



2021

EOA-I Annual Report

Reporting on the EOA Initiative with contribution from
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

By the Lead Coordinating Agency and Secretariat to the
EOA-I Continental Steering Committee

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFD	French Development Agency
AOPP	Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes du Mali
ATPS	African Technology Policy Studies Network
BDS	Business Development Services
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CLO	Country Lead Organisation
CNCR	Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux
CSC	Continental Steering Committee
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
EAC	East Africa Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FMSS	Farmer Managed Seed Systems
GIZ	The German Society for International Cooperation (or Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
IIABA	Institutional Innovations of Organic Agriculture in Africa
ISD	Institute for Sustainable Development
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
NOAN	The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria
NOGAMU	National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
NSC	National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PIP	Pillar Implementing Partner
PMU	Project Management Unit
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
TOAM	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement



SECTION 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 2021 annual report relates to Phase II of the project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributing to the initiative titled: Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa. This is a continental effort implemented under the guidance and oversight of the African Union (AU) through the committee it chairs, the Continental Steering Committee (CSC). The initiative aims to establish an African organic platform, based on available best practices and to develop sustainable organic farming systems. The report provides key accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations following project implementation in 9 countries namely, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, and Mali.

At the continental level, the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) with support of the AUC to the mainstreaming of EOA-I into agricultural systems was further strengthened following the development of EOA-I indicators and co-option into the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review and Reporting (BRR) framework which showcases Member States' performance against the set indicators. This is an important strategic entry level into the framework for the EOA-I given that the BRR gauges implementation of the AU Malabo Commitments by the Member States geared towards the transformation of agriculture and sustainable development on the African continent.

Since inception of EOA-I Phase II in 2019 to date, **97,942,00** farmers have adopted EOA-I farming practices against a target of 200,000 by end of the project in March 2023:

Disaggregation by gender	2019 figures and percentages	2020 figures and percentages	2021 figures and percentages	Total cumulative results
Male	7,647 (63%)	11,986 (62%)	20,196 (46%)	39,829 (53%)
Female	4,578 (37%)	7,208 (38%)	24,174 (54%)	35,960 (47%)
Youth	8,149 (67%)	8,373 (44%)	5,631 (13%)	22,153 (29%)
Totals	20,374.00	27,567.00	50,001.00	97,942.00

In 2021, at the country level 50,001 farmers (M 20,196, F 24,174, and Y 5,631) were reported to have adopted EOA practices against a target of 50,000, an 113% target achievement. Additionally, 40 types of EOA technologies and practices were generated and availed to farmers and other value chain actors, showing a 160% target achievement.

Over forty (47) knowledge products were produced and disseminated through various channels including radio programmes, YouTube programmes, farmer guides, social media, and websites. This represented a progress target achievement of 130%.

Farmers engaging in the markets continued to grow with 4,432 farmers reported to have been engaged against a target of 6,000 for the year. This showed a progress target achievement of 73%.

Seven Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups were established during the year, a higher achievement compared to the set target of 4 in the reporting year, translating to a 175% achievement. Various organic products underwent value addition leading to 14 products to the yearly target of 4, an impressive achievement of 350%.

Despite the long Covid break of 2020 all the participating countries held 2 National platform meetings for planning, experience sharing, advocacy and policy development. At the regional level, the 2 active regional platforms of West and Eastern Africa held at least 2 meetings each while at the continental level the AU-led CSC held 2 meetings. The various meetings catalyzed the development of EOA in the sector. In this regard, the FMSS cluster of the CSC developed a road map that was approved by the AUC structures. At the country level, Uganda kicked off the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) through the development of the bill and resources allocation.







SECTION 2

**PROJECT
BACKGROUND**

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) is an outcome of deliberations and support to implement the African Union Heads of State and Governments Decision on Organic Farming adopted during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011(EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII)). The initiative started in 2011 with support from the African Union, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

The Initiative has a mission to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders involved in production, processing, marketing, and policy making to improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty, guarantee food security, and safeguard the environment. Its implementation strategy aiming to mainstream EOA in policies and practices, adopts a multi-stakeholder managed national platforms informed by scientific evidence and local experiential knowledge and supported by capacity development of the various stakeholder groups, information & communication efforts and strategic actions linked to regional and continental policy making bodies.

The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

Specific objectives to which the partner activities are supposed to contribute:

1. To avail information and knowledge needed by EOA value chain actors through demand-driven, multi-disciplinary, gender sensitive, participatory research, and repositories.
2. To enhance adoption of EOA technologies and practices through systematic dissemination of research and experience-based information, knowledge, and training of value chain actors.
3. To substantially increase share of quality organic products at local, national, regional, and international markets through value chain development and market strengthening; and
4. To enhance structured management and governance of EOA through coordination, networking, advocacy, multi stakeholder platforms and capacity building leading to positive changes in agricultural systems in Africa.

The initiative supports holistic production systems that sustain the health of soils, ecosystems, and people by drawing on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions and not systems that depend external inputs with adverse effects on people's total health (human, animal, plant and environmental).

Under the SDC support the Initiative is anchored on four separate but interrelated pillars, namely:

1. Pillar 1: Research and Applied Knowledge (R&AK)
2. Pillar 2: Information, Communication and Extension (IC&E)
3. Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD)
4. Pillar 4: Supporting and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management



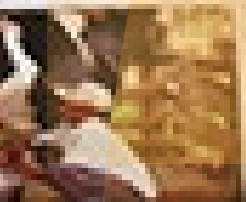




SECTION 3

**COORDINATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF
EOA-I**

Organic Farmer



PLAYER.

3. COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EOA-I

Overall Oversight

The initiative is implemented under the oversight of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by African Union, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE). Dr. Simplicie Noulala, Head of Division Agriculture and Food Security at Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture African Union Commission is the current Chair.

The role of the CSC is to provide guidance, oversight, and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA in Africa. The CSC is supported by a Secretariat hosted by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) as mandated by AUC and anchored in an MOU that outlines the roles of both institutions.

Overall Project Coordination

BvAT is the Lead Agency responsible for coordinating the implementation of EOA Initiative with SDC's contribution in five countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia) and four in Western Africa (Benin, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal). The EOA Initiative is also supported by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). PELUM Kenya, a member-based organization operating from Thika, Kenya, is responsible for supporting SSNC in coordinating the implementation of the initiative among partners in three countries in Eastern Africa (Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia).

The Africa EOA Continental Platform

The EOA continental platform provides the opportunity for networking and sharing among the stakeholders of the EOA-I. It's supported by the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) and AfroNet. The CSC is the apex in the governance structure of EOA in Africa. The CSC members are appointed to serve on behalf of their institutions and not as individuals and agree to represent the general interests of their sector. The Continental Secretariat with guidance of the Chair successfully held two meetings this year.

Regional Platform

The project is coordinated by Regional Platforms steered by Regional Steering Committees (RSC) and their secretariats to facilitate sharing of country experiences and integrating EOA in regional policies and plans. The initiative currently has two active clusters, the Eastern Africa cluster, and

West Africa cluster. The Southern Africa cluster is in place, but it's not very much actively involved because of lack of financial support. The role of the regional clusters is to coordinate regional actors to implement the EOA agenda, engage with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to integrate EOA in regional and national policy and programs, mobilize resources to support EOA activities and develop rules of procedures and operations in the cluster management.

The steering committee of the Eastern Africa cluster is currently chaired by the East Africa Community (EAC) with co-chairing provided by Mr. Innocent Bisangwa of MINAGRI, Rwanda. The Eastern Africa RSC meeting has representation by 20 members from partners in Ethiopia (ISD), Uganda (Pelum Uganda), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN), BvAT and PELUM Kenya and IGAD Ethiopia and AfroNet. The West Africa Cluster is chaired by Mr. Ernest Aube of ECOWAS with co-chairing by Prof. Simplicie Vodouhe of Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB) while The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) is the Regional Secretariat for West Africa. Members of West Africa cluster include but are not limited to Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Mali and their National Platforms.

National Platforms

At the National level of implementation, the initiative is coordinated by the Country Lead Organisations (CLOs) and supported by Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs). The CLOs are responsible for coordination of pillar activity implementation by the PIPs and partners, disbursement of funds to the partners as per the proposal and signed work agreements, budgets and contracts, supervision and monitoring of pillar implementation, supporting building of networks and enabling experience sharing across pillars, catalysing the process of forming and strengthening National Platforms and reporting to National Platforms, Regional Steering Committee and Development partners.

The project currently has 9 consortia led by Country Lead Organisations (CLOs). The CLOs can be any organization supporting agroecology-based interventions and currently majority are national stakeholder movements and networks in the organic sector. The CLOs coordinate between 3 and 4 PIPs in each country bringing the total number of PIPs across the two Africa regions to 35-36.

AfrONet

AfrONet is a membership Network that draws members from national, regional, and continental organic agriculture organizations, associations, networks, and companies in Africa. It undertakes the following functions as per its constitution.

- Unite and network organic agriculture actors and stakeholders across the continent.
- Undertake lobby and advocacy at high levels.
- Support capacity building for key players in organic agriculture across the continent.
- Mobilize resources for its endeavors in promoting organic agriculture on the continent.
- Provide management and administrative consultancy to like-minded programs and partners.
- Undertake any other functions as deemed necessary to address the course and objectives of EOA.

These functions are mostly conducted, as much as possible, by pooling and making use of members' own human, financial and technical resources. AfroNet continues to receive support from SDC to establish its structures of operations. It has also started receiving support from other partners including AFD, that is supporting the Institutional Innovations of Organic Agriculture in Africa (IIABA) project for a period of three and a half years (2020-2023) to accelerate the development of organic agriculture in Africa.



SECTION 4

**RESULTS
ACHIEVED IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION
PERIOD**

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

The results achieved during the year 2021 were captured in line with the following outcomes (Annex 1: Updated EOA Log frame as at end of 2021)

- Outcome 1: EOA technologies, practices and systems developed.
- Outcome 2: Adoption of EOA practices by value chain actors enhanced
- Outcome 3: Share of EOA products increased at the domestic and export markets
- Outcome 4: Structured management of EOA enhanced through coordination, networking, advocacy, multi-stakeholder platforms and capacity building

4.1 Consortia Partner Performance Across the Strategic Pillars

Consortia Partner Performance

The pillars performed within the project targets during the implementation period (Table 1). This indicates that the project is on track in achieving its targets with some of the activities. Some of showing deficits were carried forward to 2022 thus delaying attainment of 100% rate of achievement.

Table 1: Level of Pillar Target Achievement by Partners

Pillars of the EOA Initiative	Level of Performance
Pillar 1-Research and applied knowledge	64%
Pillar 2- Information Communication & Extension	67%
Pillar 3- Value Chain and Market Development	75%
Pillar 4- Steering Coordination and Management	67%

Pillar 1 Country Performance

The graph below shows the performance across the countries on Pillar 1. The results expected included an increase in 6 EOA practices and technologies. Six consortia of partners in Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, and Benin achieved the set targets for the year. Kenya achieved 70% of the set targets on the project outcomes while the rest of the countries reported progress towards achievement of expected results (see Figure 1). Ethiopia performed dismally due to the civil war taking place in the country. Rwanda experienced country lock downs that delayed overall implementation of activities. In Tanzania, BvAT delayed release of funds and prioritized a capacity risk assessment for TOAM the CLO, consequently affecting project implementation.

