**List of abbreviations**

EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
MAFC	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
NEMC	National Environment Management Council
SAT	Sustainable agriculture Tanzania
TOAM	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement
NOAF	National Organic Agriculture Forum
NP	National Platform
PIP	Pillar Implementing Partners
CLO	Country Lead Organizations
SC	Steering Committee
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency
AUC	African Union Commission

## **1.0 Opening remarks**

Dr. Mwatima, the chairperson of TOAM stood and thanked all the participants for availing their valuable time for the EOA 2014 inaugural event. She in particular, expressed her sincere appreciation and thanks to the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives, Ms. Ada Mwashwa for honoring the invitation to participate in the launching event. She also called upon every participant to actively participate in terms of sharing experiences and practices that will constructively add value to the EOA sector in Tanzania, and therefore help to achieve the goals of the project. She had expectation that participants will go away talking about EOA, as the inaugural event will actually spark a vigorous move towards a live EOA sector. She continued that, EOA achievement is a holistic approach, which needs hands from a variety of stakeholders. SDC has a platform to enhance partnership. MAFC can think of preparing a budget line for the EOA national initiative.

On her part, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives reiterated that the Ministry and the government at large acknowledge the contribution of organic agriculture to national development and food security. She also appreciated the support accorded by SIDA, SDC and SSNC in terms of funding the project. Though there are budget constraints allotted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives, in relation to the number of functions which that budget has to cater for, yet the Ministry is committed to share whatever little it has with the project implementers because of the project's vital contribution to the development of rural smallholder farmers in Tanzania.

## **2.0 Introduction on the Background to EOA Initiative and Continental Structure**

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:
  - i) 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
  - ii) 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.

First, Stakeholders were engaged at Thika meeting in May 2011, then AU/EU Experts' consultative meeting was held in Brussels July 2011.

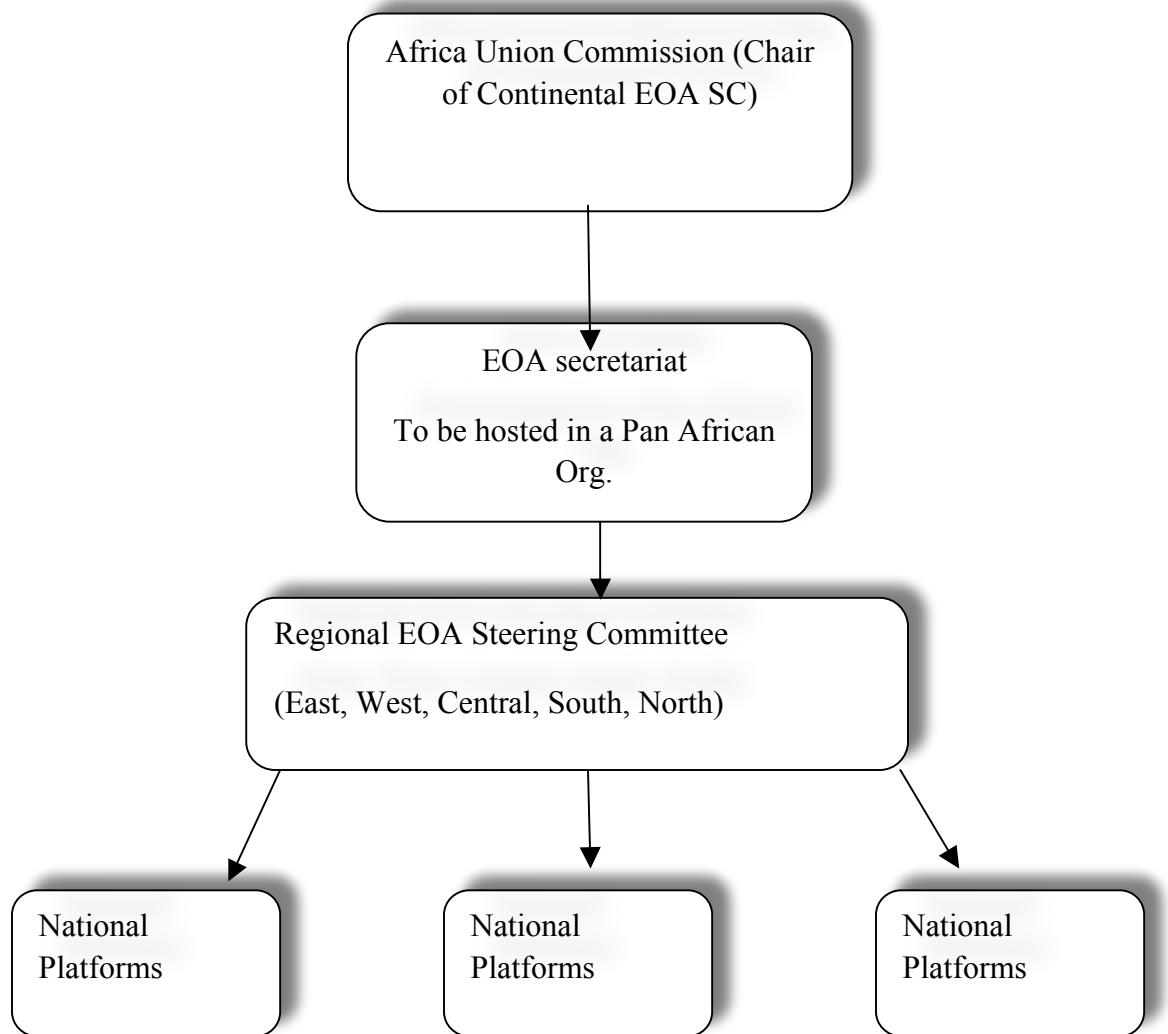
EOA Pilot phase was covering 9 African Countries in 2012, which were (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal & Benin).

