



Biovision
Africa
Trust



2019

EOA-I ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING ON THE EOA INITIATIVE SDC CONTRIBUTION
BY THE LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY AND HOST TO THE EOA
CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

REPORT APPROVED AND SIGNED BY:

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**Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)
into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in
Africa 2014-2018 BvAT**

Reporting Period: January 2019 to December 2019

Dr. David Amudavi

Project Coordinator



Signature

01/07/2020

Date

Ms. Venancia Wambua

Project Manager



Signature

01/07/2020

Date

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CLO	Country Lead Organization
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
GIZ	The German Society for International Cooperation (or, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ISD	Institute for Sustainable Development
NOAN	The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria
NOGAMU	National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
NSC	National Steering Committee
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2019 commenced with a no cost extension (NCE) period from 1st January to 30th April 2019. The no cost extension period was approved by SDC to allow partners to finish any pending Phase I activities. BvAT as well used the period to prepare necessary systems for the roll out of Phase II. During this period, BvAT signed addendums with its partners to officially spell out contractual terms for their engagements.

Phase II was officially rolled out in May 2019 after approval of the Proposal and Budgets by SDC.

The reporting period consists of a transition year from closure of Phase I to commencement of Phase II which had noticeable achievements towards attainment of EOA goal of mainstreaming the initiative into national policies, plans and programmes as follows:

- **Closure of EOA-I Phase I:** Successful closure of Phase I by the partners of the 8 EOA-I implementing countries and submission of the no cost extension progress reports.
- **Commencement of EOA-I Phase II:** Approval of Phase II proposal at a funding of 6.3 million for a period of 4 years from 2019 to 2023.
- **Geographical expansion:** Entry of Rwanda as an additional country to the EOA-I project bringing to total 9 EOA-I implementing countries.
- **Contracting Partners:** Signing of new contracts for Phase II across the 9 partners countries of Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali, Benin, Senegal and Nigeria.
- **Funding support for activity implementation:** Nine partner countries consistently received financial support in 2019 that enabled them to implement at least 50% of planned activities successfully.
- **Roll out of EOA-I Phase II:** Phase II inception workshops were successfully undertaken for eastern and west Africa regions to roll out Phase II and introduction of key implementation strategies made.
- **Establishment of Phase II Baseline Indicators** through the baseline study undertaken in the 9 project countries.
- **Development of M&E tools:** The key tools developed include M&E results framework, the Performance reference sheet and the Project log frame.
- **New Grants Management System:** Development of a new Grants Management System to pave way for competitive management of the EOA-I project.
- **Dealing with impropriety among non-compliant partners:** Recovery of project funds from Senegal and Ethiopia partners successfully handled and concluded.
- **Project Progress Reporting:** BvAT coordinated the submission and consolidation of partner annual progress reports for 2018 and the consolidated report was submitted to SDC on 1st July 2019.
- **Entry of New Partners:** The period also saw the selection of new partners in Uganda and Senegal. In Uganda Pelum Uganda was selected to take lead in the coordination of EOA-I while Kulika Trust was selected to take lead in Value Chain and Markets Development

pillar. Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was selected to take lead in the implementation of Information and Communication pillar. In Senegal Conseil National de Concertation et de Cooperation des Ruraux (CNCR) was selected to take lead in coordination of EOA activities while IED Afrique was selected to take lead in Information and Communication pillar. The rest of the partners implementing pillars were retained in Senegal.

- **CSC Meeting Held in May and November 2019:** The Secretariat planned and organized the 10th and 11th Continental Steering Committee meetings held in Zanzibar and Ghana respectively. During the Zanzibar meeting, the CSC hosted Minister of Agriculture from Zanzibar and introduced EOA-I to her and her team. She pledged to continue supporting EOA-I programs in Zanzibar. In Accra, the CSC supported the 5th West Africa Organic Conference (WAOC) through enhancing its visibility and success.

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGROECOLOGY TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

The 1st International Conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems in Africa was held in Nairobi from 18th to 21st June 2019 with substantial and modest support from SDC and SSNC respectively. The conference theme was 'Reducing Synthetic Fertilizers and Pesticides by Scaling Up Agroecology and Promoting Ecological Organic Trade' and attracted 400 participants drawn from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Research Institutes, Universities, Government representatives, Media, Students, Farmers and Farmer Associations.

The conference was attended by keynote speakers from the organic and agroecology sector key among them being Dr. Hans Herren of Millennium Institute, Prof. Tyrone B. Hayes a Professor of Integrative Biology, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Endocrinology, Molecular Toxicology and the Energy and Resources Group, Prof. Gilles- Eric Seralini a French scientist who has been a professor of molecular biology at the University of Caen since 1991 and Dr. Judy Carman a PhD holder in Medicine in the field of nutritional biochemistry and metabolic regulation, and a Master of Public Health specializing in epidemiology and biostatistics among others. The conference produced a communique that was launched during the closing ceremony. The output of the conference was **a call to action;**

1. All African Governments to comply with their commitments and in a coherent and coordinated manner align respective policies to the declarations and agreements including Agenda 2063, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to implement the AU Heads of States and Governments' Decision on Ecological Organic Agriculture of 2011.2. The Conference APPLAUDS efforts being undertaken by individuals, civil society organizations, companies and government agencies to promote agroecological transformation that provides diverse, safe, healthy and nutritious food in the face of challenges including climate change, biodiversity crisis and growing demand, and that is inclusive of women, youth and men.
2. Action Towards Sustainable Health, Nutrition, Consumption and Trade
3. The Conference REJECTS promotion of harmful practices especially the highly hazardous pesticides, banned harmful pesticides, GMOs and the channeling of rejected export food commodities to Africa.
4. The Conference CALLS UPON all key stakeholders to allocate resources to scale up agroecology based interventions to generate safe and innovative alternatives to improve soil regeneration and pest control while working with small scale women, youth and men farmers in promoting and safeguarding farm managed seed systems and indigenous knowledge.
5. The Conference URGES all stakeholders in agricultural value chains and related sectors (e.g. health, education, environment, trade and finance) to increase awareness and education on the adverse effects of synthetic pesticides, fertilizers and GMOs on health of humans, animals, plants and the environment and to promote ecological organic trade and consumption of safe, accessible, affordable and acceptable organic products by all.
6. The Conference CALLS UPON governments and their relevant institutions, farmers and farmer organizations, development partners and the private sector to avail resources to implement the agreed agroecology agenda and to convene platforms including a biannual African Agroecology Conference for experience sharing, learning and collaboration and thereby build the basis for

sustainable, long-term food and nutrition security and poverty reduction. An implementation plan on the call to action is in the process of being rolled out for implementation and monitoring. The conference served as an avenue for various stakeholders to jointly speak on one voice on spearheading the integration of agroecology and organic practices for the benefit of humans and biodiversity.

To access the resources of the conference (Conference report, Call to Action, Presentations and Media) please visit the conference website <https://www.agroecologyconference.eoai-africa.org/>



SUPPORT IN POLICY AND ADVOCACY THROUGH EOA-I COLLABORATION WITH AFRICAN TECHNOLOGY POLICY STUDIES NETWORK (ATPS)

The inherently weak policy and advocacy front of EOA-I was strengthened by the entry of ATPS. The ATPS is a trans-disciplinary network of researchers, policymakers, private sector actors and the civil society that promotes the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation (STI) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. In collaboration with like-minded institutions, ATPS provides platforms for collaborative and innovative policy research to support African governments and STI institutions/stakeholders to build necessary knowledge conditions and infrastructures, policies and incentives, and capabilities for STI knowledge generation, brokerage, circulation, and socialization to ensure effective valorization and commercialization of scientific and indigenous knowledge into new technologies and innovations for sustainable development on the continent.

Currently, the ATPS has over 1,500 members and 3000 stakeholders in over 51 countries in 5 continents with institutional partnerships worldwide. We implement our programs through members in national chapters established in 30 countries (27 in Africa and 3 Diaspora chapters in the Australia, United States of America, and United Kingdom) with its secretariat in Nairobi Kenya.

ATPS Collaboration with the EOA-I

During the EOA Phase 1, lobbying and advocacy for mainstreaming EOA practices into agricultural systems was not as strategic and structured as it should have been. In Phase II, EOA-I brought on board African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) in the implementation of project areas of mutual interests.

The main strategic area of entry by ATPS would be:

- i. ***Mainstreaming EOA-I into the AUC, NEPAD, RECs and National Government Agenda:*** The ATPS' strength in convening and collaborating with the regional commissions and agencies in Africa such as the African Union Commission (AUC), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as national governments is recognized. ATPS is a key partner with these organizations and has well-established relationship with them. This objective aligns clearly with the EOA-I's priority area on Networking and Partnerships as well as ATPS Strategic Objective on "Intra-Africa and Global partnerships and collaboration.

Activities under this pillar shall contribute to efficient and effective coordination, networking and policy advocacy at various levels (national, regional to continental networks) of the EOA structure.

ATPS specific Activities for 2019- 2020 were as follows:

- Stakeholder mapping and Analysis
- Policy reviews and Analysis focusing mainly in West and Southern Africa
- Policy sensitization on EOA-I
- Advocacy and lobbying to mainstream EOA-I into national, RECs and continental policies, programmes and strategies
- Development, publication and dissemination of policy briefs
- Development of partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with regional and continental bodies e.g. AUDA-NEPAD
- Targeted communication activities

Key Milestones in 2019

- Conducted desk studies on policy and institutional landscapes on ecological organic agriculture in Benin, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal and produced a preliminary report. This study would help pave way for entry points in policy sector.
- Conducted desk studies on stakeholder map of ecological organic agriculture in Benin, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal and produced a preliminary report. The mapping would inform the key stakeholders who can be targeted for policy and advocacy EOA issues.
- Developed instruments and tools for key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGDs) data collection on the policy and institutional landscapes on EOA as well as the stakeholder mapping and analysis during the next few months.
- Presented the EOA-I to the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology from 10-13 December 2019 at the African Union Headquarters. The Session was attended by the Member countries from the 54 African countries and development partners. This was an avenue to create awareness and buy in to on EOA-I

Challenges

The greatest challenge so far is dearth of reliable secondary/online information on EOA in some countries especially Benin and Senegal. There have also been poor responses to some requested information from the EOA stakeholders in the participating countries. These challenges notwithstanding, the team intends to resolve them during the field work phase when the team shall be in the countries to collect primary data that will enable them to triangulate the data already received from desk studies. This is when they shall conduct the KIIs and FGDs in the selected countries. Moreover, implementation of the project started somehow late due to delayed release of project funds and subsequently the holiday periods. This made the team not to fully utilize the funds as required. Nevertheless, the Team is now poised and motivated to complete all activities based on the work plan already developed.

Lessons Learnt

Proper planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting will be the key factors that will enable the team to achieve its target objectives under this project. These factors have become their watchword.

In spite of the progress made the implementation period was faced by various challenges across the partners characterized by weak organizational structures especially in financial and management controls that continued to exhibit funds risks. Such Pillar Implementing Partners included the case of FENAB and its implementing partners in Senegal namely Enda Pronat, ASPAB and Afrique Agrecole. Similar financial challenges were experienced in the case of NOGAMU the Country Lead Organization (CLO) for Uganda that was ordered to refund project funds disbursed to the organization during the period of 2017. Similar challenges were also experienced in Ethiopia where ISD the CLO of Ethiopia continued to pursue funds lost when PANOS Ethiopia, partner in charge of Pillar 2 collapsed and closed down with project funds in 2016. However, by end of 2019 project funds pending from Senegal and Ethiopia partners were recovered.

The following narrative details the circumstances that prevailed during implementation, the project's key interventions, and information relating to project performance indicators, beneficiaries, stakeholder engagement, and financial reporting in annexes.

SECTION I



1. OVERVIEW

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) is an initiative that arose from efforts to support and implement the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming passed during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011, EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII). The initiative came into being in 2011 with initial support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and later Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The initiative 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.

The Initiative's implementation strategy assumes that mainstreaming of EOA in policies and practices requires a multi-stakeholder managed endeavor, best to be promoted through national platforms informed by scientific evidence and local experiential knowledge, supported by capacity development of the various stakeholder groups, broad information & communication efforts and strategic actions linked to regional and continental policy making bodies.

Mainstreaming EOA includes catalyzing changes in various spheres, including public policies and investment plans, technical standards and certification procedures, research agenda and training curricula, advisory and information practices and the organization of markets and value chains. Achievement of the mainstreaming requires consultation and agreement on coordinated and concerted action among the relevant public, private and civil society actors.

The implementation of EOA Initiative in Africa is expected to lead to improved welfare and livelihoods in a healthy environment for Africa's farmers, processors, marketers, consumers and other factors that contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream 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.

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

- a) EOA related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors are capacitated to translate it into practices and application;
- b) Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services;
- c) A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved;
- d) Multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.

The initiative embraces holistic production systems that sustain the health of soils, ecosystems and people, and relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local

conditions rather than reliance on the use of external inputs with adverse effects on people's total health (human, animal, plant and environmental).

The Initiative under SDC support is anchored on four separate but interrelated pillars, namely:

1. **Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension (RTE):** This aims to build 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. The key outcome of this pillar is to have scientific, indigenous knowledge, technologies and innovations on EOA application increased.
2. **Pillar 2: Information and Communication (I&C):** This provides avenue through which EOA reaches out to a vast majority of stakeholders on the continent. It focuses on information and communication on EOA approaches, good practices (production, processes, and learning systems) developed, packaged and disseminated to stakeholders to create awareness and deepen knowledge about EOA.
3. **Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD):** This supports development of sustainable markets and increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce both at domestic and export levels within EOA. Through this pillar, EOA product value chain mapping, data collection, opportunity analysis and product/input vetting will be conducted, Business Development Strategies (BDS) for target businesses along value chains will be developed and the market share of EOA quality products at the national, regional and international markets increased.
4. **Pillar 4: Supporting and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management: Effective** implementation of the EOA Initiative requires strong institutions with effective, functional and responsive management systems. The pillar brings together components of the pillars aimed at developing capacities of implementing partners and institutions and is coordinated by Country Lead Organizations (CLOs).

Coordination and Management of the Project

Overall Continental Oversight

Dr. Nouala is the Head of Division, Agriculture and Food Security within the Rural Economy and Agriculture department (DREA). The mandate of the CSC is to provide EOA in Africa and its membership with guidance, oversight, and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA in Africa.

The CSC is supported by a Secretariat, currently hosted by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT).

Overall Project Coordination

BvAT is the Lead Executing Agency responsible for coordinating the implementation of EOA Initiative with SDC's contribution in five countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda 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 based in Thika, Kenya, is responsible for supporting SSNC in coordinating the implementation of the initiative among partners in two countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia). SSNC subcontracts Ethiopia partner ISD directly.

The EOA Continental Platform

The EOA continental platform in Africa 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 current CSC members active during the reporting period include the following; Africa Union Commission – Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) (Chair); Regional Economic Communities (RECs) –the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ; Civil Society Organizations (CSO) – Action Aid International, Senegal; Private Sector - Private Enterprise Federation, Ghana; African Organic Network (AfrONet) ; International Organic Partner (IFOAM-OI); EOA Regional Clusters (East Africa, West Africa and South Africa) represented by the Chairpersons; National Organic Agriculture Movements. Currently NOAN and Pelum Uganda (rotational); Development Partners (SDC and SSNC); An indigenous African Organic Certification Body e.g. UgoCert; EOA Lead Coordinating Organisations (BvAT and PK). Active members ranged between 19-21 participants. The roles of the members are institutional based and complement each other to support EOA-I

The Continental Secretariat with guidance of the Chair successfully held two meetings in the year 2019 in May and November in Zanzibar and Ghana respectively. **(Annex 1A: Minutes of CSC meeting held in Zanzibar; Annex 1B: Minutes of the CSC meeting held in Ghana)**

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 co-chaired by Prof. Charles Ssekyewa previously of Uganda Organic Certification body (UgoCert). Prof. Ssekyewa co-chairs due to lack of commitment from East Africa Community (EAC) to chair the Eastern Africa RSC. The Eastern Africa RSC meeting has representation by 16 members from partners in Ethiopia (ISD), Uganda (NOGAMU & Ugo-Cert), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN), BvAT and PELUM Kenya and IGAD Ethiopia and AfroNet. The West Africa Cluster is chaired by ECOWAS with co-chairing by Prof. Simplicie Vodouhe of Organisation Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB) while The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) is the acting regional secretariat for West Africa. Members of West Africa cluster include but are not limited to organizations from Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Mali.

National Level

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 Committees and Development partners.

The PIPs oversee implementation of activities within the Pillar strategic areas. Assumptions have been made that all the CLOs and PIPs were appropriately and democratically selected by their National Stakeholders to undertake their mandate. So far, there has been steady progress though with some challenges.

In Tanzania, **TOAM** is the **Country Lead Organization (CLO)** taking on this role through Pillar IV (Support and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management) and coordinating the following Pillar Organizations:

Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) responsible for Pillar 1 (Research, Training and Extension- RTE)

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Tanzania) in charge of Pillar II (Information and Communication)

TOAM in its Marketing department manages Pillar III (Value Chain and Market Development-VCMD).

In Kenya, national coordination through Pillar 4 is by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) which is also in charge of Pillar 3 (Value Chain and Market Development) and coordinates the following Pillar Organisations:

Egerton University, a public institution is responsible for Pillar 1.

Pillar 2 previously under ICIPE is now implemented by **BvAT through its Farmer Communication Programme (FCP)**.

