MID-TERM REVIEW

FINAL REPORT

ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (EOA) INITIATIVE (2012-2015)

CONSULTANCY COMMISSIONED BY THE EOA CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE (CSC)

CONDUCTED BY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Mid-Term Review

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative is an African Union-led continental project implemented in eight countries (Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda); with support from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Africa Union. The initiative is under the management and coordination of Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya. The initiative is implemented under the guidance and oversight of the AU chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC). The goal of the initiative is to contribute to mainstreaming of Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa. BvAT acting on behalf of the Continental Steering Committee commissioned this **Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa** in order to assess how the initiative is being established in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability in relation to the AU Declaration on Organic Farming by the end of December 2015 and to generate concise and actionable recommendations. The findings of the MTR will guide the rest of the project implementation and may re-define approaches and the pace of work accordingly.

A multidisciplinary team consisting of an agricultural economist, a rural sociologist and a project management specialist reviewed several project documents, including the original project proposal, and technical progress reports to gain a deeper understanding of the initiative. The team also held discussions with project staff, government officials, representatives of various project implementing partners and private service providers, and beneficiary farmer groups.

Findings of the Mid-term Review

The mid-term review aimed to take stock of what had been accomplished using support provided by SDC, SSNC and AU, what had gone well, what aspects had been disappointing, and what might be adjusted in future for the project to be more effective in achieving its objectives.

Achievement of project purpose

The project has made considerable achievements as was planned in its strategic five-year plan and annual action plans. It is instructive to note that the revised 4-pillar strategy supported by SDC and

the original 6-pillar strategy supported by SSNC have been actively supported in seven of the eight countries. The only exception has been in Mali where legal battles regarding the governance of the Country Lead Organisation (CLO) hampered steady implementation of the project.

Contribution to project goal

The project is perceived as being highly relevant to both national and regional development goals of improving food security, poverty alleviation and environmental management.

Lessons Learnt

i. There is synergy when different PIPs work in close collaboration. For example, ICT pillar has assisted in publicity of location of organic markets and availability of organic products in Kampala. This has increased the number of local consumers especially the urban middle class who have been made aware of where to buy organic products from the markets established under VCMD pillar.

ii. PIPs working on the same issue can take advantage of their individual comparative advantage to solve problems. For example, project planning meetings held by EOA partners in Kenya under SDC and SSNC support have ensured PIPs identify areas of commonality and leverage on their strengths to execute the activities jointly. Another example is Mekelle University (PIP in Ethiopia) which has collected plants which require analysis (to determine nutritional or pesticidal quality) but they lack the laboratory equipment for the analysis, while Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (PIP in Tanzania) has the requisite equipment which Mekelle University can use.

iii. PIPs working innovatively with private sector can help advance EOA agenda. For example in Kenya, Egerton University in charge of Research Training and Extension (RTE) Pillar has taken advantage of its partnership with the Nation Media Group in publishing the weekly ***Seeds of Gold Magazine*** that appears in the Saturday Nation Newspaper to promote general agricultural practices with organic agriculture articles featuring prominently. The EOA initiative in Uganda has made considerable strides in ICT through the collaboration of Makerere University (PIP) and Agriit Institute (an ICT organization for Sustainable Agriculture) that has enormous expertise and experience in leveraging ICTs for Agriculture.

iv. Development and adoption of a new curriculum by tertiary institutions requires a lot of time and resources as the management of these institutions have to be convinced that curriculum is necessary and will attract students.

v. Development and use of an interactive SMS platform can provide the most practical, effective and efficient way to reach farmers with EOA information on their ordinary mobile phones, since most farmers now own mobile phones.

vi. Targeted visits to successful organic farms, fairs and projects as well as participation at key conferences are necessary in order to build awareness of the importance of EOA and enhance the capacity for the government to develop sustainable, resilient and productive agriculture.

vii. A good information, communication and advocacy strategy is necessary in order to systematically provide governmental institutions with evidence-based information on the benefits of EOA, to answer their questions and to get their doubts clarified.

viii. Coordination among different stakeholders through a well-functioning Country Lead Organization and Steering Committee is necessary to support EOA mainstreaming process into national policies.

ix. A strong participation of various stakeholders and actors in project activities creates synergies among them, thus leading to a better effectiveness of project activities and visibility of the EOA sector.

Conclusions and Recommendations

i. CAADP process details programmes and projects that the various stakeholders can buy into and that address the national priorities. An EOA strategy has been adopted at AU level and needs to be included in the CAADP strategy at national level to facilitate quick buy-in by all stakeholders in agriculture. It should not been seen as a new initiative.

ii. The EOA Initiative has developed an action plan (2015-2020) which has been endorsed by the African Union Commission. Action plan had a budget of about US$27 million to implement its activities. At MTR the initiative had received about US$ 11 million (about $40%).

- In order to avoid duplication of activities, and aspire for greater impact, the initiative should seek greater financial support. It is recommended that a basket fund be established whereby resources are pooled together but channelled to specific programme activities.

Each funding partner can choose one or more programme activities to support (according to their mandate and/or preferences) to ensure that there is coherence in funding of various activities. A good example is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In addition, the National Project Platforms, the National Steering Committees and Country Lead Organizations should explore other funding arrangements to support EOA including: (i) national budgets, (ii) country assistance strategy papers for multilateral and bilateral cooperation, (iii) international private funds (e.g. trust funds, philanthropies), and private sector.

iii. The MTR notes SDC applies a 4-pillar approach while SSNC uses 6-pillar approach in project implementation. The 4 pillar strategy under SDC support collapsed pillars 4 (Networking and Partnerships), 5 (Policy and Programme Development) and 6 (Institutional Capacity Development) that are in the 6 pillar strategy to form the 4th Pillar named 'Supporting and Cementing Pillar'. This fourth pillar is implemented by Country Lead Organizations (CLOs).

- For purposes of project uniformity and coherence across all countries, both SDC and SSNC should retain the 6-pillar approach of project implementation, as was originally designed.

iv. At project design, the most of the indicators logframe were not SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound).

- The MTR recommends that SDC and SSNC coordinate the review and development of the logframe. This will assist in establishing baseline information for future evaluations of the project.

v. It is recommended that all CLOs and PIPs in all countries, across donors, should work as a team to enhance synergies and improve efficiency in implementation.

vi. SSNC should consider sending funds to one partner in a country instead of multiple partners. Then, the selected partner can sub-grant to the other partners in the country. EOAI partners in country should meet and share what they are proposing for pillars, appreciate what the others are planning and give inputs and more importantly, jointly agree on the final version of all pillar activities. This will make implementation it easier and the partners will be aware of the planned activities and their role in the same. This will make it easy and efficient for coordination of all pillars in a country.

vii. There is the need to assess the capacities of all partners and their ability to implement activities with available resources. This will help refocus the EOA initiative and assign activities to

capable partners based on their comparative advantage, technical capacity, soundness of systems and where they can make maximum impact with available resources. In practice, this will call for innovative and strategic thinking in linking proposal development, budgeting and implementation of activities. This will improve on disbursements and reporting across Executing Agencies, CLOs and PIPs.

viii. Where inadequate capacity on the part of partners to implement EOA activities (e.g., internal systems of financial management, M&E system) is identified after the assessment, it is recommended that the project develops action plans geared towards improving partner capacity to implement the EOA Initiative or change the partner.

ix. At the time of project design, it was envisaged that the Country Lead Organisation (CLOs) was to co-ordinate project activities and monitor the implementation by the Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs). During the review, this was noted not to be the case in many countries.

- In view of the capacity challenges and considering the way the initiative started, the MTR team recommends that SSNC and SDC undertake the demarcation of the roles of CLOs and PIPs after a thorough assessment of their performance so far, to ensure that no single organisation plays a dual role as a CLO and a PIP in order to achieve efficiency in programme implementation.

x. It is recommended that for timely and efficient use of donor funds there is need for financiers to consider re-allocating redundant resources as well as address the circumstances leading to carry-over of funds from one planning period to another. It is the opinion of the MTR team that the continental steering committee can explore various options such as (i) re-allocating the funds to other countries in the same region with requisite capacity to advance the work of the EOA Initiative, and/or (ii) replacing a non-performing country (such as Mali) with another country in the same region.

xi. The EOA initiative covers eight countries with each country having at least one CLO and a number of PIPs. For efficient project monitoring, the executing agencies should make a minimum of two supervision visits each year to each country. However, the executing agencies (as currently constituted) do not have adequate capacity to undertake these supervision visits (at least sixteen visits in a year).

- It is recommended that the funding partners consider enhancing the capacity of the executing agencies to carry out this function. This may include hiring of full-time or part-time staff to handle EOA project activities.

Networking and Partnerships (N&P) Pillar

The objective of the pillar was to foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2025.

i. The national platforms have been established in all countries although they do not seem to have national representation and other than in Ethiopia, nearly all of them are not as active as they were expected.
    - Therefore, the national platforms should be strengthened by mandating them to meet, at least, annually and resources be allocated for such meetings.

ii. The EOA being a continent-wide initiative, there is the need to network and collaborate with regional economic communities (e.g., EAC, ECOWAS, SADC) for greater impact and visibility.

iii. There are many interesting results and experiences arising from the implementation of the EOA Initiative in different countries.
    - It is recommended that the EOA Initiative strengthens and funds the current stakeholder forum at national, regional and continental levels (e.g., annual conference, online platform) where EOA stakeholders can share and discuss various project results and exchanges.

iv. The National Networks (National Platforms and National Steering Committee) should be urged to ensure that the EOA Initiative takes on a national outlook within the context of the available resources. The EOA Initiative should be geographically and thematically representative (i.e. CLOs and PIPs should bear a national outlook) and have national outreach. This can be achieved through ensuring that the membership of the National Platforms is drawn from all over the country or at least from all the areas covered by the initiative.

Research, Training and Extension

The objective of the pillar was to carry out effective, demand driven, multi-disciplinary, gender sensitive and participatory research, training and extension to support a holistic productive EOA by 2025.

i. Several studies were undertaken under this pillar and the major highlights were studies in Tanzania and Ethiopia, identifying plants with pesticidal properties which can used to control pests and diseases in crops that have been cited by farmers as major constraints in agricultural production.
ii. Another highlight is the development EOA curriculum in nearly all countries. It is anticipated that when the training institutions adopt the EOA curriculum, more professionals will be trained and equipped with knowledge of EOA.
iii. The national governments have not catered for EOA in their budgets for the agriculture sector. There is therefore need for evidence-based investigation of the opportunity costs of subsidies (e.g. chemical fertilizers) supporting conventional agriculture and whether they are affordable through deficit financing. This may provide a better understanding of the political economy of subsidies. This may offer a window of opportunity for support to EOA. In addition there is need to explore the opportunities for large scale land-based investments in Africa that may encourage EOA (e.g., plantation agriculture and agroforestry).
iv. The project has carried out many trainings (of varying durations) for different categories of stakeholders (e.g., farmers, traders, processors).
- It is recommended that follow-up studies should be carried out to assess the impact of various training activities. This may be undertaken by other interested organizations such as universities or research institutes.

v. There is inadequate supply of organic inputs to support organic agricultural production in all countries.
- The project should explore ways and means of supporting research in the development of organic inputs to enable farmers to supply the growing organic market.

Information and Communication

The objective of the pillar was to translate research findings into diverse outreach materials for farmers as well as package relevant information for lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting other stakeholders (private sector, policy makers) by 2025.

i. Ethiopia and Tanzania have taken a significant lead in ensuring implementation of key activities in order to achieve the key set outputs of using a range of information and communication strategies, products and technologies to share insights and lessons from

experiences by farmers, processors, marketers, extension agents as well as researchers in order to sensitize the general public, including policy makers on the importance of EOA in general and organic agriculture in particular.

ii. There is no readily available data and information on the number of organic farmers, volume of products, markets and sales at the national level.

- It is recommended that the project works with national statistical authorities to include such aspects of organic agriculture in their periodic surveys. In addition, the project can also undertake surveys to gather and analyse such data and information. In the long run this might help to illustrate the importance of organic agriculture in the national economy.

iii. Since the project is implemented in both Anglophone and Francophone countries, it is recommended that all project documents should be in both English and French.

iv. EOA is generating some interesting results which should be made available to the general public. The results should be published on the EOA webpage and BvAT should be facilitated to engage a person to compile the results and post them on the EOA webpage.

Value Chain and Market Development

The objective of the pillar was to increase organic agricultural production and the share of quality EOA products at the national, regional and international markets through value chain analysis and market development by 2025.

i. Indeed, some countries have made outstanding achievements that are noticeable like Uganda (NOGAMU), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN) who have developed a National database with all key EOA actors such as processors, traders, consumer and development partners. This will make it easy for the public and EOA stakeholders to contact service providers. NOGAMU can be commended to have gone a step further, and linked its National data base to a regional data base of IFOAM.

ii. There is the need to establish, formalize and promote a common mark for ecological organic products to be used by operators especially in West Africa. This will improve the identification of ecological organic products and increase consumers' trust.

iii. To increase access to international markets, there is the need to develop the standards for certification of organic products. This will call for the development of conformity assessment mechanisms such as Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).

Policy and Programme Development

The objective of the pillar was to lobby and advocate for the development, mainstreaming and implementation of EOA programmes, policies, plans and in the agriculture sector as well as other related sectors by 2025.

i. Kenya and Uganda have made good efforts to ensure that progress is made in the development of an Organic Policy and introduction of EOA aspects in other policies like the agriculture policy. It is worth noting that in Ethiopia there is a person responsible for Organic Farming at the Ministry of agriculture.
ii. An EOA strategy has been adopted at AU level and needs to be included in CAADP strategy at national level to facilitate quick buy-in by stakeholders. Therefore, EOA should be mainstreamed and included in national agricultural policies, in order for resources to be set aside for the initiative in national budgets. This will open opportunities for funding of EOA from national budgets.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This review was commissioned by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) in Nairobi on behalf of the EOA Continental Steering Committee. The review team is grateful for the technical and logistical support that was extended by staff of BvAT, without which this report would not have been compiled on schedule.

Members of the review team would also like to acknowledge the efforts of and information from staff of funding organisations (SDC and SSNC), executing agency (BvAT), Country Lead Organisations (CLOs), Project Implementing Partners (PIPs), participating beneficiaries (e.g., farmers and their organizations), private service providers and other informants in availing as many project documents as possible, responding to many queries and facilitating the work of the review team by way of making appointments with different officials in various organizations in the eight (8) countries (Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda). The review team acknowledges the contribution of the various participants in different forums, where many aspects of the project were discussed and reviewed.

The views expressed in this Mid-Term Review do not necessarily reflect those of the informants, or the institutions that they were/are affiliated to, since they have been collated and cross-checked by the review team. The interpretations, conclusions and recommendations are those of the review team, which is solely responsible for any omission(s) or error(s).

ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CBO	Community Based Organization
CLO	Country Lead Organization
CSC	Continental Steering Committee
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
EU	European Union
ISD	Institute for Sustainable Development
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
MALF	Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (Tanzania)
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NOGAMU	National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PIP	Pillar Implementing Partner
PIP	Project Implementing Partner
SACDEP	Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme
SAT	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TAFORI	Tanzania Forestry Research Institute
TOAM	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement
TPRI	Tropical Pesticides Research Institute

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The introduction covers background, objectives and methodology for Medium Term Review.

1.1 Background

1. The Ecological Organic Agriculture initiative (EOA-I) is a response to the African Union (AU) Heads of States and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII) on organic farming. The initiative is motivated by African Leaders' interest and commitment to support agriculture in general and EOA in particular. The goal of the initiative is to contribute to mainstreaming of Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.
2. EOA-I is co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). SDC support is for a current phase of 5 years from 2014 to 2018 while SSNC support was concluded for a period of 3 years from 2013 to 2015 with 2016 being treated as a gap year. Previously SDC supported EOA baseline studies in West Africa countries in 2013 while SSNC supported a pilot phase in 6 countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia and Nigeria. EOA also receives support from the European Union, administered through the African Union (AU), as well as contributions from beneficiary communities. It is currently implemented in eight countries (Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda) under the management and coordination of Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM Kenya). The initiative is implemented under the guidance and oversight of the AU chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC).

1.2 Objectives

3. The Mid Term Review (MTR) of the EOA Initiative in Africa was commissioned by BvAT on behalf of the Continental Steering Committee. The overall objective of the MTR was to critically and objectively review and analyze the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative implementation progress to date, in order to indicate achievements, experiences, challenges and generate concise and actionable recommendations. This was in compliance with the agreement between Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Biovision Africa Trust, SSNC and partners.

4. The specific objectives of the MTR relate to the terms of Reference (ToRs) of the MTR (Annex 1):

   a. Assess the EOA Initiative's plans, achievements, experiences, and lessons, regarding available EOA best practices, sustainable organic farming systems and seed quality and make recommendations for improvement.
   b. Test the relationships between the projects' efforts and progress so far made towards EOA's goal, including analysis of the institutional and project implementation framework set up as well as the degree and consequences of implementation towards country strategic policies and plans, and relevant regional and continental declarations spelt out in the EOA Strategic Plan (2015-25) and Action Plan (2015-2020).
   c. Highlight issues and challenges affecting effective and efficient implementation of the project and recommend how to move the project forward.

1.3 Methodology for the Mid Term Review

5. The MTR was undertaken in a participatory manner in order to ensure maximum involvement of project implementing staff, government officials, donor, and relevant key stakeholders. The MTR was carried out following the ToRs, OECD/DAC criteria and EC evaluation guidelines and the principles and tools of Project Cycle Management (PCM).
6. The evaluation started with two briefing sessions with: i) the Director of BvAT, the Project Manager of EOA-I in Nairobi, Kenya; and the Country Coordinator and staff of PELUM Kenya, in Thika, Kenya.
7. Data and information collection was carried out in different steps by the consultants, involving document review, field visits, observations, focus group discussions, structured and semi-structured interviews with selected local stakeholders as follows:
8. First, documents relevant to the initiative were reviewed. These included the documents availed by BvAT, PELUM Kenya and project partners as well as relevant government policies and strategies. A list of various documents reviewed is available in Annex 2.
9. Second, qualitative semi-structured interviews with key local stakeholders involved in the EOA-Initiative in each country: Country Lead Organizations (CLO); Chairman of the National Steering committee; Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture; Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs); stakeholders involved in marketing of organic produce. This aimed at getting a better

understanding of the EOA-Initiative as well as the implementation of the project and sustainability of the project results in the country. A list of interviewees is in Annex 3.

10. In a third step, focus group discussions were conducted with farmer groups to capture the consensus views of the stakeholders.
11. In the fourth step, careful and systematic observations regarding the operations of the project were undertaken during field visits to complement collected data. These observations were also useful in understanding the context in which information was collected.
12. An *Aide Memoire* indicating the initial findings and recommendations was prepared and presented to a Sub-committee of the AU-CSC meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. After discussions, the meeting developed the way forward for the completion of the MTR.

2.0 THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

This chapter gives the detailed relevant information on which EOA is grounded.

2.1 Background

13. In Africa, and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), millions of smallholder farmers depend on agriculture and cannot grow enough food to sustain their families, their communities, or their countries. This leads to recurrent food crises and enhanced difficulties to feed the increasing human population. Climate change already affecting agriculture globally will aggravate the difficult position of African agriculture. Due to changed rainfall patterns, a decrease in fertile arable land and more extreme weather events including prolonged frequent droughts, agricultural production will likely decrease.
14. Solutions proposed for increasing food security in Africa are still predominantly based on the industrialisation of African agriculture and the intensification of economically and environmentally unsustainable imported inputs and products - new seed varieties, genetically modified crops, and chemical farm inputs.
15. The necessary intensification of the productivity and climate resilience of African farming systems can and should be ecological, maintain ecosystem services and be based on restoring, building and maintaining the natural resource base, particularly soil, water and biodiversity[1].
16. The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)[2] – an intergovernmental process supported by over 400 experts and many UN agencies – concludes that expensive, "quick fix" technologies – including GM crops – fail to address the complex challenges that small-scale and subsistence farmers face, and often exacerbate already worsening conditions. Instead, the IAASTD outlined the needs for ecological approaches, the use of appropriate and low-cost technologies and a focus on capacity building for small holding farmers including women.
17. Organic agriculture, though still not widely implemented in Africa, has increased steadily to become an important part of the agricultural sector in many countries.
18. The fact that local African agriculture is low external input provides a potential basis upon which organic agriculture can enhance the productivity, resilience, and profitability of smallholder

[1]LimLi, Ching, Sue Edwards, and N. El-Hage Scialabba. Climate change and food systems resilience in sub-Saharan Africa. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2011.

[2]IAASTD/International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science a Technology for Development (2008). Global Report. Island Press, Washington DC.

farming. It is, therefore, an ideal option for Africa. Organic farming practices deliberately integrate local farming methods and use of affordable, locally available resources. As such, they are highly relevant to the majority of African farmers.

19. As a result, there is a growing recognition among policy makers that organic agriculture has a significant role to play in ensuring and sustaining local food security and sovereignty, ecosystem services for rural welfare and biodiversity conservation through increased uptake of agro-ecological innovations, practices and technologies.

20. The issues mentioned above prompted the African Union to recognize the importance of organic agriculture and to pass a resolution on organic farming in order to better equip professionals with relevant and functional knowledge, skills and desirable work ethics to steer the development of sustainable, resilient, and productive organic farming systems in Africa.

21. The Executive Council of the African Union (AU) Resolution on Organic Farming which was adopted during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011, stipulates as follows:

The Executive Council,

i. 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;

ii. EXPRESSES concern over the current practice of exploitation of the organic farmers in Africa;

iii. REQUESTS the Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:

a). 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

b). Provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;

iv. CALLS UPON development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this Decision;

v. REQUESTS the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

22. The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa is an effort to support and implement the African Union Council Resolution on Organic Farming in order to help overcome the pressing challenges of food insecurity, seed systems and climate change.

2.2 Development Goal

23. The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture[3] into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.
24. The EOA-I has a mission to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing and policy making to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security.

2.3 Objectives of the Initiative

25. The objectives of the initiative are:

    i. 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.
    ii. To systematically inform producers about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivate their uptake through strengthening access to advisory and support services.
    iii. To substantially increase the share of quality organic products at the local, national and regional markets.
    iv. 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.

26. **Impact Hypothesis**: Through the application of EOA approaches and practices along the entire commodity value chains and its mainstreaming in development systems through National Platforms, food security, incomes and nutrition of smallholder households, as well as the environmental sustainability of agricultural production will be improved.

[3]Ecological Organic Agriculture is a holistic system that sustains the health of ecosystems and relies on functional cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of synthetic inputs which have adverse effects on total health (human, animal, plant and environmental).

2.4 Key Priority Areas (Pillars)

The following are the key priority areas (pillars) of the EOA Initiative:

2.4.1 Research, Training and Extension

27. **Overall Objective:** To carry out effective, demand driven, multi-disciplinary, gender sensitive and participatory research, training and extension to support a holistic productive EOA by 2025.
28. **Specific Objectives are:** (i)To undertake participatory generation of knowledge, technology and innovation in EOA to respond to issues facing stakeholders spanning from food, fiber, agro-industry and service providers; (ii)to develop client oriented training curricula of stakeholders in EOA; and (iii)to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, technologies and innovation for use in EOA through extension and advisory services.
29. This is a priority area aimed at building scientific database for EOA. Led by actors in research and training institutes and universities; participatory, interdisciplinary, multi-cultural research will be conducted to inform stakeholder training. Knowledge and skill will be transferred to communities through extension services. By involving farmers in the research, existing local knowledge will be harnessed and scientifically tested to produce empirical data that can be used for innovation. The pillar will ensure that gender aspects in every innovation are considered so that farming technologies and practices consider the active participation of women and youth in farming.

2.4.2 Information and Communication

30. **Overall Objective:** To translate research findings into outreach material for farmers as well as package relevant information for lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting other stakeholders (e.g., private sector, policy makers) by 2025.
31. **Specific Objectives are:**(i)To enhance the use of information and communication strategies to sensitize farmers, processors, marketers and other stakeholders and the general public on the value and practices of EOA in producing and processing safe and healthy products; and (ii)to systematically inform stakeholders on the potential, opportunities and success of EOA.
32. This priority area will be the vehicle through which EOA reaches out to a vast majority on the continent. Working closely with all the priority areas of this initiative, a formidable brand for EOA will be developed, national information and communication strategies designed and

information packaged in appropriate formats to be communicated to various audiences and stakeholders on the value and practices of EOA.