The project is funded by SIDA/SSNC; SDC and EU/AU.

## **2.1 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.

## Structure of EOA Initiative in Africa



## **2.2 Functions and coordination of National Platforms CLOs, Steering Committees, & PIPs.**

### **2.2.1 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.

### **2.2.2 Main intervention areas**

#### **2.2.2.1 Research, Training and Extension (RTE)**

This pillar will be responsible for understanding gaps and implementing activities geared towards enhancing uptake of ecological organic agriculture practices along the entire commodity value chains.

#### **2.2.2.2 Information and Communication (IC)**

This pillar is complementary to the RTE through creation of increased awareness and knowledge of value and practices of EOA and strengthening extension support systems.

#### **2.2.2.3 Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD)**

Agriculture being a socially and economically crosscutting enterprise, this pillar aims to promote interventions based on a holistic approach along the organic value chains to stimulate development of sustainable markets and to increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce and products at domestic and export levels.

#### **2.2.2.4 Supporting and Cementing Pillar: Steering, Coordination and Management.**

This pillar has brings together components of the pillars aimed at developing capacities of implementing partners and institutions.

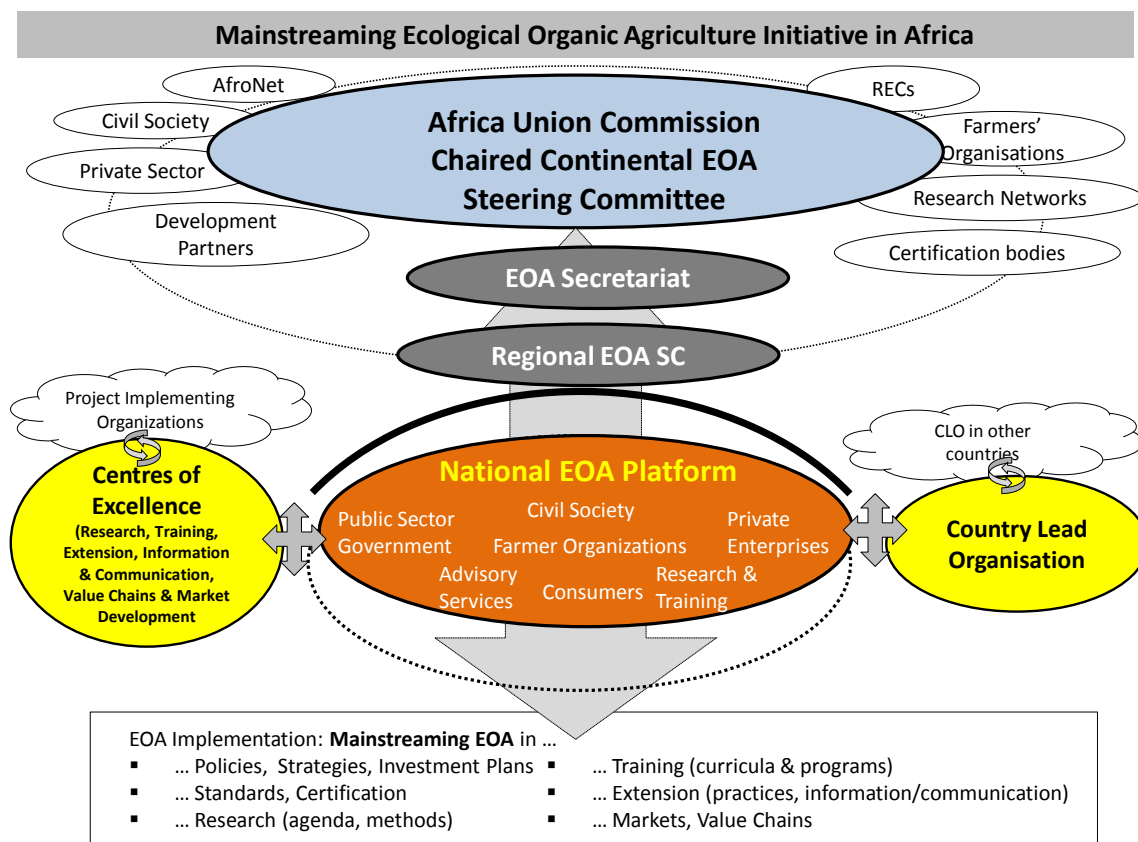
### 3.0 Pilot and Rolling Out of EOA in Africa

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation supported pilot phase in 2012 for 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, Ethiopia) in Eastern Africa and Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Benin in Western Africa from 2014 to 2018.



### 3.1 Continental EOA Steering Committee

- AU will chair the continental Steering committee



- Provide oversight and facilitate the smooth implementation of the EOA Action Plan and track progress of EOA projects on the African continent.
- Development Partners should be full members of the Continental Steering Committee and participate in decision making