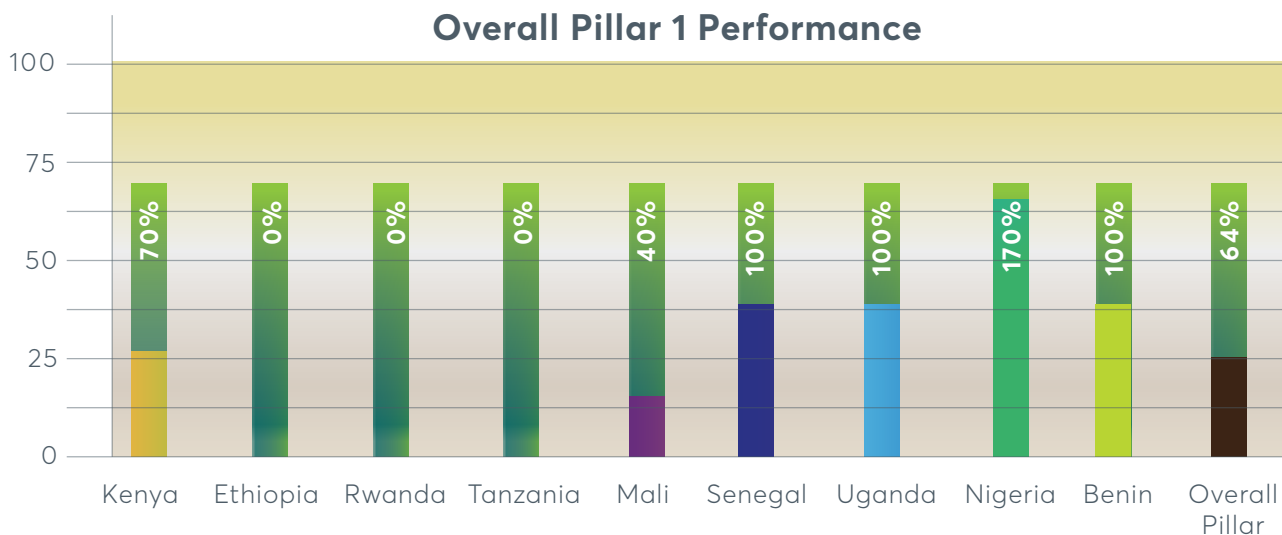


Figure 1: Overall pillar 1 performance

Pillar 2 Country Performance

Figure 2 below shows the partner performance (target achievement) across the countries on pillar 2. The results expected included 50,000 increases in farmers practicing EOA, 25,000 value chain actors supporting EOA practices and 6 EOA practices adopted. Project partners in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali, and Benin achieved the set targets for the year. Nigeria achieved 66% of the set targets while the rest of the countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, Senegal, and Uganda reported ongoing activities towards achievement of results. Rwanda experienced country lock downs that delayed overall implementation of activities. In Tanzania, BvAT delayed the release of funds and prioritized a capacity risk assessment for TOAM. In Senegal, there were delays from the CLO in having sub-grantees sign contracts and releasing funds to partners and this delayed achievement of pillar results.

Overall Pillar 2 Performance

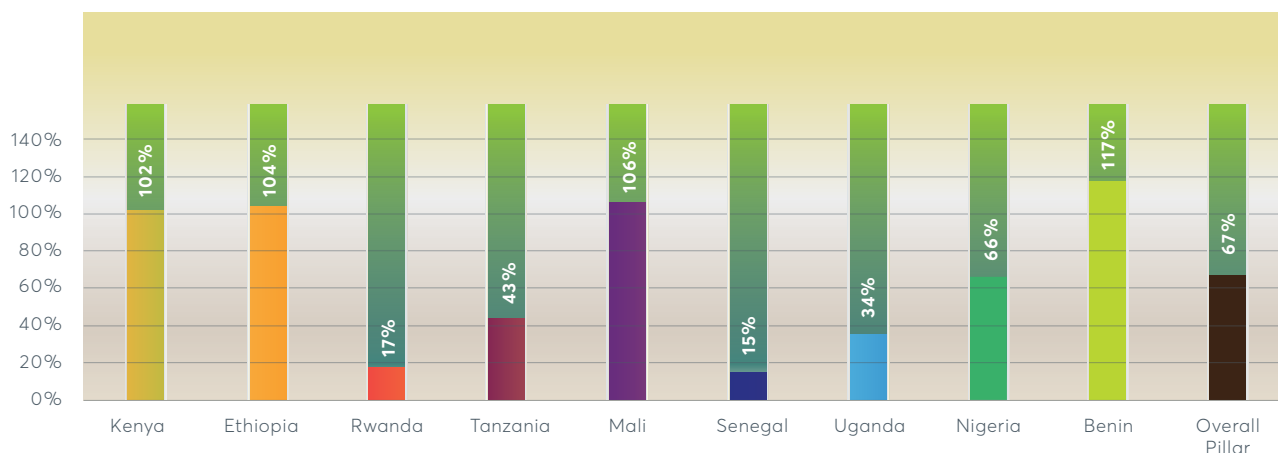


Figure 2: Overall pillar 2 performance

Pillar 3 Country Performance

The graph (Figure 3) below shows the overall performance (target achievement) across the countries on pillar 3. The results expected included 10% increase in share of organic products, 20% increase in organic inputs, and 20% increase in income of EOA farmers. Two partner countries of Mali and Senegal achieved the set targets for the year while 6 countries did exemplary well. Rwanda experienced country lock downs that delayed overall implementation of activities.

Overall Pillar 3 Performance

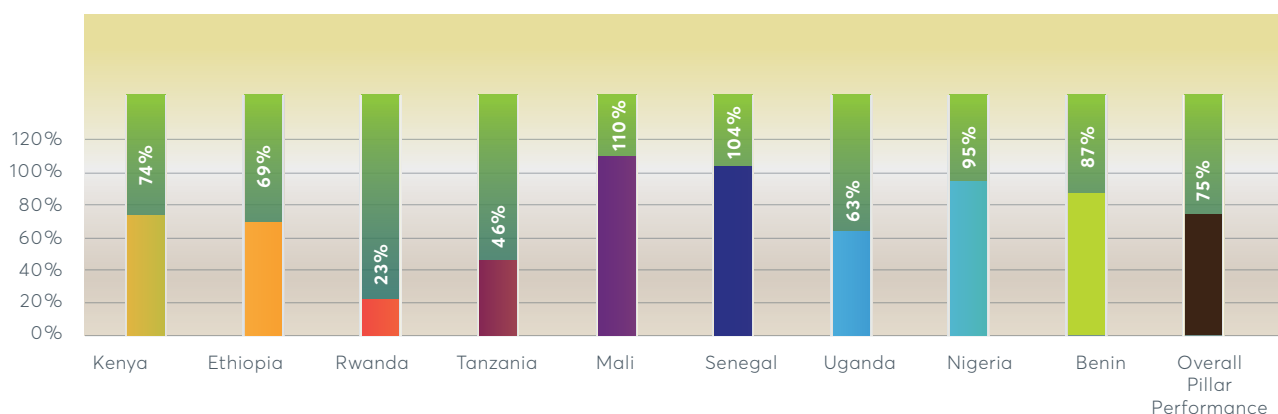


Figure 3: Overall pillar 3 performance

Pillar 4 Country Performance

The target performance across the countries on pillar 4 are presented in Figure 4. The results expected included 80% increase in governance, EOA practices implemented in the CAADP, and 50% increase in technical capacities. Seven partner countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Benin, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Senegal, and Uganda achieved the set targets for the year while Tanzania and Mali performed dismally. In Tanzania, BvAT delayed the release of funds and prioritized a capacity risk assessment for TOAM. As with the other pillars, this delayed release of funds for onset of activities while in Senegal, there were delays from the CLO in signing and releasing funds to partners. In Mali, the transition and handover from MOA representative in the coordination of policy and advocacy actives slowed down implementation. However, by the time of reporting, the 2 countries had reported ongoing activities.

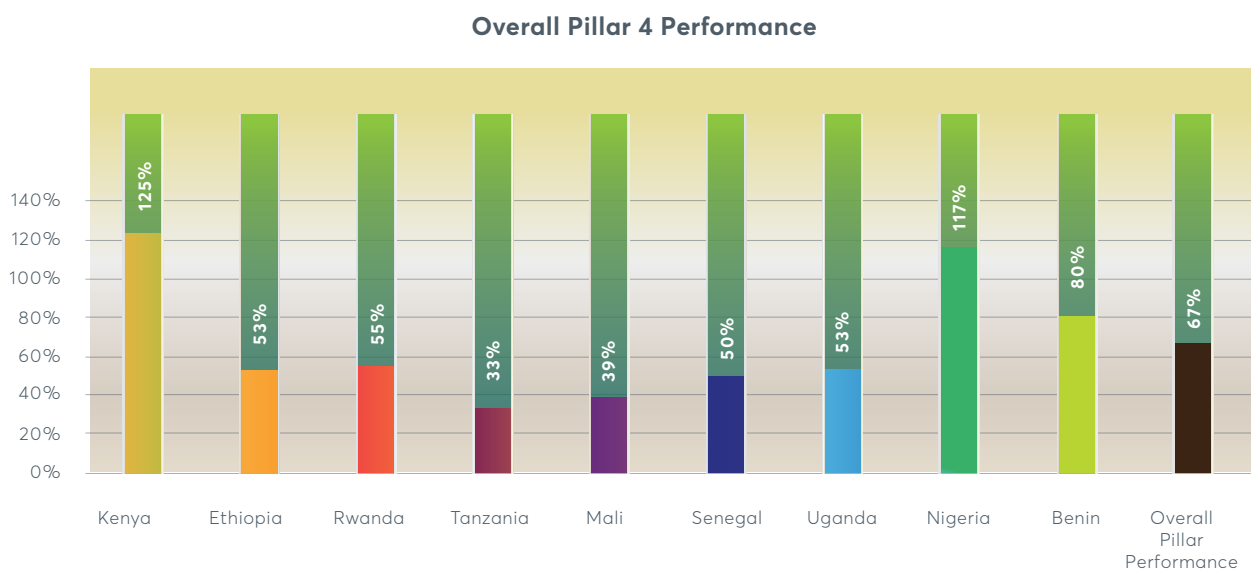


Figure 4: Overall pillar 4 performance

4.2 Coordination, Steering, Management and Networking

4.2.1 AU LED EOA-I Continental Steering Committee Secretariat

The Secretariat successfully facilitated two Continental Steering Committee (CSC) meetings that reviewed progress of the EOA agenda, attended to emerging issues and made recommendations on various issues. The two meetings were held in June and December 2021 and came up with various key resolutions and decisions.

The 15th CSC Meeting:

1. EOA-Initiative Strategic Plan (SP) review

- The preparations for the EOA-Initiative's ten-year strategic review should start in 2023.
- The new SP should include strategies on implementation and mainstreaming of EOA into National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs).

2. EOA products dissemination strategy

- Develop a dissemination strategy for EOA products such as study reports, policy briefs and other documents. This to include key events where the materials can be disseminated.

3. Establishment of African Organic Trade Platform (Bio-Trade Africa)

- The process of achieving an African Organic Trade Platform should be linked to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The process to begin with consultations involving the EOA-I Secretariat (CSC Bio-trade TWG), the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and the AfCFTA Secretariat. The Secretariat to draft a concept note which should include a sustainability strategy component.
- The process of the establishment of the platform should be driven by African partners. However, IFOAM Organics International and other international partners can support for benchmarking purposes.

4. Strengthening of National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs)

- AfrONet should be supported in its capacity to strengthen old NOAMs and catalyze the establishment of new NOAMs where they don't exist. International partners such as IFOAM OI can support at a global level, but the process should be led by AfrONet supported by the EOA-I Secretariats and African stakeholders at national, regional, and continental levels. The process should be owned by AfrONet and partners. This will be one strategy of getting EOA into most African countries.

5. Organic shift from niche to common market

- EOA programmes and projects designs should be packaged to present organic agriculture as a viable system enhancing livelihoods, boosting incomes, providing environmental benefits, safety, nutrition, and food sovereignty to farmers. The value chains approach should be adopted.

6. UN Food Systems Summit

- Agri-food systems across the world are changing as countries start to rebuild post Covid-19 pandemic, shifting priorities and associated strategies and policies. EOA partners should participate in national and independent dialogues to ensure that EOA issues are articulated and brought into such dialogues. The UN Food Systems Summit is one of such forums.

The 16th CSC Meeting:

1. Improving project execution and managing risks

- The EOA Initiative should not stop funding partners or countries that seem to experience risks and uncertainties but take measures to mitigate and reduce the risks. The case of Mekelle University responsible for Pillar 1 in Ethiopia caught up in the political unrest and stalling project execution calls for alternative partner to keep the initiative on course in Ethiopia.

