

**NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MEETING
FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN UGANDA**

HELD AT SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL, KAMPALA, UGANDA

ON 20TH MARCH 2014



A cross section of participants during the workshop

Organized by

National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)



Supported By

ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE and BIO VISION AFRICA



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List of Abbreviations

AU	African union.
BvAT	Bio vision Africa Trust
EOAI	Ecological Organic Agriculture initiative
CLO	Country Lead Organisation
NARO	National, Agricultural Research Organisation
NOGAMU	National Organic Agriculture movement of Uganda
MTIC	Ministry of Trade Industries and Cooperatives
PIPs	Project Implementing Partners.
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
UCDA	Uganda Coffee Development Authority.
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
USAID	United states Agency for international Development
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries
MTTI	Ministry of Tourism , Trade and Industries
MUK	Makerere University Kampala
UMU	Uganda Martyrs University
RUCID	Rural Community in Development
UCDA	Uganda Coffee Development Authority
VEDCO	Volunteer Effort for Development Cooperation
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
BOR	Blessed organic Release

1.0 Introduction and Welcome address

On 20th March 2014, stakeholders in Uganda Convened for a meeting at silver spring Hotel Bugolobi Kampala to elect a national platform to strategise and strengthen Organic stakeholders in Uganda to develop the sector forward.

The Chief Executive Officer of NOGAMU made the opening remarks during the meeting where he expressed his appreciation to members for their attendance amidst their busy schedules. He mentioned that the main objective of the stakeholder meeting was to constitute a National platform for coordination of the activities to be implemented in the EOAI project supported by SDC to promote OA in Uganda.

He further introduced the BvAT project manager Ms. Venansia Ndozi Wambau from Nairobi, and mentioned that BvAT was the overall organisation selected to assist in the constitution of the national platforms in the 8 African countries where the EOAI project was to be implemented. He also informed the meeting that BvAT would coordinate the project and link the project partners and SDC.

He too noted that the key outputs of the meeting were;

- To put in place mechanism and the election of a National platform to streamline the various endeavours from various project pillars.
- Clarify roles of various partners
- Elect Country Lead Organisation (CLO)
- And to appoint Project Implementing Partner organisations (PIPs).

He further informed the meeting that the expectation of the meeting was that; each organization as key stakeholders were expected to take part in the constitution of a national platform where all players would come together and lay a strategy on; putting in place a mechanism of governing, coordinating the implementation of the Ecological Organic Agriculture initiative (EOAI) project, be involved in the election of a country lead organization to coordinate the implementation of the EOA project and the election of Project implementation partners (PIPs).

He concluded the opening remarks by calling on the stakeholders to network as much as possible and wished them a fruitful and participatory discussion.

1.1 Introduction of Participants

The meeting was attended by representatives from public government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) notable among whom were; MAAIF, MTTIC and NARO, Training institutions and universities namely; Prometra, MUK, UMU, KAMPALA university and the private sector , farmer associations and development partners namely; Uganda Exporters association, KIIMA foods, BOR, NUCAFE, PELUM Uganda, UCDA, RUCID, VEDCO and OXFAM.

1.2 Meeting Objectives

The meeting Objectives were;

- To put in place a mechanism through the election of a National platform to streamline the various endeavours from various project pillars.
- To elect the CLO who will be responsible for the overlooking the implementation by the PIPs
- To appoint implementing partner organisations (PIPs).

2.0 OVERVIEW OF ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECT

After the opening remarks; the first presentation which was the project background and overview of the EOAI project on the African continent was given by Mr. Moses K. Muwanga (CEO of NOGAMU).

The meeting was informed that the EOAI project had a continental steering committee chaired by African Union, which committee was tasked to regularly give feedback to AU on what was happening in EOA on the African continent.

And that Agriculture in Africa is the major contributor to people's livelihoods, yet there is declining productivity brought about mainly by effects of climate change and lots of natural resource base degradation. It is noted that forest cover since 1990 has disappeared by 50%, that desertification is growing southwards; beyond the Sahara and that there is intense application of external inputs especially chemical fertilisers and pesticides that negatively impacted on the African countries biodiversity.