- Development Partners can nominate one person from among them to speak on their behalf at the EOA Partnership Platform

### **3.2 EOA Secretariat**

- Will support the Continental EOA SC and link with EOA regional steering committees.
- Two African organizations have been suggested from which to choose a host for the secretariat: ICIPE and FARA (No conclusion was however made on the host institutions).
- There are criteria for selecting an African institution, which would host the EOA Secretariat.

#### **The criteria are as follows: -**

- i. Interest in and openness to promote EOA
- ii. Vision of the institution is aligned with the AU-EOA initiative and commitment to the initiative (Centre of learning)
- iii. Potential for recognition by AUC and its member states (legitimacy)
- iv. Reputable systems – administrative, financial and good standing relationship with development partners
- v. In-kind contribution
- vi. Continental presence or coverage

### **3.3 Regional EOA Steering Committee – RECs**

- Will consist of Regional Farmer Organizations, Regional Research Institutions and Country-lead EOA Organizations. i.e. East African Regional Community, ASARECA,
- RECs should provide guidance on which countries sit on the Regional EOA Steering Committee. But basically countries in East and West Africa will be represented.
- Regional EOA Steering Committee should be formally re-constituted in line with this new composition.

### **3.4 Role of Biovision Africa Trust for EOA SDC Support**

- The Biovision Africa Trust in Kenya will undertake management and coordination of the EOA Initiative for the SDC.
- 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 Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) & Pillar/project implementing partners (PIPs) and will be responsible for management, accountability and general oversight of all partner activities.
- BvAT will receive reports from CLOs for submission to SDC and other partners.

### **3.5 National Platform composition**

This is the National EOA platform at country level.

- Membership should come from the Government, Civil-Society Organizations, Research Institutions, Private Sector Representatives, Women Organizations, Certification Bodies and Development Partners.