2. Strengthen the Farmer Managed Seed Systems Technical Working Group (FMSS TWG)

- The issue of seed is become very important as EOA starts with seed and hence the TWG on FMSS should take the task seriously. The EOA Seed TWG handling this issue has done very well under the Chair of Dr. Sarah Olembo and needs to be strengthened to develop strategy for developing the farmer seed system.

3. Increasing project execution rates and adoption of EOA/Agroecology practices

- The Committee noted that adoption of EOA was slow but appreciated this as a process that takes time. Nevertheless, efforts should be made to increase the number of farmers adopting EOA and the size of farms/land put under EOA.
- The Executing Agency to closely work with partners to address systemic challenges hindering efficient project execution. Re-examination of activities by partners and what BvAT can directly pay could be considered.

4. Preparation of the African Organic Conference (AOC)

- The next AOC should take advantage of the momentum generated in 2022 by various global declarations (e.g., UNFSS) and AU's theme on strengthening the resilience of food security and nutrition in Africa and structure the conference thematic areas accordingly.

5. Monitor Capacity building activities and coach partners

- On building capacity of partners in project implementation, follow up should be made by the institution involved to ensure value from training activities like the Result Based Management (RBM) and desired changes. Online peer learning to be encouraged where successful partners become trainers and coaches for the partners experiencing difficulties or challenges.

6. Strengthen resource mobilization strategies

- The agenda of EOA cannot be advanced without adequate resources to support programmes and governance (institutions), hence the CSC recommended that:
 - The Secretariat to develop a value proposition for the EOAI to be used for resource mobilization by all partners.
 - Resource mobilization by the Secretariat and funding by donors should aim at covering all the 5 political regions of the African continent.
 - Resource mobilization should be approached as a team.

Partnerships established: During the reporting period, 2 key partnerships were established, a main one being between the African Union Commission (AUC) and BvAT over the EOA-I. The partnership mandates the CSC Secretariat to run EOA secretariat activities on behalf of the AUC. Another key partnership was between BvAT and ARSO. The partnership seeks to develop the harmonization of EOA standards in Africa (**Annex 2: BvAT & ARSO MOU**)

EOAI Governance: Some of the key resolutions passed and implemented by the CSC meetings were the need to undertake a Covid pandemic study to compare the resilience of conventional and organic systems to inform policy, the establishment of the BvAT and ARSO partnership for harmonization of EOA continental standards among other key decisions (**Annex 3: CSC Minutes for June 2021; Annex 4: CSC Minutes for December 2021**)

Mainstreaming of EOA into regional governance structures through the RECS led to the establishment of the Central and Northern Africa EOA regional clusters. The Central African States (ECCAS) and Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) govern the clusters. The 2 new regional platforms join already existing eastern and western Africa platforms bringing on board the East Africa Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS). The establishment of regional platforms serves to catalyze the mainstreaming of EOA at the regional. Progress has been noted in the awareness creation for the RECs to support the regional platforms and institutionalize EOA at regional level.

In the reporting period, mainstreaming of EOA at continental level was advanced through the introduction of EOA indicators into the CAADP framework. A report on the AU decision on organic farming was for the first time included in the CAADP Biennial Review Report (BRR). Additionally, the AUC approved the piloting of the proposed EOA indicators in the Member States. The

Continental Secretariat is now fully involved in the CAADP process as the lead for the EOA annex (as a standing report) and co-creator for indicators on the African Common Position on UNFSS (ACP FMSS) outcomes cluster with FAO (**Annex 5: Proposed EOA Indicators for the CAADP BR**)

The CSC TWG on Seed developed the road map on establishment of the FMSS cluster that was endorsed within the structures of the ASBPP. The cluster seeks to ensure increased farmers' participation in the management of traditional seeds and formal recognition within the main seeds policy frameworks at the continental level. (**Annex 6: FMSS Road Map**).

COVID 19 study: The study titled "Organic Versus Conventional Farmer Crisis Responses: Implications under Covid and Russia-Ukraine War" was commissioned by BvAT on behalf of CSC. The study assessed how the various farmers practising organic and conventional agriculture were affected by the pandemic, and how they were responding to it (adaptation). The study covered the five political regions of Africa, three countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia), two in West Africa (Mali and Senegal), two in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe and Zambia), two in Central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon) and two in Northern Africa (Morocco and Egypt).

The study involved interviews with 106 Key Informants drawn from government departments, development partners and donors, 129 KIIs with traders who included wholesalers, transporters, processors, retailers, and exporters and a survey with 620 farmers (75% male and 25% female).

Some of the key results are presented below:

The impact of Covid-19 on farmers' daily lives and their activities connecting to the common food value chains (farm to fork), shifts in consumer demand and incomes: The study revealed that the majority (86%) of the producers, both organic and conventional were significantly affected by the pandemic and the inevitable subsequent government restrictions and public health measures. The impact was significantly ($p < 0.05$), felt by more, 95% conventional producers than organic producers (83%). More women (90%) than men (85%) were more vulnerable to the pandemic.

Impact of pandemic on access to farming support services: 81% conventional and 77% organic producing households were not able to access important farming support services ($p < 0.05$). Only 61% were able to access extension services, with 58% conventional compared to 60% organic facing the challenge. More women (66%), compared to 59% of men reported having challenges accessing extension services. The most affected were households producing crops as reported by 40%, compared to 31% livestock producers. While organic producers have adopted Argo-ecological production practices that rely less on fossil energy (synthetic fertilizers), their conventional counterparts depend on these inputs, which were greatly affected due to disruption of the distribution systems. Increase in input prices was a deterrent to 70% of the producers' ability to access inputs, while 31% were not able to access their preferred inputs due to closure of agro-dealer shops. Post-harvest losses were also accelerated by the impact of COVID19 as reported by 58% of the producers.

Impact of COVID19 on trade: The pandemic affected 90% of the traders dealing in both organic and conventional products. Reduction in orders by customers/consumers was the greatest impact associated with the pandemic as reported by 64% of the traders. Key Informant interviews with traders showed most of them started diversifying their markets and products they manage.

Impact of COVID19 on access to food: 49% of the respondents were not able to meet their monthly food needs between January 2020 and August 2021. Poor access to food affected both sexes in equal measure, with slightly more (69%) women-headed households compared to 57% men headed households. Poor access to food was occasioned by post-harvest losses, inability to access markets, poor access to inputs and reduction in household disposable income. Generally, 87% of the producers reported reduction or loss of income by 40% due to the pandemic. Producers who invested in livestock production reported 47% reduction in income, compared to crop producing households who reported a 41% income reduction ($p > 0.05$).

Impact of Russia-Ukraine war on livelihoods: The advent of COVID19 pandemic in 2020 reversed decades of hard-won macroeconomic, socioeconomic and governance gains in Africa, leading to loss of human life, livelihoods, and incomes. The situation has been worsened by the Russia-Ukraine war. The war has led to suspension of commercial shipping at its ports by Ukraine military, leading to supply disruption from the largest grain and oilseeds exporters. Consequently, the prices of wheat have increased in some countries by 42% in Egypt, 31% in Tunisia, 25% in Nigeria, 24% in Tanzania, and 17% in Kenya. The World Bank estimates that "every percentage point increase in food prices will push 10 million people into extreme poverty." A supply disruption has already led to increase in cost of living in most African countries.

Farmers' response to the pandemic and the implication to food value chains and food security in Africa.

Building resilience through adoption of agro-ecological practices: As part of building resilience against climate change, 31% of the organic producing households compared to 21% conventional, adopting at least 11 agroecological production technologies that do not require synthetic inputs. The use of bio-based fertilizers from the farms enabled organic producers not to travel looking for inputs, reducing the impact of social distancing and closure of input stores.

Access to production support services: Producers devised creative methods of accessing extension services and Agri-information such as using their neighbors, electronic and social media. Digital extension service delivery has been used among farmers providing opportunity to increase yields, incomes, and resilience. Others substituted the input(s) with what is locally available, while others stopped using external inputs completely. Value addition of farm products such as milk into yoghurt and fermented milk was practiced increasing the shelf life.

Reducing the impact of food insecurity: Households adopted different coping strategies to access food. Such included consumption of less amount of food and avoidance of food items which were difficult to obtain.

Increasing competitiveness among traders: Adaptations towards integration of ICT in trade reduced contact between the traders and consumers while making products available to consumers. Product differentiation through targeting new markets and value addition for specific consumers were noted. **(Annex 7: Covid impact study report)**

4.2.2 Executing Agency

Capacity building through trainings



Eastern Africa RMB training workshop issuance of certificates: Photo Credit: Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager

Training of EOA-I partners in Results Based Management (RBM) approaches in M&E and Data Management was undertaken in September and October **(Annex 8: eastern Africa RBM training report; Annex 9: west Africa RBM training report)**. The EOA-I project uses the RBM approach in the implementation of the project. The approach has been internalized largely by all implementing partners. Overall, 50 participants across the regions (Project Managers and M&E officers) were trained.

Outcome of the training

- Partners have been capacitated with competences and technical skills in developing and applying RBM&E tools in their day-to-day project execution and reporting functions
- Partners can use the android-based Kobo Collect tool in data collection and analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).
- Partners have improved competencies in project reporting, adaptive learning, and knowledge management.

Development of a Branding Strategy for EOA

- The process of brand strategy development for the EOA-I commenced in 2021.
- The need for a common branding and communication direction became evident over the decade since inception of the Initiative.
- Brand Identity & Logo elements have been created and guidelines provided for the development of the brand manual and basic brand messaging templates - posters, flyers, e-Shots, e-signatures, power point presentation templates etc. (Annex 10: EOA Branding Strategy development report)

Monitoring and Evaluation of Implementing Partners

- Virtual meetings were held on a quarterly basis with the implementing partners both CLOs and PIPs for the eastern Africa and west Africa.
- 25-30 participants from project technical personnel and financial officers were involved.
- The meetings enhanced several direct and indirect benefits but not limited to the following:
 - Project contracting and expectations across the 9 partner countries.
 - Effective on boarding of new partners in Mali. The partners have come on board effectively and are up to date with project implementation with overall 60% rate of activity implementation.
 - Seven partners were on track in terms of implementation of activities for the reporting period.
 - Clarity of project implementation and tracking of results was enhanced. It is clearer to implementing partners on the country targets and results indicators being tracked in Phase II.
 - Project implementation tools for data collection were finalized and clear with 7 consortia of partners showing 77% improvement in implementation.

Updating the EOA Results Matrix

During the reporting period, the EOA results matrix was revised to consider the status of project implementation at the country level. Various areas across the results indicators for output and outcome level were revised. The partners were involved in the process to provide data and ideas on the revisions and meetings to present the updated results matrix were undertaken **(Annex 11: Updated EOA results matrix)**

EOA Regional Secretariats

During the reporting period, the Eastern and West Africa regional platforms and their secretariats were run successfully. The West Africa Secretariat facilitated the 6th West Africa Organic Conference (WAOC) held in Burkina Faso with a representation of 13 institutions (RECs, private sector, civil society, women organisations, youth organisations and farmer organizations), from different backgrounds and expertise. A total of fifteen (15) participants from EOA-I took part; the 8 Regional Steering Committee members, the CLOs, the Regional Secretariat, and the LOC members to showcase EOA development in West Africa and seek further support. The West African Organic Conference (WAOC) is a biennial initiative of the West Africa Organic Network (WAfrONet) which serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and views on various issues of concern in ecological and organic agriculture.

Another key achievement was the harmonisation of organic West Africa standards. The harmonization of the standards among the 15 ECOWAS Member States will enhance quality trade in certified produce and products in the region. This process was initiated in the 6th WAOC in Burkina Faso **(Annex 12: WA RSC annual report)**

The Eastern Africa Secretariat during the reporting period strengthened the governance structures by electing Mr. Innocent Bisangwa from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda, to co-chair the platform and Mr. Hakim Baliraine from East and South Africa Farmers Forum (EASAFF) to deputize him **(Annex 13: EA RSC annual report).**

4.2.3 AFRONET

During the reporting period, AfrONet supported the strengthening of NOAMS (see Figure 5): So far five (5) NOAMs are directly benefiting from AfrONet's technical support, and these include, NOGAMU from Uganda, TOAM from Tanzania, RECABIO from Democratic of Congo, RIAM and FEMABIO from Morocco.