2.4.3 Value Chain & Market Development

33. **Overall Objective:** To increase organic agricultural production and the share of quality EOA products at the national, regional and international markets through value chain analysis and market development by 2025.
34. **Specific Objectives are:** (i) to conduct value chain analysis, develop value chain nodes and establish value addition options for EOA products; and (ii) to develop national and regional markets for organic products.
35. Efforts will focus on three key areas along identified EOA product value chains: (i) stimulating the manufacturing of organic farm inputs (especially seeds & fertilizer) so that farmers can access and grow produce for target markets; (ii) encouraging value addition of EOA products so as to earn higher margins; and (iii) developing sustainable markets to increase trade in EOA high value products both at domestic and export levels.
36. Women and youth will be specifically targeted under this initiative to ensure that they get involved in value addition activities and accessing markets for their products.

2.4.4 Networking & Partnerships

37. **Overall Objective**: To foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2025.
38. **Specific Objective:** To enhance collaboration and synergies among actors in Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa.
39. The priority area recognises that the EOA initiative does not have dedicated staff in every country and community to implement and therefore will rely heavily on partners and networks already in the industry. Engagement will be done through Partnership Agreements (PAs) and Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with EOA.
40. Networks and movements in Africa such as IFOAM, FARA, AFRONET and partners such as governments, farmers, private sector, civil society among others will be engaged to maximize impact, leverage experiences and expand geographic reach and influence of EOA activities.

2.4.5 Policy & Programme Development

41. **Overall Objective:** To lobby and advocate for the development, mainstreaming and implementation of EOA programmes, policies, plans in the agriculture sector as well as other related sectors by 2025.
42. **Specific Objectives are:**(i) to ensure the harmonization, awareness and common understanding of the concept of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among all stakeholders (especially policymakers, practitioners and farmers); (ii) to gather evidence-based data to use in the development of appropriate lobby messages for promoting EOA; (iii)to advocate and lobby stakeholders (and in particular governments and Regional Economic Communities - RECs) to integrate and align EOA into continental (CAADP), national and regional policies, plans and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries.
43. This is the priority area that will help EOA realise its ultimate goal. Working closely with priority area 1 and 2, empirical data will be packaged into appropriate formats for target audiences. Through lobbying and advocacy efforts, our national governments will be persuaded to develop and implement enabling policies and programmes in support of EOA.

2.4.6 Institutional Capacity Development

44. **Overall Objective:** To strengthen the governance, management and operations of EOA institutions in Africa to deliver on EOA better by 2025.
45. **Specific Objective:** To identify and support EOA institutions in Africa through providing harmonized guidelines for their development, management and operations.
46. This priority recognises the nascent EOA institutions. Efforts will be made to establish, develop and support these institutions' organisational capacities as well as equip their professionals with skills and competences to promote EOA in Africa.

2.5 Implementation Structure of EOA-I

47. At continental level, the African Union Commission (AUC) chairs the EOA Continental Steering Committee (CSC) which provides overall policy guidance to EOA-I. BvAT is the interim secretariat to the CSC with effect from December 2015 for two years and is also responsible for the management and coordination of EOA-I. BvAT is also the executing agency for SDC support, while PELUM Kenya is the coordinating agency for SSNC.

48. At the regional level, the initiative has two active Regional Steering Committees (RSCs), covering the West African and the Eastern African clusters. The RSCs provide a forum for networking and exchange of experiences and lessons learnt across countries.

49. At country level, there is a National Platform that convenes, facilitates, advises, and monitors progress of implementation of EOA Initiative. The National Platform has a sub-committee called the National Steering Committee which provides leadership and overall supervision of EOA-I at the country level. The executing agency/secretariat for the NSC is the Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) responsible for: disbursement of funds to implementing partners; and coordination, supervision and monitoring of implementation of pillar activities. The EOA-I activities are implemented by PIPs and CLOs, who are partners selected or elected by the stakeholders through the national platforms.

2.6 The Implementing Partners of EOA-I

1) Africa Union Commission – Continental Steering Committee
2) Regional Steering Committee for Eastern Africa Cluster
3) Regional Steering Committee for West Africa Cluster
4) Executing and Coordinating Organizations - Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) and PELUM Kenya
5) Country Lead Organisations (CLOs) as follows:

i.	Benin	Beninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB)
ii.	Ethiopia	Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
iii.	Kenya	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
iv.	Mali	Mouvement Biologique Malien (MOBIOM)
v.	Nigeria	Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN)
vi.	Senegal	Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique (FENAB)
vii.	Tanzania	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)
viii.	Uganda	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)

3.0 FINDINGS OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW (MTR)

The findings focus on the key achievements and challenges in the implementation of the project. These are presented under each pillar.

3.1 Networking and linkages

50. The objective of the Networking and Linkages Pillar is to promote engagement by relevant stakeholders to facilitate communication and create synergies among them. Considering the vastness of the continent and the diverse actors in agriculture, EOA adopted a Networking and Partnership Strategy to assist in building synergies and complementarities while avoiding duplication of efforts for optimal use of available resources and maximisation of results and impacts. The EOA initiative does not have dedicated staff in every country and therefore relies on partners and networks to ensure wider geographical coverage, leveraging each other's experience and innovation for optimal results in programme implementation.
51. The stakeholders in the EOA Initiative include government ministries responsible for agriculture, farmer groups, civil society organisations, private sector (e.g., processors, traders and companies), research institutions, certification bodies, and the international community (e.g. funding partners) Other important stakeholders include African Organic Network (AfroNet), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)-Organics International, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), World Agroforestry Centre and CGIAR centres.
52. During the national platform meetings of the EOA-Initiative, efforts were made to invite as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. The number of stakeholders who attended the national platform meetings is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Stakeholders who attended the National Platform Inception Meeting in Each Country

Country	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
Participants	31	33	51	19	43	71	65	32

Source: Reports of National Platform Inception Meetings

53. The Country Lead Organisations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) were elected /selected from the organisations that participated in the national platform meetings.
54. Whether by design or default, all the CLOs that were selected/elected happen to have been the ones that sent out the invitations for the initial national platform meeting.
55. Subsequent engagements are executed through Partnership Agreements (PAs) and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).
56. Most networking and partnership interactions have been through meetings, conferences and internet connectivity at continental level, regional steering committees and national level.
57. Some of the impressive achievements in networking and partnership pillar include:
    a) Sustained visibility of the EOA Initiative at the Africa Union Commission. The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union chairs the EOA continental steering committee. Through it, the EOA Strategic plan has been endorsed by the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
    b) Organising four Continental Steering Committee meetings in 2014 & 2015 chaired by AU and attended by regional stakeholders and development partners.
    c) Organising four regional steering committee meetings in Benin, Nigeria, Tanzania and South Africa to discuss issues related to the further development of organic agriculture.
    d) Organising the third West African organic conference held in Benin.
    e) Organising and managing the 3rd African Organic Conference in Lagos, Nigeria.
    f) Several country-level meetings organised by country lead organisations.
    g) Hosting senior government officials at country-level meetings. For instance, the President of the Republic of Senegal and Speaker of the national parliament were hosted by FENAB at Kaydara.
    h) Initiating efforts to liaise and network with other continent-wide development initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
    i) Establishing partnerships with universities and other institutions of higher education on matters related to organic agriculture in training and research.
    j) Establishing and organising national level debates and dialogues on various aspect of organic agriculture. This has raised visibility and acceptance of ecological organic agriculture as part of the national agricultural policy debate.

58. By engaging decision and policy makers in the region and demonstrating how important EOA is, it is hoped that the same kind of government backing and extension push can be placed behind EOA.

3.2 Relevance of the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative

Relevance refers to the extent to which the objectives of the project were consistent with the needs of relevant stakeholders and target beneficiaries. In addressing relevance, the MTR team was guided by the following: African Union's development agenda; Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); UN Sustainable development goals; National agricultural development plans; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

3.2.1 African Union's Support to Organic Agriculture

59. EOA-I is a response to the African Heads of States and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII). It is relevant to the various policies and strategies of enhancing sustainable development within the context of economic, social and environmental development aspirations and with due recognition of local knowledge. It is clearly aligned to Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

60. EOA-I also presents opportunities for addressing current problems of unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, environmental degradation and climate change.

3.2.2 Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

61. The initiative clearly identifies improvement in agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa, as key areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve better quality of life for beneficiaries. The EOA-I is aligned to the AU-Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) agenda, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Results framework, the Malabo Declaration and Agenda 2063.

62. By implementing the pillars on research, training and extension, value chain and market development as well as policy and programme development, the EOA initiative will realize the goal of mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems, which will lead to the improvement in quality of life for African citizens which the Malabo Declaration ultimately intends to achieve as well.

63. Through information and communication activities, networking and partnership and institutional capacity development, the Initiative will ensure outreach to a wider audience with adequate information and practical activities towards meeting the African dream of food security.

64. Based on the CAADP results framework, the EOA initiative proposes to promote value addition and a more aggressive African agribusiness and entrepreneurship of ecological organic products on both the domestic and global markets through its third key priority area of value chain and market development.

3.2.3 UN Sustainable Development Goals

65. The design and conceptual framework as espoused in the EOA project document also addresses Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) No. 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 on: ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture; ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns; taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss; and strengthening the means of implementing and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, respectively.

3.2.4 National Agricultural Development Plans

66. As already indicated, the EOA initiative is aligned with the CAADP Results framework. As such, it is firmly and closely relevant to the national agricultural development plans of Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. Key areas of concurrence include prioritization of food security, agricultural productivity, empowerment of women and youth as well as commercialisation of market-oriented agriculture.

67. The project is relevant in creating awareness and stimulating adoption of EOA good practices, increasing the market share of quality organic products, and strengthening inclusive stakeholder engagement in EOA activities.

68. Although at various stages in the process of policy formulation in different countries, mainstreaming EOA into national policies will go a long way in formalizing and institutionalizing EOA into various national development programmes (e.g., research, training through curriculum development, and markets for organic products) and also attract requisite funding from public resources.

3.2.5 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

69. SDC Supports EOA through its Global Programme for Food Security (GPFS).
70. The mandate of development cooperation to reduce poverty and global risks. Its objective is to ensure sustainable global development.
71. The SDC implements the constitutional mandate which requires "providing relief for populations in need and fighting poverty and also to promote respect for human rights, democracy, peaceful coexistence of peoples, and the preservation of natural resources."

3.2.6 Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

72. Industrial farming is contributing to pollution, land degradation and depletion of the habitats of many species. With an expanding global population and the threat of climate change, the need for sustainable farming methods is acute all over the world. The environmental targets – a rich cultivated landscape, no eutrophication, a stable climate and a toxic-free environment – require greater action than is being undertaken today if they are to be achieved.

.3 Effectiveness of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative

Effectiveness refers to an assessment of the extent to which the project expected results are likely to be attained, and the project's purpose is likely to be achieved taking current project progress into consideration.

73. For the effectiveness evaluation criterion, different countries are at different stages of implementation. The evaluation team decided to report the achievements and challenges in the implementation of each pillar on country-by-country basis.

3.3.1 Research, Training and Extension Pillar

74. This pillar aims at building the body of scientific data supporting EOA by understanding gaps and implementing activities geared towards enhancing uptake of ecological organic agriculture practices along the entire commodity value chains. It has three objectives, namely: (i) to undertake participatory generation of knowledge, technology and innovation in EOA and to respond to issues facing stakeholders spanning from food, fiber, agro-industry and service providers; (ii) to develop client oriented training curricula of stakeholders in EOA; and (iii) to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, technologies and innovation for use in EOA through extension and advisory services. The following section presents key achievements under this pillar in each of the participating countries.

Benin

Key achievements with SDC Support

75. This pillar is implemented by Organisation for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture in Benin (OBEPAB), a not-for-profit organization, in close collaboration with various universities and institutions involved in organic research in the country (e.g., University of Parakou and Abomey-Calavi).

76. In order to improve efficiency of action, the CLO and PIPs have focused on value chains where there is already a substantial production capacity. These value chains are cotton, soya, pineapple and vegetables (cabbage, tomato, carrot, great morel). Major activities implemented under this pillar are related to these value chains.

77. Several studies have been published including: (i) Assessment and documentation of EOA research results in cotton and soybean production systems in Benin; (ii) Local knowledge in pineapple and horticulture production in general and tomato in particular; (iii) Ecological pest management by cultivated plant diversity in tomato cropping systems in Benin: case of *Helicoverpa armigera* regulation. For instance, results from this study indicate that cultivated plant diversity increased the abundance of the omnivore predators and generalist predators which were negatively correlated with *H. armigera* abundance meaning it biological control. The plants include oil palm, pineapple, maize, cassava, *triumphetta, talinum* and groundnut and they could be the best plants associated with tomato for ecological management of H. *armigera.*

78. A study on knowledge gaps and needs of actors in the organic cotton and soybean value chains in Benin, taking into account gender specific needs, has been published. Findings are used to design appropriate trainings for farmers, extension workers, processors as well as other key players in the respective value chains.
79. A directory of actors involved in promoting EOA in Benin and other West African countries has been published, as a means to network better with these organizations. The information contained in the directory includes contact addresses, physical location and activities that they are engaged in.
80. Seventeen (17) cotton seed breeders were trained in setting up demonstration plots and producing organic cotton seeds for sale to other farmers.
81. Draft curricula on ecological organic agriculture, leading to MSc degree, has been developed. The draft has been developed in close collaboration with some partners' institutions and universities such as CIRAD in France and Saint Louis University in Senegal. Once finalized, the curricula will help train manpower in EOA in the country.
82. Government policies and laws were analyzed in order to identify the ways and means of mainstreaming EOA into programs, policies and strategies in Benin. One important recommendation of the study was that in addition to advocating for EOA among policy makers in the capital city (Cotonou), there is a great need to strengthen EOA advocacy in the rural areas.
83. All study draft reports have been shared with PIPs and members of the steering committee for information and feedback.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, this pillar complements two objectives, "*Improving the capacity of communities, experts and local administration for over-all scaling up and institutionalization of good ecological farming practices*", and "*Support and facilitate generating trusted information through promoting participatory on-farm research in ecological farming*".

Key Achievements under SSNC Support

This pillar was implemented by Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD). The attainment of set objectives was rated as satisfactory since all activities were implemented to a considerable level with the following achievements through the complementation of Push Pull Technology[4]

[4]The push–pull technology is a strategy for controlling agricultural pests by using repellent "push" plants and trap "pull" plants (Wikipedia, 2016).

(PPT) and EOA were noted. ISD has complemented the implementation of the Push Pull Technology (PPT) project with Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) initiative during this implementation period.

84. The PPT project started in 2011 with financial and technical support from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) with 1 female farmer and 2 Farmer Training Centres (FTCs) in South Wollo and 1 female farmer and 1 male farmer and 2 FTCs in Tigray.

85. In 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture recognized the importance of PPT and set a target of 20,000 farmers adopting this technology by 2016. The Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) was charged with coordinating the work and the ISD Director was invited to participate in the national PPT Steering Committee along with EIAR (Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research) and the ICIPE-Ethiopia office.

86. ISD collaborated and established partnerships with staff of the Agricultural Faculty of Axum University and the researchers in a government funded Mai Tsebri Agricultural Research Centre through the PPT project.

87. Through the PPT approach, the desmodium suppressed the growth of another parasitic weed, *Orobanche*, which severely attacks faba bean, tomato and other vegetables. A replicated trial in 2 FTCs in South Wollo confirmed this observation. This has been reported to researchers in ICIPE and Rothamstead Research Station of the United Kingdom (UK).

88. Introduction of EOA curriculum into ***certificate level training with Axum University was a major milestone.*** In April 2014, a curriculum with 7 courses was developed with the staff of Axum University Agriculture Faculty as well as local extension personnel and farmers and launched even though the training is yet to start.

89. ***Other training, experience sharing and research activities***: Field visits and discussions were organized in South Wollo in order to learn from model farmers and strengthen others in their use of compost, agroforestry and PPT. A youth group that had successfully set up bee keeping to earn an income from the honey and 11 farmers with biogas digesters were also visited and offered extension services support.

90. ***Local capacity building on bio-slurry management and utilization***: Under the National Biogas Programme of Ethiopia (NBPE), ISD is mandated to provide farmers and local experts with training and knowledge sharing on the use of bio-slurry as an organic fertilizer. By the end of 2013, over 8000 farming households in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray Regions had installed biogas digesters. The demand for training in the use of bio-slurry is very high.

91. The other pillar implementing partner under SSNC support is Mekelle University which is active through its work on soil and water conservation and fertility management, better and effective use of the meagre water resources, giving recognition to local breeds of both animals and crops.

Key achievements with SDC support

This pillar is implemented by Mekelle University.

92. A baseline survey was conducted among farmers and other stakeholders in 32 *woredas* ('districts'). The baseline indicated 41 EOA related practices; out of which 21 are research supported and 20 are local.

93. Value chain study of organic produce was conducted focusing on wheat, local oranges, lettuce and apples. Regional technical committee has been established and defined future directions such as setting up of demonstration sites in two technical and vocational Colleges in Tigray region in northern Ethiopia.

94. One MSc curriculum has been developed for EOA and the first run of the course was completed successfully.

Kenya

Key Achievements under SSNC Support

This pillar is implemented by Sustainable Agriculture Community Development (SACDEP).

95. A database of EOA research into use was also developed by collecting, collating and packaging information on EOA with regards to research in use by various institutions. The collected information was packaged into promotional materials.

96. To ensure attainment of increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about organic practices in the entire value chains available, information on status of EOA and research gaps was disseminated though the following means:

    a) 20 women and youth were exposed to innovative EOA technologies through various trainings;
    b) 2 studies were undertaken on the status of EOA capacity gaps; and
    c) A booklet on local knowledge was produced

97. Promotional materials were produced as follows:

    a) Production of 100 copies of EOA extension version one produced, 3 of which are now in print.

b) 1 video documentary of Trainer of Trainers produced and linked with EOA website on two prioritized themes (Rangeland Management and Principles and Practices of Sustainable Agriculture/EOA) being shot and at final stages of development

c) 2 audio visual trainings carried out in video

98. An EOA Curriculum was reviewed and completed and utilized in a Trainer of Trainers Course in undertaking 6-months course with the curriculum being shared with other sister implementing organizations. Currently, seven learning institutions have harmonized their EOA curriculum.

99. In order to enhance dissemination and sharing of the status of EOA research at national level, 19 research institutions were facilitated to establish formal and informal strategies of sharing information including higher learning institutions.

100. An operational plan was identified in which trainees were identified from EOA institutions to be trained on TOT. 30 TOTs were identified through their various institutions and taken through 1st and 2nd phase of training where on Sustainable Agriculture and Ecological Organic Agriculture.

101. Out of the 30 TOTs, nine of them received a further four-month in depth training (12th of September 2015 to 6th November 2015) on EOA/SA at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in USA through PELUM-Kenya support to SACDEP. It is anticipated that nine trainers will be engaged to start training EOA practitioners at the proposed School of Sustainable Agriculture for East Africa; an initiative of SACDEP. The training will be at two levels; Higher Diploma and Certificate. The first class is expected to begin by the second week of September 2016 for the certificate level as SACDEP finalizes with Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD) on the registration of the Higher Diploma Curriculum.

102. Further to support offered through Pillar 1 to SACDEP, SSNC supported 'A collaborative research component' focusing on Agroforestry technologies and practices. This component was implemented by BvAT, ICRAF and PELUM Kenya. The following tasks were completed and various results achieved:

a) A Scoping study to document the Agro-forestry technologies/practices/systems, and their characterization, release, adoption and use by farmers in Kenya was undertaken. The scoping study unearthed three main knowledge gaps and research priorities:

i. *Developing more productive agro-forestry systems* that are sustainable and resilient to change (both climate-related and others), and that retain and enhance the provision of ecosystem services including carbon sequestration.

ii. Building *resilient agro-forestry communities* capable of adapting to change.

iii. *Institutional and other mechanisms* for promoting uptake of sustainable agro-forestry production systems, and for ensuring that the links between agriculture, environment and climate change are acknowledged.

b) A study on farmer preferences on Agro forestry practices and technologies in Kenya was undertaken. The main findings of the study were that farmers from different regions differed in their preferences for Agroforestry.

c) A study on technology uptake and utilization on agroforestry practices was also undertaken with main findings showing that Agro forestry fodder is used to reduce the cost of feeds incurred by farmers. Presently most small holder farmers are mixed farmers with livestock but have poor use of tree fodder. Findings reported from this study include:

i. That farmers were aware of local fodder trees fed to livestock in the dry season.

ii. Research on nutritive value of local trees as needed to guide better inclusion in livestock diets.

iii. Compared to individual farmers, farmer groups had better stakeholder engagement (able to access services and inputs) hence better uptake of exotic fodder technologies promoted in the study area.

iv. Poor attitude among smallholders hinders behavioural change and learning for improved uptake of technologies.

v. Inappropriate knowledge sharing methods inhibits sustained learning for increased technology adoption.

Key achievements under SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by Egerton University. This came into effect in June 2014 after the University signed an MOU with Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), the CLO for Kenya. The first tranche of disbursement of funds was received in August 2014. The extension aspect of Pillar 1 was not included in the original activities and in the terms of reference agreed upon and signed between Egerton and KOAN due to lack of sufficient funding.

103. A research study was conducted by Egerton University to **identify gaps in ecological organic agricultural research** and the results were submitted to KOAN. The data collection process used a research template designed to retrieve research studies carried out on crops and livestock at different stages of the value chain (breeding, production, harvesting, handling, processing, packaging and storage). The research template, designed by the researchers, was presented to a stakeholder's forum for comments and approval. The forum comprised of key players in Kenya's Organic Agriculture Sector.
104. The research shows what was available and where the gaps are. Subsequently, all research findings were consolidated, and uploaded on an IT platform which is accessible from anywhere on the internet and regularly updated.
105. The research findings indicated areas in which there were gaps for further investigation including: a) organic fish research; b) disease management in livestock; c) disease management in crops due to lack of organic input products.
106. Findings from the survey indicate that there is no single university that specializes in training organic agriculture in Kenya. Some research has been carried out across different institutions but was not tagged as organic agriculture.
107. A study on **Farmers' Knowledge Gaps on Ecological Organic Agricultur**e focused on establishing what knowledge was lacking and priorities to be undertaken. The study results indicated that value chain actors lacked crucial knowledge on organic agriculture. The data-collection process grouped the value chain actors into farmers, processors and input manufacturers. The section on **Farmers' Knowledge Gaps on Ecological Organic Agriculture** has already been concluded while determination of knowledge gaps across other practitioners along the value chain is on-going. The farmers' exercise involved 102 female and male farmers mostly drawn from Kirinyaga, Muranga and Tharaka Nithi counties of central and eastern Kenya. During the study, East African Standards were used as a reference point to ascertain if farmers knew every aspect of how to produce crops, livestock, honey and wild harvests organically.
108. From the Farmers' Knowledge Gaps Report, a training curriculum has been drawn by experts to address the gaps. The curriculum on honey is being used to train honey farmers in Baringo County, which leads other counties of Kenya in honey production. Egerton University has taken advantage of its partnership with the Nation Media Group in publishing the weekly ***Seeds of***

Gold Magazine that appears in the Saturday Nation Newspaper to promote intensive agriculture including organic agriculture.

Mali

Key achievements with SDC Support

109. The pillar is implemented by Centre Régional de Recherche Agronomique de l'Institut d'Economie Rurale (CRRA/IER) in collaboration with research institutions involved in organic research in the country. These include for example, Syprobio – farmer-led innovation platforms to address food security, poverty alleviation and resilience to climate change in West African cotton-growing communities and the Rural Polytechnic Institute for Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research Training and Applied Research (IPR/IFRA) Katibougou). EOA support was mainly used to support already going activities.
110. Four research studies were conducted to improve knowledge of the practices of EOA, especially on organic soil fertility. These studies include: Influence of cultivation of improved fallows based *Stylosanthes hamata* with added Natural phosphate Tilemsi (NPT), and various organic manures on the behavior of cotton industry under conditions of organic production in southern Mali; Integrated soil fertility management to improve productivity in the Sahel; Effects of fallows, vegetables and natural phosphate on yield of millet and *Striga hermonthica*; Establishment of a perennial trial station; Organic and sustainable systems performance Evaluation; and Evaluation of the effect of green fertilizer *Tithonia diversifolia* on *Amaranthus viridis* and *Zeamays* in the gardening perimeters of Lafiabougou.
111. Field technicians and producers were trained on the following topics: production of improved compost and organic pesticides; recognition of pests of cotton; establishment of trials and tests in rural areas.
112. Fact sheets were produced, especially for organic cotton production.
113. Model farms and technical innovations for increasing yields in ecological organic production were identified.

Nigeria

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by Ibadan University.