- The National Platform will be steered by a National Steering Committee selected by the stakeholders.



*From left, Ms Adah Mwasha, the representative of MAFC and Dr. Mwatima Juma, the chairperson of TOAM chairing the inaugural event*

### **3.6 Mandate of the National EOA Platforms**

The mandate of the National EOA Platforms will include:

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

#### **3.6.1 Objectives of the National Platforms**

On the basis of the above mandate, the national forums will undertake three main objectives:

- Catalyze integration of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) in government policies, strategies, plans and programmes.
- Link and coordinate EOA activities at country level including sharing of information and experiences among stakeholders.

- Create awareness and increase the critical mass and voice of proponents of EOA.

### **3.6.2 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, Certification and regulatory agencies and Development Partners which will be open to who may wish to join.

### **3.7 National EOA Steering committee (NESC)**

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

The NESC will be responsible for:

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

### **3.8 The Country Lead Organizations (CLOs)**

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

- Coordinate project activity implementation at country level
- Disburse funds to project implementing partners as per the proposal and signed work agreements and contracts
- Supervise and monitor implementation of project activities
- Support building of networks and experience sharing across pillars
- Catalyze and support the process of forming National Platforms

- Provide secretariat facilities for the NPSC
- Report to NPs, AfrONet and development partners
- Report to BvAT (operational/Narrative and financial reports)
- Provide all financial support documents as explained in the contracts

### **3.8.1 Selection of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs)**

Stakeholders are required to carefully choose a reputable organization to be the CLO. This is a crucially important position that should not just be given to any organization without scrutiny. Many national, regional and continental projects and programmes fail because of not having competent and transparent organizations as their lead organizations.

In selecting a CLO, a potential organization for this responsibility must meet the following requirements:

- They should have a national appeal
- They should be proponent of ecological organic agriculture
- They should have established structures/systems of management
- They should have the ability to mobilize and rally with other actors from different sectors and institutions.
- Ability to network and grow the EOA initiative
- Ability to monitor and hold project implementing partners accountable
- The National Actors for enhancing a broad-based buy-in should mandate them.

### **3.9 Pillar Implementing Partners (PIP)**

Reputable partners selected and approved by the stakeholders through the national platforms will undertake country activities.

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

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



*Ms Venancia Ndoe Wambua, the Biovision Africa Trust Project Manager, making a presentation*

#### **4.0 Domestication of EOA Programme.**

Domestication is done by putting in place the relevant structures for action plan implementation. These are: The National Platform (NP), Country Lead Organization (CLO), National Steering Committee (SC) and the Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) and Pillar teams. These organs are put in place to facilitate the easy implementation of the EOA action plan at country level. EOA action plan is divided into 4 pillars as shown below at least in a nutshell.

##### **4.1 Research, Training and Extension (RTE)**

This pillar will be responsible for understanding gaps and implementing activities geared towards enhancing uptake of ecological organic agriculture practices along the entire commodity value chains.

##### **4.2 Information and Communication (IC)**

This pillar is complementary to the RTE through creation of increased awareness and knowledge of value and practices of EOA and strengthening extension support systems.

##### **4.3 Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD)**

Agriculture being a socially and economically crosscutting enterprise, this pillar aims to promote interventions based on a holistic approach along the organic value chains to stimulate development of sustainable markets and to increase

trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce and products at domestic and export levels.



**Ms Jane Albert, TOAM's Marketing Personnel presenting on Value Chain and Market Development EOA Pillar**

#### **4.4 Support and Cementing: National Platform Coordination, Policy and Capacity Building**

This pillar has brings together components of the pillars aimed at developing capacities of implementing partners and institutions.

##### **4.4.1 National Platform**

The national platforms will be responsible for various tasks including overseeing implementation of general EOA activities at national level; making follow ups on the integration of EOA in government national policies, plans and strategies; creating links and partnerships among stakeholders and coordinating Organic Agriculture activities in particular countries including creating awareness and building a critical mass and voice on EOA as well as strengthening the Regional and continental Platforms. So in summary the national platforms is:

- The proposed country framework that bring together public, private, Civil Society and Farmer Organizations.
- Sets and coordinates implementation of Country EOA programme,
- Country Lead Organization provides coordination role and links with development Partners
- Stakeholders form task teams for pillars implementation under the country lead partner.