In Uganda, national coordination through pillar 4 has been under the **Pelum Uganda** and coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations:

Uganda Martyrs University implements Pillar 1

Makerere University implements Pillar 2

Kulika Trust implementing Pillar 3

In Ethiopia, the coordination through pillar 4 is undertaken by the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) which also implements Pillar 3. ISD coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations:

Mekelle University based in Mekelle responsible for Pillar 1

PAN Ethiopia operates Pillar 2

In Benin, the national coordination through pillar 4 is undertaken by **Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAP)** which also implements Pillar 1 (RTE) and coordinates the following - Pillar Implementing Organisations:

Platform for Civil-Society Actors (PASCIB) handles Pillar 2 of Information and Communication

Crasteda is responsible for Pillar 3 of Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD).

In Senegal, **CNCR** a Non- Governmental Organisation Coordinates Pillar 4 and also coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations:

ENDA PRONAT responsible for Pillar 1 (RTE).

IED Afrique responsible for Pillar 2 (I&C)

AGRECOL Association for Agriculture & Ecology implements Pillar 3 (VCMD).

In Nigeria, the national coordination is under the **Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN)** doubling as implementers for Pillar 3 (VCMD). NOAN coordinated the following Organisations in the reporting year;

University of Ibadan and **Kwara State University** in Malete for Pillar 1.

Federation of Agricultural Commodity Association of Nigeria (FACAN) in Abuja responsible for Pillar 2.

NOAN in charge of Pillar 3.

In Mali, the national coordination through pillar 4 is under Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) and coordinates the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER) implements Pillar 1.

Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de recherche implements Pillar 2.

REMATRAC-BIO is responsible for Pillar 3.

AfrONet

AfrONet is also funded under the SDC funding arrangement. It 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 deemed appropriate in meeting its objectives as cited in the Network's constitution:

- ✓ Unite and network organic agriculture actors and stakeholders across the continent.
- ✓ Undertake lobbying 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 in 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.

SECTION II



2. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

This section identifies key project implementation challenges that were encountered and how they were addressed. We have deliberately placed it before the detailed narrative to give the reader a comprehensive picture of the issues that the project faced during 2019.

Delays in the roll out of Phase II project activities: The transition of Phase I to Phase II brought with it many challenges. Partners were expected to start implementation of Phase II in May 2020. However, it was not possible because of delays in closure and submission of NCE financial and operational reports. The transition was designed to have a complete closure and approval of reports before funds for the next phase were released to partners. This would ensure donor funds are not lost during the transition period. Serious delays were experienced in Senegal where partners commenced implementation of Phase II in December 2019. To mitigate this challenge to a greater extent, the release of funds was done on a partner-to-partner basis an approach that made sure that cleared partners commenced their activities in May/June 2019. Another mitigation put in place was undertaking early targeted monitoring visits to Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia (virtual meetings). The monitoring visits in Mali and Senegal brought to a closure pending project issues. Key among the issues was weak financial management procedures that led to poor auditing of returns for year 2019 and therefore the funds balances reflecting in Senegal partners accounts failed to balance with BvAT financial accounts balances.

Exit of key EOA-I partners: This period saw the severing of contracts of BvAT and key EOA-I partners in Uganda and Senegal. The key partners who were officially replaced were NOGAMU in Uganda and FENAB in Senegal. The 2 organizations are the National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAM) in their respective countries. However due to lack of financial integrity the project severed contracts with BvAT/SDC funding. This was a mitigation measure done to ensure that organizations deemed as high financial risk organizations do not expose the project to financial risks and losses.

Partners inability to utilize funds at their disposal at the required burn rate of 75%. During the reporting period, the burn rate has been rated at 60%. The implementing partners were faced with limited capacities to implement and efficiently utilize funds in their disposal within the given time frame. Key among reasons that led to a low burn rate were delays in the commencement of Phase II implementation by some of the partners in Senegal, Mail and Ethiopia. To mitigate this challenge, the executing agency continued to undertake frequent monitoring field visits to support weak partners as well as ensure implementing staff continue to be committed to the project.

Weak EOA Oversight Structures: The roles of National Steering Committees (NSC) played out during 2019 in most of the EOA countries of implementation. The NSC role of oversight and decision making by implementing partners had not been utilized. The oversight structures at National Level were not visible as anticipated. To mitigate against this challenge, BvAT commissioned experts to review the EOA oversight structures (NSC, RSC and CSC) in order to ensure that the mandate of the structures is strengthened. The study commenced in 2019 and by the time of 2019 closure, the exercise was still going on.

Support from Regional Bodies (RECs) to EOA-I: by design and based on the organic decision made by AUC, the regional blocks should come in to support mainstreaming of EOA-I at regional level. However, this support by the REC in east Africa, the EAC, was not fully realized during the reporting period. The engagements are still at nascent stages since inception of the project in 2014.

SECTION III



3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS EXPECTED RESULTS

3.1 BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST (BvAT) AS LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 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.

Output 4.3. To improve the functioning and service delivery of EOA by institutions in Africa through capacity building.

- 4.3.1 Build capacity of pillar implementing partners to develop policy and operational procedures for greater accountability, transparency and sustainability.
- 4.3.2 Promote “network of teams” from pillar implementing partners to enhance high degree of empowerment, effective communication skills and rapid information exchange.
 - ➔ 90% biannual rate of absorption / utilization of funds by implementing organizations.
 - ➔ At least 90% of planned pillar activities implemented.
 - ➔ Funds disbursed within 1 month at different levels of granting and sub-granting.
 - ➔ 100% of the organisations having sound financial management systems in place.
 - ➔ 80% of organisations efficient in project planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Biovision Africa Trust in its capacity as an executing agency to the SDC funded project coordinated activities during the implementation period with minimal setbacks. The agency had engagements with partners at national level, with regional partners as well as with international partners. In its capacity it also implemented various activities under its docket. Below section outlines some of the key activities the agency undertook in this capacity.

Biovision Africa Trust is in charge of coordinating the implementation of the project by its partners in the 9 countries.

Programme Implementation

Implementation of project activities by CLOs and PIPs went on reasonably well in 2019 in the 9 countries with partners aligning their activities with the set objectives and budgets. New partners came on board from Rwanda, Uganda and Senegal.

Uganda had 3 new partners. Pelum Uganda came on board to coordinate EOA-I activities at national level. The implementing partners that joined the platform were ESAFF for Pillar 2 and Kulika Trust for Pillar 3. The partners in Uganda were selected through an inception workshop coordinated by BvAT team in April 2019. (**Annex 2: Uganda Partners Selection Workshop report**)

Rwanda came on board in Phase II under the coordination of Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM). This followed a due diligence assessment that was undertaken by BvAT team and a capacity building plan that addressed various gaps that ROAM needed to address before taking up responsibility of coordinating implementation of EOA-I in Rwanda. (**Annex 3A: Rwanda Due Diligence report; Annex 3B: Rwanda Capacity Building Plan**)

In Senegal, CNCR came on board to coordinate EOA-I country activities. A new partner that came in to support implementation were IED Afrique for Pillar 2. The exercise of selecting new partners was coordinated by BvAT. (**Annex 4: Selection report of new partners in Senegal**)

ISD in Ethiopia was approved to join Phase II implementation after offsetting the project financial debt for Phase I.

In the 9 partner implementing countries, activities went on well and 2019 country annual reports were submitted by all partners (**Annex 5: Tanzania Annual Report, Annex 6: Kenya Annual report, Annex 7: Mali Annual Report, Annex 8: Nigeria Annual report, Annex 9: Benin Annual report, Annex 10: Senegal Annual report, Annex 11: Ethiopia Annual report, Annex 12: Rwanda Annual report and Annex 13: Uganda Annual report**).

Planning, funds management and reporting

All the 9 partners received 1st instalment of funds for activity implementation amounting to 60 % of overall funds by April 2019. However, by the end of 2019, the 9 countries did not receive the last instalment of 40% due to delays in submitting midterm reports for 2019. The delays were as a result in the commencement of Phase II of EOA-I

No Cost Extension period achievements

The No-Cost Extension period provided an opportunity to prepare for the roll out of Phase 2 of EOA-I implementation and achieved the following:

1. Baseline survey to set benchmarks and targets for EOA Phase II

The process of establishing baseline indicators for the EOA-I Phase II was initiated during this period and continued beyond the no cost extension period with final report being submitted in 2020. This was notable progress towards setting the baseline indicators for Phase II of EOA-I that were not established during Phase I, a situation that led to challenges in tracking performance of the project. The baseline data has set benchmarks which EOA-I implementation towards achievement of set targets is monitored (**Annex 14: Phase II Baseline Report**).

2. Review of EOA Structures (CSC, RSC and NSC) was undertaken successfully

The EOA institutional structures of implementation serve to mainstream EOA into national plans and strategies as per the EOA goal. Therefore, the effective operationalization of the structures is quite important. Previous studies and reports have shown that the structures have not been working effectively especially at the National and Regional level. Challenges have been associated to members constitution, to coordination, to roles setting and leaderships. The CSC, RSC and NSC ideally should be government led to ensure ownership and institutionalization of EOA within the government structures of operation.

To ensure this happens, the review of the institutional structures of the EOA-I in Africa commenced during the no cost extension period in 2019 and was finalized in 2020. The exercise was undertaken to assess the efficacy of the EOA-I implementation structures in supporting the mainstreaming of EOA in Africa's agricultural systems. This was key to developing a road map for strengthening identified gaps for better EOA-I mainstreaming. This activity was initiated under the oversight of AUC -CSC following various challenges experienced in Phase

I linked to established but dysfunctional EOA-I structures that were not able to meet set expectations.

The structures driving the mainstreaming of various elements of the initiative include:

- a. The National Steering Committees (NSC), chaired by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture or the related line ministry.
- b. Regional Steering Committees (RSC), chaired by representatives of Regional Economic Committees and
- c. The Continental Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by a representative of the African Union Commission. The CSC also includes the African Organic Network (AfrONet).
- d. Review the Secretariats: support structures to the Steering Committees.

The Final Report has been submitted with proposed actionable recommendations for each structure and implementation currently being developed by the CSC Secretariat (**Annex 15: EOA-I structural review report**).

3. Development and Pretesting of Monitoring & Evaluation Frameworks and Tools

Tracking results for the project has been a key element of Phase II of the EOA-I. Tracking was not done consistently well during Phase I because of lack of a comprehensive M&E framework. This is therefore another key exercise that commenced during the no cost extension period with commendable progress being made. It was successfully undertaken to ensure results of performance of the project are effectively tracked in Phase II. The following have been developed:

- ✓ M&E Framework manual (**Annex 16: M&E Framework**)
- ✓ The Indicator Definition Reference sheet document (**Annex 17: EOA-I Indicator Definition Reference sheet**)
- ✓ An M&E Online system currently under development to track real-time results reporting from implementing partners in the 9 EOA-I countries.

With the tools in place, tracking of results has been made easier. Reporting achievements to our development partners and other stakeholders will be more impactful.

4. Grants Management System

Grants Management Manual has been successfully developed and is guiding the development of the web-based system. (**Annex 18: Grants Management Manual**)

The development of the EOA-I grants management system consisting of manual and web-based option commenced during the no cost extension period with the final grants management manual expected to be finalized in 2020. The development was necessitated by the need to improve the efficiency of administering the EOA project funds, improve elements of sustainability and scalability and address the challenges faced in phase one (2014-2018). The challenges included (1) Lack of motivation among grantees to participate fully and committedly in project implementation, (2) Lack of or inadequate grantee capacity to deliver on the objectives of their grants, (3) Partner-Pillar suitability mismatch, (4) Poor project reporting, and, (5) Non-compliance to contract requirements in the implementation of the project. Consequently, the challenges resulted in minimal performance by the partners and consequently limited project impact in some areas.

The new grant management mechanism aims to address the above challenges and to achieve the following: (1) Effectiveness and efficiency in grants management, inter alia by setting incentives for enhanced partner performance, (2) Realization of value for money, (3) Selection and contracting of partners with strong capacity and competencies aligned to allocated technical pillars, (4) Capacity building/ strengthening of 'weak' partners, (5) Effective risk management, (6) Improved reporting by grantees, and, (7) Improved compliance to grant award terms and conditions.

5. EOA Website Extranet Set Up

The exercise commenced during the no cost extension period and finalized end of 2019. The extra-net was set up as a share-point based Extranet System for the CSC members to enhance information sharing and communication from BvAT and among members of the committee and partners. This is expected to be operational from 2020.

6. EOA-I Country Partners' No-Cost Extension (NCE)

The no cost extension period was necessitated by the need to address all the planned results of EOA Phase I. it was an opportunity for the partners to achieve the set targets for the project as set out therefore ensuring the goal of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture into national plans, strategies and systems is attained to a greater extend. The pending activities included carryover activities not implemented by end of 2018 as well as ongoing activities from 2018. In total the 7-partner country lead organizations and their associate partners participated in the no cost extension implementation and their no cost extension operational reports are annexed as follows:

- ✓ ***Annex 19: No cost extension operational report for Kenya***
- ✓ ***Annex 20: No cost extension operational report for Tanzania***
- ✓ ***Annex 21: No cost extension operational report for Benin***
- ✓ ***Annex 22: No cost extension operational report for Senegal***
- ✓ ***Annex 23: No cost extension operational report for Mali***
- ✓ ***Annex 24: No cost extension operational report for Nigeria***
- ✓ ***Annex 25: No cost extension operational report for Ethiopia***

*Roll out of Phase II EOA-I Project**REGIONAL PHASE II INCEPTION WORKSHOPS*

The commencement of Phase II was officially rolled out through regional workshops undertaken in eastern and west Africa. Both workshops had a participation of 30 participants representing partners from the Country Lead Organizations (CLOs), Pillar Implementing Organizations (PIPs), Ministry of Agriculture representatives, National Platform representatives and Regional Platform members. The workshops were held in July 2019. (**Annex 26A: Eastern Africa Inception workshop for rolling out EOA-I Phase II; Annex 26B: West Africa Inception workshop for rolling out EOA-I PHASE II**)

The main objectives of the workshops were to:

- i) Unpackage Phase 2 new implementation strategies
- ii) Develop a common understanding of the project management elements, procedures and implementation
- iii) Discuss development of partner workplans
- iv) Familiarize with contraction requirements and objectives including project and financial guidelines.

The workshops introduced the new implementation strategies for Phase II as follows which are very key to achieving the goal and objectives of EOA-I Phase II:

Market System Development

Based on value chains and market development (Pillar 3): Approaches which embrace business development support infrastructure, value chain analysis and making markets work for the poor (M4P) are key to achieving greater market integration and benefits to value chain actors. In this, special attention shall be given to capacitating national EOA systems to have affordable certification systems to increase visibility and consumption of organic products.

Grants Management System

Fully competitive application of EOA-I grants by SDC

Cross-country competition and within-country competition

Development and adoption of tools for monitoring at all levels of the EOA-I structure

Robust M&E, Reporting and Learning

Online real time Monitoring System. Departure from manual monitoring

Tools at the beneficiary level, e.g., farmer record keeping book

Tools at the pillar implementers' level, e.g. checklist of questions and field visit report

Tools at the CLO level, e.g., project monitoring report

Tools at the Executing Agency level, e.g., Verification checklist

Harmonization and Synergies across pillars (Building a Network of Teams)

- Partners in Phase I were doing good work under their respective pillars, with no clear sense of how they are aligned.
- Phase II proposed and introduced the flagship projects under each of the pillars to ensure alignment and complementation of each other to achieve synergies.
- The Phase will adopt a strategy of ‘network of teams’, which will make it possible for not only country programs to be aligned, but also have partners linked in real time with other pillars in other countries.

Revision of Pillars 1 and Pillar 2

- Pillar 1 initially named ‘research, training and extension’ was renamed to ‘research and applied knowledge’ a move that dropped extension work from the pillar.
- Pillar 2 initially named ‘information and communication’ was renamed to ‘information, communication and extension’
- This revision allows for Pillar 1 to focus on knowledge generation and transformation into available forms for dissemination and Pillar 2 to focus on dissemination of information across value chains and strengthen the capacity of actors to work across the value chains.

Capacity building for efficient project management

- The OCA report has revealed that some EOA partners are weak on governance, administration, financial management and project implementation.
- The next phase will consider building capacity of partners in areas such as: project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; financial management; networking and advocacy; resource mobilization; data management and publication of success stories and; other gaps that shall be identified during implementation

Strengthening Platforms at all Levels

The EOA-I structures of implementation namely CSC, RSC and NSC as well as their secretariats have been experiencing operational challenges.

The review exercise commenced and support to review the structures will be informed by review of EOA structures exercise.

Phase II will undertake actions to strengthen platforms.

Platforms at national level, in particular, are important in creating coherence and synergy for sharing experiences, lessons and best practices; improving communication, knowledge transfer and know-how among various stakeholders; developing new technological and commercial collaborations; popularizing the initiative to reach varied and new stakeholders and markets; finding partners to optimize comparative advantages and undertake joint research and development activities; and facilitating identification of capacity gaps, emerging opportunities and contributing to programme design and development and implementation among others.

Tracking other EOA-related activities in the continent

A survey tool has been developed with the help of IFOAM Organics International to help in mapping out all like-minded organizations across Africa that are implementing EOA-related projects/programmes/initiatives and funded by other donors for greater synergies and coordination in the delivery of AUC decision on Organic farming.

Network developments and synergies among like-minded stakeholders undertaking similar initiatives is key to EOA-I

Geographical coverage

- Plans entry of EOA to Rwanda with SDC support.