The meeting was informed that Ecological Organic agriculture has proved to be effective in fostering biodiversity and that the greater the biodiversity the more resilient the continent would be to the negative effects of climate change. The meeting was informed that it was against this background that EAO pilot initiative in East Africa was started in 2012, to implement the AU council decision EX.CL/DEC.621 (XVIII), on Organic Agriculture.

The AU decision EX.CL/DEC.621 (XVIII), on organic Agriculture stipulates:

The Executive Council,

1. Takes Note of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 28th and 29th October 2010 on Organic Farming, and ENDORSES the resolution contained therein
2. EXPRESSES concern over current practice of exploitation of farmers in Africa
3. REQUESTS the commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) planning and coordinating Agency (NPCA) to Initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU) Led Coalition for International partners on the;
 - i. Establishment of an Organic farming platform based on available best practices
 - ii. Provide guidance in Support 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.

He further reported during the presentation that as a response to AU decision on OA farming, a stakeholder meeting was held in Thika supported by SSNC hosted by PELUM Kenya, where SSNC agreed to fund an initial pilot EOA project in East Africa. As a result, in 2012 a pilot project was started by SSNC in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Nigeria and focused on the 6 pillars of;

- Research , Training and Extension
- Information and communication
- Value chain and market development
- Networking and partnership
- Policy and program development and
- Institutional capacity development

After the successful completion of the Pilot project, SSNC agreed to continue supporting in EAC countries in the second phase of EOAI in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and that it had later on been joined by SDC, a development partner which was interested in building on what had

already been done and put in place framework where other development partners can join and support the process.

The meeting was informed that the process of AU decision is beginning to yield results and has attracted more partners however, the new partners required to see more organised stakeholders (structures) in OA on the continent before they could come on board.

He concluded his presentation by stating that as a result of pilot, SDC came in to support the 4 East African countries , but also widened it to further support an additional 4 west African countries with the aim of;

- Putting in place mechanism for mainstreaming EAO in National Agriculture development plans in policies and strategies which requires multi sector participation.
- Establishing a National platforms (NPLs) to convene, facilitate and monitor progress and EAO mainstreaming in their national Agricultural development plans shape EOA, agenda, oversee implementation of EOA activities, follow-up on integration of EAO, in public policies.
- NPLs select CLO to facilitate their activities and link to centres of excellence(EOA technical pillars and their partners) in the 3 pillars that SDC is to support, namely;
 - Research Training and Extension
 - Information and communication
 - Value chains and market development.

3.0 THE ACTION PLAN FOR ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INTIATIVE

The Plan Action Plan for Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative was presented by the Project manager Ms. Venansia Ndoor Wambau of BvAT and it included;

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: To ensure Vibrant Ecological Organic Systems for Enhanced Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa and the project

Mission: To promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, and marketing through strategic actions and policy making to alleviate

poverty, guarantee adequate and healthy food security, improve livelihoods and safeguard the environment.

The project Intervention areas would be;

- Research training and extension
- Information and communication
- Value chain and market Development

The project management include; a Continental steering committee chaired by AU that provides oversight and to facilitate the EOA secretariat. BvAT Africa is a link between the EAO secretariat, the Regional Steering Committee (RECs), Regional farmer organisations, National platforms and the development partner, SDC.

During the meeting the stakeholders were expected to be active and carefully elect organisations that were credible, were committed and had ability and capacity to mobilise other stakeholders or the CLO and PIPs She too mentioned that the National Platform composition should be multi sectoral and that should include government, Research institutions, Academic institutions, Private sector, women representatives among others.

The roles of the different partners in the project were highlighted are as follows;

Role of BvAT

- Management and coordination
- Accountable to development partner
- General oversight activities and ensure that structures are put in place
- Reports and monitoring of the CLOs.
- Coordinating the EOAI project in the 8 African countries for the next 5 years (2014 - 2018).

Mandate of NPs.

- Streamline EAO at country level
- Rally partners /actors at country and continental levels
- Facilitate sharing of experiences
- Inform Policy makers

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.

4.0 COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Overview of Ecological Organic Agriculture project

Question 1; what is the fate of the pilot pillars that were not supported by SDC?

- *Partners will come on board as per interest so all critical pillars will eventually be supported as long as the national platform is active.*
- *National stakeholder platform agenda should be long-term beyond the current project support.*

Question 2; What and why the National platform?, why not work with what already exists such as work with NOGAMU?