#### **4.4.2 Structure of National platform**

- National Platform (All relevant stakeholders Public, Private, CSOs and Farmer Organization)
- Steering Committee (SC)
- Country Lead Organization (CLO)
- Pillar Implementing Partners and Teams (PIP)

A plan for EOA initiative in Africa contains six pillars: Research, Training & Extension, Rural Information and Communication, Value Chain and Market Development, Networking and Partnerships, Policy and Programme Development, Institutional Capacity Building.

#### **4.4.3 The emphasis on Pillar synergies:**

- Research, Training and Extension
- Rural Information and Communication
- Value Chain and Market Development
- Country Coordination and Advocacy (take up networking, policy, & institutional capacity).

### **5.0 Tanzania EOA Platform and coordination.**

The Tanzania EOA Platform is composed of:

- National Steering Committee
- Country Lead Organization
- Pillar Implementing Partners
- Pillar teams

#### **5.1 National Steering Committee**

The Ministry of Agriculture chairs the NSC and members are:

- i. SWISS AID
- ii. SUA
- iii. ICRAF TZ
- iv. ESAFF
- v. CARITAS
- vi. CDTF

#### **5.2 The Country Lead Organization.**



The Lead Organization for Tanzania will be the **Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)**. This organization has been leading since 2012 and therefore it has acquired a longstanding experience in the field of EOA. It has been serving as a Secretariat for NOAF since 2007. It was thus unanimously reconfirmed the confirmation of Actors made in Morogoro in November 2013 and February 2014 at EOA reflection and Planning workshops.

### 5.3 Pillar Implementing Partners

**The proposed pillar implementing partners are:**

Pillar 1: Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)

Pillar 2: Pelum TZ

Pillar 3: Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement



*Ms. Jane Maro, SAT's CEO making a presentation on Pillar I.*

### 5.4 Pillar Implementing Teams

#### Pillar 1: RET

- i. University: SUA and UDSM
- ii. ARIs: Naliendele; Ilonga; Kizimabni; Ukiriguru; Seriani; Uyole; Tumbi
- iii. Other research: TRIT; TACRI; TAFORI and ICRAF
- iv. Farmer Organizations: ESAFF and MVIWATA
- v. Directorates of Research and Development and Extension: MLDF and MAFS
- vi. NGOs: Caritas Mahenge; UMADEP; RODI

#### Pillar 2: Information & Communication

- i. Inades FTz
- ii. OFA
- iii. Farmers Education and Communication Unit of MAFSC
- iv. SNAL
- v. Media Trust
- vi. BBC Media Action

- vii. SUA/ CE
- viii. NEMC
- ix. TABIO
- x. TGNP

**Pillar 3: Value Chain Development & Access to Markets**

- i. RUCODIA
- ii. Chakula Trading
- iii. UWAMWIMA; KNCU; KCU; KDCU
- iv. RODI
- v. UNIDO
- vi. TANTRADE
- vii. TBS/TFDA/TanCert

**6.0 Plenary Discussions, Issues and Explanations.**

- Pillar 5 on policy should have something on organic aquaculture, organic livestock, which is currently lacking. EOA should be broadened and expanded to capture those areas.
- Clarification was needed on the definition of EOA. There is still a hot debate on the definition of EOA. People wanted to know how different EOA is from “Organic Agriculture”. It was responded that the Continental Steering Committee would work out the definition and share it with actors in due course.
- We should lobby against discriminating policies that hinder the development of Ecological Organic Agriculture show the casing benefits accrued from EOA Practices.
- Need for aggressive fundraising if we are to realize and show casing EOA best Practices as the available fund budgetary is limited such that for pillar 1 the budget is 230 million Tanzanian shilling in 5 years of the project that is an average of 46 million Tanzanian shillings a year.
- It was noted that the Sokoine University of Agriculture has started a course on Organic Agriculture and is planning to establish Organic trials and demonstration plots in the near future. Efforts will be made to engage more Colleges and Universities for them to demonstrate Ecological Organic Agriculture practices
- Members also wanted to know why the discussion revolves around 4 pillars only: Research, Training & Extension, Rural Information and Communication, Value Chain and Market Development and Country Coordination and Advocacy; out of 6 pillars of the original EOAI. It was well explained that, the last 3 pillars have been were amalgamated into

one **“Supporting and Cementing Pillar: Steering, Coordination and Management”**.