114. **Research Gap Analysis Study:** A study on 'knowledge gap analysis, needs and priorities by gender in the development of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) commodity value chains' was conducted by Organic Agriculture Project in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (OAPTIN) and the Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology in Ibadan. It involved 325 respondents from 31 local government areas (LGA) of six states (Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti and Ondo) within the south-west zone. Seventy five (23.1 percent) out of the 325 respondents were women and more than half of them (59.4 percent) were below the age of 40 years, indicating that a young generation of farmers are into EOA practice. Of 325 respondents 174 male and 41 women practiced organic farming.

115. Most of farmers were attracted by low production costs even though they had very little knowledge in value addition or marketing of organic produce. Financial constraint was cited as the major hindrance to EOA and the male respondents expressed desire for more training.

116. The next step is to do capacity training where participants would be taught how to produce organic crops and get them certified to make their work legitimate. More training is needed in production, marketing and value addition.

117. **Curriculum Development:** Under the pilot phase of EOA, each country was to see how much EOA output had been mainstreamed into the national curriculum. It was found that no institution except Uganda Martyrs' University in Uganda had a course on organic agriculture.

118. A Curriculum and Training Materials Review Workshop was held on 19th November 2014 by OAPTIN at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. The workshop reviewed the curricula and training materials and facilities of ten (10) Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in South-West Nigeria with the aim of determining the content of EOA courses at four programs levels: certificate, diploma, undergraduate and graduate. The workshop noted that the specialized Universities of agriculture were in a better position to introduce EOA courses into their current curricula at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The associations of university deans in Nigeria have been lobbied, and courses on EOA have been introduced into normal agriculture programs.

119. **Local Knowledge:** A monograph to document application of local knowledge in EOA has been produced. It contains over 40 and 25 local knowledge on crop and livestock management respectively. Under the indicator on new technologies (including organic farm inputs, seeds & bio-pesticides) developed and disseminated one technology involving the use of *Neem* plant to produce pesticide has been disseminated to farmers. Three new innovations developed under

EOA include: (a) vegetative propagation of tomatoes, (b) use of compost in tea production, and (c) fertility management using Jack Beans.

120. **Extension:** Dissemination of knowledge, technologies and innovation for use in EOA through extension and advisory services is carried out by Oyo State Agricultural Development Program (ADP). The Program currently works with farmers in 14 LGAs of the 33 in Oyo State. The CLO indicated that the initiative started with 100-120 farmers and is now reaching about 1,000 farmers. It is not clear whether they are practising EOA or conventional farmers.

121. Farmers indicated that access to organic inputs (seeds and pesticides) as a major constraint to organic farming. Production capacity is low as most farmers are small holders. There are market limitations although potential is growing.

Senegal

Key achievements with SDC Support

122. The RTE pillar is implemented by ENDA-PRONAT, which was created in 1982 following a study done on the risks of unsafe use of pesticides. In 1986, they started promoting "Alternative Ecological Agriculture" in four zones of Senegal, covering 16-20 communities. After that, they promoted sustainable agriculture through schools and farmers' associations.

123. Some products are certified as organic (e.g., cotton) with the support of FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture.

124. Through seminars with the researchers, academicians, NGOs and other stakeholders, they carried out a capacity needs assessment of farmers and developed training modules and materials.

125. Current research activities cover vermicomposting and essentials oils.

Tanzania

Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) is the Pillar implementing Partner (PIP) of Pillar one in Tanzania and the pillar implementing team includes TAFORI, TPRI, SUA, UDSM, Agriculture Research Institutes (ARIs), CARITAS, Ministry of Agriculture Training Institutes (MATIs).

Key achievements with SDC Support

126. A study was carried out on *'evaluation of best and effective botanicals in controlling insect pests and diseases'* by Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) based in Arusha. Thirteen (13) plants were collected from four regions (Morogoro, Mwanza, Arusha and Mbeya) in Tanzania and a laboratory analysis carried out to isolate the active ingredients with pesticidal effects. The next phase of the study is the establishment of trial plots to determine the dosage or application rates and procedures. However, there are no funds budgeted for this phase. This is an important study whose results could be used in the development of organic pesticides, which are currently not readily available.

127. Another study was carried out under the auspices of Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI), on documentation of ecological organic agriculture technologies in the production value chain of sorghum, ground nut, green gram, tomato, fish, cashew, vegetables and legume in regions of Dodoma, Mtwara and Mafia in Tanzania. A total of twenty six (26) technologies were identified. This was an important study especially in the identification of ecological organic agriculture technologies developed and used by farmers. The report of the study was published online (www.kilimohai.org).

128. A study was done in Masasi district, Mtwara region and a report on knowledge gaps, needs and priorities by gender in development of ecological organic agricultural value chain for cashew, grain legumes and vegetables in Masasi district has been written and shared by the Agricultural Research Institute Naliendele.

129. Two (2) Training of Trainers in EOA practices were carried out by Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) for farmers from Zanzibar, Mafia, Morogoro, Dodoma, Tanga and Songea. The trainings covered: Introduction to EOA practices; and how to establish and manage farmer groups.

130. A consultant from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) teamed up with SAT to carry out the study on effectiveness of EOA practices in pests, diseases, soil fertility and weed control.

131. SUA has prepared a curriculum for a PhD programme in agro-ecology that is awaiting approval by the University Council in which EOA stakeholders shared their experiences and knowledge.

132. SAT which is the lead Coordinator for pillar one, hosted 15 SUA students for a five week Field Practical training in 2015 who were oriented into the EOA concepts and practices.

133. The proposed standard "**Education and Training in EOA *curriculum for institutionalization***" was analyzed in a joint workshop with the following institutions; SUA, Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI – Zanzibar), MATI-Ilonga, MATI-Igurusi,

SAT Farmer Training Centre and three NGOs working with farmers, which were; CARITAS-Mbeya, CARITAS-Mafia and CARITAS-Dar-es-Salaam.

134. A total of 56 EOA actors were reached for a study and a directory was developed by TAFORI.

135. As part of EOA pillar 1 implementation, SAT has established three (3) Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in Kenge, Kimbwala and Kungwe villages in Morogoro. The FFS have trained farmers on EOA practices on pests and disease management; soil fertility management; and weed control and management.

Uganda

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) in close collaboration with NOGAMU who are in charge of Research, Training and Extension Pillar under SSNC support. It is worth noting that NOGAMU and UMU have worked closely and collaborated in similar activities to bring out greater impact. Database on the status of research in EOA at national level was created highlighting research works in Uganda that address EOA practices, technologies and challenges. The database on research includes a baseline report documenting research gaps, needs and priorities. It was noted that most of the assessed organizations offer training on EOA, while others offered extension services, with a few offering advocacy and lobbying services; and those involved in research were very few.

136. Using the research database, a curriculum was developed. UMU and NOGAMU organized a stakeholders' workshop which was attended by 27 participants from 18 organizations to review the curriculum.

137. Curricula of the institutions showed that among the institutions that participated in the study, majority of them offer short courses on EOA, while in second place were those institutions that offered certificates, followed by those that offered Bachelor's degrees with very few institutions reported to offer Masters and PhD programs. Some of the courses related to EOA covered were application of manure, bio-organic, coffee production, hybrid production, certification, sustainable agriculture production and agro-forestry among others.

138. It was however noted that, institutions visited had variations in the way EOA was taught and research was implemented. These variations were acceptable as long as they remained within standard limits, depending on the level of training or research.

139. It was also noted that various learning institutions had not fully embraced EOA as CBOs and NGOs had done, a situation attributed to devoted individuals in the NGO sector. Thus it was recommended that EOA needs to be institutionalized so that it can be owned by institutions and not individuals alone. This is the crux of the mainstreaming EOA in national policies, plans and programs.
140. Results indicate that majority of EOA beneficiaries had been trained in EOA with very few not yet trained. Majority of the farmers interviewed had received on-farm/firm training, followed by those who had received training through workshop setting with few reporting to have received training through demonstrations.
141. Most farmers have been observed to be practicing the EOA farming skills that they were trained on in cultivating crops such as red-eye bird chilli and egg plants.
142. Uganda Martyrs University undertook a skills gap study on EOA. This was an interdisciplinary, multicultural research that informed stakeholder training and highlighted a number of issues. Physical visits were undertaken in Learning Institutions by a consultant selected to facilitate the strengthening of capacities of EOA practitioners through improved curricula and training. During physical visits at training and research institutions, establishment/formalizing intra-institution networking was done. Within networks, mentors and mentees were determined for future sharing of EOA knowledge.
143. There have been a lot of synergies and collaborative research meetings between NOGAMU implementing Pillar 1 under SSNC and UMU undertaking the same pillar under SDC.

Key Achievements under SSNC Support

This Pillar is implemented by NOGAMU. The RTE Pillar was rated as effective because its overall progress towards achievement of outcomes was satisfactory.

144. To strengthen capacities of EOA practitioners through improved curricula and training. NOGAMU established networks and partnerships with identified potential institutions. Within the networks, mentors and mentees were determined for future sharing of EOA knowledge. Based on curriculum developed during the EOA pilot phase, the final proposed curriculum was shared with all potential institutions and it was agreed that institutions will use their various methods of training on EOA but should maintain recommended standards.
145. There was concern about public institutions that had not fully embraced EOA as compared to NGOs and CBOs that had many training courses. In this case it was observed that EOA rested

on the devotion of individuals, who if transferred, the situation could turn out to be different. Therefore, stakeholders agreed that there is need to institutionalize EOA beyond the current scale.

146. Collaboration among and within EOA practitioners in research organisations was also strengthened through discussions with research institutions to come up with strategies on how to strengthen their collaborations. The institutions agreed to embrace the idea of intra-networking and mentoring as well as inter-institution networking and mentoring.

147. It was realized that there were no young EOA researchers in Uganda and that most of the EOA researchers were over 40 years of age. Therefore there was need to mentor the young population

148. NOGAMU also collected Organic trade Statistics. It was observed that the overall value of organic exports by Uganda increased from USD 42.04 million to USD 44.64 million in 2011/2012 and 2013/2014 respectively. Organic exports from Uganda were realized through 43 certified organic export companies/cooperatives/farmers associations supplied by over 186,000 certified organic farmers, the highest number on the African continent according to the latest statistics by FiBL and IFOAM. The total agricultural land certified was over 230,232 Ha. The major export destinations remained the EU and especially to countries like Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Austria, Italy and the UK. Other key markets were USA, Japan, Canada, Dubai and Oman. Regional markets like Nairobi, Kigali and South Sudan were becoming important. Locally, in addition to NOGAMU's organic shop, organic products were also increasingly sold at farmers markets and in major supermarkets in Uganda including Nakumatt, Uchumi, Quality, Capital Shoppers, Embassy supermarket and Italian Supermarkets among others. The American embassy in Kampala also facilitates the sale of organic products.

149. A selected value chain mapping was also conducted under this pillar. A 2-day organic pineapple value chain actors' meeting was held in Luwero. The meeting brought together 33 actors and enabled them to understand their roles, highlight the value chain opportunities available and the constraints limiting the development of the value chain. As a result of the meeting it was reported that the key actors include; smallholder or medium scale farmers who are organised either under export companies or are working independently and selling to local or export trade companies. The second category of actors is the input dealers who supply inputs like pineapple suckers, fertilizers and farm equipment. These actors sell to farmers in Luwero and beyond. Besides just supplying inputs, they play a key advisory and training role on the use of inputs. - The third category are the processors with the main role of identifying sources of raw materials

for pineapples and processing them into dried fruits, fruit pulp, wine and juice. They sell either locally or to traders from Kampala, Nairobi and other export markets. The next important category identified was the Traders/exporters. These include buyers of agricultural products with the key role of buying from farmers or processors, sorting/grading and selling to major markets. They were noted to provide market information and in some cases extend credit facilities to farmers. The fifth category was the transporters who facilitate the movement of products using motorcycles mainly, pickups or trucks to collection points or the markets. In a few cases bicycles are also used.

150. Other actors who play a facilitation role include the Local Government, Banks/Micro Finance institutions, NGOs, CBOs and Researchers. The major constraints highlighted include; lack of readily available pesticides, poor production and post harvest handling technologies, inadequate processing/value addition facilities, inadequate flow of market information, lack of appropriate credit facilitates; poor quality packaging materials; and inadequate storage and transport facilities. Opportunities highlighted include: Existing and growing demand for value added pineapples, existing quality management systems, favourable climate and good soils; close collaboration between actors and increased number of buyers for pineapples from regional and international markets.

3.3.2 Information and Communication Pillar

155. The objectives of the pillar were: (a) to enhance the use of information and communication strategies to sensitize farmers, processors, marketers, other stakeholders and the general public on the value and practices of EOA in producing and processing safe and healthy products; and (b) to systematically inform stakeholders on the potential, opportunities and success of EOA. This pillar is complementary to the Research, Training and Extension Pillar through creation of increased awareness and knowledge of value and practices of EOA and strengthening extension support systems.

Benin

Key achievements with SDC Support

The activities of this Pillar are undertaken under the leadership of Platform of Civil Society Actors in Benin (PASCiB) in collaboration with the CLO.

156. Information and communication gaps analyzed and a subsequent communication and advocacy strategy and tools developed by a consultant for different user groups (e.g. policy makers, media and consumers) with the clear aim to mainstreaming EOA into agriculture and other relevant policies and plans. Communication strategy and tools were validated by members of the Steering Committee.
157. PASCiB's participation in the development process of the Strategic Plan to Revive the Agricultural Sector (PSRSA), which is the document defining Benin's agricultural policy. As a result of PASCiB advocacy work, family farming and EOA were included in the document.
158. Production of radio and television broadcasts to local languages to increase awareness of the benefits of EOA among policy makers, private operators and consumers. Five broadcasts were carried out on "Soleil FM", "BB24", Adjohoun radio, Voix de la Vallée and "Canal3 Benin" TV.
159. A sensitization EOA workshop organized bringing together 60 participants, including producers, consumers, traders and local communal authorities.
160. Regular publication of EOA related articles in PASCiB's magazine "Regard Citoyen", which is published 4 times per year, printed in at least 1000 copies, and distributed free of charge to targeted stakeholders in the whole country.
161. Policy analysis notes and advocacy guidelines for policy makers were developed and circulated.
162. Participation of two members of the Pillar at the 3rdAfrican Organic Conference with the aim of creating linkages and partnerships among actor organizations involved in transfer and dissemination of EOA practice at the continental level. The conference was held in Lagos from October 5 to 9 2015 and brought together 220 participants, including 34 farmers; men, women and youths, from 28 countries to deliberate on the theme *"Achieving Social and Economic Development through Ecological and Organic Agricultural Alternatives"*.
163. Twenty five (25) extension agents trained in communication strategies on the use of bio pesticides for pest management.
164. A monitoring and evaluation plan based on the work plan was developed to better track the pillar activities.

Ethiopia

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is being implemented by PANOS Ethiopia. Panos Ethiopia is the Ethiopian Chapter of Panos Eastern Africa (PEA), a regional NGO working in the area of information and communication for social change and sustainable development. It has so far been implementing programmes and projects on media pluralism and development, governance and peace building, environment and climate change, children and young people and pastoral development communication. Panos Ethiopia has been working closely with the PIPs and CLO to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into national policies, strategies and programmes to influence policy and public thinking through creation of increased awareness and knowledge of value and practices of EOA using different communication channels.

165. This pillar was in many aspects rated as successful with most of the planned activities implemented and achievements desired achieved beyond expectations given that the implementation time was short.

Key Achievements with SSNC Support

This pillar is implemented by Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD).

166. A total eight 30 minutes radio programs and six one-minute spot messages have been produced and broadcasted nationwide on the Ethiopian Radio. The contents of the radio programs primarily focuses on what organic agriculture is about, the health and environmental benefits of organic agriculture, status of organic agriculture in Ethiopia, multiple benefits organic agricultural practices in the face of changing climate, Ethiopian local seed varieties and their current status, importance of organic agricultural practices for the conservation of bio-cultural diversity, compost preparation and its long term benefits for soil fertility, opportunities and challenges for the wider deployment of EOA in Ethiopia.

167. Development of country-specific EOA communication strategy which is well structured indicating major advocacy and BCC/IEC issues, their specific objectives, target audiences, core messages and channel of communication.

168. There is progress towards establishment and consolidation of Farmer's Resource Centers in collaboration with ISD in Holleta area (40 km from Addis Ababa) at Meda Gdina Farmers Resource Centre. The refurbishment and handing over of all the required equipments and furniture is completed. However, staff capacity, exposure and networking with like-minded individuals and institutions at a national, regional and continental level is critical for success.

169. Building capacity of Farmer Training Centres (FTCs) was enhanced through training of 3 FTCs in ISD partner weredas near to Dessie in South Wollo.

170. During the Global Green Week, 5-11 October 2015, ISD handed over 3 sets of equipment, including TVs, megaphones, DVD decks and digital cameras to the administrators from the 2 weredas for installing in the 3 FTCs. Follow-up visits found that 2 FTCs were making good use of the equipment, but the 3rd FTC had been unable to get a connection to electricity and the equipment was still in its boxes.

171. In collaboration with local administration of Waredas, ICT trainings on use of computers were undertaken.

172. **Green Action Week (GAW)** is a global campaign organized by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) took place in the first week of October 2014. The year's theme was *Organic Food and Farming for All.* ISD organized GAW activities over three days in Dessie-Haik, South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, and Axum, Central Zone, Tigray Region. Over 80 people participated in GAW in Haik while 120 participants took part in the 3-day event in Axum.

173. ***Experience sharing visit with BvAT Kenya*** was undertaken with funds from SSNC support in which communications staff and a senior journalist working in PANOS-Ethiopia visited 2 BvAT Farmer Information Centres in Kenya for 3 days in 2014.

174. IT backup support for ISD activities: During 2014, ISD established a Facebook page that attracted more than 2300 'likes' with around 80 regular 'followers', and launched an upgraded website. Most of ISD's publications have now been uploaded as pdf files for wider sharing and downloading and a catalogue of all ISD's publications was being prepared. The webmaster also produced a wall calendar combining the Ethiopian and Gregorian months that was published along with other promotional materials for the Green Action Week campaign at the beginning of October. Issues No 3 and 4 of the ISD Newsletter were also produced.

Kenya

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by Biovision Africa Trust. The Pillar was able to achieve significant results compared with what it was intended to achieve within the planned timeframe**.**

175. Building on what was initiated through the Pilot phase of the project, the Farmer Resource Managers and Community Information Workers (CIWs) for the 2 EOA Resource centers of Kakamega and Busia counties have continued to be supported under this project. The support

includes logistical support of travels to the field in order to support farmers with EOA extension services.

176. To ensure awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased through EOA, information was disseminated to farmers through farmer trainings, field demonstrations and exchange visits by Biovision's EOA Farmer resource centre managers and CIWs. During this implementation period, approximately 6,200 (3700 Female, 2500 Male) farmers were reached.

177. Several farmers were trained on various topics such as soil fertility, compost making, environmental conservation, establishment of kitchen gardens, poultry farming, water harvesting, and use of energy saving devices.

178. Three (3) laptops availed to field staff to enhance their outreach. The field laptops are used to access infonet information on EOA by field staff and farmers thus ensuring they are kept abreast of current technologies used for dissemination of information.

179. The EOA website has continued to be hosted under support from this project. However a quick look at the website showed it was very inactive with low rates of updates with EOA Information.

180. To enhance information dissemination, production of information materials in different formats on ecological organic agriculture for different user groups was undertaken; creation of networks and partnerships to increase awareness, knowledge and interest about EOA; and strengthening capacity of CSOs, extension service providers, and farmer organizations on how to access and disseminate information on EOA was accomplished.

181. By networking with higher education institutions and grassroots farmers in research, the project has led to acceptance of local farmer information as a vital contribution to research and local knowledge is being adapted. An in-depth study template was developed and validated to capture EOA research into use, needs and priorities about organic practices. Sixteen people (two researchers, three librarians, five research assistants and six enumerators) were trained to use the template to collect baseline data. Relevant research and knowledge gaps in EOA were identified although not fully documented. Fourth, the project has a regularly updated national database of EOA research.

182. The project has established infrastructure that promotes organic agricultural development such as resource centres, training facilities, and market outlets. There is a large number of farmers who have been certified in organic agriculture. In addition, there is an increased number of people trained through the EOA initiative in the country and spreading the knowledge, through

meetings that help share ideas, knowledge and learning from each other. There is increased participation of women and youth in trading in organic agricultural products, owing to the attention paid to them. Many women at the grass roots level have picked up organic agriculture as a safe form of agriculture.

Mali

Key achievements with SDC Support

183. The activities of this Pillar are undertaken under the leadership of Association of Professional Farmer Organizations (AOPP). Despite the advantage of having a communication team within the organization, the pace of work in this pillar was slow. According to AOPP, this is due to some internal readjustments within the organization. The person in charge of the communication passed away and AOPP is still in the process of recruiting a new staff who will take care of the communication pillar. As a result, the information and communication strategy is not yet developed and producers, policy makers are not systematically informed and made aware about EOA approaches and good practices. The Pillar coordinator is therefore urgently needed given the importance of the Pillar. Key achievements include: Reports on EOA related activities and events disseminated through the AOPP network.

Nigeria

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by Healthy Foods for Consumers Initiative.

184. The training of farmers and extension agents on the use of innovative communication strategies was carried out by the Healthy Food for Consumers Initiative (HEFCI)and Oyo State Agricultural Development Program (OYSADEP), on 21st April 2015. A total of 200 farmers and 40 extension agents from 4 agricultural ecological zones of Oyo State viz: Oyo and Ogbomoso zones, Saki zone and Ibadan/Ibarapa zone.

185. Information materials on the concept, benefits and principles of Ecological Organic Agriculture on print media like fliers, documentary and banners as well as sound media like jingles and videos

on the benefits, practices and principles of EOA were utilized as strategies for communicating EOA innovation to participants, and also to increase the level of awareness and involvement of farmers and extension agents in the utilization of EOA practices.

186. Through the use of radio and other publicity modes, more Nigerians (consumers and producers) are now aware of the benefits organic farming. Print media such as fliers, posters, banners, T-shirts and caps as well as audio media which involves jingles and videos were used to sensitize farmers, processors, marketers and other stakeholders and the general public on the value and practices of EOA.

187. It is estimated that at least one percent of the about 30 million listeners (i.e., 300, 000 listeners) in South-Western zone of Nigeria would have been made aware of EOA. Linkages have been established between Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) Ibadan, Nigeria Environment Study/Action Team (NEST) Ibadan and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Oyo State branch to increase their awareness and foster transfer, and dissemination of EOA practices.

Senegal

Key achievements with SDC Support

188. This pillar is hosted by the Senegalese association for the promotion of the organic agriculture (ASPAB). Information and communication on the practices and values of the biological ecological agriculture have been largely developed with grassroots communities and stakeholder in the various agro-ecological zones of Senegal, targeting about 22,000 organic producers.

189. As part of the implementation of Resources Centre, the "House of Knowledge" has established an organic market garden in suburban towns. This garden is a training practice in organic garden ecological agriculture for producers, university students and agricultural training schools. Regular visits are recorded in the garden. Journalists, radio and television reporters visit this garden. TVs from Senegal, China and Belgium have also made reports at the garden.

190. Training of Trainers in Organic Ecological Agriculture (AEB) in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Information and Training Systems (MIS) was an important time for the development of Ecological Agriculture Organic (AEB) in Senegal. Indeed Trainers from 62 members of the FENAB and partner organizations were trained. For each training module, training tools were given to the trainers.

191. The President of the Republic of Senegal visited the Youth Training Centre in organic farming called "Kaydara". This center was established by Gardens Africa, a member of FENAB. The FENAB took the opportunity to make a good information / communication about practices and the value of organic agricultural ecological (AEB) to the President of the Republic and to the Government of Senegal for integration of organic farming in environmentally agricultural policies, investment plans and projects and programs implemented in Senegal.
192. FAO and the Government of Senegal organized the African Conference on Agroecology in November (5-6), 2015 in collaboration FENAB.
193. FENAB, ASPAB has trained 62 trainers in Information Technology and Communication (ICT).

Tanzania

Key achievements with SDC Support

PELUM Tanzania is the Pillar Implementing Partner (PIP) for Pillar two. Other implementing team members include; Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO), INADES Formation Tanzania and MALF.

