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*Biovision Africa Trust Executive Director, Dr. David Amudavi and African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, HE. Josefa Sacko during the signing ceremony for a MOU between BuAT and AUC for operationalization of the EOA Secretariat at BuAT in July 2022 at AUC Campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

# 2022

## **EOA-I 2022 ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

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

**REPORT APPROVED AND SIGNED BY:**

**Dr. David Amudavi**

Project Coordinator



Signature

01/07/2023

Date

**Ms. Venancia Wambua**

Project Manager



Signature

01/07/2023

Date

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 annual report relates to the second phase of the project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributing to the initiative entitled: **Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa**. This is a continental effort implemented under the guidance and oversight of the African Union (AU) through the committee it chairs, the Continental Steering Committee (CSC). The initiative aims to establish an African organic platform, based on available best practices and to develop sustainable organic farming systems. The report provides key accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations following project implementation in 9 countries namely, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, and Mali.

The project focuses on growing the number of smallholder farmers adopting EOA/AE practices under its Pillar 2 of implementation that focusses on Information and Communication dissemination and capacity building. The project to date has 11,694 small holder farmers who have adopted EOA/AE practices that they have been trained and capacitated on by implementing partners. We are glad to report that this translates to 87% rate of achievement.

The female farmers reported to have adopted were 6,435 (55%) and 5,259 male farmers at (45%) (see Table 1) against the project target of 60% and 40% for female and male respectively. Additionally, the project is promoting youth involvement in promoting uptake of agroecology farming practices and so far, encouraging results have been obtained with 22% of the numbers reported to be engaged being youth (below 35 years of age), against the project target of 10%.

Table 1: Number of smallholder farmers that have adopted EOA/AE practices.

Disaggregation by gender	2019 figures and percentages	2020 figures and percentages	2021 figures and percentages	2022 figures and percentages	Total cumulative results
Male	2,736 (53%)	3,223 (48%)	4,727 (45%)	5,259 (45%)	5,259 (45%)
Female	2,418 (47%)	3,446 (52%)	5,784 (55%)	6,435 (55%)	6,435 (55%)
Youth	1,178 (21%)	1,396 (21%)	2,271 (22%)	2,526 (22%)	2,526 (22%)
Totals	<b>5,154 (88%)</b>	<b>6,669 (76%)</b>	<b>10,511 (87%)</b>	<b>11,694 (87%)</b>	<b>11,694 (87%)</b>

The project also focuses on bridging the knowledge gap by addressing information gap challenges. By working closely with the universities and research institutions spearheading Pillar 1 on research and applied knowledge, 43 technologies and practices have been produced and availed to farmers to date. The practices range from soil nutrient improvement practices to pesticides and disease control practices, post-harvest management practices and crop quality improvements.

The project as well focusses on supporting farmers to improve their level of income by linking them to Organic markets at local, national, regional, and global markets. Focusing on development of business development services had 49 providers engaged and their

services accessed by different value chain actors. The services range from training services to financial service providers, input suppliers, certification experts and many more.

749 farmers have benefitted from the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) process. These are farmers who have successfully been locally certified to trade in organic markets at the local level.

In total 49 organic markets have been developed so far. Some of these organic markets are open air markets, hotels, retail markets, supermarket shelves, basket markets, virtual markets especially WhatsApp and Facebook and city council based permanent markets. 48 markets were supported with equipment to continue operating. The support included shelves, branding names, purchase of packing bags, purchase of weighing machines and such kind of support.

So far, 36 products have been value added within the identified EOA value chains.

At policy development, several documents in form of plans, strategies, frameworks are in the process of development across the 9 EOA countries. So far 12 documents have been developed as stand-alone policy documents or policy documents with EOA elements integrated.

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

The following indicators were approved to be included in the 4<sup>th</sup> BR cycle (**Annex 1: EOA Indicators for inclusion in CAADP BR Cycle**)

Name of new EOA/Agroecology Indicator: Size of agriculture area under Ecological Organic and Agroecological (EOA) practices in ha, ASLWMa

**Performance Category:** PC 6.1 ii: Resilience and climate and related risks

Objective of the PC: Promote initiatives of building resilience of production systems to reduce vulnerabilities of the livelihoods of African population to climate variability and other related risks.

**Performance Target:** Ensure that at least 30% of agricultural land is placed under sustainable land and water management including Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices.

Performance Indicator: Share of agricultural land under sustainable land and water management including CSA practices (SSLWM)

Disaggregation by EOA/AE

The second Indicator under Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) was included into the CAADP Seed Sector Performance Index.