- It was also proposed that lobbying and advocacy at an international level should be considered as well. Some international organs are enacting laws and coming up with policies that hamper the development of Organic Agriculture. So activities on lobbying and advocacy at this level could help so slow down or stop such moves.
- Members wanted to know if the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives has a conflict of interest in its day to day activities, as it promotes on one hand use of synthetic inputs and on the other hand talking about ecological organic agriculture. It was explained that, the Ministry is like a parent with several children. The parent is expected to demonstrate equal love and care to all of his/her children. It is injustice for the Ministry to declare that it loves Organic Agriculture and hates synthetic intensive agriculture because both modes of agriculture help farmers and the public at large.



**TOAM's CEO providing explanation at plenary discussion**

## **7.0 Way forward and Conclusion**

- Action plan and budget are already in place prepared from two planning meetings, that of November 2013 and February 2014 in Morogoro. When the Memorandums of Understanding are signed with other Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs), the implementation phase will have to kick off right away.
- All participants in the EOA inaugural event are members of the National Platform (NP). The EOA database will be established and therefore, inputs from members are highly needed and welcome.
- Exploring ways of engaging with media in the EOA National Platform interventions.

- To recruit more members (those invited but could not attend) in the National Platform and make it more vibrant and a reference point on EOA issues in the country.
- If EOA allows application of external inputs, there is need to have agreed and documented range of allowable inputs to avoid confusion among actors.
- Some sort of quality guarantee like Kilimohai mark has to be promoted and relentless support is needed in the collection of EOA data from a number of stakeholders.
- EOA should be put to action and be a model of good practice in Tanzania.
- Radio programmes destined for sensitization purposes on EOA knowledge and practices should be added from 4 to at least 8 if possible.
- All necessary frameworks like M& E should be in place in the operationalization of EOA by the end of 2014.
- EOA should also include large scale farmers through continued research.
- Competent consultants should be engaged to establish figures for benchmarking.

### **Conclusion**

The participants have agreed on the PIPs, CLOs, Steering Committee and the National Platform, with room to recruit more members

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperative will chair all the meetings of National Platform.

A call was given for all the stakeholders to be responsive, active and work with passion and dedication to make EOA a reality in Tanzania. The Guest of honor from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives called upon stakeholders to nurture the ground work that has been achieved so far.

The proposed structure for the implementation of EOA in Tanzania was endorsed because participants were satisfied that they have the necessary capacity to implement the initiative at country level. "Of critical importance is proper coordination of those structures", many participants echoed.

## Annex 1

## ITINIRARY FOR INAUGURAL OF EOA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

TO BE HELD AT PEACOCK HOTEL ON 04 APRIL 2014

TIME	EVENT	RESPONSIBLE
8.30 – 9.00	Registration	Jane
9.00 – 9.30	Introduction of Participants and expectations	Baruani
9.30 – 10.00	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOAM Chair</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> </ul>	Mwatima
10.00 – 10.35	Background of EOA and Continental Structure	Pelum Kenya
10.35 – 11.50	Q&A	Baruani
10.50 – 11.20	TEA Break	All
11.20 – 12.10	Domesticating EOA Programme	Janeth Maro, Gama
12.10 – 13.00	Plenary discussion	Baruani
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch	All
14.15 – 14.50	Functions and Coordination of National Platforms, CLO & PIPs	Bio Vision
14.50 – 15.20	Tanzania EOA Platform and coordination	Gama
15.20 – 16.00	Plenary Discussion (NP, CLO, STEERING, PIPs,)	Baruani
16.00 - 16.30	Endorsing EOA NP, Coordination & Pillar teams	Ministry of Agriculture
16.30 -17.00	Way forward and Conclusion	Biovision, TOAM
	<b>Depart</b>	

## ANNEX 2: ATTENDANCE LIST

S/N	NAME	ORGANIZATION & LOCATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
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