194. PELUM Tanzania has trained farmers in the running of Farmer Resource Centres. The following Farmer Resource Centres have been established: four (4) in Dodoma; three (3) in Chamwino; and one (1) in Dodoma municipality.
195. Communication gap report, which enabled development of a communication strategy, was carried out by INADES Formation.
196. A Sesame production manual has been prepared, 1000 copies of the same printed and distributed to organic sesame farmers in Mahenge-Morogoro, Masasi, Nanyumbu, and Mtwara rural in Mtwara region.
197. 1000 copies of Round up and Weedall poster produced and distributed to farmers in Mtwara, Dodoma in farmer resource centres, Morogoro and Zanzibar.
198. Two cases of best practices on Organic avocado and seed multiplication were documented in the month of November 2015, and at the time of MTR, the documentary was in the process of being sent to the media.
199. 400 copies of 4 different titles on organic agriculture were distributed to 3 centres in Dododma region in late July 2014. The titles of the booklets were: *"Ninawezaje Kusimamia kwa Njia Bora Zaidi Rutuba ya Udongo Wangu?;"Ninawezaje Kudhibiti Wadudu Waharibifu na Magonjwa kwa Njia*

Asilia?"; Ninawezaje Kuboresha Mboji kwenye Udongo Wangu?; "Ninawezaje Kuboresha Mboji kwenye Udongo?" na "Nitalindaje Virutubisho na maji Visipotee?".

200. Six Farmer Resource Information Centre Managers have been trained on resource centers' caretaking by PELUM Tanzania. The training took place in Dodoma whose objective was to equip the managers with knowledge and techniques on efficient caretaking and operation of the centres.

201. PELUM Tanzania has collected a total of 500 copies of booklets and magazines. These materials are with important topics on farming which are relevant to EOA. More than 300 of them have been distributed to the three information centres in Dodoma.

202. Pelum Tanzania conducted training on innovative communication strategies in EOA which, took place in Dodoma and involved 32 participants.

203. A workshop involving 23 EOA Actors and media people was held in Morogoro. In this workshop, participants had an opportunity to share their organizations' experience in dissemination of information and challenges. Moreover, the workshop resulted into *Information Dissemination Action Plan* and the role of each participant in it.

Uganda

Key achievements with SDC Support

Under the auspices of Makerere University, the ICT pillar has grown from the initial basic communication infrastructure basically on social media to now a robust and more comprehensive communication and information sharing infrastructure including mobile application and SMS platform. The pillar has also taken further strides to engage the EOA partners, civil society players, academia, the government and general public in discussions on issues aimed at streamlining the ecological organic agriculture principles and ideals.

204. ***Gap Analysis in Information and Communication Strategies:*** A gap analysis in information and communication strategies was undertaken among the value chain players. The focus of the study was to determine the current information and communications channels, the usage of communication tools, the challenges or gaps and recommendations for an ideal information and communication strategy that is practical, effective and efficient.

205. The findings indicate that mobile phones were a central information and communication tool among most of the value chain actors; and there are few value chain actors using online and social media for information and communication. The gap analysis exercise assisted in the design

of strategies and positioning of information and communication infrastructure to close the gaps as well as empower the value chain actors to build their internal capacity for information sharing and communication.

206. ***Sensitization and Communication Strategies in EOA:*** Sensitization of and engagement with stakeholders was carried out on different fronts. Farmer field trainings and sensitization on the benefits of going organic and on the use of innovative communication and information systems were held with organic farmers in Namulonge, Wakiso district. A conference was held at Makerere University on November 21, 2015 for engagement with stakeholders in EOA on how to leverage organic agriculture and ICTs as a catalyst for achieving the post-2015 sustainable development agenda for Africa.

207. ***Preparation of Communication Materials:*** Communication materials were produced to convey the EOA message to the wider public. Some the materials produced included:

a) 500 calendars which were distributed among the farmers and among NOGAMU partner organizations (the design of the calendars can be seen below).

b) Pull up banners and tear drops to increase the visibility of EOA during our events or stakeholders' events.

c) Online banners with EOA messages were also designed and are used on the social media platforms.

208. ***Sensitize EOA stakeholders and actors through media:*** The media engagement has been growing and attracting the attention of the general public and increasing the visibility of EOA. There are videos and documentaries on YouTube (www.facebook.com/allorganicug) have a considerable following.

209. An **Organic Media Breakfast** was held at the Fairway Hotel in Kampala, and it attracted several media houses including Urban TV, the New Vision, and Red Pepper among others. The story of the media breakfast featured on the Urban TV flagship 8pm news on the Saturday of 5th March 2016 in which the former Ugandan Minister of Agriculture talked about organic policies and the role of women, the Organic Farmers Markets in Kampala. In the same news item, Prof. Fred Kabi of Makerere University talked about the advancement of research in organic agriculture. The media breakfast was intended to bring EOA messages into the mainstream media and put the government and policy makers to attention of the potential and opportunities existing in the organic agricultural sector. The event was also intended to bring the newly established Organic Farmers Markets by NOGAMU to the attention of potential

organic consumers and the general public. The media breakfast was also intended to provide a networking platform for the various media and organic value chain players, organic stakeholders as well as consumers and prospective entrepreneurs in the sector. The video clip that ran in the news can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmKzmbiZveI.

210. A **documentary capturing the good practices of EOA** partners and stakeholders in Uganda has been produced. The documentary brings out a message of how ecologically sound practices are crucial for achieving a healthy biodiversity, produce healthy foods, increase household incomes through expanding markets for organic foods, contribute to environmental protection and mitigating climate change. The documentary can be watched on YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWEyeYxGdUA5B5XeBFdy2Ng/videos.

211. **Building Communication Infrastructure for EOA through Social Media:** A *Facebook* page and a *YouTube* channel have been developed to share EOA information and engaging a wider audience of followers. Currently there are 1,800 plus followers on *Facebook* who can access the organic sector events, pictures, videos, links, updates, news and publications in Uganda.

212. In addition, *WhatsApp* group has been developed for quicker and efficient micro communication and information sharing among the EOA partners and stakeholders. The links to our social media platforms are:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/AllOrganic-UG/325915747609135
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWEyeYxGdUA5B5XeBFdy2Ng/videos

213. **Mobile Phone Applications and SMS platform:** Aware of the growing shift in information access from the web to mobile phones, the technology development team is developing mobile apps. The first app – *AllOrganic App* is undergoing testing and waiting for launching on *Google play*. When it is fully functional, it will provide a mobile directory of the organic value chain players in Uganda. The *App* comes in as the easiest way for users to access information about organic farmers, processors, exporters, researchers, civil society organizations, and other value chain players as well as a source of news and updates on the organic sector "in the comfort of the palm". The interactive SMS platform (under development) will provide the most practical, effective and efficient way to reach farmers with EOA information on their ordinary mobile phones since the majority of them don't have smartphones or computers and therefore are not connected to the internet.

214. **ICTs, Innovation & Sustainable Agriculture Conference:** An ICT, Innovation & Sustainable Agriculture Conference was organized by Makerere University and the Agriit Institute in close collaboration with other EOA implementing partners. The conference was held on November 21, 2015. The theme of the conference was: Leveraging ICTs, Innovation and Sustainable Agriculture as catalysts for achieving the post2015 sustainable development agenda for Africa. The conference attracted participants from the EOA fraternity, civil society, the academia, students, government officials, UN agencies and young innovators. The conference is planned to be held as an annual event targeting participants from across the East African region.

215. **The short synopsis of the conference concept was: "We are at a time of an opportunity to achieve** *sustainable development, improving the lives of millions of people around Africa – and sustainable agriculture and ICTs have an important and distinct role to play in realizing this future. Increased agricultural productivity using ecologically sound strategies, combined with viable agribusiness that adds value to farmers' production and improved access to markets, can increase farm efficiency, drive broader economic growth across the region and vastly improve food security while protecting the environment. ICTs deliver important, cross-cutting synergies across different sectors, already delivering services such as, e-agricultural extension, mobile banking, e-education, e-governance and mHealth; leveraging them in this region of the world will create new opportunities, help to protect the environment, and achieve the sustainable development that will transform our world and leave no one behind".*Conference Report>>https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-VHV0wIWQtnQ1M2R24wTU9jTkU

216. **ICT4Sustainable Agriculture Symposium:** The ICT4Sustainable Agriculture symposium (mini conference) was held on March 3, 2016 at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Makerere University. The half-day symposium attracted a targeted group of students from CAES and the College of Computing and Information Technology at Makerere University. The symposium was held under the theme: 'Unlocking the potential of ICTs as an enabler for sustainable agricultural development in Africa'. This was premised on the understanding that sustainable agro-ecological food production systems and a healthy biodiversity are central components of climate actions in Africa that are geared toward achieving a healthy planet. ICTs and innovation are an important catalyst toward achieving this sustainable future and the impact spills into other goals and targets as set by the new Sustainable Development Agenda.

217. **Development of a Communication Strategy for NOGAMU (EOA CLO):** Aware of the existing information and communication gaps in the EOA and general organic sector, a communication strategy for NOGAMU was developed with the overall goal of increasing general awareness of the Ugandan organic sector and promoting "ORGANIC UGANDA" brand.

218. Communication is a critical function for all organizations and by communicating purposefully and focusing on results and relationships, organizations can leverage effective communication strategies to generate solid results with multiple audiences. This communication strategy therefore, a roadmap for NOGAMU to convey the right messages to the right audiences using right channels in a timely manner. This communication strategy embeds a culture of communication that is open, inclusive, two-way, result-driven, and multi-channeled.

See document here>>https://drive.google.com/open/id=0B-VHV0wIWQtnS3Q0UVBJUzEtLWc

218. **Development of linkages with other Organizations for advancing EOA agenda:** Makerere University is collaborating with the Agriit Institute; an ICT organization for Sustainable Agriculture that has enormous expertise and experience in leveraging ICTs for Agriculture. Through this collaboration, the EOA initiative in Uganda has made considerable strides in ICT. Agriit Institute has linked the EOA initiative with other organizations such as: LeO Africa Institute, an independent policy institute that is focused on hosting quality dialogue and empowering emerging leaders on the African continent. The LeO Africa Institute, through its collaboration with the UN office in Uganda and the Konrad Adeneur Stiftung, has convened a policy working group on SDGs where the EOA will be represented. It is anticipated that, this platform will push the EOA agenda to be mainstreamed in the SDG agenda for Uganda.

3.3.3 Value Chain and Market Development Pillar

The objectives of the pillar are: to conduct value chain analysis, develop value chain nodes and establish value addition options for EOA products; and to develop national and regional markets for organic products.

Benin

Key achievements with SDC Support

The pillar is implemented by Centre de Recherche et d'Assistance Technique pour l'Environnement et le Développement Agricole (CRASTEDA) in collaboration with several

organizations involved in marketing of organic produce in the country, including the Swiss NGO Helvetas-Benin, Centre international d'expérimentation et de valorisation de ressources africaines (CIEVRA), Centre de séchage des fruits tropicaux d'Abomey (CSFT), SECAGRID, Association pour le maintien de l'agriculture paysanne (AMAP) and NGO BOUGE.

219. The Pillar focuses on direct work with the private sector and value chains actors focusing on chains where there is already a substantial production capacity, particularly on cotton, soya, pineapple and vegetables (e.g., cabbage, carrot, great morel).

220. A database of Beninese actors involved in the organic value chain has been developed. The data base contains information on producers; processors, traders, consumers; certification bodies and NGO. The data case currently contains 42 entries and is regularly updated. Next steps include the creation of linkages between the national data base and the other databases at regional and global levels - AUC, FIBL, and IFOAM-Organics International.

221. A simple system for gathering market information and data on a monthly basis has been developed and shared with relevant stakeholders.

222. Study of the profitability of organic cabbage and carrot productions has been published.

223. Twenty two (22) organic cotton producers trained in gathering, analyzing and using market information.

224. Support to the establishment of two new functional AMAP (French name for box scheme CSA) points of sale for organic vegetables in Cotonou). One of these points of sale is located in front of OBEPAB office, CLO of the project in Benin. AMAP Benin distributed its first organic baskets at the end of 2008 to 17 families of European expatriates. Currently, the association works with about 100 farmers, and it prepares baskets for 250 families mostly Beninese families in Cotonou. Baskets contain several varieties of fresh vegetables, aromatic herbs and fruits. They are distributed twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays) from points of sale. In addition to organic box scheme, AMAP is also involved in training and promotion of EOA.

225. Practical hands-on interventions to assist two existing private pineapple processors (CSFT and CC SEWANOU) in the actual business environment they work in. The support includes provision of office products, development of promotional materials (e.g. banners, bottle labels), market linkages, promotion of their organic products in fairs and exhibitions.

226. Participation of four value chain actors (among which 2 women) in the 3rd African Organic Conference West Africa Organic Conference held in Nigeria from 5-9 October 2015. This

intends to improve visibility of Beninese products and to help enterprises to promote their products.

227. A public consumer awareness raising campaign was facilitated by CIEVRA through flyers, posters, t-shirts and conversations with consumers. The campaign reached over 1,200 consumers.
228. Mapping of actors involved in the organic cotton value chain in Benin was completed.
229. Three exchange visits were organized for 26 producers to learn from AMAP organic box scheme and compost production.
230. Fifteen representatives from ONG, farmers' organizations as well as communal agricultural leaders were trained in best practices in the value chains of EOA commodities. The training was finalized with exchange visits to NGO Bouge and AMAP producers in order to enable participants to learn from their experiences in production and marketing of EOA products.
231. Business plans for organic pineapple and compost processing unit have been developed and circulated to farmers and other stakeholders.
232. A manual for professional compost production based on AMAP experience is published.
233. Three farmers' groups trained in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and Internal Control Systems (ICS) to support collective marketing of organic products. PGS are locally focused organic verification systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks on knowledge building and exchange.
234. With the aim of increasing the availability of certified organic products in local markets, financial and technical support to AMAP in order to increase the visibility of its points of sale and to support the finalization of its Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).
235. With financial support of the project, a local inspector trained in ISO 9001 as a way of building local capacity in quality assurance for better supporting farmers' organizations in group certification processes.
236. Technical support to two operators (REPAB and FRUIT TILLOU) for preparation to third party certification.
237. In order to increase effectiveness, work plans, reports and lessons on value chain development of EOA products were shared with other pillars, CLO and members of the steering committee.

Ethiopia

Achievements under both SDC and SSNC support

This Pillar is implemented by ISD**.**

238. This Pillar aims to enhance the social life and wellbeing of smallholder farmers who are producing vegetables organically by integrating them with domestic value chain and market outlets. The pillar has also been rated to be very effective mainly due to its ability to establish new organic market centres, formation of farmer groups especially for the youth and women and linking farmers to the market. Through trainings, farmers have also been able to reduce their costs of production and increased their incomes through value addition initiatives.
239. Success was achieved through partnerships with researchers in Holeta Agricultural Research Centre and Wollo University, the later for research and development of botanical pesticides.
240. Developing organic vegetable producer groups in Haik and Holeta was a major boost because it ensured all year availability of vegetable produce in the market.
241. ISD linked up with LIVES (livestock irrigation value chain) of ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) for training of master trainers (2 from each area) for value chain development for 11 youths of HOLETA area. The project is implemented with support from both SSNC and SDC. So far, there are five vegetable growers organized in groups working as associations. There are thirty seven (37) individual farmers who are working on their own land (15 at Holeta and 22 at Haik) with vegetable production as the activity for first focus.
242. A directory of ecological organic agriculture Actors has been developed and is available online (www.isd.org.et). Secondly, a manual on market information system instrument for organic agriculture value chain has been developed. The manual helps in the identification of better market opportunities for existing products but with emphasis on finding ways of increasing income through collective or group marketing, and by evaluating current practice and finding ways to upgrade methods for production, marketing and business relations in order to be more competitive in the marketplace. In addition, farmers are reaching to different public local offices in selling their produce since buyers understood that the produce grown without chemical inputs.
243. The project supported eleven participants to attend the third African organic conference in Lagos, Nigeria. They exhibited different organic products including organic coffee, organic honey, organic sesame and organic cosmetics (e.g., frankincense). This has deepened knowledge

build-up through experience-sharing visits and platforms to best practice areas in value chain development.

244. Capacity building of producers and concerned stakeholders has been a conducted with different training packages (EOA production system; farm planning, budgeting and documentation; marketing skills; value chain development; entrepreneurship and business planning; and experience-sharing visits).

Kenya

Achievements under SDC and SSNC support

This pillar is implemented by KOAN with support of both SDC and SSNC.

In terms of effectiveness, the success of this pillar in its attainment of set goals and objectives was satisfactory.

245. The capacity of capacity of small scale producers to make them better value chain actors was built through equipping small-scale farmers and TOTs with skills and knowledge on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and internal control systems (ICS) and Value Chain Development for EOA, farmers both men and women were trained in Yetana, Ngong', Gilgil; on ICS – 8000 farmers working with Jungle nuts were trained for the coffee and Macadamia value chains - 3,000 farmers working with Ten Senses Africa (TSA) on Macadamia. The number of women trained in order to ascertain gender balance was not reported.
246. Increased access to national markets was enhanced by producers /traders were now able to be linked to different organic markets on a regular basis including forty producers now able to access Organic Farmers Market in Karen; thirty three producers to US Embassy Organic Market; and fifteen producers linked to Bridges Organic Market through the support of the project. An average of 200 consumers visit the farmers' markets weekly.
247. Increased consumption of organic products was reported through Increased incomes for the participating farmers (total sales reported by the groups in the three events were Ksh 200, 000, Ksh 90, 000 and Ksh 100,000. (Exchange rate: one US$ ≈ Ksh. 100).
248. Market platform was established through creation of bulking centres through which producers and traders are able to interact and be linked appropriately.
249. Access and availability of market information and linkages for EOA products was enhanced.

250. In order to enhance development of value chains, 8 master trainers were trained with 8 of them supported to develop value chains.
251. The project has reached more than 4,000 consumers through various consumer awareness activities. An Organic Consumer Awareness (OCA) website was set up (www.oca.co.ke) and is running with more than 300 consumers reached.
252. The project has developed, printed and distributed 500 copies of green shopping guide, a database of organic producers and traders. Support has also been provided to two organic markets where more than 200 consumers participate. In addition, six traders were supported to attend the Nairobi international trade fair whereby about 3,000 people visited the stand and 100 enquiries were received.
253. On training, thirteen extension staff working with 500 farmers were trained on value chain development. In addition, ten traders and stakeholders trained on entrepreneurship and business plan development process. Another 149 extension staff and 30 lead farmers have been trained on quality assurance systems. There is considerable capacity amongst various actors to act effectively and timely in engage and influence policy space on EOA.

Mali

Key achievements with SDC Support

The pillar is implemented by Réseau Malien des transformateurs du coton biologique (REMATRAC-Bio) in collaboration with several organizations involved in marketing of organic produce in the country such as the Swiss NGO Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation.

254. Update of the database of Malian actors involved in the organic value chain has been done: The original data base was developed during the baseline study of the EOA project in 2013. The current database is simple and has currently more than hundreds actors engaged in EOA in Mali, including farmers' organizations, processors, traders, services providers; media, micro finance institutions and training institutions. A consultant was supposed to further developed the data base; but this was not possible due to the non-transfer of funds.
255. Design and development process of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) initiated by Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation for more than three years. Initial workshop allowed informing and training producers, consumers on PGS and announced a process of elaboration of SPG rules. It involved farmer Organizations (MoBioM, organic gardening cooperatives), food

industry transformers, sellers and NGO (GIP-Bio) and technical services. It is expected that the project will built on Helvetas' experiences to further develop PGS in the country.

256. Members of the REMATRAC network participated at different fairs and markets at local, regional and international levels (SIAGRI, Senegal-Mali weekly market and WAMEUL fair) as a way of promoting finished products issued from organic cotton transformation.

257. Training on certification was undertaken by a consultant hired for that purpose during the month of October 2014. The goal of this training was to better prepare different operators such as TSSA-SAHEL (Mopti); N'DOMO (Ségou); L'araigne (Bamako); Bi dali (Bamako) for the certification of their organic cotton products.

258. Support provided to REMATRAC-Bio for the establishment of its shop in Bamako. Through this shop the REMATRAC-Bio network sells a wide variety of artisanal handicraft textile products made from organically grown cotton.

Nigeria

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by NOAN.

259. A survey of markets for organic produce was carried out by the Federal College of Agriculture, Moor Plantation in Ibadan. The study found that the main challenges facing the organic farmers were land clearing and weeding drudgery, insect and diseases attack, lack of buyers for the produce and poor pricing. Lack of markets and proximity is a major hindrance to EOA, as farmers will only produce if they can sell.

260. The development of value chain has been strengthened and a directory of EOA actors has been developed and updated. There are organic products such as plantain chips being processed. The initiative has trained 52 certification inspectors and NOAN is at the verge of signing an MOU with Uganda Organic Certification (UGOCert) to assist with certification in readiness for the export market. This will enable farmers with potential for export (one farmer has 500 acres of plantain- under organic practices) to do so. Other crops targeted for the export market include coffee, pineapples, mangoes, jack fruit and groundnuts. There are radio programs devoted to teaching farmers and consumers what to grow and what to eat.

261. Not much has been achieved in terms of developing national and regional markets for organic products. During the pilot phase, an organic farmers market was developed at the University of Ibadan (UI) to enable farmers sell their produce. Later the UI organic gardens were developed.

However, production levels have dropped and market demand for organic products has not been satisfied. The CLO also assisted farmers such as the Ajibode Farmers group to access markets in Lagos. Not much seems to have been done in terms of value chain analysis, developing value chain nodes and establishing value addition options for EOA products.

262. The tools / instruments / input used for strengthening information and knowledge management and creating awareness in Nigeria included: production and distribution of information materials such as five thousand (5000) copies of *"organic Agriculture & You"* flier and one thousand copies of "Organic Production Guide"; Production of Radio Jingles; T.V stations broadcasts transmitted in English and local dialect (Yoruba); EOA participation to the World Food Day celebration; workshops, media, websites, video (DVD) and tape recorded, etc. At present, there is no centre of excellence on EOA but three Colleges of Agriculture offer vocational courses (4 – 8 weeks). The Organic Agriculture Project in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (OAPTIN) at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, (FUNAAB)has conducted training since 2009 in organic agriculture for interested scientists, farmers, businessmen, policy makers etc. This has created awareness and stimulated adoption of EOA good practices. Only Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan currently runs a programme that is very similar to the recommended curriculum for Diploma in EOA because all the recommended 12 courses are being taught in the institution. Only FUNAAB teaches a course at final year level HRT 508 titled Urban and Organic Farming. EOA farmers in Nigeria have benefited greatly from the radio broadcasts on the benefits of organic consumption and have seen a growth in their client base. The Radio broadcasts have also appealed to many members of the community especially the young to venture into organic farming.

263. On advocacy and policy, there is need to do more and get buy-in by the Federal government on organic farming. There is now an Organic Division established by the public service act since 2004 at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Desk Officers within Agriculture Development Projects (ADPs) in six South-Western states of Nigeria.

Senegal

Key achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is hosted by AGRECOL. AGRECOL organized this year, "The Biological Ecological Village" Fair of Agricultural and Animal Products (FIARA), which became a Fair for sub-

regional and even international attendees. This village has seen the participation of seven farmer associations of FENAB and organic input suppliers. During the trade fair, more than thirty agricultural products were displayed, and many other products from the processing activities.

264. This village has enabled greater visibility of products from organic ecological agriculture, better promotion of local products and the need for recovery by improving their added value. The Fair lasted 18 days .About 500 people discussed with the Institute team on various aspects of organic agriculture.
265. A 'tasting day' was organized by the Bio Village to promote consumption of local products where more than 200 people were served with some of the products present on the stand. This event resulted in increased sales of the products and in the number of customers.
266. The access to national markets for organic products was strengthened through participation in a national-level trade event. Whether for business or consumers, the diversity of products from the EAO has been well perceived.
267. In the second half of 2015, a tour was conducted from 18 to 30 September 2015, which allowed participants to meet individually with AEB actors in the regions of Fatick, Kaolack, Diourbel, Louga and Saint-Louis. This tour enabled 63 members including the 22 non-members to actually apply for information on EOA in production, processing and / or distribution. With each of these members, a questionnaire was used to collect information about them and to inform actors about the offers available. This tour has established a directory of economic actors of the EOA in these regions.

Tanzania

Key achievements with SDC Support

TOAM is the Pillar implementing Partner for Pillar three. The Pillar team includes CARITAS-Mahenge, RUCODIA, TANCERT, IMITRA, Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU), TAN TRADE TANZANIA, Karagwe District Cooperative Union (KDCU), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), UNIDO, Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) and KCU. The achievements are given below.

268. Development of a database of the actors in the value chains.
269. Development of a tool for collection of market information

270. Support to two (2) existing farmer markets for organic produce in Marangu and Zanzibar; and establishment of a new farmer market for organic produce at Mesula. These are farmers who are using Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for certification of their products through the *'Kilimohai'* initiative.

271. EOA-I through TOAM, supported organizations to participate in international trade fairs; 7 companies were supported to attend two international exhibitions and 1 local fair.