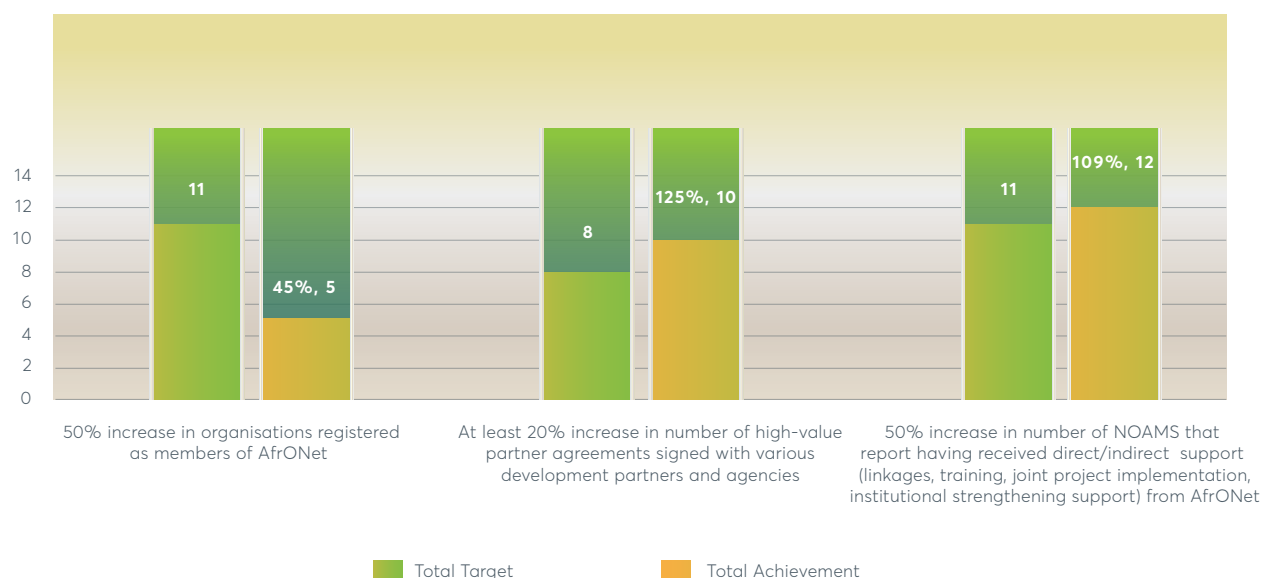


Figure 5: Afronet Performance for 2021 targets

Support to NOGAMU has yielded encouraging results which include revival of UGOCERT for organic certification in Uganda, dissemination of National Organic Agriculture Policy to the public and establishment of weekly organic markets in Entebbe and Kampala in Uganda. Also 3 research institutions are in collaboration with AfrONet and report to AfrONet which include CIRAD and INRAE from Europe and NOARA in Africa.

As part of the extension of the actions of the Congolese network of organic farming RECABIO on national territory, the network has identified new partners in the north Kivu in the territory of Rutchuru. Eight (8) farmers' organizations have signed a partnership with RECABIO, and a strategy is in place to cover the entire country.

Afronet has brought on board Malawi Organic Agriculture Association (MOGA) in Lilongwe Malawi and sensitized the association on the need for policy formulation, good governance, and efficient and effective functioning according to acceptable standards by development partners and donor agencies.

During the reporting period, Afronet continued to strengthen its engagement with NOAM members and reported to having 26 NOAMs as members of AfrONet

4.2.4 Country-Lead Organisations (National EOA Secretariats)

During the reporting period, the CLOs focused on the achievement of the following key results:

- 72 EOA national platform meetings to share lessons, best practices, experiences, and opportunities held.
- 12 different stakeholders from the different institutions (Ministry of Agriculture, private sector, civil society, and farmer organizations), backgrounds and expertise participate in the national platforms organized by the national secretariat annually.
- 9 formal partnership frameworks for the platform stipulating the mode of operation, commitments, and expectations, signed by all the institutions involved.
- Lobbying and advocacy for promotion of EOA undertaken through a guided strategy, workshops, meetings, champions, friendly steering committees of legislature, etc.
- 9 EOA related aspects (by-laws, ordinance, policies, legislation, strategies, plans, programmes) integrated into national policy frameworks.
- 9 EOA related national programs/projects implemented.

In the reporting period, 19 platform meetings were held across the nine implementing countries. The platforms representatives from Policy Institutions, Civil Society Organizations including NGOs/INGOs, Development Partners, including indirect partners working on EOA related matters, Organic consumer organizations, Certification and regulatory agencies, Private sector (inputs

suppliers, finance institutions, processors, and marketers), Government Ministries, and Farmer Organizations/Associations.

In Uganda, the EOA partners converged to roll out National Agroecology Strategy (NAS) planning meetings and the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) district level dissemination meetings. The project has so far supported the EOA policy development in Uganda.

In Tanzania, government's willingness, and support in the development of ecological organic agriculture, EOA was evidenced by its ongoing support (provision of a multidisciplinary team) in the development of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy, NAEOAS, 2022-2027. The Tanzania government facilitated and participated in the Second National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference, NAEOAC conducted in October 2021. The key conference output is the 2021 EOA stakeholders' call for action which spells out aspects relevant to advancing EOA in the country.

In Senegal, the National Ecological and Organic Agriculture conference was held. This important event was organized by the national platform Ecological Organic Agriculture in collaboration with the National Federation for Organic Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER) through the Directorate of Plant Protection (DPP) and the members of pillars of the AEB project. The conference made great mobilization around Ecological and Biological Agriculture to encourage national opinion to raise awareness but also to push the State of Senegal towards a decision-making for the integration of the EOA into the public policies of the State. The theme of the conference was: Sustainable Food and Nutritional Systems: Place of Organic Ecological Agriculture.

In Nigeria, a forum of about 120 participants gathered both physically and virtually for the 2021 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit held at Nigerian Export Promotion Council Headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria, from November 2 - 4, 2021, representing organic agriculture stakeholders from all the geo-political zones of Nigeria, and some other country. The event had in attendance Organic agricultural input supply, crop production, processing, certification and consumers and representatives from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government of Nigeria related to organic agriculture, as well the ECOWAS Commission. The Summit's deliberations centered on "Organic Quality: Guarantee for National Development". Awareness creation in the policy status of EOA in Nigeria was presented in the following various presentations:

- Potentials of policies for development of organic agriculture – Dr. Jelili Adebisi, Michigan State University, USA.
- Organic agriculture policy update in West Africa – Mr. Ernest Aube, Head of Agriculture, ECOWAS Commission.
- Organic Agriculture Policy study in Nigeria - Dr. Olugbenga O. AdeOluwa.

- Presentation of draft Organic Agriculture Policy for Nigeria (Organic Agricultural Policies in Nigeria: Road map towards an all-inclusive Organic Agricultural Policy in Nigeria) – Engr. Tunde Bello – Director, Farm Input Support Services, FMARD).

In other partners countries, partner meetings were held for capacity building, best practices sharing and awareness creation. In the reporting period, 3 national frameworks (policies, plans, strategies) in line with EOA were developed against a yearly target of 2 (See Figure 6). The documents developed included the EOA implementation guidelines in Ethiopia, the) National Organic Agriculture Policy for Nigeria and the National Strategy for Ecological and Organic Production of Benin).

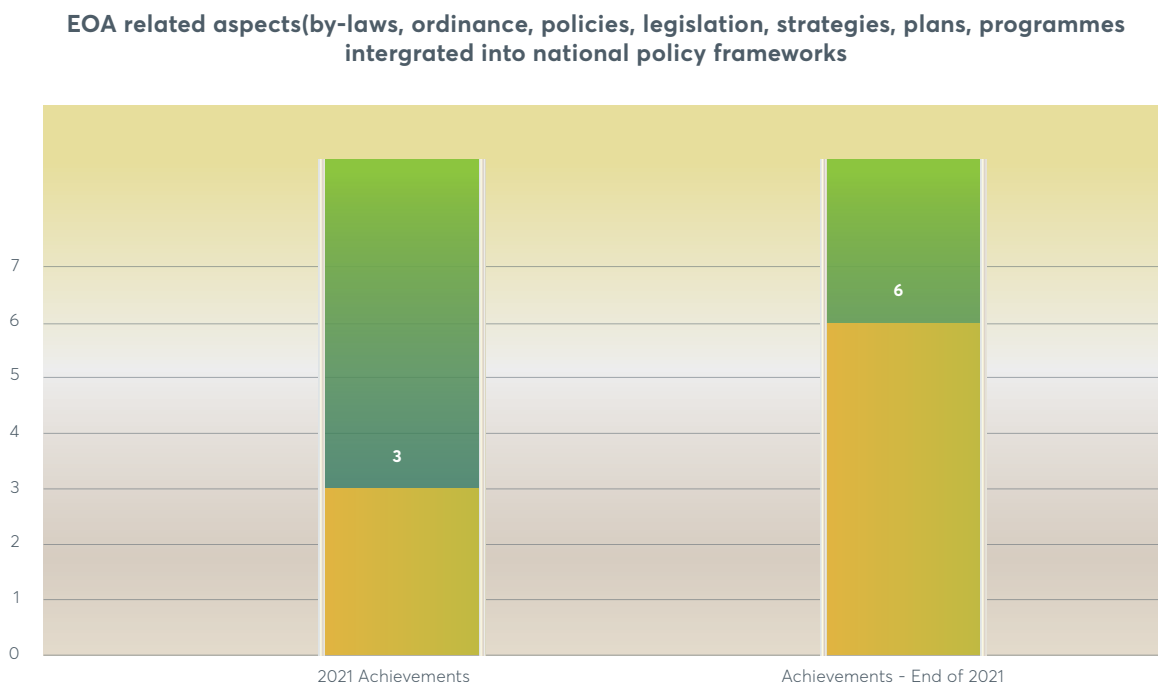


Figure 6: EOA related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks

4.3 EOA Technologies, Practices and Systems Developed

During the reporting period, the information and knowledge on practices and technologies availed were validated using various methods including but not limited to field experiments, demonstrations, workshops, and expert opinions. The practices and technologies developed were used in SDC Project Pillar 2 to implement relevant extension activities that offer knowledge and skills to the EOA value chain actors and bringing to scale the application of information, knowledge, practices, and technologies.

In this Phase, the project focuses on developing at least 25 EOA technologies and practices along the entire value chain in Phase II. In the reporting period, the project targeted to develop at least 5 types of information on EOA technologies, practices and others on various value chains availed

to pillar 2 implementers for promotion. The project surpassed its target to produce 12 types. As per the graph below, in total we have 40 technologies and practices that have been produced.

Figure 7 shows number of information products on EOA technologies, practices, and others.