UGANDA PARTNERS SELECTION WORKSHOP

The Inception workshop in Uganda was held in April 2019 for the purposes of selecting new partners for the implementation of EOA-I Phase II (Annex 27: Uganda partners selection workshop report)

Uganda is one of the key EOA-I implementing countries. The government of Uganda embraces ecological organic agriculture in comparison to other eastern Africa countries and recent studies done on policy and legislation of EOA in eastern Africa have shown that Uganda is leading in supporting the mainstreaming of EOA in national structures. Recently in 2019 the Uganda government approved the National Organic Policy. The development of the policy was heavily facilitated by EOA-I partners in Uganda especially NOGAMU and Pelum Uganda. With such a supportive conducive environment, BvAT has been keen to ensure that the project continues uninterrupted in Uganda (**Annex 28: Uganda National Organic Policy**)

With the expected end of Phase I of the EOA Initiative, some changes were expected to be made in Uganda to address institutional challenges experienced by the Country Lead Organization (CLO) National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (Nogamu) and the Pillar Implementing Partners Makerere University and Uganda Martyrs University. The challenges are related to inability of Nogamu to take lead as the CLO in their current state from 2017 due to lack of proper accountability of donor funds specifically funds from Sida and SDC. The exit of key secretariat staff especially the Director of Nogamu pending restructuring of Nogamu leadership also posed a big setback as well as the restricting of the Nogamu Board of Directors. Makerere University had also been put on hold in the implementation of Pillar 2 of the project after critical contractual obligations were not met satisfactorily especially uptake of the project by mainstream arm of the University as envisaged by the EOA-I structure. Due to this stalemate, it was crucial for BvAT to reconstitute the partner project implementing team in preparations for commencement of Phase 2 of the project.

On 17th of April 2019, stakeholders in Uganda convened for a meeting at Jevine Hotel in Kampala to elect Country Lead Organisation, Pillar Implementing Partners and reconstitute the National Steering Committee ahead of the commencement of Phase 2 of EOA SDC funded project. On 18th April the BvAT team visited a sample of new selected organisations where they had meetings with key staff in a bid to understand their capacity to take on project implementation as well as their technical fit to the various pillars.

The workshop was organized by BvAT as the lead executing agency for SDC towards the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) in Africa.

The purpose of the stakeholders' workshop was to select implementing partners for EOA-I project in Uganda with the following specific objectives:

1. To select a Country Lead Organization (CLO) for the EOA-I SDC funded project
2. To select Pillar Implementing Partners (PIP) for the EOA-I SDC funded project
3. To select and form the National Steering Committee (NSC) members
4. To undertake a rapid assessment of the selected project partners

The activity was coordinated by BvATs EOA-I Project Manager supported by BvATs Finance Manager and PELUM Kenya's Programme Operations Manager. The activity was coordinated

in collaboration with Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) who undertook the responsibility of mobilizing the participants and coordinating the local participants as the local host. PELUM Kenya came in to support BvAT in its capacity as the Lead Coordinating Organization (SSNC support) and the Eastern Africa Regional Secretariat.

The stakeholders selected the following organizations to take lead in the various EOA-I implementation roles.

1. Pelum Uganda as the National Coordination Organisation
2. UMU as lead of Pillar 1
3. ESAFF as lead of Pillar 2
4. Kulika Trust as lead of Pillar 3

The organizations were expected to start implementation of Phase II on 1st May 2019.

MONITORING MISSIONS IN 2019

Monitoring missions have always been prioritized by the executing agency to ensure delivery of project results as planned by partners. The visits also ensure that funds under management by partners are utilized diligently as per the approved workplans and budgets. During the NCE period, Senegal, Mali, Uganda and Ethiopia were countries closely monitored. The reasons for close monitoring were due to the challenges the partners posed in poor financial risk management that exposed the project to financial losses.

Senegal: (*Annex 29: Senegal Monitoring Mission by BvAT in 2019*)

Monitoring and fact-finding missions in Senegal was undertaken by the EOA project management team in February and July 2019. During the visits, the team had one-on-one meetings with the Country Lead Organization (CLO) and Pillar Implementing Partners in charge of EOA in Senegal in which progress, observations and challenges were noted as follows;

- ✓ Despite claims by FENAB that they were not aware of the expectations of establishing and operationalizing an EOA-I National Platform as well as a National Steering Committee, the Project Pro-Doc for Phase 1 was translated into French for familiarization by the partners from the francophone countries on project expectations. During the inception meeting of the project held in Senegal in 2014, EOA stakeholders were taken through the various EOA-I structures, their roles, composition and selection criteria and therefore the expectations were very clear to FENAB since inception of the project in 2014.
- ✓ In 2014, EOA National Platform and NSC (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) were initially constituted at the commencement of the project as per the Senegal project inception report which shows clearly the formation of the structures in 2014 to 2016. In late 2016, the EOA national platform operations were put on hold to pave way for the establishment of a bigger government-oriented platform under the Agroecology umbrella which would also encompass the EOA-I stakeholders. The Chairman of the NSC has been Gora NDIAYE of Kaydara Centre who has been very active to date in EOA-I activities. He participated in the Validation workshop organized by BvAT for West Africa Stakeholders in August 2018 in Benin and also hosted the farm visit during the 4th Africa Organic Conference in Senegal.
- ✓ With the proposed establishment of the Agroecology Platform, activities of the EOA national platform and its NSC stalled for 2 years (2017-2018) as the stakeholders waited for the government to take lead.
- ✓ However, as FENAB waited to constitute the Agroecology Platform with the Government support, FENAB would still hold national stakeholder meetings of the FENAB membership network in replacement for the EOA National Platforms meetings. It has been difficult for BvAT Project Management Team to separate FENAB Members from National Platform members because they seem to cut across as EOA stakeholders but then some gaps have been noticed during reviews and discussions with FENAB. This has been noted when key representations in the national platforms like PIPs, Government, Certification bodies, private companies, universities, research institutes would miss in the meetings consecutively.
- ✓ During the February 2019 visit, we recommended to FENAB to revamp the national platform and National Steering Committee compositions instead of waiting for the formation of the Agroecology Platform which might never happen due to government bureaucracies. Our recommendation was taken up positively and plans of converging national EOA stakeholders commenced immediately leading to a stakeholders meeting in March 2019.
- ✓ During our February visit to ASPAB in charge of Pillar II, we noted that they had refunded the misappropriated funds as demanded by BvAT in September 2018:

Funds of CFA 300,000 for Activity 2.1.4

❖ Funds of value CFA 750,000 for Activity 2.1.2

Funds of value CFA 270,000 for Activity 2.2.2

- ✓ We also noted that though there were minimal improvements based on our recommendations (above) there were still key organizational gaps like flawed financial systems, lack of financial software, lack of annual audits, weak financial monthly reconciliations, weak financial documentations among others, which led to our recommendation to have ASPAB suspended from further project implementation in 2019. Having recommended actions on the various key gaps in subsequent visits, we have observed minimal progress and the will to improve by ASPAB management.
- ✓ We recommended that disallowed expenses under FENAB be reimbursed as a precondition for their future involvement in EOA-I and we will follow through with such actions.
- ✓ Senegal was further visited in October 2019 to follow up on the refund of project funds for Phase II. The efforts bore fruits in December 2019 when all partners refunded project funds (*Annex 29A: Statement of refunded funds by Fenab; Annex 29B: Statement of refunded funds by Enda Pronat; Annex 29C: Statement of refunded funds by Agrecole Afrique and Annex 29D: Statement of refunded funds by Agrecole Afrique*)

FOLLOW UP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FENAB

FENAB should continue to be capacitated in various organizational areas as we commence Phase 2 of the project.

Operationalize the financial management manual as well as the rest of the manuals. Having manuals that are not implemented to the latter seems to be a big challenge for the FENAB leadership.

Separate Governance from Management. Mixing the two leaves comprises on oversight and safeguarding of internal controls.

If funds allow, FENAB should employ a projects officer to support the coordinator who seems overwhelmed with the many projects that FENAB is implementing. It is highly recommended that FENAB employs a projects officer for the EOA-I project.

Establish EOA National Platform and ensure meetings are held to share progress, insights, lessons, etc.

Establish National Steering Committee for providing oversight and ensuring project accountability by FENAB and implementing partners.

Close monitoring and support should be put in place with a clear capacity building plan (based on the recent concluded OCA exercise) with clear set deadlines of capacity development.

Due to the flawed financial procedures, inviting one of the strong Pillar Organizations to coordinate and manage the project funds in the interim should be considered.

Ethics and values for ensuring transparency need to be inculcated and policy on this developed and adhered to.

FENAB's growth can be reviewed as we commence competitive selection of partners in 2020.

FOLLOW UP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASPAB

ASPAB has shown minimal growth in terms of developing strong systems and procedures especially in the finance section. It is clear that the willingness to address pertinent issues has been ignored consistently by the leadership and governance arm of the organization because the same weaknesses are observed with every visit that the BvAT team makes to ASPAB.

- ✓ The support offered by BvAT team in consecutive visits has not been taken up seriously by ASPAB team.
- ✓ With this realization, ASPAB was suspended during the 22nd February 2019 visit after it was clear the organization was not showing clear growth and operationalization of the finance manual and other manuals in place.
- ✓ Suspension was based on many flawed transactions and ASPAB was requested to refund the project funds which they did based on the September monitoring visit
- ✓ A replacement of ASPAB will be done as we commence Phase 2.

AGRECOLE AND ENDAPRONAT

For the two pillar implementing partners:

- ✓ They have sound financial management systems.
- ✓ The 2 organizations strictly have operationalized their financial procedures to the latter
- ✓ They have up to date financial software's in place.
- ✓ Qualified finance managers are in place.
- ✓ Up to date activity implementation with clear alignment of budget lines to planned activities is evident.
- ✓ In the event that FENAB should need support to coordinate and manage EOA activities and funds, or any other project funds, Enda Pronat comes highly recommended in that capacity.

Mali

Mali partners were visited in October 2019 due to poor balancing of financial accounts for Phase I. The partners had overutilized funds beyond funds at their disposal based on the contract. The monitoring mission meeting bore fruits with the Mali partners agreeing to only report finances within the existing contract. (*Annex 30: Acceptance letter on funds balance from Mali partners*)

3.2 BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST AT CONTINENTAL SECRETARIAT LEVEL

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 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.

Output 4.5. Multi stakeholder platforms at continental level strengthened for advocacy, experiential sharing, resource mobilization and learning; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- At least 22 stakeholders participating in the platform at continental level.
- At least 2 EOA policies/legislations integrated into policy frameworks at continental levels.

The key meetings of the AUC-led CSC continued to be held successfully in the reporting period. Two meetings were held successfully during this time. The 11TH CSC meetings was held in May in Zanzibar and later in the year held its second meeting (12th) in Accra Ghana with a participation of 20 CSC members.

The target of Phase II is towards ensuring 22 stakeholders participate in the meeting successfully, consistently and contribute to its mandate meaningfully.

I. The 2 meetings resulted in the following achievements:

- ✓ Supported the development and approval of the EOA phase II Proposal
- ✓ Supported the development and approval of the 2 key important manuals guiding the implementation of the project which are the Travel and Per-diem policy and the Procurement guidelines were approved. The 2 documents to pave way for the harmonisation of procedures of the project across the 9 implementing countries
- ✓ The meetings also supported the development of the grants management system by providing expertise support and providing approvals for its roll out
- ✓ The CSC members were instrumental in this period by supporting the development of baseline indicators for the Phase II of EOA.
- ✓ During that period, the members approved the Annual reports for the 2018 reporting period and also approved 2019 implementation works plans and budgets.
- ✓ The members through AUC participated in the 5th West Africa Organic Conference (WAOC) during which the Secretariat supported a collaboration dinner with the Pro-Eco Africa project for networking and partnership building.

- There were strengthened linkages between AfrONet and the Secretariat which ensured AfrONet harmoniously covers EOA news across the continent in its AfrONet newsletter.
- The members approved the spread of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) GIZ/BMZ funded project to Central Africa region under the auspices of AUC-led EOA. Through a funding request letter addressed to GIZ and BMZ by AUC the roll out of the KCOA project to Central Africa was approved

- The strengthening of EOA establishment in eastern Africa through a move to bring on board EAC was initiated through an official letter to EAC from the Secretariat.
- The AUC as well accepted to host the KCOA continental digital hub a move that served to consolidate the support of EOA-I by AUC.
- The minutes of the 11th and 12th CSC meetings and its sub-committee were developed by the secretariat and shared with the CSC members : *(Annex 31A: Minutes of the 11th CSC meeting; Annex 31B: Minutes of the 11th CSC Sub-Committee meeting; Annex 31C: Minutes of the 12th CSC meeting; Annex 31D: Minutes of the 12th CSC Sub-Committee meeting*

3.3 REGIONAL PROGRESS

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4: Structured management of EOA enhanced through coordinating, networking, advocacy, multi-stakeholder platforms and capacity building; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- ➔ 80% of governance, coordinating and implementing institutions (national, regional, and continental) are fully functioning (have and use appropriate systems, policies and procedures) based on their mandates.
- ➔ 50% increase in technical competencies (in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting) in EOA institutions at all levels of the EOA structure.

Output 4.4. Multi stakeholder platforms strengthened for advocacy, experiential sharing, networking, resource mobilization and learning at regional level; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- ➔ At least 13 stakeholders participating in the platforms at regional level.
- ➔ At least 3 EOA policies/legislations integrated into policy frameworks at regional levels.
- ➔ At least 4 platform meetings conducted annually.

Biovision Africa trust through the support from SDC coordinated implementation at the regional level of the 2-key active regional clusters of eastern Africa and west Africa during 2019.

In East Africa, the countries involved were Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Rwanda while in West Africa the countries under were Mali, Nigeria, Benin and Senegal.

During the reporting period, the regional clusters continued to execute their mandate as expected with ECOWAS Charing of west Africa Steering Committee becoming stronger. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC's) ideally should be chaired by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of ECOWAS and East African Community (not yet on board). The RECs are key in integration of EOA in regional and national policies and programs. Co-chairing is offered by NOAN in West Africa and in eastern Africa the RSC is chaired by Prof. Charles Ssekyewa formerly of UgoCert and now working for St. Lawrence University in Uganda. The Regional Steering Committee's continued to be strengthened during the implementation period.

West Africa Regional Platform

West Africa cluster continued to receive encouraging support from ECOWAS which currently has a dedicated officer Mr. Ernest Aubee chairing the RSC meetings. The entry of ECOWAS is key in raising the visibility of EOA at the regional level especially in integration of EOA in regional and national policy and programs as well as funds mobilization.

Key Milestones in the period: *(Annex 31: West Africa Progress report for 2019)*

- I. The RSC managed to steer direction of EOA-I mainstreaming at the regional level through closely monitoring and giving guidance to the country partners. Through the attendance in the WAOC conference in Ghana, they supported the development of the Call to Action which was targeted to the Policy makers, development partners and other key organisations in the region to support EOA. *(Annex 32: Call to Action of the 5th WAOC)*. The RSC will also closely monitor and support the implementation of the call to action.
- II. In its key task of steering and giving guidance to the implementation of EOA-I by the 4 country partners in its region (Mali, Senegal, Beni and Nigeria), the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) hosted a Regional Platform meeting for the Country Lead Organizations (CLOs), Pillar implementing partners and other implementing organisations in a meeting at the 5th West African Organic Conference (WAOC) at the University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana on the 15th of November 2019. The participants reviewed the reports from the Regional Secretariat and implementing countries from the West African region. The exercise as a monitoring and sharing platform that ensured EOA is on track towards the delivery of its goal *(Annex 33: Regional Platform Meeting for west Africa partners)*
- III. During the 5th West African Organic Conference (WAOC) the Regional Secretariat had an exhibition booth to interact with organic agriculture stakeholders. Graced by farms/farmers group, corporate institutions and upcoming National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs) like the Guinean movement which is trying to build its NOAM and needed guidance from the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) through the Regional Secretariat.
- IV. In addition, in order to implement one of its duties which is the harmonization of standards in West Africa, the Regional Secretariat facilitated the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative' implementing partners meeting. Participants from Pillar 3 reviewed the state of standards in the region and set up a 6-man committee to look into it and come up with on a draft that shall be adopted for the region.
- V. It is also worth to note that the maiden edition of the BioWestAfrica Newsletter for year 2018 has been implemented. In this newsletter (forwarded by Mr Ernest Aubee, the

Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee), the previous year's implemented activities of the EOA West Africa were reported for documentation and awareness in order to boost the visibility of the EOA in the region (*Annex 34: BioWestAfrica Newsletter for year 2018*)

- VI. One of the landmark achievements during the year was the EOA Initiative representatives' visitation to the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food in Lomé, Togo on the 10th October 2019. This visit afforded the visiting team the opportunity to meet and interact with the technical arm of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission that houses its agro-ecological projects. The Togo trip was also used to put together a concept-note to address a Centre of Excellence in Ecological Organic Agriculture in West Africa.

Challenges experienced by the west Africa regional cluster during the implementation period;

- i. The need to disburse regional budget once because of the strategic nature of its operation,
- ii. Insufficient fund for advocacy programmes,
- iii. The lackadaisical attitude of some partners towards organic agriculture,
- iv. Insufficient fund for cluster's operation,
- v. Inability of CLOs to meet up with technical and financial reports submission deadlines,

Lesson learnt by the cluster

Data collection of relevant information is very important to the success of the Initiative. At country level, efforts should be made to develop a template for collecting data including number of women, youth and vulnerable among other specific data to each country.