272. **Denmark Food Fair:** The event in 2015, took place in Copenhagen from 22nd – 24th February 2015. Tanzanian Companies supported to take part in this fair, were: Global Source Organic, MAYAWA, Golden Food Product, UWAMATAM. During the fair about 17,000 visitors and 277 domestic companies participated to showcase their products, few European companies and some embassies like South Africa and Ghana were there as visitors. The aims were to *acquire new clients, increase turnover in a long run, strengthen and cultivate existing client relations, reactivate inactive clients, make contact with other potential clients, get information about state of the food sector.*

273. **Rwanda Exhibitions:** Tanzania Instant Coffee Africa (TANICA), CHAIBORA & FRANK Horticulture Company participated in the Rwanda exhibition.

274. **MESULA Farmers' Fair:** TOAM participated during the Meru Farmers' Fair on 19th – 21st November 2015 at Kikatiti, Meru District in Arusha region. Visitors were given the opportunity to know more about the organization, asking about agro-ecology and see the organic produce brought by MESULA farmers. There were 90 visitors (70 males, 20 females) registered with different requirements. East African organic Standards, Roll up banners, video documentaries, face-to-face discussion were among of the tools and methods used to promote the East Africa Organic Mark (EAOM).

275. Seventeen (17) Extension Officers from Unguja-Zanzibar were trained in organic farming system, biodynamic farming system, marketing of organic produce, organic certification, institutions /organizations mobilizing organic initiatives globally, regionally and locally spices and fresh fruits value chains. 62 KIWATA lead farmers were trained as TOTs in ginger value chain.

276. Five suppliers were supported to meet Hotel buyers during the Tourism Market Linkages for Tanzanian Producers and Processors event, held in Dar-es-Salaam. Through this activity, the project has been able to link producers and suppliers and currently some farmers in the central region are supplying organic chilli to Arusha hotel;

277. A Mapping study on sunflower value chain and actors in Tanzania has been done and a comprehensive report on the study was finalized in November 2015.
278. An assessment for two marketing farmer groups done, whereby 48 marketing committee teams out of 72 were reached and received two marketing training sessions covering general marketing knowledge, deriving their production cost to come-up with selling prices and importance of keeping their production and sales records.
279. A training of stakeholders in entrepreneurship and development of business plan was done, involving 10 participants from Morogoro.
280. A situation analysis was done to the Masasi cashew producers to gauge out if they meet the requirements of potential cashew buyers for linkages. Several meetings were conducted between the analyst and the leadership of the two umbrella organizations (Masasi High Quality and SHAKHAM) and Local Government Authorities (LGAs).
281. In order to enhance quality assurance of produce, producer associations have been trained on quality aspects of organic products as well as training more local inspectors. 157 trainees were trained in PGS and 42 farmers were trained in Internal Control System (ICS) in Mafia island for 5 days. The ICS Manual for the group has been prepared and ICS leadership has been installed.

Uganda

Key Achievements with SDC Support

The pillar is implemented by NOGAMU. The effectiveness of this pillar is rated satisfactory.

282. **Training on market information and organic data collection:** One national training market on information and organic Data collection was held and a report compiled and disseminated.
283. **Support farmers to market their organic products:** Four (4) groups in Mubende/Mityana districts producing vegetables (local and exotic) and fruits (mangoes, passion fruits and avocadoes) have been supported in marketing their organic products. While in Busoga region 850 farmers producing mangoes, jack fruit and groundnuts for export market plus oranges and tree peanuts for local market and have been supported in accessing markets. The training consisted of agronomic and handling requirements for their products to be certified as organic.

284. **Support to Establishment of Organic Farmer Markets:** Two markets for fresh organic produce in Entebbe on Saturday and Sundays have been established. It is estimated that the market handles about 6,000 bundles of produce worth about US$1,800[5] per day.

Key Achievements with SSNC Support

The pillar is implemented by NOGAMU. The effectiveness of this pillar is rated satisfactory.

285. **An inventory data base of agro-input dealers, producers and processors, and exporters:** An inventory data base of agro-input dealers, producers and processors, and exporters was developed. Organic trade statistics were collected and it revealed that the overall value of organic exports by Uganda increased from USD 42.04 million to USD 44.64 million in 2011/2012 and 2013/2014 respectively. Organic exports from Uganda were realized through 43 certified organic export companies/cooperatives/farmers associations supplied by over 186,000 certified organic farmers, the highest number on the African Continent according to the latest statistics by FiBL and IFOAM. The total agricultural land certified was over 230,232 Ha. The major export destinations remained the EU and especially to countries like Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Austria, Italy and the UK. Other key markets were USA, Japan, Canada, Dubai and Oman. Regional markets like Nairobi, Kigali and South Sudan were becoming important. However, there is no database detailing all trading statistics on organic operators in Uganda.

286. Three value chains of pineapples, sesame oil and spices value chains were analysed during this implementation period and it was observed that there were a number of value chain actors meetings which linked the different actors of the value chain. Pineapple is a major organic export in Uganda. The value chain analysis revealed various challenges experienced by the farmers including expensive processing machinery and expensive credit particularly high interest rates on loans for value addition machinery. The sesame value chain revealed a challenge in mobilizing farmers to produce sesame since its production requires huge volumes to attract a serious buyer in order to capture a good price premium.

287. Key actors in the value chains include smallholder or medium scale farmers organized either under export companies or are working independently and selling to local or export trading companies. The second category of actors is the input dealers who supply inputs like pineapple

[5]Estimate by Irene Kugonza – Marketing Officer, NOGAMU

suckers, fertilizers and farm equipment. These sell to farmers locally and beyond. Besides just supplying inputs, they play a key advisory and training role on the use of inputs.

288. The third category are the processors with the main role of identifying sources of raw materials for pineapples and processing them into dried fruits, fruit pulp, wine and juice. They sell either locally or to traders from Kampala, Nairobi and other export markets. The fourth category is the traders/exporters. These include buyers of agricultural products with the key role of buying from farmers or processors, sorting/grading and selling to major markets. They also provide market information and in some cases extend credit facilities to farmers.
289. The fifth category consists of the transporters who facilitate the movement of products using motorcycles mainly, pickups or trucks to collection points or the markets. In a few cases bicycles are also used. Other actors who play a facilitation role include the Local Government, Banks/Micro Finance institutions, NGOs, CBOs and Researchers.
290. Other major constraints include the lack of readily available pesticides, poor production and post-harvest handling technologies, inadequate processing/value addition facilities, inadequate flow of market information, lack of appropriate credit facilitates; poor quality packaging materials; inadequate storage and transport facilities.
291. **Opportunities include**: Existing and growing demand for value added pineapples, existing quality management systems, favourable climate and good soils; close collaboration between actors and increased number of buyers for pineapples from regional and international markets.
292. The value chain analysis revealed that gender inclusiveness has not been entrenched well in the entire EOA value chain especially as we go up the ladder from producers to processors with majority of women doing temporal/casual work while another others go unpaid in the EOA value chain process while men dominated across all the categorized type of work (i.e. research and training, administration and support staff).

3.3.4 Networking and Partnerships Pillar

The objective of the networking and partnership pillar is to enhance collaboration and synergies among actors in Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa. The following section provides country assessments under this pillar.

Ethiopia

Key Achievements with SDC and SSNC Support

293. This pillar is implemented by ISD. The main focus of the work under this Pillar is support for the re-establishment of the Ethiopian Association of Organic Agriculture (EAOA). The pillar was rated as satisfactorily effective. This is because apart from stakeholders attending various trade fares and exchange sharing visits, the Ethiopian Association of Organic Agriculture was revived and is now active. The reviving of this association has also been supported through supporting and cementing pillar (pillar 4) with a 3-year strategic plan being in place.
294. The National Platform and National Steering Committee for EOA Ethiopia have been formed and are operational.
295. Various networking activities have been undertaken to boost and strengthen the EOA networks. IFOAM President visited Ethiopia and gave a speech to 20 stakeholders from government, FAO, organic producers and exporters as well as civil society on the science behind high yielding organic agriculture. Support was given to ISD staff to visit Uganda and learn about certification processes. Members of the association attended the 18th IFOAM Organic World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, and ISD's Director stayed on to participate in the IFOAM General Assembly. Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture was also supported to attend this congress. This exposed him to the diversity and economic potential in the organic agriculture sector for the country.
296. A data base giving the profiles of 19 Ethiopian EOA practitioners was developed and uploaded onto the ISD webpage. These profiles are also to be published in a directory.

Kenya

Key Achievements with SDC and SSNC Support

297. This pillar was implemented under KOAN. The attainment of set objectives was rated as satisfactory because all activities were implemented to a considerable level.
298. Functional Networks and Partnership among EOA actors in Kenya was boosted through the formation of the Kenya Ecological Organic Agriculture National Platform (KENP) through support of both SSNC and SDC. This process was initiated by Organic Agriculture Sector representatives during the stakeholders' workshop held on 3rd April 2014, at ICIPE, Duduvile Complex.
299. Further to the formation of the National Platform, the KENP steering committee was formed comprising 10 members (five men and five women) with four (4) Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPS) elected – Egerton University, SACDEP, ICIPE and KOAN.

300. Two special forums for thematic clusters to develop and undertake programmes for the clusters were also organized in which 24 Traders (10 women and 14 men) participated in the forum for traders to discuss regional trade opportunities and barriers of sourcing products from the region. Seven Farmers (3 women and 4 men) were also supported to participate in the celebration of International Year of Family Farmers (IYFF) organized IYFF Steering committee and INADES Formation Kenya.

301. An attempt to increase awareness on EOA Initiatives among the Civil Society Organizations and other actors in at least 10 counties was done by establishing 2 contact points in Central Rift and Western Kenya regions for the dissemination of EOA information. To seal these efforts, MoUs were established with the Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (ARDP) under the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru and the Development Education Services for Community Empowerment (DESECE) in Western Kenya to serve as EOA information Contact Points.

302. Capacity of small scale producers to make them better value chain actors was enhanced through increased availability of extension staff knowledgeable in Value Chain processes and increased number of farmer groups involved in value chain processes. Under this effort, 26 Extension staff participated in two Value Chain ToT sessions and two groups are already involved in the sales of Organic Products as a result of six producer-trader interaction sessions held in Kangari, Gilgil, Yatta, Machakos, Gatundu and Ngong. Three organic products bulking centres were also established.

Uganda

The pillar is implemented by NOGAMU with SDC support and PELUM Uganda with SSNC support**.**

303. A management system for the Uganda EOA Platform in 2014 has been formed. This is where different actors have been brought together to form network and partnership committees with representation of organizations like NOGAMU, Rucid in Mityana, St. Jude in Masaka, AFAD Agency and Eden in Iganga.

304. A total of 166 EOA stakeholders were profiled across the country through development of an EOA database for Uganda. The database has CSOs and NGOs (61), exporters & processors (43), and farmer association and cooperatives (30) that support the development of EOA in Uganda.

305. In order to realize and establish meaningful strategic linkages, the pillar supported various stakeholders like RUCID Executive Officer and PELUM staff to attend the Annual International Organic Food Expo and in Kenya BIOPAK engagement, where the Uganda delegation interfaced with a company called Jungle Organic-based in Kenya which was interested in *Moringa* and wanted to increase selling her products in East Africa. Following the discussions in Kenya, the company representative came to Uganda to establish some linkages and open opportunities with interest in *Moringa*.
306. However, there is no evidence that there was collaboration between NOGAMU (SDC support) and PELUM-Uganda (SSNC support); two PIPs implementing the same pillar. It is important for Organizations implementing similar activities to consider closer collaboration for purposes of synergy and to avoid duplication and create greater impact for beneficiaries.

3.3.5 Policy and Programme Development Pillar

The objectives of the pillar are to: (i) ensure the harmonization, awareness and common understanding of the concept of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among all stakeholders (especially policy makers, practitioners and farmers); (ii) gather evidence-based data to use in the development of appropriate lobby messages for promoting EOA; (iii) to advocate and lobby stakeholders (and in particular governments and RECs) to integrate and align EOA into continental (CAADP), national and regional policies, plans and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries.

Benin

Key Achievements with SDC Support

Through PABE, the network of stakeholders involved in organic and ecological farming initiatives in Benin, the Steering Committee of the project and the different pillars, various stakeholders consisting of farmer groups, Civil Society Organizations, the private sector, research institutions, development partners and government are brought together. This facilitates the communication, creates synergies among them and helps achieving results.

307. The good established networking for the implementation of the project also allows the project to be involved in different key activities to mainstream EOA into national policies. This is the case, for example, for the Strategic Plan to Revive the Agricultural Sector (PSRSA). As a result of lobby and advocacy work of the Platform of Civil Society Actors in Benin(PASCiB), the

organization coordinating the information and communication pillar, and other key EOA organizations, family farming and EOA were included in the document. The PSRA was developed under the implementation process of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) with the aim to speed up the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through agricultural value chains development.

Kenya

Key Achievements with SSNC Support

This pillar was implemented under ICIPE's Biovision Farmer Communication Programme. The effectiveness of the pillar in attaining the set objectives was also satisfactory in spite of 2014 activities being implemented for only one month (December) and with implementation in 2015 starting in September after contracts were signed in July the same year.

308. Awareness creation on EOA was undertaken under this pillar targeting policy makers of 2 counties in Kenya, Machakos and Makueni, in a workshop of10 participants at Gelian Hotel, Machakos on 27th October 2015.The outcome of the workshop was that participants were sensitized on the benefits of EOA and the current activities being carried out by the initiative. There are plans to hold a second meeting to follow up on issues discussed and come up with an action plan on further collaboration

309. EOA success stories from 3 counties in Kenya were developed and shared with PELUM Kenya for inclusion in a book documenting best practices and success stories from the EOA project in Kenya. They were also shared with other EOA partners – SACDEP Kenya and KOAN. Practitioners were also trained on specific needs on Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa in which 30 participants from Kakamega, Vihiga and Busia Counties were trained. The participants were farmers and field extension agents from the 3 counties. The participants benefited from increased awareness on the concepts and benefits of Ecological Organic Agriculture with key topics covered included introduction to the Push Pull technology, innovative use of ICT in agriculture extension (with examples from Infonet database (www.infonet-biovision.org) and The Organic Farmer Magazine(www.theorganicfarmer.org). Participants made a field trip to Bukura Agricultural Training centre where they were exposed to various EOA technologies being carried out practically.

310. A survey on awareness and value of EOA among farmers, extension agents and researchers involving 300 farmers, 10 extension agents and 3 researchers in Kakamega and Busia counties in September. The key findings were:
    a) 57% of the respondents were aware of the EOA initiative.
    b) Of those aware, 35% had learnt about it from the field staff and 19% from other farmers.
    c) The key practices promoted were organic fertilizer (composting, liquid manure, plant tea, slurry, and green manure), improved Soil fertility Management, agro forestry and ecological pest and disease management.
    d) Of the farmers trained by EOA staff, 51% said the trainings were very valuable and 31% said they were valuable.
    e) Information most sought by farmers was on livestock production, especially local poultry, suitable and improved seed varieties, information on control of pests and diseases by use of bio-pesticides and compost making.
311. The project supported key stakeholders to review the third draft of agricultural policy and made recommendations which were included in the fourth draft. In agriculture policy, it is indicated that 2% of the overall budget for the agriculture sector will be allocated to organic agriculture sub-sector. The current draft directs County Governments to support Organic Farming.

Mali

Key Achievements with SDC Support

This Pillar is implemented by MOBIOM**.**

312. The willingness of the Ministry of Agriculture to support the further development of ecological organic agriculture in the country is a clear sign that mainstreaming of EOA is happening in the country. EOA in Mali was suffering from an obvious lack of commitment by those who are responsible of implementing concrete actions to further develop the sector. The situation has changed. The new Minister of Agriculture is a friend of EOA and the ministry is actively involved in the EOA-Initiative. The ministry appointed Mr. Adama Berthe, Technical Adviser within the ministry in charge of international technical cooperation, as chair of the Steering committee. Mr Adama Berthe will also act as EOA focal point within the ministry. This positive momentum could be used to position EOA higher on the agenda of the Malian government.

Nigeria

Key Achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by NOAN.

313. At the States and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development levels, desk officers have been trained, and established to act as contacts on EOA at those levels. At the Federal level, an EOA Desk has been established at the Director level, who is also the deputy chairman of the EOA - National Steering Committee (NSC).
314. The MTR was informed that the Federal government has agreed in principal to include organic farmers in its input supply system. In spite of NOAN's and other EOA stakeholders' efforts, and pronouncements by the African Union to assist in the development of organic agriculture on the continent, the Federal and State governments are yet to formulate policies and credible mechanisms to implement them.
315. Under EOA, NOAN is working to establish linkages at both the Federal and State levels which were not part of the initial Work Plan and strategic plan. The goal is to bring all stakeholders on board. Under the initiative training was provided to Federal and State agricultural officers who would act as contacts on EOA at those levels. The formal structures and organizational arrangements required at the national level to mainstream EOA in Nigeria already exist but require strengthening.
316. The challenge is to transfer the knowledge and information available with formal structured, and packaging it in a way that it can be used by farmers to increase production. NOAN has sensitized and is working with State and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to create more awareness and buy-in on organic agriculture. EOA desk officer have been trained and established at the State and Federal levels to act as contacts on EOA at those levels. Although it has been sensitized, the Nigerian Government has no policies in place to safeguard organic agriculture practices. The government is yet to formulate an appropriate agricultural policy to promote organic agriculture, despite efforts by NOAN to document where the policy gaps are. NOAN has however, published a report on EOA policy gaps that will assist the government to mainstream Organic Agriculture policies.
317. The Federal Government in Nigeria has agreed in principle to also stock, and distribute organic fertilizer along with the synthetic one. It was expected that this would kick-off in the 2016 cropping seasons. Training has been provided to Federal and State agricultural officers who would act as contacts on EOA at those levels. The challenge faced by these officers is that they

are also the ones engaged in advancing the Federal government policies on use and distribution of synthetic fertilizer and its use. The MTR was informed that the advancement in use of EOA practices is being done along that of synthetic input use and farmers are advised to choose the system and practices best suited to them.

318. As at the MTR, the Nigerian NSC had not been able to attract additional resources. Government of Nigeria has promised funding of EOA but nothing concrete yet. Inroads have been made in terms of morale support for EOA initiative by the Federal government as seen by their participation in the November 2015 NOAN held a meeting in Northern Nigeria where government allowed its staff to participate. At the regional level, NOAN has been able to sensitize members of the ECOWAS and it is expected that once the MOU is signed some form of financial support for EOA initiative would be forthcoming.

Tanzania

Key Achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented by TOAM.

319. The National Organic Agriculture was launched by the Minister for agriculture in 2009. Indeed in the National Livestock Policy (2006:29-30), National Agricultural Policy (2013:25-26) and Tanzania National Export Strategy (2010-2014:56) papers, the Government indicates that it will promote, invest, create awareness and strengthen organic agriculture. However, a strategy has not been formulated which could lead to an action plan for which public resources could be allocated to EOA. It is worth noting that the National Steering Committee has already held consultation with the new Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture to urge him of the need to develop a strategy and an action plan for EOA.
320. A workshop involving National Platform members was held in Dar es Salaam and 68 participants attended. Two PGS farmer groups were awarded certificates for PGS compliance.
321. A national study on "Poor Farmers' barriers to Markets for Organic Trade: Documentation and Analysis of Policy Barriers to Poverty Reduction through Trade in Organic Production in Tanzania" was carried out.
322. Meeting on Drawing comments and inputs to the EOA Continental Strategic and Action Plans was held in Dar-es-Salaam which attracted participation of 15 stakeholders.

323. Some study reports, EOA Continental Strategic and Action Plans have been uploaded on the TOAM website for EOA visibility. Moreover, news bulletins on EOA are released weekly and shared to members and other like-minded stakeholders.
324. Two PIP meetings were held in Morogoro to reflect on the implementation status for 2014 and plan for 2015. The first meeting drew a participatory Execution Plan for 2015 whereas, the second meeting involved a workshop on project, financial management and reflection of EOA implementation from August to November 2015 as well as drawing up the 2016 work plan and budget.
325. The National Platform and National Steering Committee are set and functioning. There is a strong will from the government and the Assistant Director for Crop Promotion Services in the MALF is the Chairperson of the National Steering Committee. In the Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy, there is room for soliciting support for EOA
326. Implementation agreements between CLO and PIPs are in place and complied to.

Uganda

Key Achievements with SDC Support

This pillar is implemented of NOGAMU**.**

327. Through engagement of EOA national steering committee and the government, the draft policy on EOA has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Industries, but has not yet been approved at the cabinet level. The step remaining is regulatory impact assessment to ensure that the new policy on EOA is harmony with all other existing policies. Once the assessment is carried out, the policy paper will be submitted to cabinet for approval and presentation to parliament for enactment.

3.3.6 Institutional Capacity Development Pillar

The objective of this pillar is to identify and support EOA institutions in Africa through providing harmonized guidelines for their development, management and operations.

Ethiopia

Key Achievements with SSNC Support

This pillar is implemented by ISD.

328. This pillar under ISD focused on capacity building initiatives of its staff and various stakeholders under EOA. It has achieved effectiveness to a satisfactory level because various achievements were realized under the laid down objectives. One ISD program staff member obtained a Diploma in Resource Mobilization, Organizational Development and Project Management after completing the four modules in the training. Two other program staff members each attended one of the modules.

329. ISD has developed a manual to guide the collection of yield data and other parameters from farmers' fields by the local development agents supervised by local experts. Apart from sampling crops grown with improved practices, samples are also taken from adjacent fields of the same crop grown without any improved practices for comparison.

330. ***"*Improving the life of 16 groups of youth, disadvantaged persons and farming families in the project communities**" was implemented in three weredas in South Wollo Zone of Amhara Region and four woredas in Central and South Zones of Tigray Region through agroforestry support, improved poultry management, Apiculture and marketing of honey, maintaining water irrigation pumps of approximately150 persons in farming communities. Women were well represented.

331. "**Build the capacity of 16 school environment clubs to practice ecological agriculture, understand their local biodiversity and establish inter-generational relationships with their local community member"**. Students (2 female and 2 male) along with the club patron from seven schools in southern plus 1 from Addis Ababa spent three days learning the practical skills for making and using compost for organic vegetable gardening, and establishing tree nurseries. The trainees were provided with seed of different vegetable varieties and charged with sharing the skills with their environment clubs peers in their schools after the training. One aim of training environment club members in vegetable gardening and raising of tree seedlings is to help them earn an income to support other club activities and/or needy student colleagues. The students and teachers also discussed other methods for fund raising as well as sharing the skills with neighbouring elementary schools.

332. "**Support and facilitate generating trusted information through promoting participatory on-farm research in ecological agriculture**". The objective is to obtain data from farmers' fields that can be analysed and written up to validate the impacts of improved agronomic practices for eco-intensification of agricultural production for sharing with policy makers and the wider public. At the same time, farmers get convinced of the benefits of using eco-intensive

agronomic practices, even though this usually requires extra efforts and building-up the practical knowledge of the farmers.

Kenya

Key Achievements under SSNC support.

This pillar was being implemented by PELUM Kenya. The pillar was successful and effective; its overall progress is rated as satisfactory.

333. Regional Coordination of the EOA Initiative in Eastern Africa was strengthened through two Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meetings organized and held, with clear action plans; structures and terms of reference for the Cluster put in place (ongoing); and a transitory secretariat at PELUM Kenya for the EA RSC established.
334. Twenty women innovators learning visit was undertaken by Kenyan women from Partner organizations visiting Uganda innovation sites.
335. In order to ensure smooth implementation of activities as planned in the four EOA SSNC implementing countries, a Regional write-shop for the preparation and development of the Gender, and M&E Guideline's document for mainstreaming into EOA Programme by the Eastern Africa partners was held.
336. To strengthen Institutional Capacity of EOA, a team of 7 implementing partners in Kenya were supported and participated in the FAO Agro-ecology Regional symposium in Sub-Saharan Africa held in Dakar Senegal to explore opportunities of partnering and working together with likeminded initiatives/efforts elsewhere. A meeting with AFSA was held and a way forward mapped out for working together as from 2016.

3.4 Efficiency

Efficiency refers to the extent to which results have been achieved with minimum resources. In addressing efficiency, the MTR team focused on the allocation, disbursement and utilization of funds as well as reporting.

337. ***EOA Funding Arrangements:*** The EOA-I has received a total of US$7,358,051.45 from SSNC (US$3,355,871), SDC (US$3,237,044.45 and AU (US$765,136) during the period beginning from 2012 to 2015 (Tables 2 and 3). A total of about US$3.2m (48%) of the committed funds (US$6.7m) has been received in three tranches from SDC. It worth noting that SSNC contributed US$610,433 for the pilot phase of the EOA-I in 2012. Hence SSNC provided the catalytic funding that led to the main project (2013-2018). Considering that the project is in its third year of implementation (mid-term), overall the release of funds by the partners is on course.