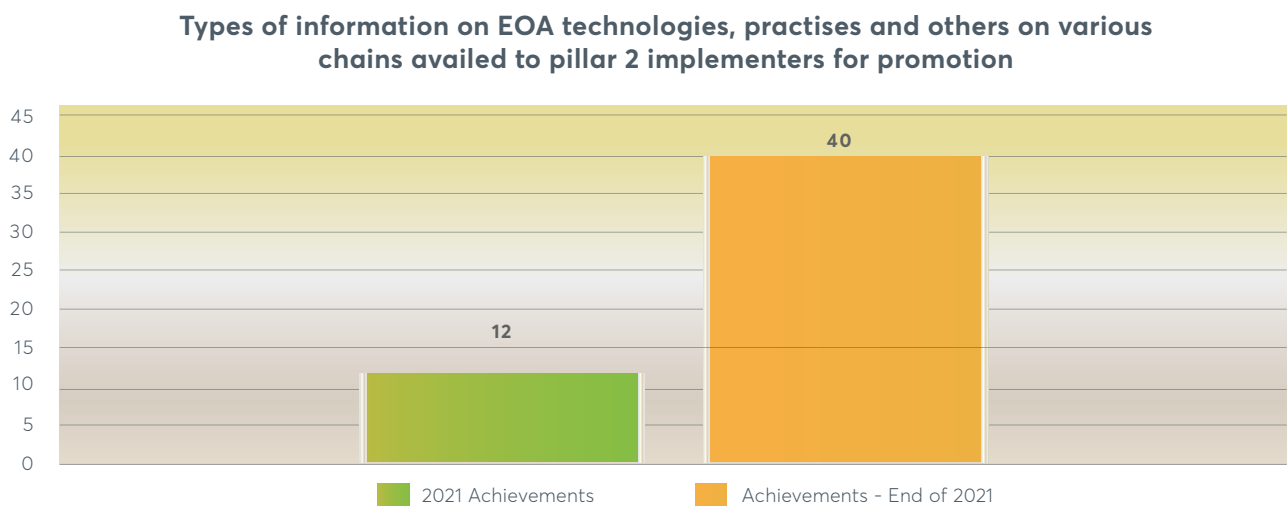


Figure 7: Number of information types on EOA technologies, practices and others availed to pillar 2 implementers for promotion

Activities undertaken by partners in the production of practices and technologies involved undertaking value chain analysis to identify knowledge gaps, needs and priorities of various actors with special focus on women, youth and marginalized groups along selected value chains, undertaking research to generate information and knowledge to address the identified gaps, needs and priorities, assembling information and knowledge from various sources to address the identified knowledge gaps, needs and priorities, validation of the research findings and availing the information for packaging and dissemination.

In Benin, two EOA technologies and practices were availed along the banana / plantain, soybean and organic tomatoes value chains availed. One of the technologies was on quality compost based on crop residues and insect repellent and anti-microbial / fungal Chromolena plant developed to improve the tolerance of banana plants to the fusarium fungus and the tolerance of tomato plants to the microbe Ralstonia. The second technology of 'Tchochokpo' based on palm nut seed residues for the fertilization in organic soybean production.

In Mali, two technologies were developed, one involved improvement of an existing technology around the ploughing system of fonio and sesame using zero tillage practices for fonio and flat ploughing on ridge for sesame. A second technology involved the application of organic manure on micro-dose on sesame.

In Nigeria, the following 7 organic publications in Table 2 were published on African Journal of Organic Agriculture and Ecology thus availing them to the public:

Table 2: Published articles in ecological organic agriculture

Article	Title of manuscript	Score	Area of research focus
Article 12	Efficacy of processing selected dried chips with fermented maize water and lime juice on infestation and damage by <i>Araecerus fasciculatus</i>	73.22	Crop protection
Article 1	Organic manuring effect on soil carbon sequestration under monoculture and perennial systems in tropical rainforest of Nigeria	70.33	Agronomy – soil
Article 9	Organic skin-care cosmetics use and buying behaviour of women in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria	70.00	Extension
Article 8	Effect of biochar enriched with poultry manure on nutrient uptake and soil nutrient changes in <i>Amaranthus Caudatus</i>	68.78	Agronomy – crop
Article 11	Weed management, soil physico-chemical properties and growth response of hot yellow pepper (<i>Capsicum Chinense</i> n.) as influenced by different organic mulches	68.78	Agronomy – crop
Article 2	The residual and carbon sequestration potentials of an accelerated compost in two soil types	67.89	Agronomy – soil
Article 7	Constraints to the organic production of spices and vegetables in Ekiti state, Nigeria	66.00	Agronomy – crop

In the eastern Africa countries of Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania, the process of knowledge generation was still ongoing and not finalized.

Country analysis as per graphical presentation in Figure 8 below shows that 7 countries were progressing well in availing EOA technologies and practices while 2 countries (Rwanda and Ethiopia) were lagging. Rwanda experienced total Covid 19 country lock downs from 2020 to 2021 and this greatly affected the implementation of the project. In Ethiopia, the civil war in Northern parts of the country where Mekelle University in charge of Pillar 1 is located derailed delivery of results for Pillar 1.

At least 25 types of information on EOA technologies, practices and others on various value chains availed to pillar 2 implementers for promotion

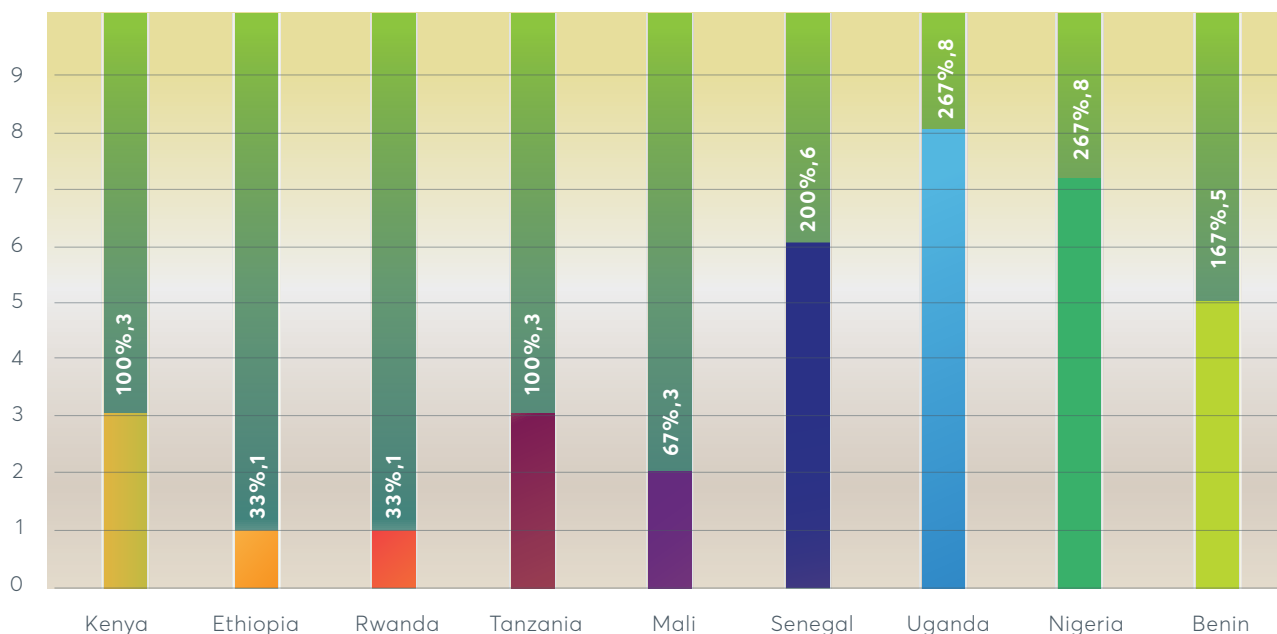


Figure 8. Types of information on EOA technologies, practices and others on various value chains availed to pillar 2 implementers for promotion.

4.3.1 Adoption Of EOA Practices By Value Chain Actors Enhanced

The cumulative achievements as per the graph below show good progress in the set target areas for outcome 2 of the results framework.

%Achievement progress by end of 2021

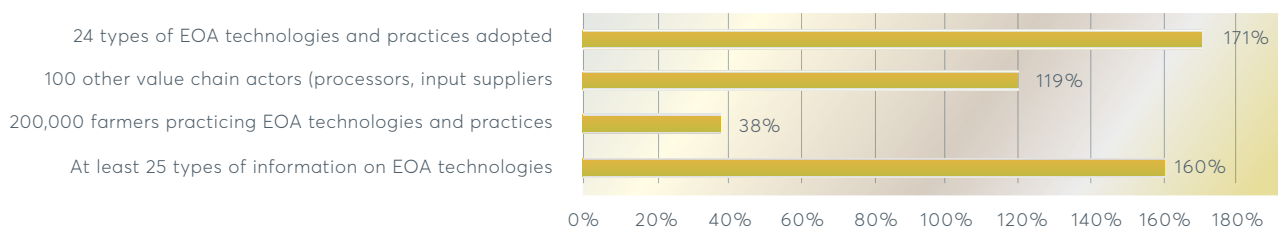


Figure 9. Information, Communication and Extension results for 2021

Country analysis all the countries have not met 50% rate of farmers adoption to EOA-I. The trend as per figure 10 below shows that better strategies need to be put in place to support farmers adoption by undertaking the following:

1. Undertake an analysis in the 9 partner countries the challenges that farmers are facing to slow down adoption
2. Make recommendations on strategies to put in place to ensure that 'adoption' targets are back on track.

200,000 Farmers practicing EOA technologies and practices (adoption)

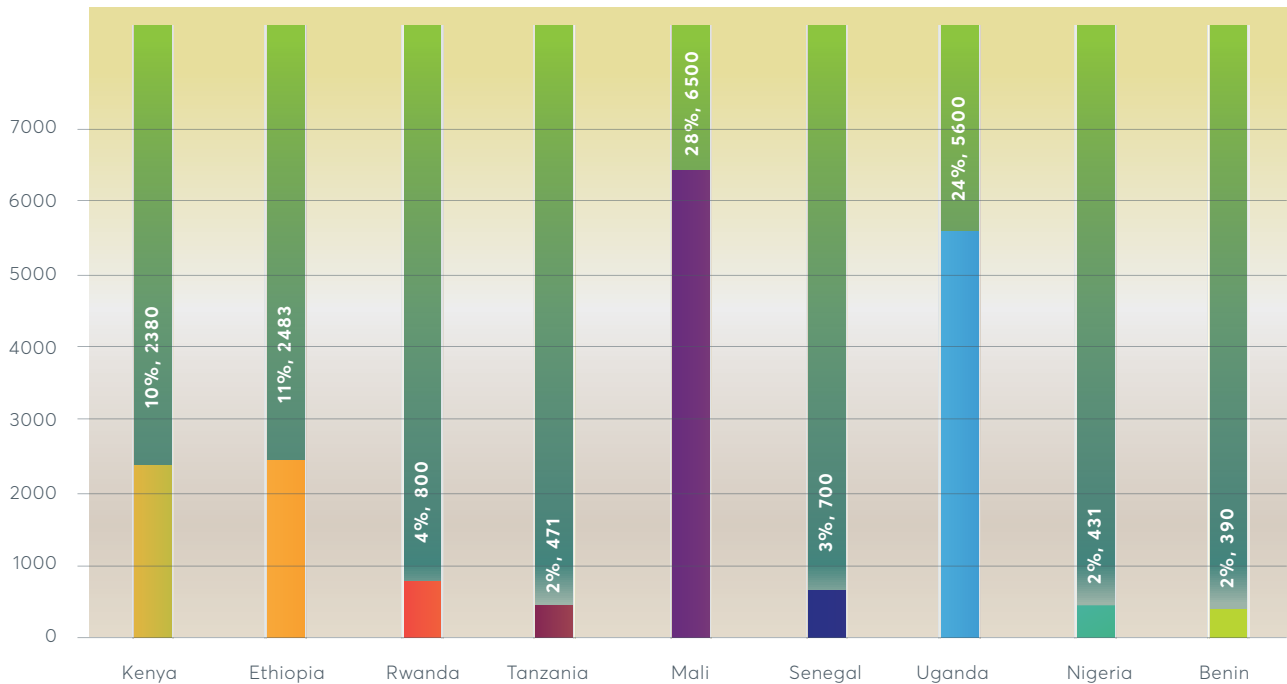


Figure 10: Farmers practicing EOA technologies and practices (adoption)

4.3.2 Number of Farmers Practicing EOA Technologies and Practices Disaggregated By Gender And Age

In the reporting period, 50,001 farmers (**M 20,196, F 24,174, and Y 5,631**) were reported to have adopted to EOA practices against a target of 50,000 bringing the adoption rates to 113% (See Figure 11).