RSC members active during the implementation period

S/N	NAME	ORGANISATION	POST	COUNTRY
1	Mr Ernest Aube	ECOWAS	Chairman	ECOWAS
2	Prof. Simplicie D. Vodouhe	PABE	Vice-chairman	Benin
3	Dr Olugbenga O. AdeOluwa	NOAN	Secretary	Nigeria
4	Ernest Pedro Comlan	PASCIb	Member	Benin
5	Seydou Tangara	AOPP	Member	Mali
6	Sir Mike Elechi	NACCIMA	Member	Nigeria
7	Dr Emile V. Coly	Min. of Agric. Senegal	Member	Senegal
8	Dr Abdulai Jalloh	CORAF, Senegal	Member	Senegal

Eastern Africa Regional Platform

The EOA-I Eastern Africa Cluster has its Secretariat hosted under Pelum Kenya. The Secretariat is charged with supporting the implementation of activities of the Regional Steering Committee members. During the reporting period, activity implementation was recorded at a rate of 100% with 2 RSC meetings being held in the year.

Key Milestones in the period: *(Annex 35: Eastern Africa progress report for 2019)*

- I. In its key task of steering and giving guidance to the implementation of EOA-I by the 5 country partners in its region (Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya), the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) hosted a Regional Platform meeting for the Country Lead Organizations (CLOs), Pillar implementing partners and other implementing organisations in its 9th RSC meeting from 23rd Oct -24th October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with 16 participants. During the RSC country lead organizations presented their country reports which included progress, achievements, fundraising initiatives, challenges and recommendations of each country. ESAFF also presented their progress of small-scale farmers in the region especially on the issues regarding policies at the regional level. They have been spearheading amendment of the EAC seed bill in the region which they shared for members to give inputs. The lead coordinating agencies who represents the various donors like SSNC, SDC and GIZ also presented the progress at the regional level while the regional secretariat highlighted the progress of bringing EAC on board which has been a headache. The meeting serves as a sharing platform of success, challenges and lessons learnt across the implementing countries *(Annex 36: RSC minutes of the 9th meeting held in AddisAbaba)*

Key notable action points passed during the 9th RSC meeting included;

- The Continental secretariat to use AU to push for EAC support at the regional level.
 - The officers representing the ministries should share back to office reports with their seniors at the ministry.
 - The new project on knowledge hub should be part of the reporting to be done at RSC.
 - Reporting by the CLOs should be based on the EOA-I strategic plan.
 - All CLOs to give inputs to the EAC seed bill shared by ESAFF before sharing it with EAC.
 - The Ministry official from Uganda, Mr. Alex Lwakuba was endorsed to be the next organic champion for playing a very instrumental role in making sure the Uganda organic policy came to pass.
 - The Regional Secretariat together with the Continental secretariat to organize for a day for members to learn about strategies, policies and declarations on how important they are in achieving our goal in EOAI.
 - All CLOs should also be presenting NSC updates during RSC and share the NSC reports with the Regional Secretariat.
 - Regional Secretariat to look for an EAC lobbyist at EAC secretariat as a strategy of bringing them on board.
- II. The RSC members also paid a courtesy call to the ministry of agriculture where they met the Minister for Agriculture in Ethiopia. They used this opportunity to share with the minister

the on the recent developments of EOA in Ethiopia through the work ISD is doing and also shared with him concerns of the slow uptake and support of EOA by the Ethiopian government. It was made clear that the ministry needs to take lead in the development of the National Organic Policy to complement already existing policy structures. The minister was happy to host the group and shared the work that the government is doing in the organic sector informing the meeting that the Ethiopian government has embraced organic agriculture in its operations.

- III. The Regional secretariat conducted follow up visits in Uganda and Ethiopia. The visits were conducted by PELUM Kenya M&E officer and the EOAI Secretariat Coordinator to the following partners: Kulika Uganda, UMU, ESAFF and PELUM Uganda in Uganda while ISD was visited in Ethiopia. The main purpose of the visits was;
1. The Secretariat coordinator to familiarize herself with the current EOA partners in the region.
 2. To check on the EOA structures compliance by partners.
 3. Follow up Regional Steering Committee action points with the respective partners.
 4. Discuss Country work plans for EOA phase II.
 5. Discuss challenges and Recommendations.
- IV. To enhance networking and awareness creation on EOA-I, the RSC members participated in the 5th WAOC in Accra, Ghana in November 2019. The RSc was represented by RSC Regional Secretariat Coordinator and the ESAFF chair during the Conference. The theme of the conference was "To achieve deepened experiences & knowledge in organic agriculture & further develop ideas on how to grow the industry to the point where it delivers on its potentials". The conference was well attended by the donor community, farmers, EOA-I fraternity, general participants from all over the globe, business community and ministries representatives. The coordinator met with a businessman from a company called LT foods based in India who were interested in exploring the organic market potential of cereals and legumes in Africa.
- The meeting bore fruits when LT foods visited Kenya for a follow up visit. Pelum Kenya arranged for his visit in the region to our partners including ISD in Ethiopia, PELUM Kenya, KOAN, PELUM Uganda and ESAFF. When he visited Kenya, we organized a meeting together with KOAN. He expressed that his interests are; To explore the country's potential in production of organic cereals as well as favourable environment and policies for foreign investors; To identify areas of intervention in terms of organic production value chain. Either through supporting of farmers through production, processing plant or marketing of the organic products as exports. As a starting point, KOAN was tasked to provide samples of uncleaned organic sesame and ground nuts with price indicators each of 300-400gms. The way forward was that LT foods link person will then do an analysis and share feedback with the secretariat. He will then present his feedback from Africa to the management of his company to make a decision on where, how and when to engage (*Annex 37: WAOC Activity report for Pelum Kenya Secretariat*)

- V. The regional secretariat coordinator met with the supply manager of OTC organics based in Netherlands who was interested in exploring organic Hass Avocadoes production in Kenya. The communications are ongoing, and she promised to visit Kenya in January 2020 for more engagements.
- VI. In November 26th -27th 2019, the secretariat was invited to participate in the Tanzania National Organic Conference which was held in Dodoma, Tanzania. The theme of the conference was "Achieving food security, safety, livelihoods, industrialization and climate resilience through EOA innovations." The participants included, the donor community, farmers, policy makers and the EOA partners. The activity was mainly funded by the French government. The conference was opened by the Minister of Agriculture who was very enthusiastic about organic agriculture. He promised to elevate the current organic desk to a full directorate. He also asked for the full conference report so that the recommendations can be implemented. More importantly, he promised that they will include organic policy as the ministry is preparing the new policies. I also got a chance to interact with him personally where I presented the request of lobbying for EAC support and he promised his full support.

Farmers were also given a platform to discuss their success cases and challenges facing them. Interestingly, they challenged the policy makers by reporting that organic agriculture works but they have very little support from the government. The farmers also exhibited their products in which the minister went through each stand and was very impressed. The coordinator was able to interact with the French Development Organization (AFD) where I requested them to introduce us to their regional office in Nairobi which am still following up.

The conference major highlights were their ability to bring in many policy makers to be able to influence them to drive the EOA agenda and present our request of lobbying for EAC support to the Minister of Agriculture, Tanzania.

Challenges faced during implementation by Pelum Kenya

- ✓ Bringing EAC on board has been a major setback for the Regional Secretariat. The strategy of lobbying through the member countries where a lot of efforts and resources were used, still failed despite high expectations.

Lessons Learnt

- ✓ EAC integration involves a lot of politics, there is need therefore to have an insider from EAC who can help in spearheading the process.
- ✓ It is important to lobby for many policy makers to attend the EOA forums so that to be able to influence EOA agenda.

Eastern Africa Active RSC members in the year 2019

NAME	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	EMAIL
Prof. Charles Ssekyewa	Chair	Uganda	cssekyewa@gmail.com
Mr. Zachary Makanya	Member	Kenya	makanya@pelum.net
Dr. David Amudavi	Member	Kenya	damudavi@biovisionafrica.org
Ms. Manei Naanyu	Secretary	Kenya	manei@pelum.net
Ms. Venancia Wambua	Member	Kenya	vwambua@biovisionafrica.org
Ms. Rosinah Mbenya	Member	Kenya	rosinah@pelum.net
Ms. Stella Lutalo	Member	Uganda	stellalutalo@pelumuganda.org
Ms. Lise Chantal	Member	Rwanda	lisechantal.dusabe@gmail.com
Mr. Adrien Sibomana	Member	Burundi	sibad53@gmail.com
Mr. Bakari Mongo	Member	Tanzania	mongobr66@gmail.com
Mr. Ghebremedhin Belay	Member	Ethiopia	ghebremedhin12.isd@gmail.com
Mr. Hakim Baliraine	Member	Uganda	hakimbaliraine@yahoo.co.uk
Ms. Jacqueline Kiio	Member	Kenya	kiiojacqueline15@gmail.com
Mr. Alex Lwakuba	Member	Uganda	alwakuba@gmail.com
Mr. Beatus Malema	Member	Tanzania	beatus.malema@kilimo.go.tz
Mr. Innocent Bisangwa	Member	Rwanda	innocentbisangwa@gmail.com
Mr. Mulatu Abate	Member	Ethiopia	mulatuaba@yahoo.com
Mr. Eustace Kiarrii	Member	Kenya	ekiarrii@koan.co.ke

3.4 AFRONET PROGRESS

KEY PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS: *Annex 38: Afronet progress report for 2019*

- I. Afronet being a key player in the organic sector was part of the study undertaken to review the EOA-I structures of implementation and recommendations on improving operational structures for Afronet recommended. The participation of Afronet to the EOA-I validation workshop of the structure review report and of the baseline report served as an avenue for Afronet to validate the study results. The study paved way for the road map to the development of AfrONet to the expected 'image' in order to play its roles in the organic sector. Afronet is a membership organisation of National Organic Movements.
- II. In a bid to network and create awareness on EOA, AfrONet attended the Africa Europe organic agriculture workshop held in Morocco in November 2019, aimed at boosting organic actors in Europe and Africa with focus to North Africa. Mr. Gama Jordan participated at the function and presented EOA-I in greater Africa which links the rest of Africa to European organic actors
- III. As a member of the AUC led CSC, AfrONet participated at the 11th and 12th Continental Steering Committee held in Zanzibar and Accra, Ghana, in May and November respectively. The CSC approved the review of the Afronet organisational structures in order to pave way for its establishment of an Organic Continental Platform. The review would also ensure that AfrONet is well visible in the African continent in the delivery of its mandate as envisioned in its Strategic Plan.
- IV. AfrONet also participated at the West Africa Organic Conference held in University of Ghana and organized Organic actors in Ghana with support from ECOWAS and other organic actors.
- V. With technical support from AfrONet, a national organic conference was held in Tanzania by TOAM and funded by UNFAO Tanzania office, SWISSAID and was attended by Tanzanian Agriculture minister Honourable Japheth Hasunga, over 20 members of parliament, development stakeholders and farmers. The meeting ended with a resolution and minister emphasizing the organic actors to participate in the agriculture reforms taking place so that more of Ecological organic Agriculture is included in the next government policy document. Also, a desk to handle EOA was promised to be set up and made active to handle EOA issues ([Annex 39: Tanzania National Organic Conference](#))
- VI. In a bid to increase funding in the organic sector for delivery of its organic agenda, AfrONet held meetings for development and submitted a project proposal to EU named ECOINS2ACTION in Arusha Tanzania in July 2019. Unfortunately, the project proposal did not go through.
- VII. AfrONet supported WafrONet and ensured legal registration of WafrONet to the Nigerian authorities, establishment of office premises and secretariat staff to directly manage daily affairs of WafrONet. The legalisation WafrONet was a good development in ensuring that they can conduct there with no disturbance from the government.

- VIII. AfrONet conducted a capacity building training for TOAM in December 2019 held in Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania. The capacity building training was held to capacitate TOAM and AfrONet staff in organizational management, project management, financial discipline, Capital resource mobilization and management and human resource management for better delivery of EOA-I set goals and objectives.
- IX. The expansion of EOA in Africa received a good boost through contact establishment of Afronet and organic actor umbrella body Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The discussions kicked off successfully during the implementation period.
- X. AfrONet initiated technical support to NOGAMU in Uganda that was experiencing governance and management challenges. AfrONet as well has been engaging NOGAMU in project proposal development to seek funding opportunities to support the organic activities in Uganda.
- XI. AfrONet won a new project from French funding that will run for over 3 years with activities in Tanzania, Uganda and Morocco. The project is aimed at supporting Ecological organic Agriculture in the three selected countries and build capacity of organic movements in Africa. The project will be launched in Tanzania by end of February 2020.

Challenges

- I. Resources from EOA project allocated to support AfrONet to play its mandate are so limited as compared to what is demanded of it and expected to do to boost organic sector across Africa, as noted that the bigger project AfrONet depended on OTEA, ended in mid-2019.
- II. There is consistent poor response towards submitting articles for the newsletter.
- III. There is need for continued and technical way to engage governments across Africa on inclusion of EOA in their workplans and be able to fund instead of waiting for grants through NGOs. These may lead to subsidies from governments to organic production and products through policy reforms.

3.5 NATIONAL PROGRESS

3.5.1 OVERVIEW

During the implementation period of reporting, the 8 funded countries implemented the project during the NCE period, and 9 countries implemented the project in Phase II. The project was successfully implemented in the 9 EOA-I SDC funded countries of Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda and Ethiopia.

The EOA-I country partners implemented towards the following Objectives and target Outputs towards attainment of the goal of the project.

Pillar 1: Research and Applied Knowledge

Expected Outcome 1: Knowledge needed by EOA actors in various value chains availed in accessible repositories for dissemination. Two indicators and targets will be used to measure this outcome:

- At least 30 types of information on EOA technologies, practices and others availed to various value chain actors in repositories.
- At least 5 information repositories on EOA technologies and practices developed.

Expected output 1.1: Information and knowledge needed by EOA actors along value chains generated and collated for dissemination. One indicator and target will be used to measure this outcome:

- At least 30 types of EOA technologies, practices and others generated and collated along the various value chains.

Expected output 1.2: EOA research information and knowledge validated and processed for dissemination. One Indicator and target will be used to measure this outcome:

- At least 28 types of EOA technologies, practices and others validated and processed along the various value chains.

Expected Output 1.3: Best experiences and results on EOA research information and knowledge use by various actors along value chains documented. This will be measured by the following indicator and target:

- 28 publications on best EOA experiences produced.

Pillar 2: Information Communication and Extension

Expected Outcome 2: Adoption of EOA practices by EOA value chain actors enhanced. Indicators and targets for adoption are:

- 200,000 new producers practising EOA technologies and practices disaggregated by gender and age in a country.
- 100 other value chain actors (processors, input suppliers, traders, etc.) supporting various elements of EOA practices disaggregated by gender and age.
- 24 EOA technologies and practices adopted.
- 60% increase in awareness and knowledge of EOA practices by value chain actors disaggregated by gender and age.

Expected Output 2.1: Information on EOA practices disseminated through various pathways. Indicators and targets for this output result are:

- 30 types of communication pathways used for EOA information and knowledge dissemination.
- 1.5 million value chain actors reached with EOA information and knowledge disaggregated by gender and age.

Expected Output 2.2: EOA practices disseminated through training (formal and informal) of various target groups. The indicators and targets for this are:

- 180 Training of Trainers of Facilitators (ToToFs) trained, disaggregated by gender and age.
- 400,000 new value chain actors trained, disaggregated by gender and youth (Women 240,000; Men 120,000 and Youth 40,000).

Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development

Expected Outcome 3: Share of quality organic products increased at the local, national and regional markets, with the indicators and targets measures being:

- 10% increase in market share of organic products at local, national, regional and international markets.
- 20% increase in household consumption of organic products disaggregated by gender and youth.
- 20% increase in incomes of organic farmers households, disaggregated by gender and age

Expected Output 3.1: Value chain actors linked to business support services; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- 20 types of business development services (BDS) supplied along the value chains, disaggregated by gender and age.
- 200,000 value chain actors linked to business development services (BDS).
- 100 BDS suppliers engaged along the common value chains.

Expected Output 3.2: Decision making and competitiveness of EOA value chain actors enhanced, with the indicator and target measure being:

- 400,000 EOA producers participating in markets at different levels (local, regional and international) disaggregated by gender and age.

Expected Output 3.3: Access to market intelligence (product, price, place and promotion – 4Ps) supported to inform decision making and improve competitiveness of EOA actors; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- 300,000 value chain actors using market information and data disaggregated by gender and age.
- 8 types of market intelligence information availed to organic producers.

Expected Output 3.4: Capacity of producers strengthened to meet organic market standards; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- 60% increase in number of producers meeting the organic market standards disaggregated by gender and age.
- 50% increase in volumes for certified organic products traded in the market.

Expected Outputs 3.5: Organic markets developed and strengthened to increase share of organic products (certified and non-certified) at the domestic and export markets; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- 20 new market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors.
- 4 existing market channels strengthened.
- 20 types of new organic products traded in markets at different levels.
- 20% increase in number of people consuming organic products as a result of consumer awareness campaigns.
- 10 products that have undergone value addition.

Pillar 4: Support & Cementing: Management, Coordination and Governance

Expected Outcome 4: Structured management of EOA enhanced through coordinating, networking, advocacy, multi-stakeholder platforms and capacity building; with the indicators and targets measures being:

- 80% of governance, coordinating and implementing institutions (national, regional and continental) are fully functioning (have and use appropriate systems, policies and procedures) based on their mandates.
- 50% increase in technical competencies (in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting) in EOA institutions at all levels of the EOA structure.

Expected Output 4.1: Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened; with the indicator and target measure being:

→ At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level.

Expected Output 4.2: EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans; the indicators and targets measures being:

→ At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks.