338. Generally, the inputs have efficiently been converted into the desired outputs as per the project design logical framework. The results are logically related to the specific objective while activities contribute to the achievement of both results. Therefore, the MTR team rates efficiency as satisfactory.

339. ***Partner Resource Allocations and Disbursements:*** Of the US$6.74m funding committed to the EOA initiative by SDC, a total of US$5.16m was allocated to EOA partners to finance project related activities, and US$1.75m was used on other activities as shown in Table 2. Tanzania had the highest allocation equivalent to 15% of the total funds available because of funds allocated to AfroNet based in Tanzania and the other countries' allocations ranged between 12% and 13%. As at mid-term, the EOA partners had received disbursements totalling to US$2.64m equivalent to 51% of the total partner funding. Nigeria (NOAN) had received the highest disbursement equivalent to 61% of total funds allocated, while MOBIOM had only received 12% of the allocated funding. This large discrepancy between the two countries would

reflect serious implementation challenges with MOBIOM and their capacity to absorb the funds allocated.

Table 2: Partner Resource Allocation and Disbursements in US$ by SDC

EOA PARTNERS	Funding per Country (2014-2018)	Total Amount Disbursed in US$	Funding Balance per country	% Resource Allocated	% Amount Disbursed
Nigeria Organic Agriculture(NOAN)	670,309.29	408,774.50	261,534.79	13	61
Tanzania Organic Agriculture(TOAM)	761,022.17	368,351.39	392,670.78	15	48
Institute of Sustainable Dev. (ISD)	619,283.27	358,004.08	261,279.19	12	58
NOGAMU	619,283.27	264,963.10	354,320.17	12	43
FENAB	605,109.37	343,574.58	261,534.79	12	57
OBEPAB	661,707.95	400,270.16	261,437.79	13	60
MOBIOM	605,109.37	72,613.12	532,496.25	12	12
KOAN	619,283.27	302,205.96	317,077.31	12	49
Sub-Total	**5,161,107.97**	**2,518,756.89**	**2,642,351.08**	**100**	49
Other Project Activities:	226,782.32				
Regional Cluster-West Africa	161,582.40				
Project Management Unit	762,152.57				
Executing Agency	267,322.11				
Steering Committee	157,894.74				
Sub-Total	**1,575,734.13**				
TOTAL	**6,736,842.10**				

Source: BvAT

340. The funding from AUC supported nine (9) training workshops, three (3) conferences and two (2) meetings. Part of the support was from the European Union and Turkey (Table 3).

Table3: Funding of Africa Union Commission's EOA Activities by the European Union and Turkey, 2012 -2016

	US$	US$	US$	US$	US$	US$
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Support for Training Workshops = 9						
Modern Organic Production and Marketing for SADC participants in Botswana	-	-	46,695	-	-	**46,695**
Organic standards and certification systems for ECOWAS participants in Cote D'Ivoire	-	49,942	-	-	-	**49,942**
Modern Organic Production and Marketing for ECOWAS and EAC participants ***	-	-	-	-	94,488	**94,488**
Organic standards and certification systems for EAC participants in Kenya	49,670	-	-	-	-	**49,670**
Organic standards and certification system in Kenya	-	-	58,511	-	-	**58,511**
Modern organic production and marketing for EAC participants in Rwanda	-	-	-	62,438	-	**62,438**
Organic standards and certification systems for SADC/COMESA participants in Rwanda	61,670	-	-	-	-	**61,670**

Organic standards and certification systems for EAC participants in Tanzania	-	46,232	-	-	-	**46,232**
Modern Organic Production and Marketing for COMESA participants in Zambia	-	-	46,245	-	-	**46,245**
Support for Conferences = 3						
2nd Meeting of the Continental EOA Steering Committee and 3rd West Africa EOA Conference in Benin	-	-	27,360	-	-	**27,360**
Support for the organization of the 3rd African Organic Agriculture Conference in Lagos, Nigeria **	-	-	-	65,946	-	**65,946**
Support for the organization of the 2nd African Organic Agriculture Conference in Zambia	81,623	-	-	-	-	**81,623**
Support for Regional Meetings = 2						
Inaugural Meeting of the Continental EOA Steering Committee at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	-	26,741	-	-	-	**26,741**
Reflective workshop on the EOA pilot initiative and the 5th Meeting of the interim EOA Steering Committee in Nairobi, Kenya	-	47,575	-	-	-	**47,575**
TOTAL	**192,963**	**170,490**	**178,811**	**128,384**	**94,488**	**765,136**

**** Funds came from the Turkish Fund, *** Workshop to be held later in the year**

Source: AUC

341. The EOA-I has received a total of US $799,428.27 during the pilot phase, as shown in table 4.

Table 4: EOA financing Arrangements by SSNC

	Year 2012					
	1st Installment (SEK)	2nd Installment (SEK)	3rd Installment (SEK)	Sub-total (SEK)	Total (SEK)	Total (US $)
Extra resources from Sida for EOA-I pilot project		5,000,000		5,000,000	5,000,000	610,653
Ethiopia: ISD	340,000	835,000	75,000	1,250,000		
Kenya: PELUM Kenya	1,105,000	1,850,000	65,000	3,020,000		
Kenya BvAT	-	-	-	-		
Tanzania: TOAM	-	550,000	50,000	600,000		
Uganda: NOGAMU	-	-	-	-		
Uganda: PELUM Uganda	512,000	-	76,000	588,000	5,458,000	666,349
Ethiopia: ISD	521,728	835,000	50,000	1,406,728		
Kenya: PELUM Kenya	785,000	810,000	90,000	1,685,000		

Kenya BvAT	-	200,000	-	200,000		
Tanzania: TOAM	-	-	-	-		
Uganda: NOGAMU	-	150,000	150,000	300,000		
Uganda: PELUM Uganda	582,000	66,000	88,000	736,000	4,327,728	528,358
Ethiopia: ISD	473,000	1,320,000	125,000	1,918,000		
Kenya: PELUM Kenya	2,030,000	1,500,000	100,000	3,630,000		
Kenya BvAT	-	728,000	-	728,000		
Tanzania: TOAM	-	-	-	-		
Uganda: NOGAMU	-	456,000	185,000	641,000		
Uganda: PELUM Uganda	620,000	80,000	75,000	775,000	7,692,000	939,090
	6,968,728	**14,380,000**	1,129,000	22,477,728	**22,477,728**	3,355,871

Source: SSNC

342. SSNC contribution to EOA-I was approximately 5,000,000 SEK (US$610,653) to the pilot phase in 2012 and 17,477,728 SEK (US$2,745,218) from 2013 to 2015, to make a total contribution of 22,477,728 SEK (US$3,355,871) as shown in table 4. SSNC contributed a total US $3,355,871 to EOA-I from 2012 to 2015.

343. In total EOA-I has been able to raise funds to the tune of US$10,857,849 (table 5). This is commendable considering that in EOA action plan (2015-2020) a budget had been made for about US$27,178,840 to cover three clusters of Eastern, West and Southern Africa. The amounts raised so far for two clusters of Eastern, West Africa constitute about 40% of the budget in the EOA action plan.

Table 5: Donor Contribution to EOA-I

	Donor	**Amount ($)**
1	SDC	6,736,842
2	SSNC	3,355,871
3	AUC	765,136
	TOTAL	10,857,849

Source: BvAT, SSNC & AUC

Utilization of Funds

344. As at the time of doing the MTR it can be discerned that most countries (except Mali) have implemented about 70% of the planned activities (see chapter 4) utilizing 68% of the committed funds (US$7,358,051.45 of the committed US$10,857,849).

SSNC and SDC Co-financing Arrangements

345. The SSNC and SDC co-financing arrangements have worked well so far. However, in cases where the two donors have supported the same pillar implemented by different PIPs in a country, there have been instances where the activities have not been well delineated, leading to duplication.

346. It is recommended that the donors consider funding different pillars in a country to avoid duplication of activities.

347. ***Disbursements Challenges:*** The evaluation noted with concern the issue of delayed disbursement raised by the CLO's. According to BvAT and PELUM-Kenya, the release of funds is tied to submission of financial and operational reports with proper supporting documents. All the partners have been provided with a reporting schedule which has to be strictly adhered to. According to BvAT and PELUM-Kenya, the initial delays to kick off the program were caused by back and forth communication during development of contracts between CLOs and BvAT and PELUM-Kenya, and also between CLOs and PIPs. Some PIPs signed their contracts as late as November and December 2014 due to bureaucracy associated with their organizations. This led to late signing of contracts, and thus release of funds. Other subsequent causes of delays in disbursement resulted from:

i. Some CLO's failure to submit financial report as per the contract signed with BvAT;
ii. Lack of or/and insufficient proof of expenditure;
iii. Expenditure reported being below 70% utilization as per the contract for the next installment to be released. In the case of Mali - the institutional weaknesses have been compiled further by infighting which has stagnated the project. Hence the low disbursement of only 12% of the allocated amount.

348. ***The Process of Identifying and Engaging Partners***: The processes of identifying and engaging Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) were facilitated by BvAT, with the endorsement and support of the National Platforms. The CLO and PIPs identified and selected by National Platforms were considered to be those organizations that were most qualified in the relevant areas/disciplines, had a good track record of undertaking in similar projects, were readily available and had sound administrative and financial systems for managing projects. Although this was the case with some of the CLO's and PIP's the criteria seem not to have worked given the number of constraints identifies at

MTR. The aim of the CLOs and PIPs selection process used by BvAT through the National platforms was to enhance ownership of the initiative. However, the process may have allowed some organizations that had the ability to lobby for their election or selection to be eventually selected as CLO's and PIPs, although they had weak organisational capacities to effectively implement the initiative.

349. **CLO's doubling up as PIP's:** The MTR also found that some of the CLO's were doubling up also as PIP's. Given the limited capacity within some of the CLO's, they are not in a position to monitor and provide oversight on the PIP's and also act as implementers. The evaluation is of the view, that CLO's should not be Pillar implementers. It is a question of being the judge and jury at the same time. This is an issue that needs to cascade upwards to the level of the BvAT who are also PIPs. This does not augur well for efficiency and accountability.

350. **Lack of proper M&E Systems**: The inability of the partners to submit financial and operational reports that adhere to BvAT's requirements could be associated with lack of proper M&E system as evidenced by the MTR visits to some of the partner offices.

351. **Lack of support staff:** The initiative was to be mainstreamed within existing institutional frameworks with the purpose of enhancing the CLO's and PIP's own work in EOA. MTR findings show that some PIP's and CLO's do not even have full time staff assigned to the program, and even the offices in which they are located seem inadequate for national programs. Most of the staff in place are either temporary, while others are university students at Masters and PhD levels.

352. **Lack of Physical Offices/Address:** One of the criteria for selection of CLOs and PIPs was that organisations selected should have strong organisation structures for operations. MTR findings show that some CLOs and PIPs like FENAB (CLO) and ASPAB (PIP) who have no physical locations for the project operations. This is an anomaly which should be addressed urgently.

353. **Inadequate Resources under EOA**: The issue of inadequate resources was raised by CLO's and PIPs as a limiting factor to the efficient use of resources and implementation of activities under the initiative. Under Pillar 2 - the PIPs were of the view that the amounts allocated to each activity were too small considering the high cost related to the activities (radio, posters etc.). It was suggested that the initiative focuses available resources to one or two main activities that would have the greatest impact. Under Pillar 1, the implementers were of the view that the amounts allocated were too low to produce the high quality of research required. In Kenya,

Egerton University was obliged to supplement EOA to enable them hire high calibre research staff to generate the quality of reports that they desired. Unlike the case of Egerton University in Kenya which seems to attract large amounts of funding, the MTR findings show that the Networks in other countries have not been able to attract resources at the local and regional levels, to compliment the work of the EOA initiatives in those countries.

354. **Lack of National Outlook and Outreach**: As currently structured, the MTR found that the reach of some of the CLO's like NOAN in Nigeria is not national. In the case of Nigeria, all Pillar implementers selected are based within the University of Ibadan fraternity, and the initiative is operational within the South-West Zone of Nigeria involving six States of Oyo, Ogun, OSUM, Lagos, Ekiti and Ondo. Concentrating pillar implementers within the University of Ibadan and within the South-West zone is limiting and does not give the initiative a national outlook.

3.5 Impact/Effects and Sustainability

3.5.1 Impact/Effects

Impact refers to any effect, whether anticipated or un-anticipated, positive or negative brought about by a project intervention and normally refers to long-term effects of an intervention's broad development goals. However, for a project like EOA-I which has only been operational for four (4) years, it is only possible to assess the immediate effects (positive, negative or unintended) of the project intervention.

355. **Effect on African Ecological Organic Agriculture Policy:** The African Union Decision on mainstreaming EOA in Africa has made it possible for EOA to be aligned to the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Since CAADP has been aligned to most national agricultural policies in the continent, such alignment of EOA to CAADP will make it easier to mainstream EOA in national agricultural policies across the continent.

356. **Effect of Ecological Organic Agriculture in National economies:** The project has led to recognition of EOA through initiatives taken by national governments to develop policies on organic agriculture at national level. Tanzania has an organic policy in place while Uganda and Kenya have drafts. Implementation of these policies will lead to allocation of public resources and increased investment by the private sector and hence further growth of the organic agriculture sector. The project has led to increased trade in organic products especially with the development of markets for organic products; there is optimism that there will be increased sales.

357. **Development of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Research Agenda:** The project facilitated the development of the EOA research as evidenced in research which has been undertaken through support for pillar I on Research Training and Extension (RTE) and initiative by the Network of Organic Agricultural Research in Africa (NOARA). The network has developed a research agenda to support the RTE pillar and other EOA pillars as well.

358. **Collaboration between stakeholders in organic agriculture in Africa:**

- **Support to African Organic Network (AfroNet)**

AfroNet is a networking and umbrella organization for NGO stakeholders in EOA. The EOA-I strengthened the AfroNet's networking activities by supporting the participation

of some project stakeholders at key events such as the 3rd African Organic Conference held in Nigeria. The sponsored stakeholders also attended an AfroNet General Assembly organized in conjunction with the conference. This is a positive unintended effect of the project as it enables exchange of information and experiences among project implementing countries.

- **Improved Cooperation Nationally and Regionally**

The EOA-I has provided the CLOs the opportunity to meet regularly, thereby providing a good platform for networking, knowledge sharing and cooperation. This has been a positive side effect of the project.

359. Although the impact is normally felt several years (five or more) after the completion of the project, the evaluation team concludes that the project has contributed significantly to immediate positive effects which will lead to long term development of the EOA in the region. The project has also placed EOA in the national, regional and continental agricultural development agenda.

3.5.2 Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the continuation of the benefits after the project has ended and the probability of long-term effects and the resilience to risks of the benefits over time.

360. The project has resulted in positive changes and the following are likely to continue with minimal donor support if they are well integrated in national, regional and continental agricultural development strategies:

- Creation of awareness about the benefits of organic products.
- The use of the East African Organic Mark which has already been legally registered in all East African countries.
- The development or use of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) because of lower certification costs and farmer empowerment.
- National, regional and continental in trade EOA products because of the existing networks in the region.

361. **Project ownership on regional and continental levels:** The Executive Council of the African Union adopted a decision on EOA farming. The decision called for the establishment of an

African organic farming platform based on available best practices. This shows increased ownership of the project implying buy-in of the effort to popularise EOA. The project is embedded in the CLOs as the implementing partners. The CLOs have established strong partnerships with relevant public and private sector stakeholders at the national level thus putting in place basic structures that have potential of continuing the flow of benefits after the project ends.

362. **Capacity building:** EOA-I has contributed to strengthening the capacity of partners and linkages between the CLOs with other organizations involved in EOA, particularly with regard to provision of technical services to smallholder farmers. For example in Kenya, KOAN has established strong linkages with Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF), Sustainable Community Development Programme (SACDEP), Baraka College of Agriculture and Manor House, Sustainable Agriculture Centre for Research and Development in Africa (SACRED), among others. In Tanzania, TOAM is working very closely with Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT). These organizations are mainly involved in building technical capacity for EOA value chains. Improved capacity of these organizations will contribute to continuation of activities and programmes in the organic sector.

363. **Policy support and responsibility of beneficiary institutions.** There is EOA policy development in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The rest of the countries have made efforts to have regular meetings and discussions with policy makers, resulting in positive signals from the government policy makers in countries like Nigeria, Benin and Senegal. In Benin, for example, as a result of EOA advocacy work, family farming and EOA were included in the Strategic Plan to Revive the Agricultural Sector (PSRSA), which is the document defining Benin's agricultural policy. At the regional level, the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) has been adopted by the East African Community. The African Union is also considering adoption of the EAOPS as an Africa-wide standard. However, with the policy development in organic agriculture, it is anticipated that national governments will allocate resources to the sector. The processing of and trading in organic products is being undertaken by the private sector.

364. EOA in general is attracting other donor support and expanding opportunities of entry. For example, Enhancing Capacity of Organic Movements in East Africa (ECOMEA) with funding from DANIDA and coordinated by Organic Denmark, COMESA Climate change Initiative, UNEP's programmes on sustainable agriculture, Productivity and Growth in organic Value-chains (ProGroV) with funding from Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by

the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS), Organic Trade and Value Chain Development (OTEA) in East Africa with funding from Sida, ProEcoAfrica - Productivity and profitability of organic and conventional farming systems - a comparative analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa with funding from Dutch Humanist Institute for Cooperation (Hivos) and SDC.

365. The following are factors likely to influence achievement of sustainability:

- Resource injection by national governments to support EOA.
- Knowledge and skills gained on EOA. The knowledge and skills will remain with the stakeholders.
- Increased access to markets. The project, through CLOs, has helped farmer groups to establish organic farmers' markets, some which are self-sustaining.
- Increased awareness about the benefits of organic products, particularly with regard to improved health, long-term improvement and maintenance of soil fertility, maintenance of agro-diversity, and protection of the environment. This requires economic analysis of organic farming methods and conventional farming methods.

366. The following factors are likely to threaten sustainability of the benefits/outputs of organic agriculture:

- Lack of institutional, policy, legal and operational frameworks at the national, regional and continental levels. Although the project is supporting development of national EOA policies, the process has proved to be longer and more expensive than anticipated. This requires continued political advocacy and lobbying at high policy making levels.
- Competition from agro-chemical firms that supply inputs for conventional agricultural production. This issue can be addressed through the creation of awareness about the benefits of organic agriculture.
- Lack of linkages with public research and extension services to develop and apply appropriate technologies for EOA.

367. The evaluation team concludes that the contribution of the project to ownership and sustainability is satisfactory. However, there is need to develop a clear strategy to improve the sustainability and ownership at various levels.

3.6 Key Challenges in the Implementation of the EOA Initiative

3.6.1 General

368. Financing of the same pillar(s) by different development partners in a country leads to challenges of coherence of purpose, attribution, unnecessary competition and duplication of efforts. For example, both SSNC and SDC support Pillar I (Research, Training and Extension) in Kenya and Uganda but implemented by different organizations.
369. The role of PELUM Kenya as the coordinating organization for Eastern Africa is not fully backed by SSNC. SSNC supports multiple partners in a country on EOAI. For example in Kenya it supports BvAT and PELUM Kenya while in Uganda it supports PELUM Uganda and NOGAMU. In addition, SSNC partners in a country develop and submit proposals for funding on different pillars without involving others partners in the country. Thus, the coordinating organization has limited role to play in the project implementation.
370. During the MTR it was observed that: (i) partners were experiencing delays in disbursements; (ii) some partners were not receiving funds at the same time; (iii) some implementing partners were not meeting deadlines in submitting various technical and financial reports.
371. Pillar Implementing Partners have not put necessary efforts to ensure synergy of activity implementation. The project was designed to ensure Pillar to Pillar coordinated implementation. This design has not worked well in the various countries with Pillar Implementing Partners targeting different regions, different target groups and different value chain products a situation that thinly spreads out the projects efforts and minimizes beneficiary impact.
372. Pillar Implementing Partners have not put necessary efforts to ensure synergy of activity implementation. The project was designed to ensure Pillar to Pillar coordinated implementation. This design has not worked well in the various countries with Pillar Implementing Partners targeting different regions, different target groups and different value chain products a situation that thinly spreads out the project efforts and minimizes beneficiary impact.

3.6.2 Networking and Linkages

373. Other than efforts to engage COMESA by ISD in Ethiopia, not much progress has been made to network and collaborate with regional economic communities (e.g., EAC, ECOWAS) a responsibility assigned to Regional Cluster networks and thus needs to be addressed.

3.6.3 Research Training and Extension Pillar

374. Soil fertility, diseases and pests are major constraints to increased production of organic products across all the project countries. Most smallholder farmers cannot access these organic inputs (fertilizer, seeds and pesticides).

Benin

375. Limited availability of organic farm inputs. While OBEPAB has developed organic seeds and effective locally appropriate and cost-effective pest management methods for cotton farmers, problems persist to obtaining sufficient organic inputs for other crops to be supported in the framework of the project such as organic pineapple production. The assistance given to these producers to obtain organic inputs, especially organic fertilizers, is still not sufficient and limits their involvement in this type of production. For example, organic pineapple farmers have been trained in compost production but felt that producing compost themselves is labour intensive. They are therefore unwilling to produce compost at farm level, but are looking for ready to use compost.
376. Low funding level. It was a general perception from PIPs and CLO that the activities are many but the funding level is too low. This doesn't allow a proper or full implementation of some key activities.

Ethiopia

377. The biggest challenge is the push by government for conventional agricultural intensification.
378. Mekelle University has collected plants that are useful in nutrition and control of pests and diseases. However, they lack laboratory equipment to determine the chemical or nutritional content. The project should explore ways of Mekelle University collaborating with Tropical Pesticide Research Institute in Arusha Tanzania or other similar institutes with these facilities.
379. Delay in funds from both SSNC and SDC (about 95% of the 2015 activities have been pushed to 2016 due to delays in fund transfer) is another operational challenge.
380. Shortage of funds has been an issue. For instance, shortage of funds to expand the training sites to include more participants and meet the demand.
381. Lack of proper infrastructure such as good roads and vehicles to travel to some sites.

Kenya

382. Challenges were experienced in hiring high calibre of experts for the research since the funding provided by EOA tends to be small. Because the quality of research undertaken is normally high, the Egerton University responsible for RTE pillar is obliged to use some of own resources to meet part of the expert fees and allowances.

Tanzania

383. Some activities planned for implementation towards October 2015, were pushed forward or not done due to the General Election campaigns and the tense atmosphere during the whole month and shortly after the Election Day.
384. EOA official documents including the Funds disbursement guideline and the TOR maintain that a country must have attained an absorption rate of 70% of the funds advanced in the previous instalment before it can receive another instalment. Tanzania had attained 72% and yet it did not receive the second 40% instalment, the reason being some activities have not been undertaken.
385. Some PIP members are losing interest in implementing pillar activities because of small activity budget lines. As a result, this has piled up more activities to a few committed members who believe in Organic Farming by heart by considering it an ethical cause.
386. The current approval process takes too long and thus quality time for project activity implementation is lost.

3.6.2 Information and Communication Pillar

Benin

387. The biggest challenge is the lack of reliable information on the development of the sector. General data about EOA such as numbers of farmers, acreage and number of organic outlets has only begun to be collected and still not done in a consistence manner, and as such, figures are approximate and incomplete. This makes it difficult to get a clear sense of EOA production in Benin and to understand the development of the organic sector.
388. Other challenges include delays in disbursements, leading to delays in implementation of planned activities.

Ethiopia

389. There is no full time project officer who takes care of the day to day project activities.
390. The workshop on how to access and share information on EOA could not take place as the participants were involved in government meetings.
391. There was no adequate budget to fully implement the country specific EOA communication strategy prepared.
392. There were budget shortfalls to produce and broadcast more EOA related Radio programs and spots messages to increase media visibility of issues related with EOA so as to increase the awareness and consciousness level of the general public in amore impactful manner.
393. Late disbursement of funds which delays implementation of planned activities.

Kenya

394. There have been some institutional co-ordination challenges whereby some project pillar implementing partners experienced delays in disbursements of funds, leading to delays in implementation of planned activities. In some cases, different organizations received funds at different periods.
395. The lack of adequate funds has hindered conducting of demand-driven research on EOA products.
396. An M&E Strategy was not developed to track the implementation of various project activities.
397. The donor base for EOA is narrow in terms of funding volumes and opportunities. This may also limit the visibility of the EOA initiative.