**200,000 Farmers practicing EOA technologies and practices (adoption)
disaggregated by gender and age**

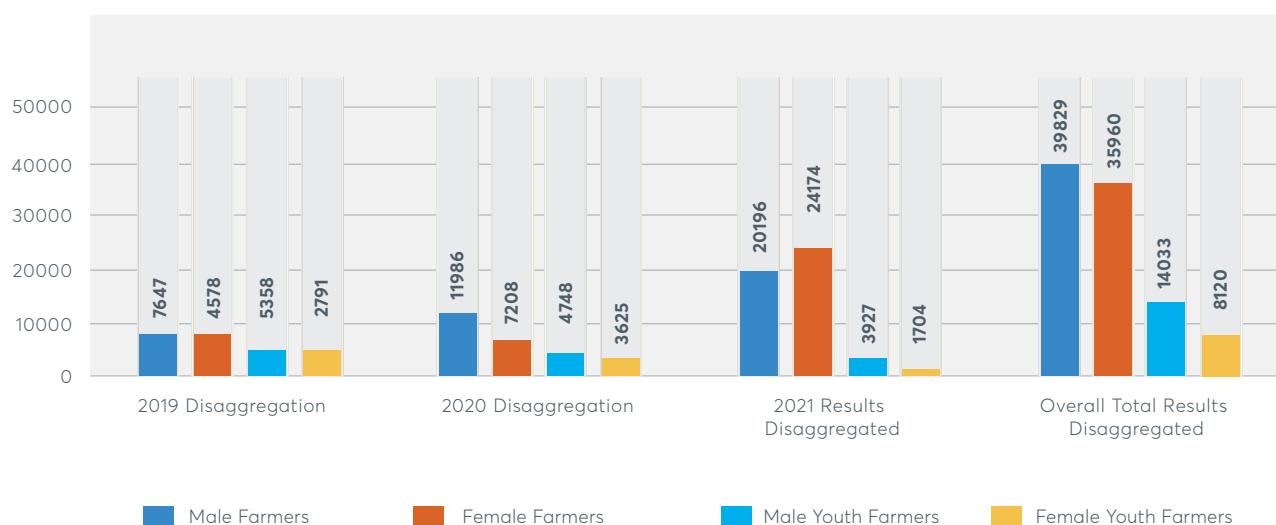


Figure 11: Number of farmers who have adopted EOA practices

4.3.3 Other Value Chain Actors (Processors, Input Suppliers, Traders, Etc.) Supporting Various Elements of EOA Practices

The project is focusing on ensuring that other value chain actors come on board to support farmers. The target for the phase is 100 value chain actors effectively adopting various EOA practices. During the reporting period, the target was 25 with 49 reported as having adopted exceeding the set yearly target by 196% (Table 3).

Table 3: Number of value chain actors practicing EOA

Farmers	Numbers achieved	Level of Percent achievement
Processors	1	4%
Input suppliers	6	24%
Traders	14	56%
Policy makers	28	112%
Totals	49	196%

Policy makers were the highest in supporting EOA practices while traders were second best. Processors were the least group in terms of supporting EOA.

In spite the overall target being surpassed at 196%, specific value chain actors practicing EOA especially processors and input suppliers performed minimally. Processors were at 4% while input suppliers were at 24%. Most farm produce were directly delivered the markets by farmers and

transporters with little engagement of processors especially value addition processors. The project in 2021 introduced value addition to some of the value chain products and this will show more involvement of processors as expected. Farmers are encouraged to use locally available materials like neem, pepper, moringa and manure to manage soil fertility, pests, and diseases. This approach reduced the chances of engaging input suppliers as targeted. Going forward, the project will encourage partners to intentionally plan and engage input suppliers.

4.3.4 Types of EOA Technologies and Practices Adopted

The project continued to generate EOA practices and technologies for adoption by farmers. During the reporting period, some of the technologies promoted for adoption were Incorporation of farm residue, mulching, Cover crops, Use of farmyard manure, Crop rotation, Intercropping, Green manure, Green fallow period, Animal manure, Crop rotation, Nitrogen fixing plants, Water conservation, correction of soil pH, compost, push pull, zero tillage, soil testing, bio-slurry, Liming, Cover crops, Certification, Processing, Post-harvest loss management, and Push-Pull technologies.

The project targets 24 types of technologies to be adopted in this Phase. During the reporting period, adoption was reported at 38% (refer to sub-chapter 2.1).

In 2021, 9 EOA practices were adopted against the yearly target of 6, indicating a percentage achievement of 150% (See Figure 12). Some of the organic/ sustainable agriculture practices adopted included the following:

- Green manuring
- Making biochar
- Use of anthill mound soil
- Drip irrigation
- Biofertilizer potential and the allelopathic property (insect repellent effect) of banana weeds *Boheravia diffusa* (Nyctaginaceae) + *Croton hirtus* (Euphorbiaceae) + *Chromolaena odorata* (Asteraceae) in organic banana fertilization.

Country analysis as per figure 12 shows that all partners are doing well and on track in terms of availing technologies and practices for adoption by value chain actors. However, from the numbers that have been reported of farmers that have adopted technologies and practices being at 38%, suggests the need to reach more farmers to put into use available EOA practices and technologies.

24 types of EOA technologies and practices adopted

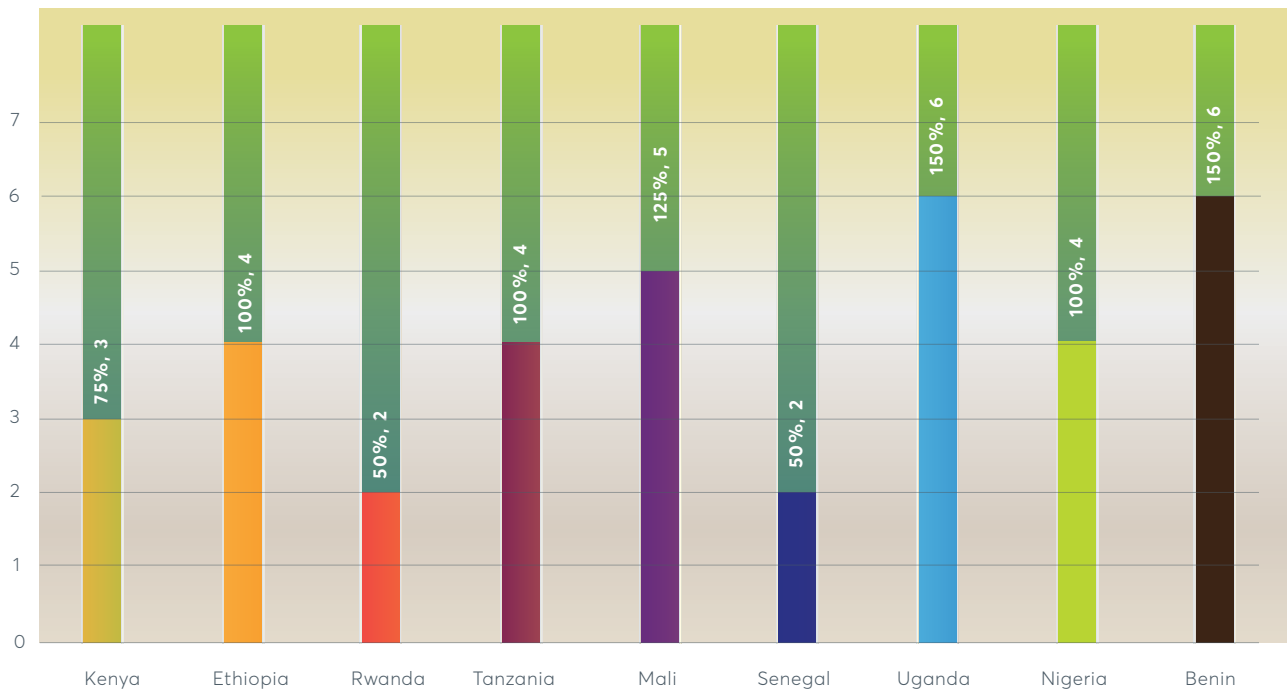


Figure 12: Types of EOA technologies and practices adopted

4.4 Share of EOA Products at the Domestic and Export Markets



Kilimohai branded fresh organic products in a supermarket in Tanzania: Photo Credit: Venancia Wambua EOA-I Project Manager

This project presents the greatest opportunity for making a difference in the outcomes of the EOA-Initiative. The value chain approach has enabled EOA partners to optimize achievement by focusing on selected commodity value chains in common regions and with greater pillar synergy and coherence through joint planning and implementation. Besides, the project has employed the market systems development (MSD) approach to address systemic failures in the EOA sector market and ensure stronger participation by small-scale organic farmers to enhance production, incomes, food, and nutrition security. The strategy has enhanced access to business support services and market intelligence including the 4Ps (products, prices, places, and promotion) to EOA value chain actors.

During the reporting period, 7,651 farmers and 1,162 other value chain actors were linked to a range of business development services (BDS) as indicated in the **table 4 below**:

Training and technical assistance, Input Supplies, Advisory services, Marketing linkages, infrastructure services, Business linkages , technology and Product development support, Financial Services, Farmer Coordination, Certification and standards Support, Policy and Advocacy, Transport and Delivery, Capacity enhancement of Input suppliers to supply quality products, Storage and Warehousing, Linking SMES to Input Suppliers, Business plans development, Mentoring, Analysis of Policy Constraints and Opportunities, Linking Framers/ MSMEs and technology and suppliers.

Table 4: Number of value chain actors linked to Business Development Services (BDS)

Target Categories	Numbers achieved 2021	2021 Targets	Percentages achieved
Male farmers	4,945 (youth 1,934)	15,300	50%
Female farmers	2,706 (youth 1,133)		
<i>Total farmer numbers</i>	7,651		
Male value chain actors	643 (Youth 356)	2,700	43%
Female value chain actors	519 (youth 220)		
Total value chains actors	1,162		

To complete the value chain, BDS suppliers were engaged with a target of 125 for 2021. A total of 86 were engaged in the reporting year an achievement of 67%.

Some BDS services in Kenya included: Certification and compliance for export provided by Ecocert; Export, processing and packaging services offered to farmers by Fine Aromas of Kenya; and Banking, credit and Extension and advisory services offered by Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT).

In Nigeria through the Organic Business Summit, farmers were linked to the market and exhibited and sold various products including banana, plantain, ginger, turmeric, palm oil, gaari and various leaf vegetables. These produce and products were from group of farmers under the Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Ibadan Oyo State, Southwest Nigeria and Ikot-Ekpene Women Food and Cash Crop MPCS, Akwa Ibom State, South-south Nigeria. In Benin, MOUs were signed for credit, seeds, fertilizers, organic pesticides, irrigation systems, business plans, and knowledge -do, Certification, Packaging, Market to catalyze farmers engagement in organic farming.

Number of EOA farmers participating in the markets at different levels was reported as 4,432 against a target of 5,250 a percent achievement of 84%.

In the reporting period, the project prioritized the establishment of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) groups to catalyze increase in number of farmers meeting organic standards. PGS is a group oriented local certification mechanism undertaken at country level. The project targeted to form 18 PGS groups in the 4 years of Phase II. In the reporting period, 1 group was established in Uganda called Kabare PGS group against a target of forming 4 PGS groups.

Regarding supporting market establishment and strengthening, the project targeted 72 new and 72 old markets. In the reporting period, 18 new and 18 old markets were targeted respectively with 11 new markets (Table 5) being established and 11 old markets being supported to continue operating, indicating a 61% target achievement.

Table 5: New markets established

New Markets established across EOA-I countries	
Kenya	Impact botanic in Nairobi
Ethiopia	Oro fresh and street/Sunday market in Addis Ababa
Rwanda	Natural seeds in Kigali
Tanzania	Short circuit market in Zanzibar
Uganda	Local market stalls and Sulma foods in Kampala
Nigeria	Jaja sales point and Oyo State secretariat sales in Ibadan
Benin	Bohin Market and Home deliveries in Cotonou

Value added products produced in the reporting year were 14 against a target of 4 leading to a percentage achievement of 275% (Table 6). Some of the value-added products included:

Table 6: Value organic added products

Country	Value Chain
Kenya	Chia and Sesame
Ethiopia	Beet root, (ii)Zeccuni
Uganda	Pineapple Jam, (ii) Tomato source
Nigeria	Tumeric, (ii) Palm Oil
Benin	Organic banana flour
Senegal	Chili, (ii) Moringa, (ii) Bissap

At the country level as Figure 13 below, Kenya and Nigeria met expectations in strengthening existing markets and creating new markers as per the targets set by the project in 2021. The project set targets for 2 new and 2 existing markets per country. However, we allowed partners to set lower targets and work on ensuring they recover by end of the project in 2023. As from the analysis below, all countries prioritized setting up new markets with Rwanda and Senegal lagging. BvAT will work closely with the 2 partners to ensure that they stay on track in the next reporting period.