→ At least 4 meetings/workshops held annually at national level to lobby and advocate EOA

3.5.2 PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

RWANDA

In the Phase II of EOA-I, Rwanda through the coordination of ROAM was brought on board to implement EOA-I in Rwanda. Official implementation started in May 2019 by signing of the contract between BvAT and ROAM. Prior to the engagement of ROAM, a due diligence capacity assessment was undertaken and follow up to the capacity building undertaken through several meetings between BvAT and ROAM. During the capacity building period that started in 2018 and continued through to 2019, ROAM showed commitment in addressing the organizational capacity gaps that had been identified. By the time the project started its Phase II, BvAT was confident that ROAM would deliver with low project risks.

With this understanding, ROAM and BvAT signed the contract and development and approval of the workplan was done. During the period of May to December, ROAM managed to undertake the following key milestones for Pillar 4. BvAT was impressed by the timely delivery of work executed by ROAM. Reporting and submission of requested documents was also done timely.

Key Highlights

- ✓ Launch of the EOA National platform with 34 different stakeholders ([Annex 40: Launch of the National EOA-I Platform in Rwanda](#))
- ✓ Election of the National Steering Committee with all institutions represented ([Annex 41: National Platform meeting](#))
- ✓ A national multi-stakeholders Dialogue on Agro-ecology and the potential of EOA practices and technologies in partnership with Action -Aid Rwanda was undertaken in December 2019.
- ✓ A study on identification of gaps and development of an advocacy and lobbying action plan for aligning EOA practices and technologies into agricultural systems was undertaken and the report produced.

Challenges experienced

- ✓ Delay of funds release and the implementation of the activities
- ✓ Limited awareness on the EOA at the country level

Opportunities identified

- ✓ Governmental and Non-Governmental institutions committed to support Ecological Organic Agriculture in Rwanda in partnership with ROAM; Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB), National Agriculture Export Development Board (NAEB), and Action Aid Rwanda. We are looking forward for great achievements together in advancing the organic sector in Rwanda ([Annex 42: MOU between ROAM and MINAGRI](#))

Success Stories

- ✓ A dynamic EOA multi-stakeholders’ platform led by a National Steering Committee with 11 members representing their respective institutions are committed to develop EOA sector in Rwanda.
- ✓ ROAM is now part of the MINAGRI- Agriculture Sector working Group, which is a good opportunity for lobbying and advocating for EOA Policy in PSTA 4 (Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture.)
- ✓ On **28th November 2019** Action Aid in partnership with ROAM, organized a National dialogue on Agro-ecology with 50 participants focusing on the analysis of EOA mainstreaming in the National policy and systems.
- ✓ ROAM is now developing a database of the EOA value chain actors which was a great need to the EOA Stakeholders.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
<p>OUTPUT 4.1 Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened</p>	<p>Launch of the EOA National platform with 34 different stakeholders and the Election of the National steering committee with all institutions represented</p> <p>The first meeting of the NSC was held on 18th December 2019 with the aim of helping them understand their role in mainstreaming EOA in National Systems and programs</p> <p>ROAM visited 4 potential partners to work with in EOA-I project to assess their capacity and interest to support the EOA work in Rwanda (University of Technology and Arts of Byumba, UTAB, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, CAVM, HUGUKA-Communication organization and Community Radio, Sina Gerard -URWIBUTSO Enterprise)</p>

<p>Targets:</p> <p>4.1.1: At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level</p>	<p>4 different stakeholders from MOA, Learning Institutions, private enterprises, CSOs and Community Radio</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.2 EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>4.2.1: At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks</p> <p>4.2.2: At least 4 meetings/workshops held at national level to lobby and advocate EOA annually</p>	<p>A study on identification of gaps and development of an advocacy and lobbying action plan for aligning EOA practices and technologies into agricultural systems was undertaken and the report produced. Gaps were identified and was presented to the NSC who also gave their inputs. Consultants are now incorporating recommendations from different stakeholders and a validation meeting of the Report will be scheduled in the activities of the 2020 work plan after the final report</p> <p>A national multi-stakeholders Dialogue on Agro-ecology and the potential of EOA practices and technologies in partnership with Action -Aid Rwanda was undertaken in December 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Note yet generated ❖ A national dialogue on Agroecology held (1 workshop)

UGANDA

During the implementation period, Uganda had new partners come on board after the exit of Nogamu that had been coordinating the project since 2014. The new Country Lead Organization (CLO) selected through the inception workshop was Pelum Uganda. New implementing partners for Pillar 2 and Pillar 3 were also selected. Pillar 2 was implemented by ESAFF while Pillar 3 was implemented by Kulika Trust. UMU was retained as the implementing partner for Pillar 1.

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) Phase II (May 2019 – April 2023) in Uganda aims to transform and create sustainable food systems through promoting 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.

Key Highlights

- ✓ The project was successfully launched under the coordination of the new partners in Uganda on 31st May 2019 by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- ✓ Following the launch event, the Uganda CLO and PIP representatives attended the Regional Inception workshop that took place in Nairobi in July 2019, where they got familiar with the project documents, key strategies and compliance issues as well as what is expected of them.
- ✓ PELUM Uganda, the Country Lead Organisation of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) Project then organized a one day in country planning meeting for the EOA-I phase 2 on the 19th August 2019. The meeting was attended by 17 participants who came from various organisations including the CLO, representatives from the PIPs and representatives from the National Steering Committee as well as the chair of the EOAI Regional steering committee.
- ✓ As the result of the meeting, Country work plans were finalized, and consensus was generated on common value chains as well as target regions. Furthermore, it was agreed that all PIPs were to plan for a baseline with UMU taking a lead; each PIP was to plan for an inception meeting with targeted stakeholders; So far the baseline and value chain data analysis tools have been developed and they await further review by all the PIPs. Furthermore, representatives of the newly elected National Steering Committee (NSC) were able to understand their roles and responsibilities as well as make input to the Country plans for phase 2.
- ✓ Finally, Ms. Stella Grace Lutalo had a meeting with Mr. Alex Lwakuba the Commissioner for Crop Production at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in Entebbe on 8th August and discussed the possibility of MAAIF chairing the NSC. The Commissioner nominated his Assistant Commissioner, Crop Production Mr. John Lodungokol to serve as chair. Since then, the CLO has submitted a formal request awaiting formal appointment and thereafter full engagement of Mr. Lodungokol.

Opportunities identified

- ✓ There is sustained interest and demand for knowledge on Ecological Organic Agriculture. This has a direct bearing on technology awareness and adoption, provides opportunities for establishing meaningful collaborations, and increases participation in project activities as well as knowledge up-take among communities. There is a high possibility that this will positively impact on the sustainability of the project.
- ✓ The passing of the National Organic Agriculture policy in Uganda presents opportunities for advancing organic agriculture interventions in the country
- ✓ Selection of PELUM Uganda as a co-host for the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa provides opportunities for OA knowledge sharing in-country and within the region
- ✓ The existence of a National Agroecology Actors' Platform in Uganda, launched on 31st May 2019 as part of the National Agroecology Actors' Symposium presents opportunities for national multi stakeholder engagements on EOA

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output Indicator 1.1: Information & knowledge needed by EOA actors along value chains generated and collated for dissemination.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: At least 30 types of EOA technologies, practices and others generated along the various value chains</p>	<p>During the reporting period, value chain areas were identified, and 2 baseline tools developed</p> <p>❖ No EOA technology and practices generated yet during the reporting period</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.2: EOA research information and knowledge validated and processed for dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 28 types of EOA technologies, practices and others validated along the various value chains.</p>	<p>❖ No EOA technology and practices generated yet during the reporting period</p>

<p>Output 1.3: Best experiences and results on EOA research information and knowledge use by EOA actors along value chains documented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No EOA technology and practices generated during the reporting period
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>EOA OUTPUT IND 2.1: EOA practices disseminated through various pathways (IEC materials, social media, websites, etc.)</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 30 types of pathways used for EOA information and knowledge dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 1.5 million value chain actors reached with EOA information and knowledge disaggregated by gender and youth.</p>	<p>Initiated the development of a communication strategy for the project. During this period, Identification of partners done and information for document gathered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Achievement of set targets started during the reporting period.
<p>OUTPUT 2.2 EOA practices disseminated through training (formal and informal) of various target groups</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 2.2.1: 180 ToToFs Trained disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>2.2.2: 400,000 value chain actors trained (120,000 M; 240,000 F and 40,000 Y)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The process of developing training materials was initiated with key topics identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ How to benefit from organic agriculture ➔ The impact of organic agriculture for farmers ✓ A draft guide for the training was also developed ❖ Target results not yet generated
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>

<p>OUTPUT 3.1 Value chain actors linked to business support services</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.1.1: 20 types of business development services (BDS) supplied along the value chains</p> <p>3.1.2: 600,000 value chain actors linked to business development services (BDS) disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.1.3: 500 BDS suppliers engaged along the value chains disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>✓ Activities and targeted results were not attained</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.2 Decision making and competitiveness of EOA value chain actors enhanced</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.2.1: 400,000 EOA producers participating in markets at different levels (local, domestic, regional and international) disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>❖ Activities and targeted results were not attained</p>
<p>Output 3.3 Access to market intelligence (products, price, place and promotion – 4Ps) supported to inform decision making and improve competitiveness of EOA actors</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p>	<p>❖ Activities and targeted results were not attained</p>

<p>3.3.1: 300,000 value chain actors using market information and data disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.3.2: 8 types of market intelligence information availed to organic producers.</p>	
<p>OUTPUT 3.4 Capacity of producers strengthened to meet organic market standards increased</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>3.4.1: 60% increase in number of producers meeting the organic market standards disaggregated by gender and age.</p> <p>3.4.2: 50% increase in volumes of certified organic products traded in the market</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Activities and targeted results were not attained ❖ Not generated
<p>OUTPUT 3.5 Organic markets developed and strengthened to increase share of organic products (certified/non-certified) at domestic and export levels</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>3.5.1: 20 new market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors</p> <p>3.5.2: 4 existing market channels strengthened.</p> <p>3.5.3: 20 types of new organic products traded in markets at different levels.</p> <p>3.5.4: 20% increase in number of people consuming organic products as a result of consumer awareness campaigns disaggregated by gender and youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated ❖ Not generated

3.5.3: 10 products that have undergone value addition.	
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
<p>OUTPUT 4.1 Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>4.1.1: At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level</p>	<p>Members of the National Steering Committee were involved in the Country planning meeting at which the NSC roles were shared. The NSC also gave input to Country plans.</p> <p>Initiated discussions with the ministry of Agriculture to chair the NSC and got a positive response. Follow ups on a formal appointment are ongoing</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.2 EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>4.2.1: At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks</p> <p>4.2.2: At least 4 meetings/workshops held at national level to lobby and advocate EOA annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PELUM Uganda has been one of the key stakeholders contributing to the drafting of the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) together with National Organic Agricultural Organization of Uganda (NOGAMU), Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) and other CSOs in close collaboration ✓ The NOAP was approved by cabinet in July 2019. ❖ NOAP approved ❖ 1 NSC planning meeting held

TANZANIA

TOAM continues to coordinate the PIPs successfully with commendable control. TOAM and partners consolidated and submitted work plans and budgets for 2019 and mid-term and

annual reports on time. The biggest challenge with TOAM has been delays in the submission of documents when requested to do so. The annual report for 2019 was submitted 2 months late after several reminders were done. The delays cause further delays in giving enough time for review of the documents by BvAT an further submission to the donor. The following Pillar Implementing Organizations were in charge during the reporting period;

- ✓ *Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by SAT*
- ✓ *Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Pelum Tanzania*
- ✓ *Pillar Three: Value Chains and Market Development Pillar - Implemented by TOAM*
- ✓ *Pillar Four: Supporting, Steering and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by TOAM*

EOA covers several areas in Tanzania namely **Njombe, Mtwara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Dar-es-Salaam, Dodoma, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Zanzibar and an Island called Mafia (Cost Region)**. The direct target groups are smallholder farmers organized in groups dealing with a number of value chains limited to Sunflower, Spices, Sesame, Vegetables, Fruits, Legumes, Sorghum, Hibiscus and Cashews. The Secondary target groups are like-minded organizations and policy makers who have the potential to influence the development of organic farming.

Key Highlights

By end of April 2019, all planned activities for NCE period were successfully implemented by the assigned PIPs and the implementation of the activities contributed to the following results:

- Updated databases on EOA-I research findings and other related information – for details visit the EOA website (<http://eoai-africa.org/research>)
- Increased EOA productivity and income levels as evidenced by cases below;
 - ✓ *Estimated marketing of 10,000MT to both foreign and local markets and benefiting approximately 85,404 farmers across the country. The sold products include vegetables, fruits, legumes, cereals and fibres.*
 - ✓ *Nachili group (243 members) in Masasi bulked and marketed 5 crops that led to increased group income from \$3,000 to 100,000 \$.*
 - ✓ *Frank horticultural company in Njombe region marketed 118 tons of organic avocado that worth \$ 65,000 (sold at \$0.55/kg)*
- Set up and development of a functional National platforms to influence policy and programs:
 - ✓ Featuring of OA in the on-going review of the 2013 National Agriculture Policy
 - ✓ Agricultural Sector Development Program II (ASDP II) recognizes EOA practices i.e. organic mulching, nitrogen-fixing crops etc

- Increased political will and support on OA interventions
 - ✓ Allocation of resources (financial and human) for the development of organic agriculture by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.
 - ✓ Invitation of Private Sectors by the Government to implement ASDP II – enforcement of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP)
- Scaling up and intensification of EOA-I interventions by other development practitioners including CSOs and government institutions.
- Increased public awareness on EOA practices and products through production and dissemination of IEC materials. More than 60% of those reached stakeholders are aware of EOA practices and technologies such as intercropping, crop rotation, use of mulching and use of farm residue to improve soil fertility.
- Incorporation of EOA into training curricula of higher learning institutions, for instance, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) has established and enrolled students for Ph.D. and Masters Programs on Agro-ecology
- Submitted for approval a draft of EOA training curriculum for Certificate and Diploma levels.

Achievements Highlights

Pillar 1: Towards Contribution of Outcome 1: Ecological Organic Products related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors capacitated to translate it into practices and application.	
Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	The activities under this output were not planned for during the reporting period.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA	A Swahili Training Manual was produced for farmers to use in their daily organic production activities.

practices developed and strengthened	
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	✓ Two reports, narrative and financial are written and submitted to CLO
Contribution towards Outcome 2. Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services	
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased.	<p>Awareness creation was created further by end of April 2019, through the production of IEC materials increased from 4,000 to 16,750 copies. This entailed production of two EOA success stories and two policy briefs (15,000 copies of Swahili version). Produced EOA success stories titles are EOA education creates a buzz across ages in Masasi and the Uluguru mountains; the home of organic farming. And the titles of policy briefs are Realization of the role of ICT in EOA development in Tanzania, and The Use of ICT in mobilizing the ecological organic agricultural value chain.</p> <p>All 16,750 copies of IEC materials produced have been distributed to EOA stakeholders including farmers (14,750 more copies above set project target). The number of copies distributed is as indicated before stakeholder names. That is, SAT – 460 copies, farmers groups- 1,440 copies, TOAM – 1,000 copies, five village information centers (Makoja, Chamwino, Chinangali I, Wilunze and Manchali) - 1,800 copies, Chamwino District (Agriculture department) – 500 copies and other stakeholders including PELUM-Tanzania organization members – 11,550 copies</p>
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<p>Awareness creation among policy makers continued to be strengthened as well.</p> <p>Two policy briefs; <i>"the role of ICT in EOA development in Tanzania and use of ICT in mobilizing EOA value chains"</i> were reviewed and printed totaling to 900 copies (450 copies per title) and copies distributed to stakeholders (SAT – 200 copies, TOAM – 200 copies, Chamwino District (agriculture department – 100 copies, PELUM and its organization members – 400 copies).</p> <p>The aim was to influence either review of existing policies or development of new ones. For instance, progressing efforts on National EOA strategy development in Zanzibar; <i>to make Zanzibar Organic Island</i></p>

<p>Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<p>✓ 60% implementation of activities planned for 2018 was recorded with shortage of time due to delays in receiving funds from CLO being pegged as the main reason.</p>
<p>Contribution towards Outcome 3: A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved</p>	
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.</p>	<p>✓ Not planned for during the NCE Period.</p>
<p>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Value Chain Study (VCD) was undertaken that recommended more interventions to build strong farmers organizations, increase access to organic inputs, reduce post-harvest losses, reduce organic certification costs (third party) and enhance marketing arrangements ✓ The study recommends EOAI-II phase II to invest on information generation and sharing across EOA stakeholders including farmers for learning purposes. For instance, documenting and sharing success stories ✓ 10 TOTs and 2 Value Chains were strengthened
<p>Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TOAM continued strengthening its value chains and PGS groups namely UWAMATAM, KIWATA and MAFIA. The groups improved their targets by 60% ✓ The groups are now ICS certified
<p>Contribution towards Outcome 4: Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.</p>	

Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
<p>Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EOA National strategy developed to guide on long term goals of EOA mainstreaming in Tanzania. ✓ The National EOA database continued to be updated during the reporting period. The data base serves as an avenue of linking EOA stakeholders and other actors with each other for purposes of strengthening the EOA movement
<p>Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened</p>	<p>The satisfactory delivery of EOA-I objectives In Tanzania continued to be achieved during the implementation period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Satisfactory implementation of PIPs respective NCE plans and budgets. ✓ Writing brief and precise reports; with data and information specificity as much as possible. ✓ Timely submission of NCE reports (narrative and financial report) to CLO for compilation. ✓ Reflecting on areas that call for further interventions using EOA-I phase II opportunity.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia was commendable in its implementation of planned activities during the reporting period. Timely submission of reports, workplans and necessary documents was also good. The response mechanisms between ISD and BvAT continued smoothly ensuring proper guidance and delivery of the project as planned. Implementation in Ethiopia during the reporting period was under the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Mekelle University
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – PAN Ethiopia
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by ISD