3.6.3 Value Chain and Market Development Pillar

Benin

398. Limited capacity of small-holder farmers to produce the required demand. This is particularly the case for organic pineapples. Currently, the Pineapple Producer Network of Benin (REPAB) has received an order from a pineapple processor of 6000 tons of fresh organic pineapples per year. Unfortunately, among the 1600 members of REPAB, only 122 have made the transition to organic pineapple production on about 52 hectares of land. According to respondents, about 366 farmers on 150 ha would be needed by end of 2016 to meet the demand. There is therefore the need to encourage and assist more pineapple farmers to switch to organic production.

399. Low prices for organic products especially organic pineapples. While a price premium of about 20 percent over cotton conventionally grown is paid to cotton organic farmers, organic pineapples farmers felt that the price they receive for their produce (100 FCFA; about 0.2 USD per kilo) is too low. As a result, many pineapple farmers are not motivated to make the switch to organic production.
400. Late disbursement which delays implementation of planned activities. For example, the participation of targeted Policy Makers at this year's BioFach, the biggest organic trade fair in the world, couldn't take place because funding was not received on time from BvAT.
401. Lack of common mark for certified ecological organic production. The products are marketed at local markets with different marks.

Ethiopia

402. Unavailability of organic inputs – seeds and bio pesticides – is a major drawback. Indeed, many project farmers were composting different farm residues. Some farmers were even buying 'waste by-products' from neighbours to compost. There is also lack of close linkage between farmers, extension and research in attempting to address some of the pests that were affecting farmers' crops.

Kenya

403. At the project level, the level of consumer awareness was not determined at the beginning of the project. This would have helped to track incremental gains in project activities. The cost of the stand at the Nairobi international trade fair was far too high than the budget. More information dissemination is required especially through social media such as Organic Consumers alliance (OCA). More resources are needed for training various categories of stakeholders on value chain development.

3.6.4 Networking and Partnerships Pillar

Ethiopia

404. The biggest challenge is the lack of time to follow through and complete the re-registration process of the EAOA with the Charities and Societies Agency.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

The project resulted in many findings as presented in chapter three. The purpose of the analysis is to make an overall assessment of each pillar's effectiveness on the tract of mainstreaming EOA-I.

4.1 Research, Training and Extension (RTE) Pillar

The objective of the pillar was to carry out effective, demand driven, multi-disciplinary, gender sensitive and participatory research, training and extension to support a holistic productive EOA by 2025.

405. In order to mainstream EOA in each country under the RTE pillar, the following key activities were to be undertaken: assessment and documentation of EOA technologies including local technical knowledge; knowledge gaps studies; development of a directory of EOA stakeholders; design of a curriculum in EOA training at various levels; and capacity building in EOA. Table 6 presents each country's implementation of activities under the pillar.

Table 2: Implementation of Activities by Counties under Research Training and Extension Pillar

#	Activity	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
1	Baseline Assessment and Documentation of EOA technologies	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	Local knowledge study	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
3	Knowledge gaps study	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
4	Development of a directory of actors involved in EOA	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
5	Curriculum development in EOA training	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
6	EOA introduced in learning institutions		√			√		√	
7	Capacity building in EOA		√	√	√		√	√	√

406. From Table 6, it can be discerned that Ethiopia and Tanzania are taking the lead in ensuring they attain the planned project objectives. This is due to the fact that they have implemented all key activities to a certain degree of satisfaction. Other four countries (Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin and Senegal) have implemented at least six key activities planned so far under the pillar, while Mali has implemented two. A case of a major achievement in Ethiopia is that EOA has been introduced as a unit in a Masters degree in Dryland Agroforestry and Land Rehabilitation while in Tanzania where local knowledge to the application of EOA has been developed and packaged in CDs, DVDs and booklets. This will serve as a training resource to farmers on how to make good compost step-by-step as it bears English subtitles.

407. In the advancement of mainstreaming EOA in into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa, the RTE pillar was to document the EOA technologies, support extension and facilitate the development of curriculum in EOA among training institutions. To that extent, most countries have undertaken their planned activities.

408. Some of the studies have elucidated some interesting results towards the advancement of EOA-I. One of the major constraints in EOA cited by farmers, is the unavailability of inputs, especially pests and disease control products. The studies in Tanzania and Ethiopia, have identified plants with pests and disease control properties. The TPRI in Arusha, Tanzania has gone as far as identifying the active ingredients in the plants. These studies will go a long way in developing organic inputs for control of diseases and pests.

409. The EOA curriculum has been developed in nearly all countries. It is anticipated that when the training institutions adopt the EOA curriculum, more professionals will be trained and equipped with knowledge of EOA.

4.2 Information and Communications (I&C Pillar)

The objective of the pillar was to translate research findings into diverse outreach materials for farmers as well as package relevant information for lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting other stakeholders (private sector, policy makers) by 2025. In order to mainstream EOA in each country under the I&C pillar, the following activities were to be undertaken:(i) use of information and communication strategies to sensitize farmers, processors, marketers and other stakeholders and the general public on the value and practices of EOA in producing and processing safe and healthy products; and (ii) to systematically inform stakeholders on the

potential, opportunities and success of EOA. Table 7 presents each country's implementation of activities under the pillar.

Table 3: Implementation of Activities by Counties under Information and Communications Pillar

#	Activity	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
1	Undertake gap analysis on existing EOA I&C tools	√	√	√		√	√	√	
2	Develop I&C strategies	√	√				√	√	
3	Establish & maintain national EOA websites/Feature EOA work in their main websites		√					√	
4	Develop communication materials	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
5	Establish /support communication infrastructure (country level farmer resource centres, information hubs, websites, databases and other data/knowledge repositories	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
6	Organize I&C events on EOA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

410. From Table 7, it can be observed that Ethiopia and Tanzania have taken a significant lead in ensuring implementation of key activities in order to achieve the key set outputs of using a range of information and communication strategies, products and technologies to share insights and lessons from experiences by farmers, processors, marketers, extension agents as well as

researchers in order to sensitize the general public, including policy makers on the importance of EOA in general and organic agriculture in particular.

411. Senegal, Kenya, Benin and Nigeria closely follow with at least four activities implemented while Uganda and Mali lag rather behind.

412. EOA is generating some interesting results which should be made available to the general public. The results should be published on the EOA webpage and BvAT should be facilitated to engage a person to compile the results and post them on the EOA webpage.

4.3 Value Chain and Market Development (VC&MD) Pillar

The objective of the pillar was to increase organic agricultural production and the share of quality EOA products at the national, regional and international markets through value chain analysis and market development by 2025.

413. In order to mainstream EOA in each country under the VC&MD pillar, the following activities were to be undertaken: (i) conduct value chain analysis, (ii) develop value chain nodes and establish value addition options for EOA products; and (iii) develop national and regional markets for organic products. Table 8 presents each country's implementation of activities under the pillar.

Table 4: Implementation of Activities by Counties under Value Chain and Market Development Pillar

#	Activity	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
1	Organic products enhanced in the entire value chain	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	Develop markets for EOA products	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3	Facilitate certification of EOA products	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

414. From Table 8, it can be recognized that all countries have implemented three key planned activities. This shows that all countries have made good efforts to ensure organic products are introduced in the market. Indeed, some countries have made outstanding achievements that are noticeable like Uganda (NOGAMU), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN) who have developed a National database with all key EOA actors such as processors, traders, consumer and development partners. NOGAMU can be commended to have gone a step further, and linked its National data base to a regional data base of IFOAM.

415. Ethiopia and Benin have been outstanding in creation of new organic markets in the urban and rural areas. This has boosted access to healthy, organic vegetables and fruits to the local markets with Tanzania and Uganda also linking and exposing their traders to the international market by supporting them to attend international trade fairs like Denmark Food Fair and BIOFACH.

4.4 Networking and Partnerships (N&P) Pillar

The objective of the pillar was to foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2025.

416. In order to mainstream EOA in each country under the N&P pillar, the following activities were to be undertaken: (i) establish national stakeholder platforms, (ii) facilitate signing of partnership MoU's for establishment of EOA partnerships, (iii) organize, facilitate, and participate in forums that showcase EOA, and (iv) enhance collaboration and synergies among actors in EOA in Africa. Table 9 shows the implementation of activities under the pillar.

Table 5: Implementation of Activities by Counties under Networking and Partnerships Pillar

#	Activity	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
1	Establish national stakeholder platforms	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	Facilitate signing of partnership MoU's for establishment of EOA partnerships	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3	Organize, facilitate, and participate in forums that show case EOA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
4	Various EOA structures established and operational at regional and continental levels √	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

417. From Table 9, it can be noticed that all countries have made big strides in ensuring EOA is well networked and known at the national level. The national platforms have been established in all countries although they do not seem to have national representation and other than in Ethiopia, nearly all of them are not as active as they were expected.

418. After the inception meeting held in each country to launch the EOA-I, there no evidence to show that other meetings of the national platform have been held. The EOA-I seems to be guided solely by the national steering committee in each country. Therefore, the national platforms should be strengthened by mandating them to meet, at least, annually and resources be allocated for such meetings.

419. The national, regional and continental platforms are important in sharing of information and exchange of experiences among the EOA stakeholders. Therefore, the interactions at all the three

levels should be organized along holding of national, regional and continental conferences annually for the EOA stakeholders to meet share advances, experiences and information. Resources should be allocated for these annual EOA conferences and other related events.

420. There seems to have been duplication and inefficient use of resources where SDC and SSNC have supported the same pillar (and in some instances the same activities) in the same country. The MTR recommends that each pillar should be supported by only one donor, for purposes of attribution and transparency until such a time that there will be more resources forthcoming to expand the Initiative to other focal areas.

421. The CLOs and PIPs should closely collaborate to share experiences on how they are implementing their activities and the results they are generating from the implementation of the activities. This can be done through the EOA webpage and holding of annual workshops and conferences.

4.5 Policy and Programme development (PPD) Pillar

The objective of the pillar was to lobby and advocate for the development, mainstreaming and implementation of EOA programmes, policies, plans and in the agriculture sector as well as other related sectors by 2025. In order to mainstream EOA in each country under the PPD pillar, the following activities were to be undertaken:

- ensure the harmonization, awareness and common understanding of the concept of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among all stakeholders (especially policy makers, practitioners and farmers);
- gather evidence-based data to use in the development of appropriate lobby messages for promoting EOA;
- advocate and lobby stakeholders (and in particular governments and RECs) to integrate and align EOA into continental (CAADP), national and regional policies, plans and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries.

Table 10 presents each country's implementation of activities under the pillar.

Table 6: Implementation of Activities by Counties under Policy and Programme Development Pillar

#	Activity	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda

1	Conduct country-based policy analyses to identify EOA policy gaps	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
2.	Policy makers made aware about EOA through sensitization meetings	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
3	Organic Policy developed / EOA introduced into national policy making processes, strategies and investment plans			√					√

422. From Table 10, it is evident that Kenya and Uganda have made good efforts to ensure all key activities are implemented. Key to note in these two countries is the progress made in the development of an Organic Policy and introduction of EOA aspects in other policies like the agriculture policy. It is worth noting that in Ethiopia there is a person responsible for Organic Farming at the Ministry of agriculture.

423. The rest of the countries have also made efforts to have meetings and introduce the initiative to the policy makers with countries like Nigeria, Benin and Senegal receiving positive signals from the government policy makers.

4.6 Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Pillar

The objective of the pillar was to strengthen the governance, management and operations of EOA institutions in Africa to deliver on EOA better by 2025.

424. In order to mainstream EOA in each country under the ICD pillar, the following activities were to be undertaken: identify and support EOA institutions in Africa through providing harmonized guidelines for their development, management and operations. Table 11 presents each country's implementation of activities under the pillar.

Table 7: Implementation of Activities by Counties under Institutional Capacity Development Pillar

#	Activity	Benin	Ethiopia	Kenya	Mali	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Uganda
1	Facilitate the development of guidelines for all EOA institutions for management and operations	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	Support the improvement of systems and staff development of EOA institutions	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

425. From Table 11, it can be discerned that all countries have successfully implemented the various aspects quite well. Pelum Kenya has trained partners in the Eastern Africa Region in various trainings and exchange visits undertaken to boost the capacity of various stakeholders. Key training to note is on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Gender issues. Biovision Africa Trust notably has trained partners in project and financial management covering the entire regions of Eastern and West Africa.

5.0 LESSONS LEARNT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Lessons Learnt

A lesson is a new idea, process, experience or understanding, which goes to improve the way the project is managed and contributes to greater effectiveness and wider impact of an activity. Several lessons have been learnt from the implementation of the EOA-I as indicated below:

426. There is synergy when different PIPs work in close collaboration. For example, ICT pillar has assisted in publicity of location of organic markets and availability of organic products in Kampala. This has increased the number of local consumers especially the urban middle class who have been made aware of where to buy organic products from the markets established under VCMD pillar.

427. PIPs working on the same issue can take advantage of their individual comparative advantage to solve problems. For example, project planning meetings held by EOA partners in Kenya under SDC and SSNC support have ensured PIPs identify areas of commonality and leverage on their strengths to execute the activities jointly. Another example is Mekelle University (PIP in Ethiopia) which has collected plants which require analysis (to determine nutritional or pesticidal quality) but they lack the laboratory equipment for the analysis, while Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (PIP in Tanzania) has the requisite equipment which Mekelle University can use.

428. PIPs working innovatively with private sector can help advance EOA agenda. For example in Kenya, Egerton University in charge of Research Training and Extension (RTE) Pillar has taken advantage of its partnership with the Nation Media Group in publishing the weekly ***Seeds of Gold Magazine*** that appears in the Saturday Nation Newspaper to promote general agricultural practices with organic agriculture articles featuring prominently. The EOA initiative in Uganda has made considerable strides in ICT through the collaboration of Makerere University (PIP) and Agriit Institute (an ICT organization for Sustainable Agriculture) that has enormous expertise and experience in leveraging ICTs for Agriculture.

429. Development and adoption of a new curriculum by tertiary institutions requires a lot of time and resources as the management of these institutions have to be convinced that curriculum is necessary and will attract students.

430. Development and use of an interactive SMS platform can provide the most practical, effective and efficient way to reach farmers with EOA information on their ordinary mobile phones, since most farmers now own mobile phones.
431. Targeted visits to successful organic farms, fairs and projects as well as participation at key conferences are necessary in order to build awareness of the importance of EOA and enhance the capacity for the government to develop sustainable, resilient and productive agriculture.
432. A good information, communication and advocacy strategy is necessary in order to systematically provide governmental institutions with evidence-based information on the benefits of EOA, to answer their questions and to get their doubts clarified.
433. Coordination among different stakeholders through a well-functioning Country Lead Organization and Steering Committee is necessary to support EOA mainstreaming process into national policies.
434. A strong participation of various stakeholders and actors in project activities creates synergies among them, thus leading to a better effectiveness of project activities and visibility of the EOA sector.

5.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.2.1 General Recommendation

435. CAADP process details programmes and projects that the various stakeholders can buy into and that address the national priorities. An EOA strategy has been adopted at AU level and needs to be included in the CAADP strategy at national level to facilitate quick buy-in by all stakeholders in agriculture. It should not been seen as a new initiative.

436. The EOA Initiative has developed an action plan (2015-2020) which has been endorsed by the African Union Commission. Action plan had a budget of about US$27 million to implement its activities. At MTR the initiative had received about US$ 11 million (about $40%).

- In order to avoid duplication of activities, and aspire for greater impact, the initiative should seek greater financial support. It is recommended that a basket fund be established whereby resources are pooled together but channelled to specific programme activities. Each funding partner can choose one or more programme activities to support (according to their mandate and/or preferences) to ensure that there is coherence in funding of various activities. A good example is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In addition, the National Project Platforms, the National Steering Committees and Country Lead Organizations should explore other funding arrangements to support EOA including: (i) national budgets, (ii) country assistance strategy papers for multilateral and bilateral cooperation, (iii) international private funds (e.g. trust funds, philanthropies), and private sector.

437. The MTR notes SDC applies a 4-pillar approach while SSNC uses 6-pillar approach in project implementation. The 4 pillar strategy under SDC support collapsed pillars 4 (Networking and Partnerships), 5 (Policy and Programme Development) and 6 (Institutional Capacity Development) that are in the 6 pillar strategy to form the 4th Pillar named 'Supporting and Cementing Pillar'. This fourth pillar is implemented by Country Lead Organizations (CLOs).

- For purposes of project uniformity and coherence across all countries, both SDC and SSNC should retain the 6-pillar approach of project implementation, as was originally designed.

438. At project design, the most of the indicators logframe were not SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound).

- The MTR recommends that SDC and SSNC coordinate the review and development of the logframe. This will assist in establishing baseline information for future evaluations of the project.

439. It is recommended that all CLOs and PIPs in all countries, across donors, should work as a team to enhance synergies and improve efficiency in implementation.

440. SSNC should consider sending funds to one partner in a country instead of multiple partners. Then, the selected partner can sub-grant to the other partners in the country. EOAI partners in country should meet and share what they are proposing for pillars, appreciate what the others are planning and give inputs and more importantly, jointly agree on the final version of all pillar activities. This will make implementation it easier and the partners will be aware of the planned activities and their role in the same. This will make it easy and efficient for coordination of all pillars in a country.

441. There is the need to assess the capacities of all partners and their ability to implement activities with available resources. This will help refocus the EOA initiative and assign activities to capable partners based on their comparative advantage, technical capacity, soundness of systems and where they can make maximum impact with available resources. In practice, this will call for innovative and strategic thinking in linking proposal development, budgeting and implementation of activities. This will improve on disbursements and reporting across Executing Agencies, CLOs and PIPs.

442. Where inadequate capacity on the part of partners to implement EOA activities (e.g., internal systems of financial management, M&E system) is identified after the assessment, it is recommended that the project develops action plans geared towards improving partner capacity to implement the EOA Initiative or change the partner.

443. At the time of project design, it was envisaged that the Country Lead Organisation (CLOs) was to co-ordinate project activities and monitor the implementation by the Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs). During the review, this was noted not to be the case in many countries.

- In view of the capacity challenges and considering the way the initiative started, the MTR team recommends that SSNC and SDC undertake the demarcation of the roles of CLOs and PIPs after a thorough assessment of their performance so far, to ensure that no single organisation plays a dual role as a CLO and a PIP in order to achieve efficiency in programme implementation.

444. It is recommended that for timely and efficient use of donor funds there is need for financiers to consider re-allocating redundant resources as well as address the circumstances leading to carry-over of funds from one planning period to another. It is the opinion of the MTR team that the continental steering committee can explore various options such as (i) re-allocating the funds to other countries in the same region with requisite capacity to advance the work of the EOA Initiative, and/or (ii) replacing a non-performing country (such as Mali) with another country in the same region.

445. The EOA initiative covers eight countries with each country having at least one CLO and a number of PIPs. For efficient project monitoring, the executing agencies should make a minimum of two supervision visits each year to each country. However, the executing agencies (as currently constituted) do not have adequate capacity to undertake these supervision visits (at least sixteen visits in a year).

• It is recommended that the funding partners consider enhancing the capacity of the executing agencies to carry out this function. This may include hiring of full-time or part-time staff to handle EOA project activities.

5.2.2 Networking and Linkages

446. The EOA being a continent-wide initiative, there is the need to network and collaborate with regional economic communities (e.g., EAC, ECOWAS, SADC) for greater impact and visibility.

447. There are many interesting results and experiences arising from the implementation of the EOA Initiative in different countries.

• It is recommended that the EOA Initiative strengthens and funds the current stakeholder forum at national, regional and continental levels (e.g., annual conference, online platform) where EOA stakeholders can share and discuss various project results and exchanges.

448. The National Networks (National Platforms and National Steering Committee) should be urged to ensure that the EOA Initiative takes on a national outlook within the context of the available resources. The EOA Initiative should be geographically and thematically representative (i.e. CLOs and PIPs should bear a national outlook) and have national outreach. This can be achieved through ensuring that the membership of the National Platforms is drawn from all over the country or at least from all the areas covered by the initiative.

5.2.3 Research, Training and Extension

449. The national governments have not catered for EOA in their budgets for the agriculture sector. There is therefore need for evidence-based investigation of the opportunity costs of subsidies (e.g. chemical fertilizers) supporting conventional agriculture and whether they are affordable through deficit financing. This may provide a better understanding of the political economy of subsidies. This may offer a window of opportunity for support to EOA. In addition there is need to explore the opportunities for large scale land-based investments in Africa that may encourage EOA (e.g., plantation agriculture and agroforestry).

450. The project has carried out many trainings (of varying durations) for different categories of stakeholders (e.g., farmers, traders, processors).

• It is recommended that follow-up studies should be carried out to assess the impact of various training activities. This may be undertaken by other interested organizations such as universities or research institutes.

451. There is inadequate supply of organic inputs to support organic agricultural production in all countries.

- The project should explore ways and means of supporting research in the development of organic inputs to enable farmers to supply the growing organic market.

5.2.4 Information and Communication

452. There is no readily available data and information on the number of organic farmers, volume of products, markets and sales at the national level.

• It is recommended that the project works with national statistical authorities to include such aspects of organic agriculture in their periodic surveys. In addition, the project can also undertake surveys to gather and analyse such data and information. In the long run this might help to illustrate the importance of organic agriculture in the national economy.

453. Since the project is implemented in both Anglophone and Francophone countries, it is recommended that all project documents should be in both English and French.

454. EOA is generating some interesting results which should be made available to the general public. The results should be published on the EOA webpage and BvAT should be facilitated to engage a person to compile the results and post them on the EOA webpage.

5.2.5 Value Chain and Market Development

455. There is the need to establish, formalize and promote a common mark for ecological organic products to be used by operators especially in West Africa. This will improve the identification of ecological organic products and increase consumers' trust.

456. To increase access to international markets, there is the need to develop the standards for certification of organic products. This will call for the development of conformity assessment mechanisms such as Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).

5.2.6 Policy and Programme Development

457. An EOA strategy has been adopted at AU level and needs to be included in CAADP strategy at national level to facilitate quick buy-in by stakeholders. Therefore, EOA should be mainstreamed and included in national agricultural policies, in order for resources to be set aside for the initiative in national budgets. This will open opportunities for funding of EOA from national budgets.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORs)

The terms of reference for the Mid-term review included the following:

a. Assess the EOA Initiative's plans, achievements, experiences, and lessons, regarding available EOA best practices, sustainable organic farming systems and seed quality and make recommendations for improvement.
b. Test the relationships between the projects' efforts and progress so far made towards EOA's goal, including analysis of the institutional and project implementation framework set up as well as the degree and consequences of implementation towards country strategic policies and plans, and relevant regional and continental declarations spelt out in the EOA Strategic Plan (2015-25) and Action Plan (2015-2020).
c. Highlight issues and challenges affecting effective and efficient implementation of the project and recommend how to move the project forward.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Biovision Africa Trust (2013), Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative, **2015 – 2025 Strategic Plan**, on Behalf of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC), Nairobi.

Biovision Africa Trust (2013), **Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa 2014-2018**, on Behalf of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC), Nairobi.

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ISD (2015), **Annual Report 2015**, Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), Addis Ababa.

KOAN (2015), **Annual Report 2014**, Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), Nairobi.

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Mekelle University (2014), Curriculum for Master of Science in Dryland Agroforestry and Land Rehabilitation, Department of Land Resources Management and Environmental protection, College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mekelle.

Ochoro D.O (2016), **End-Term Evaluation Report for the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Project**, Final Report, PELUM Kenya (SSNC Funded), Nairobi.

Otieno M. (2015), Project Review Report on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA), 2-3 December 2015, Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), Sunstar Hotel, Nairobi

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SACDEP-Kenya (2015), Analysis of Farmers' Knowledge, Skills and Practice on Ecological Organic Agriculture, SACDEP, Thika.

SACDEP-Kenya (2015), Ecological Organic Agriculture: Project Narrative Report on Research, Training & Extension (2014), SACDEP, Thika.

Ssemakula J., Akol P., Luyambaazi T. and R. Rugambwa (2016), **Uganda End-Term Evaluation Report for the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Project** (2013-2015), SSNC Funded Component, Kampala.

Ternstrom Consulting AB (2015), **Review of SSNC contribution to Ecologic Organic Agriculture Initiative in Eastern Africa**, Final report, Nairobi.