Name of the Specific Indicator: Integration of Farmer Managed Seed Systems: The indicator tracks the status of FMSS compliant national seed policy instruments (seed policy, law, regulation/decreed) and institutional arrangements that promote enabling environment for a competitive seed sector that encourages private sector/community participation in seed sector development. Efforts made towards mainstreaming will determine the status. (Annex 2: Seed Sector Performance Index)

In 2022, the training of regional CAADP focal points and data collection plans at country levels were rolled out. EOA-I has identified and trained Regional EOA/AE Experts from all from the 5 regions in Africa (West, North, Central, Southern and Eastern Africa) who will be providing technical backstopping of EOA/AE data collection for the 4<sup>th</sup> CAADP BR cycle.

*Table 2: List of EOA/AE CAADP data collection focal persons trained per region.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Region and REC</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Country of residence</b>
Ms Jouhaina Riahi	North Africa - UMA	<a href="mailto:jouhainariahi@gmail.com">jouhainariahi@gmail.com</a>	Tunisia
Prof Raymond Auerbach	Southern Africa - SADC	<a href="mailto:Raymond.Auerbach@mandela.ac.za">Raymond.Auerbach@mandela.ac.za</a>	South Africa
Mr Jean Marie Irakabaho	East Africa- EAC	<a href="mailto:jmirakabaho@gmail.com">jmirakabaho@gmail.com</a>	Rwanda
Mr Herve Bouagnimbeck	Central Africa- ECCAS	<a href="mailto:hervebouagny@yahoo.de">hervebouagny@yahoo.de</a>	Cameroon
Dr TOVIGNAN Dansinou Silvère	West Africa-ECOWAS	<a href="mailto:tsilvere@yahoo.fr">tsilvere@yahoo.fr</a>	Benin



## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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



## 3. COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EOA- I

### Overall Oversight

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

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

### Overall Project Coordination

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

### The Africa EOA Continental Platform

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

### Regional Platforms

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 due to lack of financial support. The role of the regional clusters is to coordinate regional actors to implement the EOA agenda, engage with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to integrate EOA in regional and national policy and programs, mobilize resources to support EOA activities and develop rules of procedures and operations in the cluster management.

The steering committee of the Eastern Africa cluster is currently chaired by the East Africa Community (EAC) with co-chairing provided by Mr. Innocent Bisangwa of MINAGRI, Rwanda. The Eastern Africa RSC meeting has representation by 20 members from partners in Ethiopia (ISD), Uganda (Pelum Uganda), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN), BvAT and PELUM Kenya and IGAD Ethiopia and AfrONet. The West Africa Cluster is chaired by Mr. Ernest Aube of ECOWAS with co-chairing by Prof. Simplicie Vodouhe of Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB) while The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) is the Regional Secretariat for West

Africa. Members of West Africa cluster include but are not limited to Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Mali and their National Platforms.

### **National Platforms**

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

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

### **AfrONet**

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

- ✓ Unites and networks organic agriculture actors and stakeholders across the continent.
- ✓ Undertakes lobby and advocacy at high levels.
- ✓ Supports capacity building for key players in organic agriculture across the continent.
- ✓ Mobilizes resources for its endeavours in promoting organic agriculture on the continent.
- ✓ Provides management and administrative consultancy to like-minded programs and partners.
- ✓ Undertakes any other functions as deemed necessary to address the course and objectives of EOA.

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

## 4. EOA-I HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022

### 4.1 HIGH LEVEL VISITS

#### The Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development Representatives visit Biovision Africa Trust in Nairobi



(BvAT) hosted Mr. Daniel Valenghi and Mr. Amsalu Abate from the SDC Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15th February 2022.

On 15th February 2022, Biovision Africa Trust hosted Mr. Daniel Valenghi and Mr. Amsalu Abate from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The SDC officials were received by their host, Dr. David Amudavi, Executive Director of BvAT, Mr. Alex Mutungi, EOA-I Continental Secretariat Coordinator, Ms. Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager, Mr. Robertson Nyikuli, Finance Manager and Mr. Joseph Nyamesegere, M&E officer.

The bilateral talks held included high level updates on the phase two results, achievements and status of the project implementation, integration of the EOA into the African Union Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the outlook of the project in line with new SDC and other global priorities and focus including agroecology.

The two organizations also discussed the upcoming SDC commissioned external evaluation for the project's phase two which ends in April 2023.

While in Kenya, Mr. Daniel Valenghi and Mr. Amsalu Abate visited other EOA-I strategic partners including the Ministry of Agriculture and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) among others.



The Programme Manager, co-focal point of the thematic Network (Agriculture and Food Systems), Food Systems Section of the SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) paid BvAT a courtesy call on 14<sup>TH</sup> November 2022.



*From left: Mr. Alex Mutungi (L), Ms. Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot, Programme Manager, co-focal point of the thematic Network (Agriculture and Food Systems), Food Systems Section of the SDC, Ms. Venancia Wambua and Dr. Amudavi.*

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Ms. Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot, paid a courtesy call to BvAT. Stephanie made the visit to familiarize herself with the work of BvAT as strategic partner in supporting EOA and agroecology work in Africa. She was welcomed by the BvAT team – Dr. David Amudavi, Executive Director, and Coordinator of the continental initiative, Ms. Venancia Wambua, the Senior Project Manager of the EOA Initiative and Mr. Alex Mutungi, the EOA Secretariat Coordinator. The visit also came at a time when SDC was formulating a new global programme to support scale up of agroecology globally. The new programme, to go beyond Africa and include Southeast Asia, will focus more on supporting scale up of agroecology practices, youth entrepreneurship, policy dialogues on various levels from national to global, and investment financing in agroecology.