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available</p>	<p>Mekelle University in charge of this pillar continued to generate research into use by establishing 2 integrated demonstration sites in Wuko Agricultural College and Maichew Agricultural College where different ecological organic practices (such as agroforestry, agronomy, livestock, horticulture were show cased</p> <p>The three (3) partners for integrated EOA research and training formed (Wukro Agricultural College, Maichew Agricultural College and Saint Mary TVET) directly involved in EOA research and training</p> <p>The EOA teams (specifically, livestock, pest management and horticulture and soil teams) established in Mekelle University have concluded their research work and are currently, writing draft papers for publication</p> <p>Demonstrations on various organic practices were also undertaken in the demo plots like practical operations with compost preparation; horticulture practices, agronomic practices, ecologically organic pest diseases management trials, livestock forage etc.</p>
<p>Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two (2) research papers were published (in Press, to be exact) on EOA from the proceedings of the workshop held in Mekelle on research dissemination. ✓ 5 EOA training manuals for extension was undertaken. These EOA training manuals are for 1) organic soil fertility management, 2) integrated organic and biological pest

	<p>management, 3) integrated organic forage development and livestock husbandry, 4) integrated organic horticulture and agronomy, and 5) conversion to organic farming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two draft documents on the documentation of EOA knowledge, skills, technology and research on 4 themes under progress. The themes are 1) organic soil fertility management, 2) integrated organic and biological pest management, 3) integrated organic forage development and livestock husbandry and, 4) integrated organic horticulture and agronomy produced
<p>Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Five (5) teams working on different EOA themes were established. These teams have been actively engaged in implementing some of the most important activities of the project—research and training. In the process, the teams, guided by the project management team, significantly contributed to monitoring of the implementation of activities. ✓ Facilitators in Mekelle University and the partners helped implementation of pillar activities in time for completion ✓ M&E conducted to explore the effectiveness of market networks created for promoting EOA products marketing
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in awareness on value and practices of EOA was taken up very well by the newly selected PAN Ethiopia in charge of this pillar and good progress continued to be shown in attaining this objective. Some of the dissemination channels used included, production of EOA stories (5 stories), spot messages, radio programmes, pocket guides; articles on EOA and sensitization workshops. ✓ The main contents of the article includes; how farmers implemented the farm budgeting trainings on the ground to ensure continuous harvest of vegetables, how successful vegetable grower farmers managed to create market links with hotels and restaurants, the role of the EOA project for social interaction and cohesion in the community and the major project impacts (Annex 3). The article was entitled "Training for change- Practical training that changed the mind-set and practices of smallholder farmers in Estena village, South Wollo zone, North eastern Ethiopia."
<p>Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An EOA sensitization workshop organized with focus on devising approaches of consumers awareness raising, the sensitization workshop was conducted where awareness creation approaches were discussed and agreed with partners. ✓ A new resource centre was also established in Amumo village from Tehuledere district. The resource centre was equipped with ICT and other necessary materials including TV, DVD player, Camera, TV stand, Bookshelf, Benches, Megaphone, Micro phone, electric

	<p>cable and memory cards. Publications were also provided (Newsletters, brochures, Pocket guides and videos). To help facilitate effective use of the materials, a short discussion was held with a group of people from the village agriculture, village administrator, village elderly and youth. During the discussion, they were informed that the materials are theirs and they need to use them responsibly. One person was assigned to open the FTC hall whenever needs arise and trainings are arranged. ISD and PAN-Ethiopia will also avail video productions.</p>
<p>Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<p>Follow up visits to the resource centres were undertaken to make sure they are operational and well equipped with purchased equipment's.</p>
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Total twenty one organizations profiles of value chain actors was collected and updated. The profiles of the organizations are now in the new web site of ISD which is https://www.isd_bio.org ✓ Support for producers to access markets in order to sell their organic produce was also enhanced. Forty-three EOA producers brought different types of vegetable herbs and fruits, animal products (cottage cheese, butter and farm eggs) and they made a total of 59,000-birr equivalent to 2012 USD. (1USD: 29.33 Birr as of May 28, 2019) ✓ The vegetables were Potato, Gomen (Kale), Beetroot, Lettuce, Carrot, Swiss chard, Zucchini, Spinach, Chilly, Cabbage, Tomato, cauliflower, Green beans, Green peas, Leak, Green onion and Garlic. Herbes were Rue, Ethiopian Basil, Rosemary, Koseret (indigenous herb) Celery, Mint and coriander leaf Fruits were Apple, Avocado, Peach and Grapes, Citroen and sour lime and Cereal Semi Hulled Barely. ✓ Two of among the one hundred twenty four EOA producers of Apple from the Southern Nation and Nationalities People Region of Kemebata and Timebaro zone joined for the first time the farmer's market day in Addis Ababa. They made it for three consecutive times in March 2019 and brought Apple (around 245 kg), processed false banana leaf and root (very common of their region) and Butter. The apple was a medium quality of three different varieties of Apple. They made a commitment to themselves to make it in the next harvest season which will be January 2020 and with the best variety of Apple called

<p>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A value chains analysis study was undertaken with the aim of understanding the challenges associated with organic value chains and the results will be utilized to strengthen the value chains. ✓ Capacity building training materials were produced. This was through Practical trainings and farmer field schools on Integrated pest Management (IPM) as a support of knowledge strengthening based on the previous experience sharing visit made to best practices of biological PM. The guide is 38 pages of Field Guide to Natural Enemies of Garden Pests on vegetable and root crops prepared with a collaboration of a plant Entomologist from Holeta Agricultural Research Center. Currently 650 copies have been produced. The guide covers harmful insect's potato tuber moth, potato aphids, Cut worms, Onion Thrips, Tomato worm and as natural enemies Predators, Parasitoids and pathogens with color pictures. 55 were trained in total and include 40 farmers. ✓ PGS group formations are still a challenge in Ethiopia because they don't use the Kilimohai mark of East Africa Standards. During 2019, support was offered by a certification PGS expert from Kenya to catalyze the formation of the PGS
<p>Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local inspectors continued to be trained and this number added in 2019. The local inspectors serve to ensure that local organic farms are monitored and managed according to the certified organic standards and regulations.
<p>Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100% of activities undertaken ✓ The use of EOA practices and methods reported over the last five years show that the farmers in the project have overall recorded in positive changes in behavior in favor of adopting more and more EOA practices over time. The indication is that due to increasing awareness and opportunities farmers were having, they had managed to increase their adoption of EOA practices. These improvements in awareness may be due to ISD's (and by translation Pillar 3's) intervention or the intervention by other stakeholders in the study areas.
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>

<p>Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.</p>	<p>✓ The Ethiopia EOA national platform and the National Steering Committee (NSC) were quite vibrant and engaged in fruitful oversight activities under the project. The national platform validated the Ethiopia EOA Strategic Plan and development of the NCE activities.</p>
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KENYA

During the reporting period, Kenya did a commendable job in the implementation of the project. Timely response and submission of reports and workplans was also observed. The implementation in Kenya is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners:

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Egerton University
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Biovision Africa Trust
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Market Development Pillar - Implemented by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
- ✓ Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)

Key Highlights

1. In the bid to understand the challenges and opportunities of the identified value chains in Kenya, a survey was conducted as planned in the three study areas on the identified value chains of honey, sesame and tomatoes. Data was collected from 70 producers, 20 traders and 6 processors for honey. In sesame value chain data was collected from, 68 producers, 10 processors and 20 traders. The data on tomato value chain was collected from, 80 producers, 10 agro-input suppliers and 20 traders. The study would unravel and catalyse the development of strong sustainable value chains that would ensure farmers benefit from them equally.
2. **Capacity building of farmers on good governance.** Farmers in the honey and Tomato value chains attended a two-day workshop to increase their knowledge on good governance. This is expected to enhance implementation of project activities and management and delivery of the farmer groups.
3. **Training needs assessment undertaken.** A meeting was held with representatives of each of the 3 selected value chains to identify entry points for capacity building and recommendations for

information materials to be prepared and availed. The trainings would enhance delivery of the EOA project as well as enhance visibility and sustainability of EOA stakeholders in Kenya.

- The target groups of honey, sesame and tomatoes were selected, mobilized and consulted on their participation in the project. PGS awareness meetings were carried out for the beekeeper's group's (20 groups) with approximate 600 members, Tomato group with 50 members and sesame group with 700 members. Meetings were held with both value chain actors and BDS providers to provide a basis for further engagement along the value chain. In respect to this, a meeting was held with Alok of LT foods on the possibility of importing sesame seeds and chia seeds from Busia Oil cooperative society. From this meeting, it was agreed that a sample will be sent to Lt Foods to confirm on quality so that other logistics for export can be worked out. Another meeting was held with Tuskys supermarkets, Fine Aromas Company limited and Cornershop to establish how KOAN can work to facilitate the establishment of organic tomato value chain. Communication was also established with BDS service provider (Ecocert) who will be involved with certification of sesame and chia seeds. In order to create consumer awareness of consumer awareness of organic foods, flyers and banners were developed. The flyers were distributed to potential consumers during the wellness festival and Kenya Organic foods festival event held at the University of Nairobi.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output Indicator 1.1: Information & knowledge needed by EOA actors along value chains generated and collated for dissemination.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: At least 30 types of EOA technologies, practices and others generated along the various value chains</p>	<p>A survey was conducted as planned in the three study areas on the identified value chains. Data was collected from 70 producers, 20 traders and 6 processors for honey. In sesame value chain data was collected from, 68 producers, 10 processors and 20 traders. Finally, the data on tomato value chain was collected from, 80 producers, 10 agro-input suppliers and 20 traders. Detailed report for each baseline survey has been attached (<i>see annex I, II and III</i>). The data was analyzed, and the final report is being prepared for submission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No EOA technology and practices generated yet during the reporting period

<p>Output Indicator 1.2: EOA research information and knowledge validated and processed for dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 28 types of EOA technologies, practices and others validated along the various value chains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No EOA technology and practices generated yet during the reporting period
<p>Output 1.3: Best experiences and results on EOA research information and knowledge use by EOA actors along value chains documented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No EOA technology and practices generated during the reporting period
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>EOA OUTPUT IND 2.1: EOA practices disseminated through various pathways (IEC materials, social media, websites, etc.)</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 30 types of pathways used for EOA information and knowledge dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 1.5 million value chain actors reached with EOA information and knowledge disaggregated by gender and youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 300 copies of The Organic Farmer magazine were distributed to farmers representing the 3 value chains. ✓ 700 booklets covering various topics on organic agriculture were distributed to farmers representing the 3 value chains. ✓ 5 copies of the offline version of Infonet database (www.infonet-biovision.org) was distributed to representatives of the different value chains. ✓ Participating farmers have been informed about the EOA website (www.eoai-africa.org), which is a wealth of information on project activities and success stories they can learn from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Achieved targets: Magazines used; Booklets used; Infonet database CDs and EOA website. In total 4 pathways were used to disseminate information ❖ Numbers reached through information dissemination of the information materials during this period were not documented

<p>OUTPUT 2.2 EOA practices disseminated through training (formal and informal) of various target groups</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 2.2.1: 180 ToToFs Trained disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>2.2.2: 400,000 value chain actors trained (120,000 M; 240,000 F and 40,000 Y)</p>	<p>✓ A needs assessment was carried out to identify key challenges and opportunities for developing the value chain. The TNA was conducted with representatives of the different value chains as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 11th September 2019 – Honey Value chain in Marigat, Baringo. 2. 30th October 2019 – Sesame Value chain in Andugosi, Busia County. 3. 13th November 2019 – Tomato Value Chain in Kimunye, Kirinyaga County. <p>Two-day training undertaken in group governance. 21 farmers (9 females, 12 male) participated, representing the Honey and Tomato value chains. The workshop was designed to impart practical application of governance strategies and tools to support good governance and leadership in smallholding farmers organisations. This was done using a practical, interactive delivery approach.</p> <p>One farmer from the Honey Value chain was supported to attend a two-day financial management training organized by IMAC Limited</p> <p>No TOTs were trained during this period</p> <p>21 Farmers were trained (9 females and 12male) on governance and 1 farmer trained on financial management. Total farmers trained 22.</p>
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.1 Value chain actors linked to business support services</p>	<p>✓ 1 meeting to facilitate meetings between exporter and sesame farmers' cooperative was undertaken.</p> <p>✓ Communication was established and linkage with Ecocert for undertaking 3rd party certification</p> <p>✓ PGS trainings were held for 20 groups of Baringo farmers and 1 tomato group</p> <p>✓ 1 market linkage was undertaken with corner shop, fine aromas and Tuskys supermarket for promoting market linkages with organic producers</p>

<p>Planned Project Targets: 3.1.1: 20 types of business development services (BDS) supplied along the value chains</p> <p>3.1.2: 600,000 value chain actors linked to business development services (BDS) disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.1.3: 500 BDS suppliers engaged along the value chains disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kenya Organic Food festival organized and held to create awareness of organic foods ❖ Linkages between sesame farmers and exporters were initiated. ❖ Nascent engagements were reported to Ecocert and exporter cooperatives
<p>OUTPUT 3.2 Decision making and competitiveness of EOA value chain actors enhanced</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.2.1: 400,000 EOA producers participating in markets at different levels (local, domestic, regional and international) disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meetings held with 1350 farmers, 2 traders and an exporter to establish engagement. ❖ Nascent engagements were reported
<p>Output 3.3 Access to market intelligence (products, price, place and promotion – 4Ps) supported to inform decision making and improve competitiveness of EOA actors</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>3.3.1: 300,000 value chain actors using market information and data disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.3.2: 8 types of market intelligence information availed to organic producers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1350 farmers mobilized and 650 trained. Realization to the set targets had not yet been realized Nascent engagements were reported ❖ Not generated
<p>OUTPUT 3.4 Capacity of producers strengthened to meet organic market standards increased</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated

<p>3.4.1: 60% increase in number of producers meeting the organic market standards disaggregated by gender and age.</p> <p>3.4.2: 50% increase in volumes of certified organic products traded in the market</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated
<p>OUTPUT 3.5 Organic markets developed and strengthened to increase share of organic products (certified/non-certified) at domestic and export levels</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>3.5.1: 20 new market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors</p> <p>3.5.2: 4 existing market channels strengthened.</p> <p>3.5.3: 20 types of new organic products traded in markets at different levels.</p> <p>3.5.4: 20% increase in number of people consuming organic products as a result of consumer awareness campaigns disaggregated by gender and youth</p> <p>3.5.3: 10 products that have undergone value addition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated ❖ Not generated
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.1 Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organized an information sharing forum for PIPs. The meeting's objective was To prepare workplans for 2019 for the EOA SDC component. This entailed agreeing on Value Chains that PIPs would jointly work on and the activities to be implemented jointly. ✓ A national Steering Committee and Pillar implementing partners forum conducted and its objective was to check the progress so far made on implementation of the EOA activities, challenges and what has been planned for the next year of implementation. Government State offices of Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries were invited, and this was to discuss matters to do with Ecological organic Agriculture Policy/strategy. The main aim was to discuss on ways of prioritizing the Policy and to bring them on board in the NSC.

<p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>4.1.1: At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level</p>	<p>❖ Not generated</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.2 EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>4.2.1: At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks</p> <p>4.2.2: At least 4 meetings/workshops held at national level to lobby and advocate EOA annually</p>	<p>✓ Organized for a Public screening forum to create awareness on the harmful pesticides still available in the Kenyan shelves and to lobby to the Senate for the removal of those harmful pesticides banned from their countries of origin</p> <p>❖ A 2-day Conference and festival was conducted. The objectives of the Festival were to create awareness on the value of EOA</p> <p>❖ 1 event held. The event was the Organic food festivals that created awareness on EOA</p>

NIGERIA

During the implementation period, the biggest challenge experienced in Nigeria was timely delivery of reports and workplans. Delays were experienced to 3 months beyond the deadlines. The communication was also very slow with breakdown of communication from NOAN. Such kind of delays led to poor management of the project with no clear tracking of deliveries as per contractual obligations. By the time of submission of the consolidated report to the donor, NOAN had not submitted its final country report. This further meant that the reporting of the Nigeria activities was not conclusively done. Further challenges involved a mix up of Phase I and Phase II activities and reporting templates as well as poor reporting narrative which brought challenges of harvesting information from the report for reporting to SDC. The need to improve on reporting and communication is paramount for better delivery and accountability.

Key Highlights

- ✓ The Pillar 1 (Research and Applied Knowledge) activities supported research in the areas of vegetables, fruits and spices. Majority of the activities were still ongoing by the time of this reporting in April 2020.
- ✓ Pillar 2 (Information, Communication and Extension) resulted in the production of video documentary on pest and disease management in an organic farm. The effort also led to the development of the seven-column curriculum developed in collaboration with the National Board for Technical Education and already institutionalized and adopted by some colleges in Nigeria (e.g. Yaba College of Technology, Epe, Lagos State)
- ✓ Activities of Pillar 3 (Value Chain and Market Development) for this year led to a round table meeting of farmers, consumers, input dealers and staff of some of governmental organizations /ministries. This was achieved as part of the side event during the 2019 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit (NOABS). This is the first step towards the development of the organic agricultural value chain.