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Annex 3.1: List of Persons Interviewed in Benin

Organisation Name of interviewee	Title/Function	Sex
Apollinaire Ahanhanzo	CSFT, Abomey	M
Apollinaire Hounyovi	DICAF, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Benin	M
Bouraina Raoudath	CIEVRA, Value Chain and Market Development Pillar	F
Carolle Adjowi	Steering Committee member, Coordinator of the SAICM Project, Ministry of Environment	F
Cécile Covo	CC Sewanou, Bohicon	F
CLO and PIPs	Participatory consolidation workshop	
Delphine Bodjrenou	OBEPAB	F
Dr. Anicet Dassou	University of Parakou, Research, Information and Training Pillar	M
Dr. Claude Gervais Assogba	University of Parakou, Research, Information and Training Pillar	M
Edgard Deguenon	AMAP, Value Chain and Market Development Pillar	M
Eric Adjadji	NGO Bouge, SEKOU	M
Ernest Pedro	Platform for Civil-Society Actors in Benin (PASCIB), Information and Communication Pillar	M
Focus discussion with 11 organic cotton producers (9 men and 2 women)	Groupe de producteurs biologiques de coton de Mangassa	M F(2)
Focus discussion with 7 pineapple producers	REPAB, Allada	M
Prof. Dr. Aimé H. Bokonon-Ganta	Chairman Steering Commettee	M
Prof. Simplice Davo VODOUHE	OBEPAB / CLO	M
René Tokannou	CRASTIDA, Value Chain and Market Development Pillar	M
René Tokannou	CRASTIDA, Value Chain and Market Development Pillar	M
Silvere Tovignan	University of Parakou, Research, Information and Training Pillar	M
Valentin Attossi	Information and Communication Pillar	M

Annex 3.2: List of Persons Interviewed in Ethiopia

Name	Sex	Official Designation	Address/ Organization	Telephone	Email
Sue Edwards	F	Director	ISD Addis Ababa	+251116186774	Sustaindeveth@gmail.com
Brook Tesfay Makonnen	M	Environmentalist	ISD Addis Ababa	+251-933198666	brooktes8@gmail.com
Azeb Worku	F	Agronomist (specialization in Organic agriculture)	ISD Addis Ababa	+251-912622948	azebworku@gmail.com
Samuel Mekonnen	M	Economist	ISD Addis Ababa	+251-911716461	same4kon@gmail.com
Tafach Meaza	M	Teacher and Community leader	ISD Holeta	+251-921277097	tafachmeaza@gmail.com
Dr. Sarah Tewolde-Berhan	F	Food Scientist and Forester	Mekelle University	+251-914721422	saratbge@gmail.com
Dr. Kassa Teka	M	Soil Scientist	Mekelle University	+251-914726677	kassateka@yahoo.com
Ayele Kebede	M	Conservationist	PANOS Ethiopia	+251-921253337	ayele.kebede@panosea.org
Hailemariam Mesfin	M	Journalist	PANOS Ethiopia	+251-911410659	hailemariam70@yahoo.com
Getahun Adema	M	Farmer	MedeGudina Kebele individual farmer	+251 - 924425891	N/A
Endris Aman	M	Kebele (District) administrator	MedeGudina Kebele Administrator	+251-921396876	N/A
Fekadu Dejene	M	Kebele (District) administrator	Holeta City Administration, Youth League	+251-911830027	N/A
Bekele Menale	M	Farmer	MedeGudina Kebele individual farmer	+251-920801695	N/A
Adanech Feyissa	F	Farmer	MedeGudina Kebele individual farmer	+251-923628196	N/A

Annex 3.3: List of Persons Interviewed in Kenya

Name	Sex	Official Designation	Address/ Organization	Telephone	Email
David Amudavi	M	Executive Director	Biovision	+254 208632007/8	damudavi@icipe.org
Venancia Wambua	F	Project Manager	Biovision Africa Trust		
Zachary Makanya	M	Country Coordinator	PELUM	254 709 746939	pelumkenya@pelum.net
Jeff Kahuho	M	Capacity & Networking Enhancement Officer	PELUM	254 709 746939	pelumkenya@pelum.net
Rosina Mbenya	F	Resources Information Management & Marketing Officer	PELUM	254 709 746939	pelumkenya@pelum.net
Gordon Kojo	M	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	PELUM	254 709 746939	pelumkenya@pelum.net
Ndiki Ndungu	M	Finance Manager	PELUM	254 709 746939	pelumkenya@pelum.net
Silvester Nzovu	M	Manager	SACDEP	+254-0703 441614	sacdepkenya@iconnect.co.ke
Eustace Kiarii	M	National Coordinator	KOAN	+254 704428465	info@ckoan.co.ke
Richard Mwangi	M	Marketing Officer	KOAN	+254 704428465	info@ckoan.co.ke
Jack Juma	M	Standards & Certification Officer	KOAN	+254 704428465	info@ckoan.co.ke
Mary Otieno	F	Administrative Assistant	KOAN	+254 721795106	maryo@ckoan.co.ke
Wanjiru Kamau	F	Policy, Network and Capacity Building	KOAN	+254 704428465	info@ckoan.co.ke
Teresa Ndirangu	F	Procurement Coordinator	KOAN	+254 704428465	info@ckoan.co.ke

Annex 3.4: List of Persons Interviewed in Mali

Organisation **Name of interviewee**	**Title/Function**	**Sex**
Adama Berthé	Technical Adviser Ministry of Agriculture, Chairman of the EOA National Platform and EOA Focal Point in the Ministry of Agriculture	M
Bagna Traoré Sangaré	REMATRAC-Bio	F
Boubacar Doumbia	Director REMATRAC-Bio	M
Djibril Traoré	Resource Person, Interim Chairman of MOBIOM	M
Félicité Koné	MOBIOM	F
Issa Coulibaly	National Coordinator AOPP, Coordinator Information and Communication Pillar	M
Jacques Traoré	MOBIOM	M
Joseph Diassana	Chargé de suivi et évaluation de PROFIL BIO - Helvetas	M
Maiga Diali Basse	REMATRAC-Bio	F
Mariko Bintou Sidibe	REMATRAC-Bio	F
Massa Thomas	MOBIOM	M
Members of the National Platform	Meeting with the National -Plateforme AEB Mali	M
Moussa Bagayoko	REMATRAC-Bio	M
Seydou Keita	Technical Adviser Ministry of Agriculture and Former Head of National Seed Service	M
Siaka Doumbia	Technical adviser Helvetas	M
Sidy El Moctar N'Guiro	Director MOBIOM	M
Sylvaine Rieg	Program Manager Helvetas Mali	F
8 men farmers	Coopérative des maraîchers bio de Kanabougou	F

Annex 3.5: List of Persons Interviewed in Nigeria

Category	**Name**	**Venue**
CLO	Dr. O. O. AdeOluwa / Gbadamosi R. O.	NOAN Secretariat
Pillar 1	Dr. O. T. Yekinni / Ms. Ladigbolu	Department of Extension, UI
Pillar 2	Prof. N. T. Meludu / Ms. Okanlawon / Mr. Dubem	HeFci Secretariat
Pillar 3	Gbadamosi R. O. / Adeyinka A. D.	NOAN Secretariat
CLO	Dr. O. O. AdeOluwa / Gbadamosi R. O.	NOAN Secretariat
Pillar 1 Implementer	Prof. V. I. O. Olowe	Abeokuta, Ogun State
Pillar 2 Implementer	Alh. L. O. Oladapo	Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme (OYSADEP), Zonal Office, Apata, Ibadan, Oyo State
Pillar 3 Implementer	Mr. O. E. AyanfeOlwa	FCA, Apata, Ibadan
Farmers' Group	Elekuru Organic Farmers' Group	Elekuru, Oyo State
Farmers' Group	Ago Owu Organic Farmers' Group	Ikoyi, Osun State
Marketing Group	Ajibode Organic Farmers' Group (OFG)	Ajibode Farms
Steering Committee	Chief Salimonu	NOAN Secretariat
CLO / Rap – up	Mr. R. O. Gbadamosi	NOAN Secretariat
Steering Committee	Mrs. O. Odukoya	Magoro, Berger, Lagos

Annex 3.6: List of Persons Interviewed in Senegal

Category	**Name of Person**	**Title**
Country Lead Organization (CLO) = FENAB	Doudou DIOP	Chairman
	Jeanne NGaneDIATAR	Treasurer
	Maguette DIOP	Secretary General
	Ibrahima SECK	Coordinator
National steering committee	Gora NDIAYE	Chairman
	Famara DIEDHIOU	Secretary General
	Abdoulaye FAYE	Member
Research, Training and Extension (ENDA PRONAT)	Laure Brun DIALLO	Coordinator
Information and Communication (ASPAB)	Samba DIALLO	Coordinator
	Moussa FALL	Member
	NDèye DIOP	Member
Value Chain and Market Development	Assane GUEYE	Co-ordinator
	Massamba DIENG	AGRECOL AFRIQUE
Farmers' producer group	Federation of organic vegetables producers	Zone of Niayes
Farmers' marketing group	women who processing and marketing of organic products	REFABEC atThiès

Annex 3.7: List of Persons Interviewed in Tanzania

No	Contact Person	Organization	Position	Mobile Number	E-mail
1	Mr Jordan Gama	TOAM- Country Lead Organization (CLO)	TOAM CEO	+255 758 908 303 +255 787 908 303	jordanusgama@gmail.com toam@kilimohai.org
2	Mr Mgeta Daud	TOAM	Pillar IV-Coordinator	+255 712 344 989	dmgeta@yahoo.com
3	Ms Jane Albert	TOAM	Pillar III-Coordinator	+255 787 133 133	janealbert777@gmail.com
4	Mr Beatus Malema	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFSC)	Chair of the National Steering Committee	+255 754 608 806 +255 784 909 550	bamalema@yahoo.com
5	Ms Grace Kabate	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFSC)	Agricultural Officer		nyabusug@gmail.com
6	Dr Siima Bakengesa	Tanzania Forestry Research Institute	Director, Forestry Production Research Ditrectorate	+255 754 784545	Siima.bakengesa@tafori.org
7	Mr Mathias Daud	Farmers' Producer Group (Mwongozo Farmer Group of Kimbwala village)	Group Coordinator	+255 768 206 020	mathias.daud@kilimo.org

8	Mr Bakari Hussein Maulidi	Farmers' Producer Group (Mwongozo Farmer Group of Kimbwala village)	Chairperson		
9	Ms Zena Idd	Farmers' Producer Group (Mwongozo Farmer Group of Kimbwala village)	Treasurer		
10	Mr M. Rajab	Farmers' Producer Group (Mwongozo Farmer Group of Kimbwala village)	Vice Chairperson		
11	Ms Janet Mwaro	SAT	Pillar I-Coordinator	+255 925 560	janetmaro@gmail.com

Annex 3.8: List of Persons Interviewed in Uganda

	NAME	POSITION	ORFANIZATION & ADDRESS
1	Mr Musa K. Muwanga	Chief Executive Officer	NOGAMU
2	Ms Allen Tracy Najjuma	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	NOGAMU +256772 672599
3	Prof Julius Mwine	Chairperson NSC	Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) +256772 648863
4	Ms Josephine Akia	Member	PELUM +256772 829505
5	Dr Fred Kabi	Pillar II	Makerere University
6	Mr Rushongoka Wampiira	Pillar II	
7	Mr Peter Kisambira	Member	Uganda National Federation of Farmers (UNFFE) +256772602035/ 704602035 antonykisambira@gmail.com
8	Ms Winfred Nakyagaba	Member	NARO +256772 516825/7020871815

ANNEX 4: CLOS' AND PIPS' IN EACH COUNTRY UNDER SDC SUPPORT

Country	County Lead Organization (CLO)	CLO Contact Person and details	Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs)		
			Research Training & Extension (RTE)	**Information & Communication (I&C)**	**Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD)**
Kenya	*Kenya Organic Agriculture Network* (KOAN)	***Mr. Eustace Gacanja*** *Email:* ekiarii@koan.co.ke *Website:* www.koan.co.ke	i. **Rhoda Birech** Egerton University http://www.egerton.ac.ke/ rhodabirech25@gmail.com kimanimnjoroge@gmail.com	**Pauline Mundia** Biovision Africa Trust Farmer Communication Programme http://www.biovision.ch/en/projects/kenya/outreach/ pmundia@icipe.org	KOAN *Kenya Organic Agriculture Network* www.koan.co.ke
Uganda	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)	**Mr. Musa Muwanga** Mobile: +256 772 448948 Email:mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug Website:www.nogamu.org.ug	**Mwine Julius** Uganda Martyrs University http://www.umu.ac.ug/ mwinej@yahoo.com	Makerere University http://mak.ac.ug/	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)
Tanzania	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)	**Mr. Jordan Gama** Mobile: +255 787 908 303 Email: toam@kilimohai.org Website: www.africaorganicnetwork.net	**Janet Maro** **Lead PIP:** Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania Phone: +255754925560 www.kilimo.org janetmaro@gmail.com **Other partners** i. University: Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and University of Dar es salaam (UDSM)	**Chengula Godson** **Lead PIP:** Pelum Tanzania http://www.pelumtanzania.org/dummy/index.php info@mviwata.org jmzinga@yahoo.com **Other partners** i. Institut Africain pour le Developpement Economique et Social Formation Tanzania (Inades FTz)	**Lead PIP**: (TOAM) Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement **Other partners** i. Ruvuma Commercialization and Diversification of Agriculture (RUCODIA)

			ii. Agricultural Research Institutes (ARIs): Naliendele; Ilonga; Kizimabni; Ukiriguru; Seriani; Uyole;Tumbi iii. Other research institutes: Tea Research Institute of Tanzania (TRIT);Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TACRI); Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) and International Centre for Research in Agro forestry (ICRAF) iv. Farmer Organizations: Eastern and Southern Africa small scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and MtandaowaVikundivyaWakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) v. Directorates of Research and Development and Extension: Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries (MLDF) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAFS) vi. NGOs: Caritas Mahenge; Uluguru Mountain Agricultural Project (UMADEP); Resource Oriented Development Initiative (RODI)	ii. OFA iii. Farmers Education and Communication Unit ofMinistry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFSC) iv. Sokoine National Agricultural Library (SNAL) v. Media Trust vi. BBC Media Action vii. Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)/CE viii. National Environment Management Council (NEMC) ix. Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) x. Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP)	ii. Chakula Trading iii. UWAMWIMA; Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU); Kagera Co-operative Union (KCU); Karagwe District Cooperative Union Ltd (KDCU) iv. Resource Oriented Development Initiative (RODI) v. United. Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) vi. Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE) vii. Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)/TANZANIA FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY.

					(TFDA)/Tanzania Organic Certification Association (TanCert)
Ethiopia	Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)	**Ms. Sue Edwards** Tel: +251-(0)911-200834 website: www.isd.org.et Email: sosena@gmail.com sustaindeveth@gmail.com PO Box 171, Code 1110 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Mobile: +251-(0)911-200834	**Sara Tewolde** Mekelle University (MU) http://www.mu.edu.et/ **Sarah Tewolde** saratbge@gmail.com	**Ayele Kebede** PANOS Ethiopia https://www.cordaid.org/en/partners/panos-ethiopia/ ayele.kebede@panosea.org	**Lead PIP:** ISD (The Institute for Sustainable Development) Other partners i. Wollo University ii. Ethiopian Association of Marketing Professionals
Nigeria	Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN)	Dr. Olugbenga O. AdeOluwa, Ph.D., IOIA Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. Mobile: +234 8035709365 Emails:adeoluwaoo@yahoo.com; oo.adeoluwa@mail.ui.edu.ng E-mail: noannigeria@gmail.com	University of Ibadan http://ui.edu.ng/	Healthy Foods for Consumers Initiative	NOAN Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria

		ogbadamosi@noanigeria.net			
Senegal	National Federation For Organic Agriculture (FENAB)	**Ibrahima Seck** Tel: + 221 33 951 4206 - + 221 76 392 9128 + 221 77 442 4029 Email: iseck@yahoo.fr iseck@yahoo.fr SENEGAL s/c AGRECOL BP. 347 THIES Email: fenabsen@yahoo.fr – iseck@yahoo.fr	**Brune Laure** ENDA PRONAT http://www.endapronat.org/index.php?lang=fr pronat@endatiersmonde.org or_brun@yahoo.fr	ASPAB (Senegalese Association for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture) http://www.erails.net/CM/ssa-ngoc/aspab maasamba@gmail.com	AGRECOL Association for Agriculture and Ecology http://www.agrecol.de/?q=en agrecol@orange.sn
Mali	MouvementBiologiqueMalien or Malian Organic Movement (MOBIOM)	**MrSidiEl'moctarN'Guiro** Email:mobiom_mali@yahoo.fr Portable 00223 // 76213086 ou 66313188	Fagaye Sissoko Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER) http://www.ier.gouv.ml/ fagaye_sissoko@yahoo.fr	**Issa Coulibaly** Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) http://www.aopp-mali.org/ issacoulibaly_11@yahoo.fr	REMATRAC BioExposition Artisanat du Mali Association No website moussa40@yahoo.fr
Benin	Organisation Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (PABE/OBEPAB)	**Prof Simplice Davo VODOUHE,** Phone: Home 22921301975 Office:22921048311 Mobile phone: +229 95607868/+229 96691096 Email: dsvodouhe@yahoo.com	OBEPAB http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/learning-zone/organic-in-action/story-no-16 Email: dsvodouhe@yahoo.com	**Pedro Ernest** Platform for Civil-Society Actors in Benin (PASCIB) ipenesco@yahoo.fr	**Mr Tokannou Rene** Crastida rtokannou@yahoo.fr

ANNEX 5: PILLAR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN EACH COUNTRY UNDER SSNC SUPPORT (EASTERN AFRICA)

	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	PILLAR 5	PILLAR 6
ETHIOPIA	**Ms. Sue Edwards** Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) Tel: +251-(0)911-200834 website: www.isd.org.et Email: sosena@gmail.com sustaindeveth@gmail.com PO Box 171, Code 1110 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Mobile: +251-(0)911-200834	**NONE**	**Ms. Sue Edwards** Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) Tel: +251-(0)911-200834 website: www.isd.org.et Email: sosena@gmail.com sustaindeveth@gmail.com PO Box 171, Code 1110 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Mobile: +251-(0)911-200834	**Ms. Sue Edwards** Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) Tel: +251-(0)911-200834 website: www.isd.org.et Email: sosena@gmail.com sustaindeveth@gmail.com PO Box 171, Code 1110 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Mobile: +251-(0)911-200834	**NONE**	**NONE**

KENYA	**Sylvester Nzovu** SACDEP KENYA sacdepkenya@iconnect.co.ke	**Pauline Mundia** Biovision Africa Trust Farmer Communication Programme http://www.biovision.ch/en/projects/kenya/outreach/	***Mr. Eustace Gacanja*** *Email:* ekiarii@koan.co.ke *Website:* www.koan.co.ke KOAN *Kenya Organic Agriculture Network* www.koan.co.ke	***Mr. Eustace Gacanja*** *Email:* ekiarii@koan.co.ke *Website:* www.koan.co.ke KOAN *Kenya Organic Agriculture Network* www.koan.co.ke	**Pauline Mundia** Biovision Africa Trust Farmer Communication Programme http://www.biovision.ch/en/projects/kenya/outreach/	**Mr. Zachary Makanya** **Pelum Kenya Association** **Country Coordinator** **makanya@pelum.net**

TANZANIA	**NONE**	**NONE**	**Mr. Jordan Gama** Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) Mobile: +255 787 908 303 Email: toam@kilimohai.org Website: www.africaorganicnetwork.net	**Godson Chengula** **PELUM TANZANIA** **Program Officer (Sustainable Farming Systems)** Participatory Ecological Land Use Management PELUM Tanzania Country Secretariet Plot No. 445, Old Dar es Salaam Road Kigurunyembe Mizambarauni P.O. Box 390, Morogoro, Tanzania Tel/Fax: +255 23 2613677 Mobile: +255 687 966 134 Email: chengula@pelumtanzania.org Website: www.pelumtanzania.org	**NONE**	**NONE**

UGANDA	**Mr. Musa Muwanga** National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) Mobile: +256 772 448948 Email: mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug Website: www.nogamu.org.ug	**NONE**	**Mr. Musa Muwanga** National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) Mobile: +256 772 448948 Email: mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug Website: www.nogamu.org.ug	**Stella Grace Lutalo** **PELUM UGANDA** **Country Coordinator** Participatory Ecological Land Use Management **(PELUM) - Uganda** Country Secretariat Plot 155, Kira Road, Kamwokya - Kampala P.O.Box 35804, Kampala - Uganda Off Tel: +256414533973 Mobile tel: +256772580282 Email: stellalutalo@pelumuganda.org; pelumuganda@yahoo.com www.pelumuganda.org; www.facebook.com/pelum.uganda	**NONE**	**NONE**

ANNEX 5: CATALOGUE OF EOA REPORTS (2012-2015)

No	Author	Title	SUBJECT	Year
1	TOAM	SSNC TOAM ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
2	NOAN	SSNC NOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
3	ISD	SSNC ISD ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
4	BVAT	SSNC BVAT ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
5	KOAN	SSNC KOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
6	SACDEP	SSNC SACDEPANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
7	NOGAMU	SSNC NOGAMU ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
8	PELUM UGANDA	SSNC PELUM UGANDA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
9	PELUM KENYA	SSNC PELUM KENYA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2012
10	ISD	SSNC ISD MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
11	BVAT	SSNC BVAT MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
12	KOAN	SSNC KOAN MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
13	SACDEP	SSNC SACDEPMID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
14	NOGAMU	SSNC NOGAMU MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
15	PELUM UGANDA	SSNC PELUM UGANDA MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
16	PELUM KENYA	SSNC PELUM KENYA MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2013
17	BvAT	Report of Base Line Studies in West Africa	Donor reports	2013
18	ISD	SSNC ISD ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
19	BVAT	SSNC BVAT ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
20	KOAN	SSNC KOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
21	SACDEP	SSNC SACDEPANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
22	NOGAMU	SSNC NOGAMU ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
23	PELUM UGANDA	SSNC PELUM UGANDA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
24	PELUM KENYA	SSNC PELUM KENYA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2013
25	BvAT	Report of Base Line Studies in West Africa	Donor reports	2013
26	ISD	SSNC ISD ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
27	BVAT	SSNC BVAT ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
28	KOAN	SSNC KOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
29	SACDEP	SSNC SACDEPANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
30	NOGAMU	SSNC NOGAMU ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
31	PELUM UGANDA	SSNC PELUM UGANDA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014

32	PELUM KENYA	SSNC PELUM KENYA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
33	ISD	SSNC ISD ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
34	BVAT	SSNC BVAT ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
35	KOAN	SSNC KOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
36	SACDEP	SSNC SACDEPANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
37	NOGAMU	SSNC NOGAMU ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
38	PELUM UGANDA	SSNC PELUM UGANDA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
39	PELUM KENYA	SSNC PELUM KENYA ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
40	BvAT	SDC PARTNERS CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2014
41	KOAN	SDC KOAN MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
42	ISD	SDC ISD MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
43	NOGAMU	SDC NOGAMU MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
44	TOAM	SDC TOAM MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
45	AFRONET	SDC AFRONET MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
46	OBEPAB	SDC OPEBAB MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
47	NOAN	SDC NOAN MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
48	FENAB	SDC FENAB MID TERM REPORT	Donor reports	2015
49	KOAN	SDC KOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
50	ISD	SDC ISD ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
51	NOGAMU	SDC NOGAMU ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
52	TOAM	SDC TOAM ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
53	AFRONET	SDC AFRONET ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
54	OBEPAB	SDC OBEPAB ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
55	NOAN	SDC NOAN ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
56	FENAB	SDC FENAB ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
57	BvAT	SDC CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT	Donor reports	2015
58	Ternstrom Consulting AB	Review of SSNC contribution to Ecologic Organic Agriculture Initiative in Eastern Africa	End Term review report	2015
59	BvAT&SACDEP	EOA CURRICULA REVIEW SHARING WORKSHOP	Workshop report	2012
60	Dr. Agnes Oywaya-Nkurumwa, Dr. Justus M. Ombati, and Dr. Margaret W. Ngigi	A Review of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Curricula used in Training and Research Institutions in Kenya	Activity report	2013

61	BvAT	REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (EOA) INITIATIVE IN AFRICA	Meeting report	2013
62	BvAT	Action Plan for EOA Initiative	Workshop report	2015
63	BvAT	Strategic Plan for EOA Initiative	Workshop report	2015
64	PELUM Kenya	EOA Evaluation report Ethiopia	Evaluation report	2015
65	PELUM Kenya	EOA Evaluation report Kenya	Evaluation report	2015
66	PELUM Kenya	EOA Evaluation report Uganda	Evaluation report	2015
67	PELUM Kenya	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional meeting on Agro-ecology in Sub Saharan Africa	Conference report	2015
68	PELUM Kenya	Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines report	Workshop report	2015
69	PELUM Kenya	Leadership and Governance report	Workshop report	2015
70	BvAT	Strategic Plan Development Workshop report	Workshop report	2015
71	KOAN	Kenya Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
72	ISD	Ethiopia Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
73	NOGAMU	Uganda Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
74	TOAM	Tanzania Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
75	OBEPAB	Benin Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
76	NOAN	Nigeria Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
77	FENAB	Senegal Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014
78	MOBIOM	Mali Inception Workshop report	Workshop report	2014