72 Market Channels developed and 72 market channels strengthened

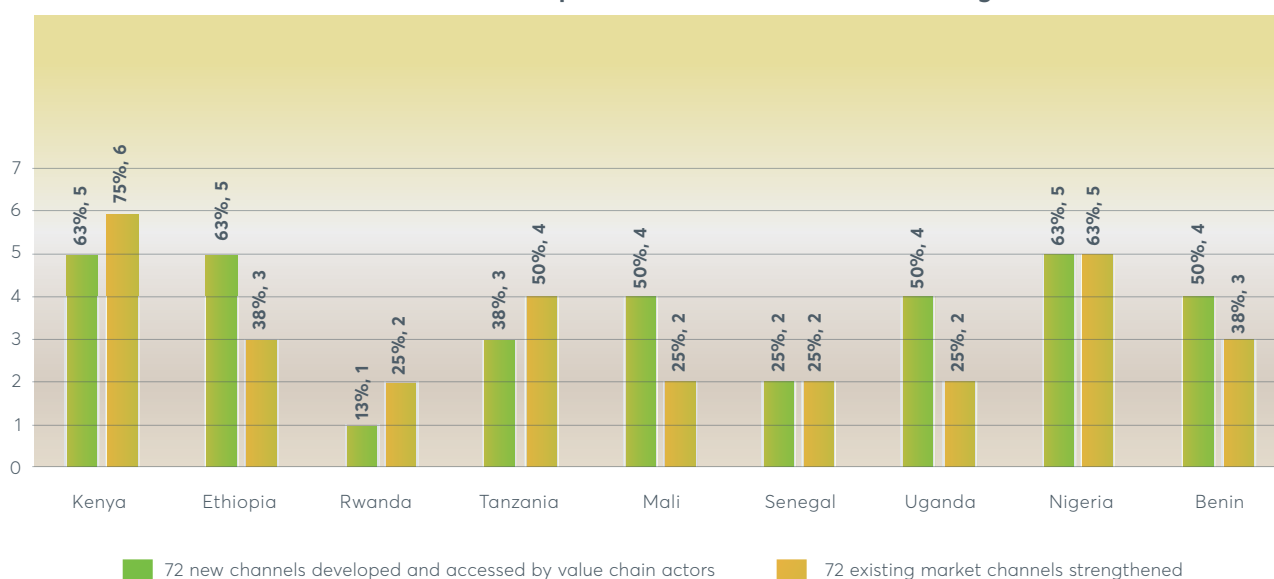



Figure 13: Number of markets developed and strengthened



Organic produce in an organic Shop in Tanzania. Photo credit: Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager





The background of the page is a photograph of a tea plantation. In the foreground, there are rows of tea bushes with vibrant green leaves. To the left, a person's hands are visible, holding a white tray filled with freshly plucked tea leaves. In the mid-ground, a traditional wooden structure with a thatched roof is partially visible. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent teal graphic element, consisting of a thick curved line and a white-bordered circle, is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text is centered within the white circle.

SECTION 5
**INNOVATION
FUNDS**

5. INNOVATION FUNDS

The innovation funds for 2021 were awarded to OBEPAB in Benin and KOAN in Kenya.

Benin

The title of the project is ***'Promotion of a self-managed organic banana & plantain and soybean seed system in Benin***

The project in Benin focused on establishing organic seeds systems with a general objective to set up a system for the production and distribution of quality certified seeds cheaply to producers (women and young entrepreneurs) of soybeans and organic bananas / plantains by building capacity building of their associations for self-management of the seed system.

The specific objectives:

- i. Strengthen associations of producers / distributors of organic soybean and banana / plantain seeds for easy and low-cost access to healthy and efficient seeds,
- ii. Professionalize young organic soybean and banana / plantain seed entrepreneurs emerging from producer associations.

During the reporting period, the following were the achievements taking cognizance that by end of the year, the activities were still ongoing:

1. The project produced and documented an indigenous practice of storage and conservation of organic soybean seeds in bags in a ventilated place 6 months after harvest which allows to maintain the germination potential.
2. Best technique of multiplication of organic banana seeds by the meniset technique was also documented and validated in participatory manner with farmers.
3. The best quality soybean and banana/plantain cultivars (with high performance) to disseminate to growers were identified and disseminated to farmers.
4. Demonstration fields to produce organic soybean seeds and plantain seedlings have been set up to allow producers to learn good practices to produce organic soybean and banana seeds, improve the organic production systems of these two crops, reduce reseeded and replanting due to poor seed quality.
5. 42 farmer leaders including 12 women were trained on good production and distribution practices for organic soybean and banana / plantain seeds.
6. The development of standards on the production and distribution of organic soybean and banana/plantain seeds has provided essential documents for the organic certification of three value chains. This has enabled the effective commencement of the production and sale of certified organic seeds of soybeans and bananas and plantains.
7. During the reporting period, at least 70% of organic seed producers (500 seed producers) are now selling their organic seeds.

8. 40 leading banana producers (including 17 women) and 60 plantain seed producers (including 24 women) were trained in marketing techniques relating to the calculation of cost price, positioning strategies, equipment, and support for promotion. Each one of them is expected to train 5 other producers following this training. This will make it possible to reach the 500 producers (300 for organic soybeans and 200 for organic bananas/plantains) targets.

Kenya

In Kenya the project title is '**Empowering Organic farmers to access organic solutions for pests and disease management through a mobile based E-platform**'.

The Objective(s) of the project:

- a) To document and create e-repository of common pests, diseases and their preventative methods, cultural methods, physical methods, biological control, and available commercial organic pesticides.
- b) To inform 400,000 producers about the availability of e-organic pests and diseases management system.
- c) To enhance access of commercial organic inputs and other pests and diseases management solutions among 400,000 farmers.
- d) Create and strengthen business development service provision between 400,000 farmers and 10 organic input providers who will be using the system.

Activity Updates

- System developed up to 90%. www.organicinputs.co.ke
- Structure of the system

SYSTEM PLAYERS AND ROLES



Vendor

- Registration
- Posting Organic Input Products
- Receive Orders
- Fulfill Orders



System Admin (KOAN)

- User Enrollment
- Account Approval
- Content Moderation
- Dispute Resolution



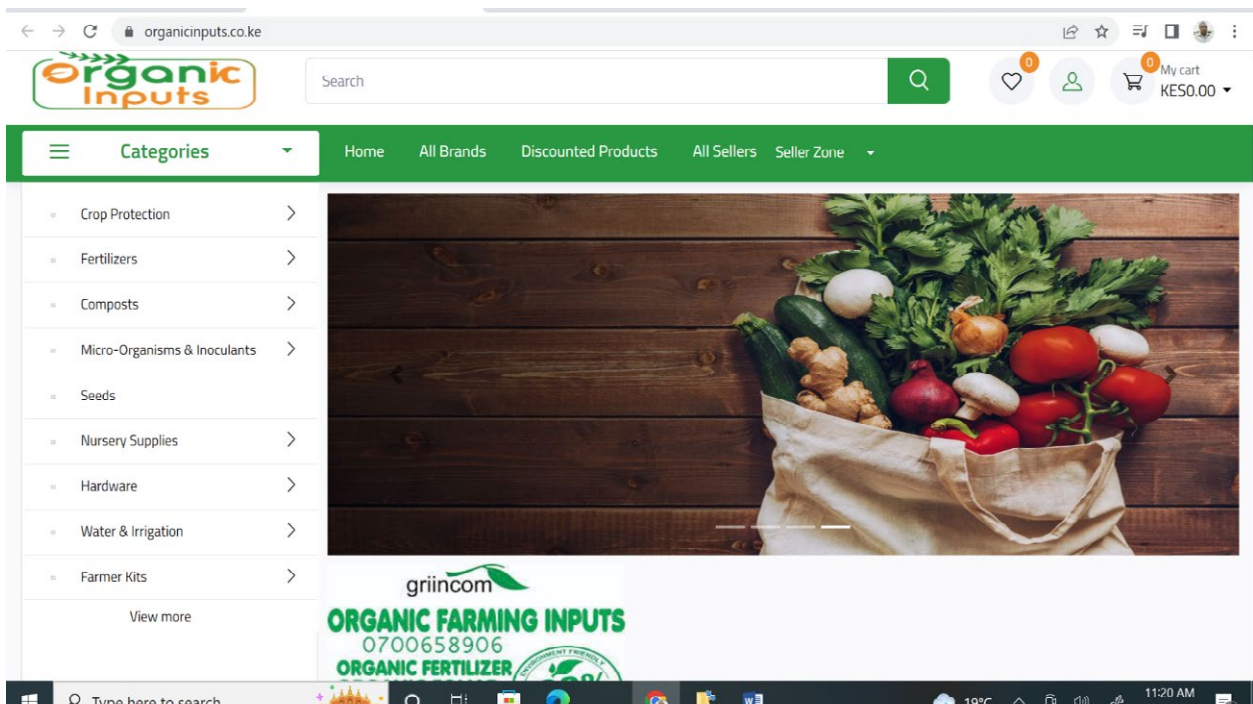
Customer

- Make Orders
- Registration
- Make Payments
- Receive fulfilled Order



Delivery Partners

- Order Fullfilment
- Delivery



Expected Benefits of Actors

- Visibility
- Credibility
- Powerhouse of Organic industry players – 2m+ Online reach Monthly
- Multiplatform promotion
 - Twitter
 - YouTube
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - Tiktok
- One stop Organic Shop –Multitier vendors
- *Brands space
- Logistics partnerships
- Payment processing





Value(K)
2,012,800

Bid


Offer

98.50
98.75
59.50
20.20
1.84
23.10
61.75
6.40
31.25
6.90
25.50

98.75
59.50
20.30
1.85
23.20
62.00
0.42
21.50
6.95
25.75

Value(K)
2,012,800

High/Low



SECTION 6
**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report Analysis For 2021

(Refer to Annex 14: Financial report for 2021, Annex 15: Audited reports and Annex 16: EOA-I Financial Project report)

1. Funding Received

The funding for the period ending on 31 December 2021 (USD 1,526,279) was received in two tranches of USD 1,000,000 on 24th September 2021 and USD 526,279 on 10th November 2021. (See Table 7)

Table 7: Breakdown of funds balance

	US\$
Less Donor Commitment	(66,324)
Receivable Balances	
Nigeria Organic Agriculture(NOAN)	17,679
Tanzania Organic Agriculture(TOAM)	39,998
INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEV.(ISD)	76,443
PELUM Uganda	40,685
OBEPAB	102,130
PELUM Kenya	(3,186)
KOAN	87,248
AOPP	(89)
AFRONET	11,613
ATPS	11
CNCR-Senegal	14,190
ROAM	47,345
FENABE	9,525
Receivable interest income	1,838
BvAT Balance	43,192
Bank-Fixed Deposit as at 31st December 2021	1,000,000
Bank Balance as at 31st December 2021	529
	1,422,827

2. Interest Income

The project funds were invested temporarily in fixed deposit pending disbursement to implementing partners which earned the project extra income of USD 8,873 net of withholding taxes.

3. Surplus Funds breakdown

The surplus funds of USD 1,422,826.75 relates to:

- Funds already disbursed to partners which had not been utilized as at 31ST December 2021 amounting to USD 445,429
- Funds held by BvAT in the project Bank account amounting to USD 1,043,722
- Expenses not paid as of 31st December 2021 USD 66,324

Fund utilization

1. Personnel Costs

The budget line for personnel under the project management unit was not fully utilized since the cost-of-living adjustment pa made was 6% compared to the budgeted 10%

2. Travels

The International and local travels were not done due to restriction relating to Covid 19.