- *NOGAMU is stakeholder organisation for OA stakeholders in Uganda. And NOGAMUs role is to coordinate, the process at National level formation of national platform in partnership with other stakeholders.*
- *NOGAMU was also one of the implementers of the pilot phase of this initiative and was the lead country organisation of the pilot EAO project.*
- *NOGAMU is member of AU continental EOA committee.*
- *The SDC requires that the structure be formulated through a transparent system in order for the stakeholders to decide on who they perceive has the potential to lead and or implement the different pillars.*
- *Yes Platform is bigger than stakeholders already active in OA sector e.g governments,*
- *Existing platforms in Uganda are commodity based and do not bring public actors they are majorly private.*

Question 3; How was pilot organised? Who was coordinator? What were results? to inform meetings and further decisions that have to be taken in this meeting?

Ans; The initial pilot stakeholders meeting in Thika included stakeholders such as the National Organic agriculture Movements, other organisations like the PELUMs (Kenya, Uganda, Zambia), universities such as UMU, university of Nairobi, mapped key institutions active in the sector, and that is why it was decided that even institutions that were not initially involved were to be brought on board in follow up project activities such as this meeting. This was due to limited resources and implementation was in a few pillars and institutions e.g research and extension and value chain development activities

Initial activities supported were successfully implemented but limited funds were available therefore a lot still needs to be supported.

- *The Pilot project's aim was to establish the baseline data on markets, and identify GAPS, stakeholders, which organisations to network with, areas where not much was performed e.g establishing Afronet though it is not being fully operational yet.*
- *Partnership with SDC and SSNC is aimed at taking step forward further by consolidating work already achieved.*
 - *The pilot project was formulated with different objectives from this project. The pilot handled the following:*
 - *The stakeholders in the sector at the regional level, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia.*
 - *The information available related to the sector and what was missing*
 - *The gaps existing*
 - *Research and networking*
 - *The pilot project did not identify the platform/structure into which we can operationalize organic Agriculture*

Question: would it be possible for the presentations to be printed for future reference.

- *The EOAI meeting presentations and project document would be shared by stakeholders as it was necessary that the process be as transparent as possible.*

The action plan for ecological organic agriculture initiative

Question: What is the Sustainability of the multi stakeholder platforms? Does the project design have this on the agenda beyond 2018?

- *The platform should critically identify areas of sustainability and how to handle them in terms of Costs and capacity.*

Question: What is the geographical area that composes the NP?

- *The National platform is for the whole country (Nationally).*

Question: How will we ensure the system can track stakeholders? Who is in who is out?

- *Each organisation is free to join and leave the platform as it deems fit*

Question: Why would only one organisation handle such a wide intervention area like (Research, Information, and communication)?

- *It should be possible to split some of these activities with other organisations but the PIP should note that it has the overall responsibility of being accountable as the PIP.*

Question: Is it possible to separate Research from Training? Pillar No. 1 and No. 2. Is it possible to revise them? Research should be left independent of training and Extension.

- *The pillars have been identified by the platform at regional level. Therefore it is not possible to make amends now. However, during activities implementation the platform can suggest on how some of these pillars can be paired in accordance with the existing plans then.*
- *Research can be done by both private and public and it is acceptable if credible however NARO is in charge of approving all kinds of research that are carried out in the country that are agricultural related.*

Question: Why doesn't the project have any element of Policy and advocacy and yet challenges and issues are increasing?

- *The project activities will identify the specific policy issued and they will be handled at National platform. The mother ministry –MAAIF may use the different platforms created to policy areas.*
- *Policy and advocacy is heavy work so it is solely dependent on the National platform.*
- *Every platform looks at issues of policies to be addressed and works out a way of addressing them in relation to the pillar of implementation*

Question: Is possible to borrow some strategies from MAAIF on structures already in place?

- *The national commodity platform under MAAIF on platform composition has between 16 to 18 persons and should consist of national steering committees of between 7 to 9 persons.*

Question: What is total cost and budget of the project and who will support the project financially?

- *And equivalent of 5million Euros is available for the 8 countries in Africa for the next 5 years.*
- *The project will be supported by SDC*

Question: How will the organization on the steering committee monitor their implementing activities? There are possibilities of conflict of interest.