- ✓ Pillar 4 (Support and Cementing) activities resulted in the development of a consortium to address mainstreaming of EOA into curricula of academic institutions in Nigeria. Different umbrella organizations related to formal training in agriculture in Nigeria met and agreed to lead the implementation of outcomes of the NOABS since 2019, related to capacity building in the national educational sector. The activities of this Pillar have also boosted the outlook of the Initiative in the country. It has also resulted into a lot of networking activities geared towards development of EOA in Nigeria. Some of the governmental agencies like Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) now develop farmer groups growing organic spices for export.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output Indicator 1.1: Information & knowledge needed by EOA actors along value chains generated and collated for dissemination.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>At least 30 types of EOA technologies, practices and others generated along the various value chains</p>	<p>The title adopted for the research is VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS OF FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND SPICES AMONG MARGINALISED (WOMEN AND YOUTH) ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDERS IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA</p> <p>The study commenced during the reporting period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated
<p>Output Indicator 1.2: EOA research information and knowledge validated and processed for dissemination</p>	<p>5 EOA technology and practices were identified for further research by university students during the reporting period were as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Information needs of spices and vegetable farmers on organic farming in Kwara state, Nigeria Evaluation of sodium and biochar-based fertilisers application on growth, yield and quality of sole cultivation of Telfaria occidentalis and Cucurbitapepo Effect of irrigation and biochar application on established plantain field Evaluating the dynamics in organic Roselle (Hibiscus sabdariffa) production: UNILAG organic demonstration farm Response of cucumber (Cucumis sativus L.) cultivars to various organic fertilizers in Southern Guinea Savannah, Nigeria

<p>Planned Project Targets: 28 types of EOA technologies, practices and others validated along the various value chains.</p>	<p>vi. Evaluation of pressurised hot water extraction methods for phosphorus fertiliser recommendation in tomato production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated
<p>Output 1.3: Best experiences and results on EOA research information and knowledge use by EOA actors along value chains documented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No EOA technology and practices generated yet during the reporting period
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>EOA OUTPUT IND 2.1: EOA practices disseminated through various pathways (IEC materials, social media, websites, etc.)</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 30 types of pathways used for EOA information and knowledge dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 1.5 million value chain actors reached with EOA information and knowledge disaggregated by gender and youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A video documentary was developed from an exchange visit to Ope Farms situated in Ogun State for the control of pest and diseases in organic production ❖ 1 pathway was used (video documentary) ❖ Numbers reached were not documented. We assume the video documentary was not disseminated.
<p>OUTPUT 2.2 EOA practices disseminated through training (formal and informal) of various target groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The activity involved training of trainers (T.O.T) on Organic Agriculture principles, practices and entrepreneurship of Organic Agriculture with emphasis on Vegetables, Fruits and Spices. Twenty-one (21) strategic stakeholders were trained throughout the country. The participants were supported to attend the certificate course which took place in South West at the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT, Ibadan), South

<p>Planned Project Targets: 2.2.1: 180 TOToFs Trained disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>East/South South (Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike) and Northern region (Federal University, Kashere, Gombe). The courses during the training were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic concepts in Organic agriculture. - Soil fertility management on Organic Agriculture. - Crop production practice as in Organic Agriculture. - Organic animal production (livestock and fisheries). - Organic agriculture market development. - Standard and certification issues in organic agriculture. - PGS and 3rd Party certification. - Out-growers scheme development in organic agriculture. - Entrepreneurial skills for successful organic agriculture enterprises <p>✓ The curricula for two courses each for bachelor's in agriculture and Diploma programmes in Agriculture were developed by the EOA team led consortium for mainstreaming organic agriculture into academic curricula in Nigeria. Under Degree programme, 1) Essentials of Organic Agriculture at either 200L or 300L and 2) Organic Agriculture Practices (Practical) at 400 level were developed, while for Diploma programme, 1) Introduction to Organic Agriculture and 2) Organic Agriculture Practices (Crop, Animal, Horticulture, Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, etc.) were developed. The Diploma aspect has been mainstreamed into the general curricula of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) which at least, Lagos State Polytechnic has already started.</p> <p>❖ 21 TOTs trained. Gender not indicated.</p> <p>❖ Not generated</p>
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2.2.2: 400,000 value chain actors trained (120,000 M; 240,000 F and 40,000 Y)	
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
<p>OUTPUT 3.1 Value chain actors linked to business support services</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.1.1: 20 types of business development services (BDS) supplied along the value chains</p> <p>3.1.2: 600,000 value chain actors linked to business development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the 2019 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit, A section involving some discussants; Dr. Cornelius Adewale (Michigan State University) and Miss Anabel Kamuche (NICERT Limited - a third party certification body), and representative of input dealers, farmers and cooperative society evaluated the situation of development of organic agriculture in Nigeria in comparison with other country and issues around the development of the value chain particularly regarding certification was discussed. Linkages were further deliberated for an organic shop, 3rd party certification company called C and C consultation ltd and Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society ✓ Five people were selected and supported to participate in the 2019 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit. The selected participants are: Chief M. O. Salimonu (Ajibode Organic Farmers' Group), Miss Rebecca Okunola (Ass. of Organic Agriculture Pract. of Nigeria) and three staff of the Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority. ✓ They exhibited farm produce on behalf of their farm/groups at the 2019 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit which took place from 16th – 18th October 2019 at Solab Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. Some of the produce exhibited include ginger, turmeric, yam, sugarcane and oil palm. ❖ types of Business Development Services were initiated; farmer cooperatives, online shop and certification company ❖ 5 people linked to business development services ❖ 2 BDS suppliers (online shop and 3rd party certification) engaged

<p>services (BDS) disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.1.3: 500 BDS suppliers engaged along the value chains disaggregated by gender and age</p>	
<p>OUTPUT 3.2 Decision making and competitiveness of EOA value chain actors enhanced</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.2.1: 400,000 EOA producers participating in markets at different levels (local, domestic, regional and international) disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interaction between the staff of the Farm Input Supply Services (FISS) Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Abuja, farmers, input dealers, extension agents, and regulators was facilitated under this output. ✓ It was a round table discussion on four issues which were; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Availability and distributions of organic inputs, ii. Use of organic logos, iii. Modalities and general challenges confronting production, ❖ No numbers generated yet
<p>Output 3.3 Access to market intelligence (products, price, place and promotion – 4Ps) supported to inform decision making and improve competitiveness of EOA actors</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.3.1: 300,000 value chain actors using market information and data disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No numbers generated yet

<p>3.3.2: 8 types of market intelligence information availed to organic producers.</p>	
<p>OUTPUT 3.4 Capacity of producers strengthened to meet organic market standards increased</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>3.4.1: 60% increase in number of producers meeting the organic market standards disaggregated by gender and age.</p> <p>3.4.2: 50% increase in volumes of certified organic products traded in the market</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society was supported to facilitate a network of marketing structure. This structure involves supporting one personnel to collect produce on behalf of the cooperative from the existing organic farmers and farms and supply to members of the cooperative and the general public. The personnel distribute organic produce with a tricycle purchased during the pilot phase of the project in 2012 to facilitate distribution. In this arrangement, the cooperative bears responsibilities on the tricycle while the project supports the personnel who distribute once a week with a token of thirty thousand Naira per month (₦30,000). ✓ The concluding part of this activity involves purchase of EOA branded sales point designated principally for organic produce/products. The sales outlet is part of the weekly farmers market located at the Teaching and Research Farm of the University of Ibadan sales outlet at Abadina area of the University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No numbers generated yet
<p>OUTPUT 3.5 Organic markets developed and strengthened to increase share of organic products (certified/non-certified) at domestic and export levels</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>3.5.1: 20 new market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors</p> <p>3.5.2: 4 existing market channels strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not reported.

<p>3.5.3: 20 types of new organic products traded in markets at different levels.</p> <p>3.5.4: 20% increase in number of people consuming organic products as a result of consumer awareness campaigns disaggregated by gender and youth</p> <p>3.5.3: 10 products that have undergone value addition.</p>	
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.1 Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 4.1.1: At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This activity took place at the Main Hall of Solab Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos on the 16th October 2019. The National Platform meeting, chaired by Mr. Isah Adamu (Chairman, NESCA) had in attendance consumers, farmers, researchers, trainers, academics, extension practitioners, policy makers, private sector actors, financiers in the agriculture value chains and promoters of organic agriculture. The meeting was to intimate stakeholders involved in organic agriculture with the progress of the Initiative in Nigeria ❖ The different stakeholders mentioned as having attended the meeting were 10.
<p>OUTPUT 4.2 EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p> <p>4.2.1: At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategic stakeholders; policy implementers, media and farmer were facilitated and linked to attend the 2019 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit. The event was covered through a media channel ✓ Source : https://www.sunnewsonline.com/concern-over-nigerias-tiny-share-in-100-billion-global-organic-farming/ ❖ No numbers generated yet

<p>aspects integrated into national policy frameworks</p> <p>4.2.2: At least 4 meetings/workshops held at national level to lobby and advocate EOA annually</p>	<p>❖ The 2019 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit. The summit was used to create awareness on EOA, lobby for support by policy makers and link organic entrepreneurs</p>
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BENIN

Implementation in Benin is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- ✓ *Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – University of Parakou, University of Abomey- Calavi, and the University of Abomey.*
- ✓ *Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by PASCiB*
- ✓ *Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by CRASTEDA*
- ✓ *Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by OBEPAB*

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output Indicator 1.1: Information & knowledge needed by EOA actors along value chains generated and collated for dissemination.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: At least 30 types of EOA technologies, practices and others generated along the various value chains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A value chain study of bananas and plantains, vegetable products and honey were undertaken to identify the constraints, challenges and opportunities. ✓ 03 persons presented some scientific papers at the 5th WAFrONet conference at Accra <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organic honey: <u>Impacts of agrochemical use on honeybee community & honey production.</u> <i>Dr. Anicet G. Dassou</i> 2. Profitability - carrots: <u>Financial profitability of organic carrot production in southern Benin.</u> <i>MSc. Justin A. Houéto</i> 3. Land management: <u>Farmers' perception of land and adoption of sustainable land management technologies.</u> <i>Dr. S. Claude-Gervais Assogba</i> ❖ 3 scientific papers availed on organic honey, profitability of carrots and land management
<p>Output Indicator 1.2: EOA research information and knowledge validated and processed for dissemination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 scientific papers availed on organic honey, profitability of carrots and land management and validated in the WAFrONet conference in Accra Ghana ❖ Validation was not done in the reporting year

<p>Planned Project Targets: 28 types of EOA technologies, practices and others validated along the various value chains.</p>	
<p>Output 1.3: Best experiences and results on EOA research information and knowledge use by EOA actors along value chains documented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This activity was not undertaken as expected.
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>EOA OUTPUT IND 2.1: EOA practices disseminated through various pathways (IEC materials, social media, websites, etc.)</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 30 types of pathways used for EOA information and knowledge dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 1.5 million value chain actors reached with EOA information and knowledge disaggregated by gender and youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A technical paper/publication on plants stem technology was availed. ❖ One pathway used: IEC materials ❖ The numbers reached were not captured in the partner report
<p>OUTPUT 2.2 EOA practices disseminated through training (formal and informal) of various target groups</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 2.2.1: 180 TOToFs Trained disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>2.2.2: 400,000 value chain actors trained (120,000 M; 240,000 F and 40,000 Y)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A document on PIF banana seed modules was developed for training facilitators and lead producers ✓ On 4th and 5th October 2019, a training on PIF techniques was undertaken for 40 farmers. The gender of the farmers was not specified. ❖ TOToFs were not trained during the reporting period ❖ 40 farmers were trained on PIF techniques

Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
<p>OUTPUT 3.1 Value chain actors linked to business support services</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.1.1: 20 types of business development services (BDS) supplied along the value chains</p> <p>3.1.2: 600,000 value chain actors linked to business development services (BDS) disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.1.3: 500 BDS suppliers engaged along the value chains disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>✓ Status report of banana and plantain VCA, honey and organic vegetable available after the value chains analysis study was undertaken under Pillar 1</p> <p>❖ Not generated</p> <p>❖ Not generated</p> <p>❖ Not generated</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.2 Decision making and competitiveness of EOA value chain actors enhanced</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 3.2.1: 400,000 EOA producers participating in markets at different levels (local, domestic, regional and international) disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>✓ A contract was established with a consultant to link 10 organic banana, vegetable and honey value chain actors to BDS services providers</p> <p>❖ Not generated</p>
<p>Output 3.3 Access to market intelligence (products, price, place and promotion – 4Ps) supported to inform decision making and improve competitiveness of EOA actors</p> <p>Planned Project Targets:</p>	<p>A study on PGS certification in Benin was undertaken. The study sought to ascertain the status of PGS certifications in Benin and adaptation of the specifications for the PGS certification of banana and plantain VCA products, organic vegetable products and honey.</p>

<p>3.3.1: 300,000 value chain actors using market information and data disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.3.2: 8 types of market intelligence information availed to organic producers.</p>	<p>❖ The targets were not generated</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.4 Capacity of producers strengthened to meet organic market standards increased</p> <p>3.4.1: 60% increase in number of producers meeting the organic market standards disaggregated by gender and age.</p> <p>3.4.2: 50% increase in volumes of certified organic products traded in the market</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>❖ The targets were not generated</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.5 Organic markets developed and strengthened to increase share of organic products (certified/non-certified) at domestic and export levels</p> <p>3.5.1: 20 new market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors</p> <p>3.5.2: 4 existing market channels strengthened.</p> <p>3.5.3: 20 types of new organic products traded in markets at different levels.</p> <p>3.5.4: 20% increase in number of people consuming organic products as a result of consumer awareness campaigns disaggregated by gender and youth</p> <p>3.5.3: 10 products that have undergone value addition.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>❖ The targets were not generated</p>
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>

<p>OUTPUT 4.1 Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened</p> <p>Targets: 4.1.1: At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ From 02 to 05 August 2019, one meeting took place with PIPs and CLO to discuss new strategies for EOA I Phase 2 and develop 2019 work plan. The meeting was attended by 8 participants representing PIPs. ✓ From 24 to 26 September 2019, at Hotel Paraclet, Bohicon, one meeting was undertaken among various stakeholders the CLO, PIPs, NGOs, private sector, representatives of agriculture and environment ministries to exchange on EOA I Phase 2 strategies of implementation and receive updates on activity implementation from Pillar Implementing Organizations. It served as an opportunity for pillars to exchange and learn from each other. 32 persons attended ✓ 4 different types of stakeholders representing the PIPs ✓ 3 different institutions were represented in the Hotel Paraclet meeting. These were the Civil society, private sector and ministries of agriculture and environment. The anticipated institutional representation of the national platform was not achieved
<p>OUTPUT 4.2 EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans</p> <p>4.2.1: At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks</p> <p>4.2.2: At least 4 meetings/workshops held at national level to lobby and advocate EOA annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The targets were not generated

SENEGAL

The implementation period of partners in Senegal was faced by many challenges. The previous partners of Phase I had not cleared their finances with Biovision Africa Trust and this delayed the start of the implementation of the project. The project planned to take off in May 2019 started in October 2019 with CNCR taking lead. Funds were not transferred to Endapronat and Agrecole Afrique until late December 2019 because they had not cleared financial debts for Phase I of the project. The general observations were that CNCR was up to the task and took

over well the work of EOA-I coordination in Senegal. There were impressive responses and delivery of reports, workplans and other documents needed. CNCR coordinated partner planning meetings with no challenges.

In Senegal, implementation of activities went on uninterrupted at an average implementation percentage of 98% of planned activities for 2019. Partners in charge of activity implementation are as follows:

- ✓ *Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by ENDA PRONAT*
- ✓ *Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by IED AFRIQUE*
- ✓ *Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by AGRECOL*
- ✓ *Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by CNCR*

Key Highlights

- I. A Planning meeting for Pillar Implementing Organizations was undertaken. The general objective of the workshop is to exchange with all the partners implementing the project in order to define relevant guidelines for the perfect execution of the planned activities.

More specifically, the workshop aimed to:

- ✓ Make a summary assessment of the first phase of the project;
 - ✓ Define the prospects for this second phase of the project in Senegal;
 - ✓ Establish a roadmap for the October-December quarter for each pillar;
 - ✓ Discuss on strengthening the dynamics on the agroecological transition
- II. The workshop saw the participation of the pillars responsible for the implementation of the EOA-I project in Senegal and in FENAB
 - III. CNCR participated in the Casamance zone consultation workshop with Dynamique on the agroecological transition in Senegal. The objective of the workshop was to prepare the contribution of civil society to the national policy on the agro-ecological transition, it is one of the 6 zonal workshops organized for this purpose. The activity brought together agricultural stakeholders from the southern area of Senegal and allowed to make an inventory and to give specific recommendations to this agro-ecological zone of Senegal.
 - IV. CNCR in the Ferlo zone consultation workshop with Dynamique on the agroecological transition in Senegal. The objective of the workshop was to prepare the contribution of civil society to the national policy on the agro-ecological transition, it is one of 6 zonal workshops organized for this purpose. The activity brought together the agricultural players from the Ferlo area of Senegal

breeding is the dominant activity and has made it possible to make an inventory and to give specific recommendations to this agro-ecological zone of Senegal.