3. General Investment/Equipment's

During the period two laptops were purchased for the project

4. Partner utilization of project Funds

The updated partner Utilization of fixed funds disbursed as of 30th June 2022 is demonstrated in the Table 8 below.

Table 8: Fixed & Innovation Fund Utilization

	EOA PARTNERS	Balance as at 31.12.2021	Disbursement	Returns Received as at 30.06.2022	Balance as at 30.06.2022	%
		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	
1.	Nigeria Organic Agriculture (NOAN)	17,679.06	63,676.60	-	81,355.66	0%
2.	Tanzania Organic Agriculture (TOAM)	39,998.08	75,802.00	-	115,800.08	0%
3.	INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEV.(ISD)	76,442.57	40,000.00	(16,386.33)	100,056.24	14%
4.	PELUM Uganda	40,684.64	40,000.00	-	80,684.64	0%
5.	OBEPAB	5,602.02	75,802.00	-	81,404.02	0%
6.	PELUM Kenya	(3,186.40)	41,631.40	-	38,445.00	0%
7.	KOAN	29,934.87	75,802.00	-	105,736.87	0%
8.	AOPP	(89.26)	-	-	(89.26)	0%
9.	AFRONET	11,613.20	12,012.60	-	23,625.80	0%
10.	ATPS	11.00	-	-	11.00	0%
11.	CNCR-Senegal	14,190.01	75,802.00	-	89,992.01	0%
12.	ROAM	47,344.60	40,000.00	-	87,344.60	0%
13.	FENABE	9,525.18	31,563.00	-	41,088.18	0%
		289,749.58	572,091.60	(16,386.33)	845,454.85	
INNOVATION FUND						
	EOA PARTNERS	Disbursement 2021	Disbursement 2021	Returns Received	Balance as at 30.06.2022	%
		US\$	US\$	US\$		
1.	OBEP AB	96,527.50	-	(94,827.01)	1,700.49	98%
2.	KOAN	96,527.50	-	(49,191.46)	47,336.04	51%
		193,055.00	-	(144,018.47)	49,036.53	75%

- The burn rate was low as per report for the period ending 31 December 2021 because of the disbursement being made in late November and early December 2021.
- As per the reported utilization by end of June 2022, all partners are on track in terms of utilization of funds disbursed to them.
- During the year Innovation fund was awarded to two partners in East and West Africa (KOAN & OBEPAB) for total amount of USD 193,055.

With a projected utilization of the innovation funds within 1 year since release of the funds between November and December 2021, we can confidently report OBEPAB Benin to be on track in terms of utilization at 68%.







SECTION 7

CHALLENGES

7. CHALLENGES

Political

- In Ethiopia, the implementation period was greatly affected by civil unrest and war especially in the Northern parts of the country where Mekelle University is located. Mekelle project staff were completely locked out of communication with the rest of the project stakeholders in Ethiopia and globally. The cut off in communication derailed updates on status of the project implementation and continues to do so to date.
- Wollo University has been brought on board to replace Mekelle University.
- Development of policies and programmes within the sector has been slow due to low support by National, Regional and Continental government institutions. Efforts including heightened advocacy however are being made to get on board institutions at this level.
-
- Mainstreaming of EOA in national education curricula has also not received much support from the government. Additionally, the process of curriculum development is resource and time intensive limiting successes in the sector.

Institutional

- Limited human resource financial support at the implementation level. The design of the SDC funding was aligned to support ongoing EOA activities in organizations especially the National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs). However, once the project was rolled out, the need for human resource support was realized. In the Phase II, human resources support was extended to only one staff at the CLO level with limited funds for PIPs. Lack of human resource support has slowed down implementation of the project because CSOs run on donor funded projects that dedicate project staff to implement projects.
- Due to lack of human resource support, majority of staff implementing the project do not meet basic qualifications criteria to manage project and finances. This further slows down the rate of implementation and reporting on project progress due limited knowledge and skills on how to run projects
- Low staff retention and poor handover mechanisms at the partner level has also affected the project both at executing agency level and CLO level. Due to poor handover/transition policies, most new staff are faced with project documentation and reporting challenges.

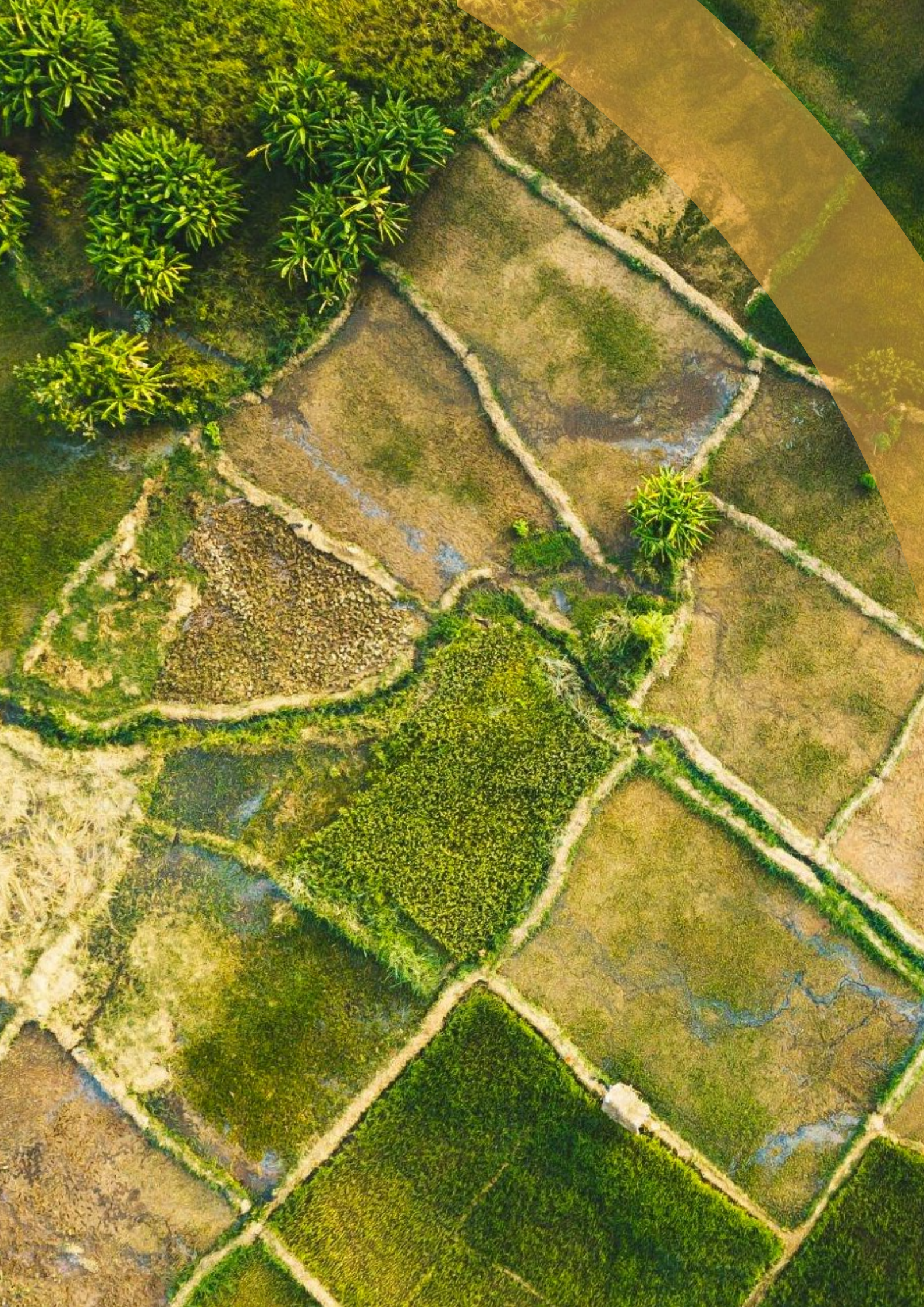
Monitoring and Evaluation

- During the implementation period, the country partners lacked staff and capacity to support in the monitoring and evaluation functions of the project. This led to having insufficient data at the outcome results level.

- Some partners had challenges in undertaking effective data management activities to ensure authentic data is collected. We experienced collection of data that was not clean and took a while to clean it
- Limited resources were also allocated at the country level thus limiting the capacity of partners to collect data frequently

COVID -19 Pandemic

- Covid 19 restrictions were relaxed by governments in 2021. However, the pandemic had 'instances of viral waves' that frequently disrupted operations
- The directions to have travelers subjected to testing before travelling out of their countries also brought in logistical challenges for the project
- Wearing of masks and crowding in public places continued to be restricted in most countries thus slowing down project work.



An aerial photograph of a terraced agricultural field. The terraces are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some filled with green crops and others appearing as bare earth. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text. The background is a mix of green vegetation and brown earth, with a large, semi-transparent circular graphic on the right side.

SECTION 8

**CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the reporting period being a challenging year due to COVID pandemic, partners managed to implement activities as planned to achieve various results against targets on the four strategic areas. Virtual monitoring was conducted to check on progress and support partners where possible. Progress was made on value-added processing of organic products, expanded access to technologies and practices, especially benefitting the smallholder farmers and their groups/cooperatives. Evidently, the Market development and value chain approach with BDS services enabled identification and/or improvement of private sector awareness of opportunities, information sharing and direct facilitation of new and existing business relationships.

Under research and extension support, various research activities were undertaken especially through institutions of higher learning. Research publications were produced, and field demo farms and plots established. This contributed to the increase in information available to the public on EOA. This remains an important strategic area in the development of the EOA sector given that information is power and creates a good ground for its development.

Various channels were used for EOA dissemination during the implementation period. These channels included social media, websites, radio, TV, and IEC materials. The popularity of mass channels reaching bigger populations was used during the implementation period. However, there is need to use channels that ensure farmers reach can be accounted for effectively in terms of reach, capacity development and adoption.

Beyond the already established EOA value chains, partners during the implementation period focused on value addition of produced products. This was a step further in adding value and managing post-harvest losses. This is another key entry point for penetrating and growing organic markets and should be supported.

The "game changer" for EOA success and stability at country level is a functional CLO as well as PIPs with strong organizational structures for EOA project delivery. Thus, effective, efficient, and strong governance and management systems are critical requirements for successful scale up of EOA and sustainability.

Beyond the resources, the sustainability of the uptake of EOA practices and technologies and changes at farmer level, will only be sustained by a well thought-out market system approach. The value chain approach is so far bearing fruits, there is need to focus more on strategies of fully engaging other value chain actors to support the value chains development.

Strategies that support scale up of farmers adopting EOA should be developed and shared for implementation with partners given that the current adoption numbers are limited.

There is need to allocate more resources at partner level for monitoring and evaluation.

Where possible, human resources should be sufficiently allocated to project staff at both CLO and PIP levels. This move would catalyze project implementation at country level with committed and qualified staff being employed.

Use of virtual meetings to track partners progress in implementation of the project should be encouraged because it saves on resources and time.

Capacity building initiatives should be scaled up in areas where partners are weak.





A close-up photograph of a hand holding several coffee beans. The background is a blurred field of coffee beans. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'SECTION 9' and 'ANNEXES' in white. The circle is outlined with a thin white border. The text is centered within the circle. The overall image has a warm, golden-brown color palette, with the green circle providing a contrasting element.

SECTION 9
ANNEXES

9. ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Updated EOA Log frame as at end of 2021
- Annex 2: BvAT & ARSO MOU
- Annex 3: CSC Minutes for June 2021; Annex 4: CSC Minutes for December 2021
- Annex 5: Proposed EOA Indicators for the CAADP BR
- Annex 6: FMSS Road Map
- Annex 7: Covid impact study report
- Annex 8: eastern Africa RBM training report
- Annex 9: West Africa RBM training report
- Annex 10: EOA Branding Strategy development report
- Annex 11: Updated EOA results matrix
- Annex 12: WA RSC annual report
- Annex 13: EA RSC annual report
- Annex 14: Financial report for 2021
- Annex 15: Audited reports
- Annex 16: EOA-I Financial Project report



Growing Sustainably

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