- *The project management will look into this.*

5.0 ELECTIONS PROCESS

The election process was held democratically through secret ballot. The representative from BvAT (Ms. Ndo) acted as the neutral person in the house. Therefore, She took part in the physical opening and counting of the candidates' votes.

National platform

Stakeholders nominated organizations in addition to the list provided by in the organisations represented in the meeting and they included; UIRI, Private sector foundation, Ministry of Finance, Agro input dealers, UNBS, Ministry of Health, consumer organisation consent, UCDA, ESSAF, NEMA, development partners (DANIDA, Sida,SDC).

Constitution of a National Platform:

No.	Proposed Name	Partner Organisation	Partner Roles and Responsibilities
1		Ministries MTTI, MAAIF	
2		Farmers, UNFEE	
3		MUK UMU	
4		CBOs	
5		NGOS OXFAM, KULIKA, NUCAFE, ENVALERT	
6		LOFP, MOH, Agro input dealers, UCDA,NUCAFE,CGIAR, ESSAF, consent, district natural resources department, NAADS, care, centre for ecosystems research ,PSFU, Cooperatives, USAID, BTC, Abitrust, SNV ,District natural resources , seed traders association, ministry of finance, UMA , Economic policy & planning – presidents office, Training institution- Bukalasa,fisheries,Busitema,Arapaai	East and southern Africa small scale farmers Forum,(ESSAF)Financial institutions, Value addition and UIRI,

Country Lead Organization

NOGAMU was nominated by MAAIF, Seconded by UgoCert and Kiima Foods.

NOGAMU was nominated unopposed to the CLO position. Therefore NOGAMU was identified as the CLO for the EOAI 2014 - 2018.

National Steering committee

Training institutions

Certification bodies were added on the list making the composition of 9.

Steering committee at most 9 people (Maintain the representation by institutions so that we have better lobbying capacity). Members agreed to keep the 9 and NOGAMU was elected as secretary as CLO.

Chair

Vice chair

Secretary

Other Representatives

Research: MUK (6), **NARO** (14), UMU (2), VEDCO (1).

Private sector: Federation of Association of Uganda Exporters- FUEX (5), PSFU (5).

Subjected to rerun **FUEX**, PSFU and they got 18 and 7 respectively.

Government representative: **MAAIF** (19), MTIC (2).

Civil society organisation: KCTU (4), VEDCO (6), A2n (2), PELUM (6), CARITAS (4), UCPA1 (1). Rerun vote (**PELUM 15**, VEDCO 10).

Farmers organisation: **UNFFE** (13), BOR (2), AFIRD (2) NUCAFE (1) ESAFF (1)

Training institution: KCTU (4), **UMU** (9), MUK (7), KCTU (4), VEDCO (1)

Certification bodies **UgoCert** (23).

Dev partners whom we may wish to join (**SDC, DANIDA, SIDA, and OXFAM**)

Commissioner MTIC suggested that we invite the three donors and let them appoint who they want to represent them.

Project Implementing Partners

- a) Research Training and Extension

Organization	Votes	Elected Organization
MUK	8	
KULIKA	4	
UMU	9	UMU
NARO	1	
NOGAMU	1	

b) Value chain and market Development

Organization	Votes	Elected Organization
RUCID	1	
NOGAMU	8	NOGAMU
FAUEX	1	
MAAIF	1	
UNFFE	1	
VEDCO	4	
KULIKA	1	
A2N	1	
PELUM	1	

c) Information and communication

Organization	Votes	Elected Organization
Environmental Alert	2	
PELUM	5	
UNFEE	2	
MUK	6	MUK
NOGAMU	2	
VEDCO	1	

Way forward

- The workshop proceedings to be shared through emails and print where necessary
- The platform has been formulated therefore if there any institution with potential for the development of the sector they can be brought on board
- There will be meeting next for the structure formulated to plan next.

7.0 List of Appendices.

Appendix 1: Workshop Program

Appendix 2: REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (EOA) NATIONAL PLATFORM MEETING HELD AT SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL ON 20TH MARCH 2014

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Appendix 3: Presentation 1

Appendix 4: Presentation 11