- V. CNCR in the Senegal river valley area consultation workshop with Dynamique on the agroecological transition in Senegal. The workshop in the river valley area aimed to prepare the contribution of civil society to the national policy on agro-ecological transition, it is one of 6 zonal workshops organized for this purpose. The activity brought together the agricultural stakeholders from the Senegal river valley area and made it possible to make an inventory and give specific recommendations to this agro-ecological area of Senegal. He saw the participation of agricultural players in the area

CNCR participated in the DYTAES contribution document validation workshop on the agro-ecological transition policy in Senegal. The national workshop aimed to validate the contribution of civil society members of the Dynamique sur le Transition Agro Ecologique (DYTAES), it brought together more than a hundred participants from all regions of Senegal and the institutions state

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights for Senegal

During the quarter (Oct-Nov - December), the activities carried out relate to pillar4. It is:

Activities	Place	Date
Planning workshop with pillars	Dakar	30 October – 01 November 2019
Participation in the Casamance zone consultation workshop with Dynamique on the agroecological transition in Senegal.	Casamance	21 – 22 October 2019
Participation in the Ferlo zone consultation workshop with Dynamique on the agroecological transition in Senegal	Dahra Djolof	25 – 26 September 2019
Participation in the Senegal river valley area consultation workshop with	Ndioum	17 – 19 Séptember 2019

Dynamique on the agroecological transition in Senegal		
DYTAES contribution document validation workshop on the agro-ecological transition policy in Senegal.	Dakar	18 – 19 November 2019

MALI

In Mali, implementation in 2019 Phase II activities had a slow start because of delays that were associated with closing the activities and funds balances for Phase I. Due to such delays, the project started off in September 2019. The biggest challenge with Mali partners has been the language barrier given that Mali is a Francophone country. This led to many communication breakdowns and misunderstanding during the implementation period and this slowed down on delivery of key tasks. The implementation during this period was with the following Pillar Implementing Partners taking lead:

- 1) *Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) as the CLO*
- 2) *Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER) to take lead in Pillar 1 implementation*
- 3) *Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de recherche Appliquée to take lead in Pillar 2 implementation*
- 4) *REMATRAC-BIO to take lead in Pillar 3 implementation*

Key Highlights.

Mali is working on the tomato value chain. During this period, a study of the tomato value chain was initiated with the terms of reference of the study developed and the questionnaire that should be administered developed and deployed on the ground as well. Investigators/data collectors were also trained on the use of the master the questionnaire. The data was collected, and draft report of the findings were under development by the end of the reporting period.

The trial plots have been established during this period and at farmer level to study on the production of organic tomatoes. The main focus was on plant health protection. Four types of local plants were used for biopesticides production: *Azadirachta indica* (Mali jirini), *Hyptis suaveolens* (sosso fakalan jirini), *Casia nigricans* (dialaniba), *Leptadenia hastata* (Soniè). Biopesticide formulations obtained from these local plants were used in 40 growers' farms. The product was and has been effective against the main tomato pests. By end of the reporting period, In the Sikasso area, harvesting of thr tomatoes was underway while in Koulikoro area, the set-ups were late and therefore the tomatoes were in their flowering stage.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights for Mali

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output Indicator 1.1: Information & knowledge needed by EOA actors along value chains generated and collated for dissemination.</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: At least 30 types of EOA technologies, practices and others generated along the various value chains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Study on the Tomato Value Chain was initiated with the TOR developed, questionnaire's developed and administered to 60 farmers (44 W ; 16 M) ✓ The survey also involved 60 merchants/sellers including 58 women and 2 men and 60 consumers/buyers (30 W and 30M) ✓ Testing of the efficacy of biopesticides for tomato protection in different production areas was done and the biopesticides found to be effective. ✓ The development of biopesticide module was underway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 1 type of technology on biopesticide production to protect tomatoes was produced
<p>Output Indicator 1.2: EOA research information and knowledge validated and processed for dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 28 types of EOA technologies, practices and others validated along the various value chains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not generated
<p>Output 1.3: Best experiences and results on EOA research information and knowledge use by EOA actors along value chains documented</p> <p>1.3.1: 28 publications on best EOA experiences produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Biopesticide module on tomato production produced. ❖ 1 Module sheet produced

Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
<p>EOA OUTPUT IND 2.1: EOA practices disseminated through various pathways (IEC materials, social media, websites, etc.)</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 30 types of pathways used for EOA information and knowledge dissemination</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 1.5 million value chain actors reached with EOA information and knowledge disaggregated by gender and youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Training in compost production and biopesticides was done on 39 women and 7 men. ✓ Radio and TV productions on the EOA-I project were covered and on tomato in specific. About 5000 listeners tuned in which 1000 expressed interest in learning more about organic practices. ❖ 2 pathways used for communication used. These were TV and Radio ❖ 5,000 reached through TV and Radio.
<p>OUTPUT 2.2 EOA practices disseminated through training (formal and informal) of various target groups</p> <p>Planned Project Targets: 2.2.1: 180 TOToFs Trained disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>2.2.2: 400,000 value chain actors trained (120,000 M; 240,000 F and 40,000 Y)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Radio and TV productions on the EOA-I project were covered and on tomato in specific. About 5000 listeners tuned in which 1000 expressed interest in learning more about organic practices.
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
<p>OUTPUT 3.1 Value chain actors linked to business support services</p>	<p>Producers, Companies supporting the production of organic tomatoes, Transformers/Processors and Traders have been identified.</p> <p>A workshop was held where the following value chain actors were linked :</p>

<p>Planned Project Targets: 3.1.1: 20 types of business development services (BDS) supplied along the value chains</p> <p>3.1.2: 600,000 value chain actors linked to business development services (BDS) disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.1.3: 500 BDS suppliers engaged along the value chains disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 11 Organic tomato growers ✓ 2 Seed suppliers ✓ 2 Organic compost and pesticide production companies ✓ 2 Agricultural Advisors ✓ 3 Service technicians ✓ 1 Transformer/ Processor ✓ 1 Trade retailer ✓ 1 Wholesale trader ✓ 1 Micro finance <p>A WhatsApp Platform was formed to link farmers to consumers and other value chain actors. The platform has 20 actors including 5 support services for the AEB programme: for the dissemination of information and information on support services (micro-finance, compost production and training company, technical services, framing structures, researchers) producers, processors, salespeople, the market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 9 BDS types were identified and linkages established (organic tomato growers, seed suppliers, organic compost suppliers, extension officers, service technicians, processors, retailers/traders, wholesalers and Micro Finance. ❖ 20 value chain actors linked to business development services
<p>OUTPUT 3.2 Decision making and competitiveness of EOA value chain actors enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Results not generated

<p>Planned Project Targets: 3.2.1: 400,000 EOA producers participating in markets at different levels (local, domestic, regional and international) disaggregated by gender and age</p>	
<p>Output 3.3 Access to market intelligence (products, price, place and promotion – 4Ps) supported to inform decision making and improve competitiveness of EOA actors</p> <p>3.3.1: 300,000 value chain actors using market information and data disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>3.3.2: 8 types of market intelligence information availed to organic producers.</p>	<p>❖ Results not generated</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.4 Capacity of producers strengthened to meet organic market standards increased</p> <p>3.4.1: 60% increase in number of producers meeting the organic market standards disaggregated by gender and age.</p> <p>3.4.2: 50% increase in volumes of certified organic products traded in the market</p>	<p>❖ Results not generated</p>
<p>OUTPUT 3.5 Organic markets developed and strengthened to increase share of</p>	<p>❖ Results not generated</p>

<p>organic products (certified/non-certified) at domestic and export levels</p> <p>3.5.1: 20 new market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors</p> <p>3.5.2: 4 existing market channels strengthened.</p> <p>3.5.3: 20 types of new organic products traded in markets at different levels.</p> <p>3.5.4: 20% increase in number of people consuming organic products as a result of consumer awareness campaigns disaggregated by gender and youth</p> <p>3.5.3: 10 products that have undergone value addition.</p>	
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.1 Synergies amongst governance, coordinating and implementing institutions strengthened</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>4.1.1: At least 12 different stakeholders participating in the platforms at national level</p>	<p>✓ 20 platform members had a meeting and were briefed on the new implementation strategies for Phase II and EOA Phase II development goals</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4.2 EOA practices mainstreamed into public policies and investment plans</p> <p>4.2.1: At least 9 EOA policies/legislations or related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks</p>	<p>✓ An analysis of the Tomato problem was made through the study and analysis of policy documents undertaken. By the time the year ended the policy documents had not been produced</p>

4.2.2: At least 4 meetings/workshops held at national level to lobby and advocate EOA annually	
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SECTION IV



4. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 CHALLENGES

Various challenges continued to be experienced during the implementation period. The challenges cut across the various structures of EOA-I and have been summarized from country level to continental level in that order. However, BvAT wants to appreciate the support of majority of its implementing partners, support partners and donors in the bid to mitigate the challenges for benefits of EOA-I. The various oversight structures of EOA-I have been doing a commendable job of providing direction and decision making across the structures that have benefited the initiative.

The Regional Steering Committees of west and east Africa have also played crucial roles in steering the EOA-I agenda in the right direction. The west Africa cluster has been instrumental in bringing on board ECOWAS that has designated their officer Mr. Ernest Aubee to join the steering work of the regional cluster. Mr. Aubee has been chairing the west Africa RSC meetings for 3 years now. His engagement is very crucial in mainstreaming EOA-I in regional policies and plans. The involvement of regional economic blocks like ECOWAS and EAC is very crucial especially linking the AUC to the national governments in the implementing countries.

The east African cluster has been instrumental in fundraising by bringing on board a key donor SSNC who currently is supporting the east Africa secretariat to operationalize the offices and implement regional activities. This is a very strategic move to bring in more resources to the EOA-I initiative whose fundraising gap still stands at 60%.

The Continental Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by AUC supported the project in making strategic decisions key among them being the roll out of the partners organizational capacity assessment exercise a decision made to address the various organizational challenges that implementing partners have been facing since inception. The CSC initiated and rolled out the external evaluation as well as the base line study. The 2 studies running from 2018 have been key to generating data needed to track progress of EOA-I implementation. The roll out of various strategies especially the new grants management system, a robust M&E system and review of the various EOA-I structures has been steered and supported by the CSC. The entry of GIZ/BMZ support to the overall EOA-I through the new project 'the knowledge center's for Africa' was as well successful through the coordination of the AUC-led CSC platform. The AUC acceptance to host the Continental digital platform of the GIZ project would also ensure ownership of the project in the Africa region especially its institutionalization in the AUC structures. AUC as well is keen to roll out the GIZ/BMZ KCOA project in Central Africa in order to ensure all regions in Africa are covered under the EOA-I umbrella.

With this support, majority of challenges experienced before having been minimized. During the reporting period the following were challenges experienced:

NATIONAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

1. Partners' inability to fully utilize resources availed at their disposal at the required burn rate of 75%. Currently the burn rate has been placed at 60%. BvAT at its level has brought in mechanisms to mitigate this challenge by ensuring the burn rate of 75% is attained before the next funds are released. Training partners on activity documentation and constant follow ups through reminders on the need to submit reports on time has helped mitigate this challenge.
2. Lack of adequate funds to support key operations and activities of various institutional structures like NSC, RSC & CSC meetings, support to secretariat, Monitoring support at Country Level, and partners capacity building trainings as well as decentralized Partner project Audits. Continuous fundraising has been the core of the various secretariats to bring on board more funds.
3. Some partners currently do not undertake Organizational annual audits. This limits the ability to ascertain their financial management credibility. BvAT has brought in measures to ensure it only engages organizations that take annual audits as a necessary exercise. Organizations not undertaking annual audits will be left out in Phase 2 of EOA-I implementation.
4. Partners are yet to internalize the various implementation documents for EOA-I Phase 2 like the new reporting templates, the new M&E tools and new workplan and budgeting template. Due to this challenge the reporting using the new templates was very poor and not up to standards.

REGIONAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

1. Support of and commitment to EOA-I by RECs (EAC & ECOWAS) has not fully been realized. The engagements are still at their nascent stages.
2. The role of Afronet in supporting struggling NOAMs has not been fully utilized. This has been coupled by lack of funds and limited staff to operationalize Afronets' strategic plan.

CONTINENTAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

1. The entry of NEPAD in reporting on progress of implementation EOA-I agenda as an AUC decision has not been actualized so far. One of the key steps taken forward is enhanced awareness creation on EOA at AUC events through distribution of EOA materials, sharing of progress reports and attending side events. We hope these strategies will bear fruits in the future.
2. Existing misconception that systems labelled EOA cannot feed Africa continues to be a global challenge in the organic sector. EOA-I continues to generate more research under Research Training and Extension pillar to provide evidence that EOA-I practices can feed the world.
3. The sharing of available data on EOA continues to be a challenge. Mechanisms of packaging EOA information and disseminating to various stakeholders have not been utilized effectively in the past. The initiative continues to build the capacity of its pillar implementing partners to take charge of documentation and sharing
4. Penetration to organic export markets continues to be a big challenge to farmers in the implementing EOA-I countries due to lack of capacity to meet the high set organic farming standards for export markets. This coupled with expensive certification process poses a big challenge. Options of having Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) being recognized as an international certification process are being explored. Other efforts include certifying farmers for exports in groups and encouraging larger numbers to cut down on costs

4.2 LESSONS LEARNT

1. Effective, efficient and strong governance and management systems, are critical requirements for successful scale up of EOA and sustainability
2. 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
3. Organic famers face serious competition from in-organic farmers and also proponents of chemical inputs
4. The "game changer" for EOA success and stability at country level is a functional CLO
5. Sourcing and harmonization of streams of funding, coordination, monitoring and evaluation is still key for impact creation and scale-up

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhanced capacity building support to partners
2. Creating opportunities for scaling up through production market systems
3. Focusing on a value chain development approach
4. Develop and employ a robust monitoring & evaluation framework
5. Motivating funding support arrangements
6. Employing deliberate efforts to involve women, youth & vulnerable groups

SECTION V



5. FINANCIAL STATUS FOR THE YEAR 2019

1. Funding received from SDC

The EOA Project having successfully completed Phase 1, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation approved Phase II for a period of four years (1st May 2019 to 30th April 2023). The project is currently being implemented in nine countries. The total funding for the current phase is USD 6,315,787. The 1st instalment disbursed was USD 1,789,473 but actual amount that was credited to the project account is USD 1,789,423.70.

2. Interest Income

The project earned interest income of USD 7,491.34 over the eight months period from 1st May - December 2019.

3. Project Management Unit (PMU)

The project management team comprises of the Project Coordinator, Project Manager and the Project Accountant. The project currently contributes 42.5% for the Project Coordinator, 100% Project Manager and 80% Project Accountant during the over the period. The team was also facilitated to travel for monitoring the project implementation in the two regions (Eastern Africa and West Africa) as well as purchasing office equipment. The annual audits were performed by Ernst and Young auditors.

Project Management Unit				
Country	Budget	Utilization	Variance	Burn Rate
Coordinator	51,138.96	49,817.03	1,321.93	97%
Project Manager	38,294.02	34,937.00	3,357.02	91%
Project Accountant	25,167.60	22,051.71	3,115.89	88%
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	6,819.29	3,155.22	3,664.07	46%
International Travel	2,666.67	2,116.83	549.84	79%
Local Travel	1,333.33	158.38	1,174.95	12%
Office Equipments	3,000.00	3,343.13	(343.13)	111%
Auditing Cost	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100%
Contingencies (Bank Charges& Legal Fees)	333.33	905.72	(572.39)	272%
Institution Cost (BvAT)	782.00	782.00	-	100%
	144,535.20	132,267.02	12,268.18	

4. Project Technical Pillar Implementation

The project implementation was undertaken in the nine countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mali, Benin, Senegal, Rwanda and Nigeria). The implementation started late and only one disbursement was released to partners. The utilization of the countries is demonstrated below:

Country Lead Organization				
Country	Budget	Utilization	Variance	Burn Rate
Kenya KOAN	100,201.98	72,135.70	28,066.28	72%
Uganda- PELUM Uganda	100,201.98	34,317.92	65,884.06	34%
Tanzana- TOAM	100,201.98	50,385.98	49,816.00	50%
Ethopia- ISD	100,201.98	16,280.09	83,921.89	16%
Nigeria- NOAN	100,201.98	60,118.81	40,083.17	60%
Senegal- FENAB	100,201.98	1,818.85	98,383.13	2%
Benin- OBEPAB	100,201.98	59,379.95	40,822.03	59%
Mali-AOPP	100,201.98	31,113.82	69,088.16	31%
Rwanda-ROAM	28,754.81	17,724.05	11,030.76	62%
	830,370.68	343,275.17	487,095.51	

5. Coordination and Networking- Support and Cementing

The Support and Cementing pillar utilization was low especially for regional activities since most partners were still developing key activities. The summary on burn rates is indicated below.

Support and Cementing	Budget	Utilization	Variance	Burn Rate
Central Steering Committee	22,000.00	10,481.77	11,518.23	48%
Afronet	19,513.01	14,815.44	4,697.57	76%
Executing Agency Support Function	51,770.33	52,359.68	(589.35)	101%
EOA Regional Cluster-West	41,758.34	22,814.75	18,943.59	55%
EOA Regional Cluster-East	41,758.34	18,276.66	23,481.68	44%
EOA Secretariat	57,033.71	52,812.04	4,221.67	93%
ATPS	100,000.00	36,975.00	63,025.00	37%
Support Activity Fund- (Meetings, Conferences & Other Activities)	50,000.00	49,605.86	394.14	99%
	383,833.72	258,141.20	125,692.52	



**REPORT COMPILED BY: MS. VENANCIA WAMBUA,
SENIOR MANAGER**

ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE

P.O. Box 30772-00100 Nairobi, Kenya Duduville Kasarani Opp Thika road

EMAIL: Info@eoai-africa.org

WEBSITE: www.eoai-africa.org

OFFICE TEL: +254 20 8632000||+254 721 766628