## 4.2 ENHANCING STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

### BvAT gets the AUC's nod to Host the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative's Secretariat



*BvAT Executive Director Dr. David Amudavi, Mr. Alex Mutungi of EOA Continental Secretariat and Ms. Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager were in Addis Ababa Ethiopia to sign MOU between BuAT and the Africa Union Commission on 20th July 2022.*

BvAT delegation consisting of the Executive Director Dr. David Amudavi, Mr. Alex Mutungi of the EOA Continental Secretariat Coordinator and Ms. Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager was in Addis Ababa Ethiopia to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Biovision Africa Trust and the Africa Union Commission. The MOU formalizes the collaboration between the two organizations in managing and hosting of the EOA Initiative Continental Secretariat. The signing ceremony took place at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 20th July 2022 and was officiated by Amb. Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE).

The MoU is a formal mechanism of fostering strategic partnerships and alliances with BvAT as well as a gesture of commitment to mutual accountability to shared goals and interests towards the realization of aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Hence, the MOU is a recognition of the catalytic, complementary, and empowering role that BvAT will continue to play in the implementation of 2014 Malabo Declaration through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework for action on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and other related programmes.

In her remarks during the signing ceremony, H.E Amb. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for ARBE applauded Biovision Africa Trust for spearheading the implementation of the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) initiative, which she said has a special niche in the production of healthy foods for the people and for protecting the environment. She further called for more advocacy on the promotion of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides that should result to industrial-scale production to enable the shift away from conventional fertilizers and pesticides.



Dr. David Amudavi, representing BvAT, expressed his gratitude and commitment that BvAT shall implement its functions in the MoU that include hosting of the EOA Initiative Continental Secretariat and ensuring its functioning. BvAT is currently the host to the Continental Secretariat of the AU led EOA Initiative which provides guidance and oversight on the implementation and reporting of EOA in Africa as guided by the AU Decision on organic farming (Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)) through its AU chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC). BvAT was endorsed by the AU to strengthen existing cooperation and collaboration of the parties in the implementation of decisions of the STC on ARDWE in Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa and to spear head awareness of the EOA initiative in Africa among African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other AU organs.

Mr Alex Mutungji, the EOA Initiative Continental Secretariat Coordinator briefed the Commissioner on the recent developments within the EOA sub sector noting that the Secretariat is undertaking a pilot study of EOA indicators in the five political regions of Africa for possible inclusion in the CAADP BR reporting framework. He further noted that a Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) cluster had been established within the AU led African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP) to champion for farmers' seeds in the seed sector.


While concluding the ceremony, H.E Amb. Josefa Sacko underscored the commitment of DARBE to working closely with Biovision Africa Trust to ensure resilience in Africa's agriculture sector to respond adequately to various shocks on African Food Systems. **"We need to align our work to the African Common Position that was presented at the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 and to the existing African Union Agriculture transformation frameworks such as the CAADP, for us to be able to achieve agriculture transformation and growth for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for our people,"** she stated.

#### **BvAT Executive Director Visits GIZ in Eschborn for Enhanced Collaboration**



*From left: Ms. Dorith von Behaim, Project Manager for Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA); Dr. David Amudavi, ED, Biovision Africa Trust, Mr. Florian Peloschek, Digital Knowledge Platform.*

Dr. David Amudavi met with several GIZ officers to discuss how its efforts of scaling up agroecology initiatives in Africa by bringing on board other development agencies and partners could be supported. He first held discussions regarding the proposed CIM expert



with Ms. Dorith von Behaim, Project Manager for Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA); Mr. Florian Peloschek, Digital Knowledge Platform and Market Development Advisor – KCOA Project and Mr. Ulrich Lepel (Project manager of PeOPLE). The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) is supported by GIZ for Strengthening Human Resources Capacities at Operational Partners in Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security (PeOPLE). This initiative aims to have partner organizations achieve improved personnel capacities for cooperation with partners of German Development Cooperation in the field of transformation of agricultural and food systems. Integrated experts are specialists from Germany and other EU member states who put their skills and experience to effective use in key positions in developing countries and emerging economies. The experts work directly for an employer in the country of assignment on a local contract and are subsequently integrated into the local structures. BvAT will benefit from such a professional attached to it for a period of two years to support capacity needed to scale up agroecology-based initiatives in Africa through development of new partnerships and resource mobilization. The next steps by BvAT and GIZ CIM will lead to this collaboration taking effect from September 2023.

Later David met with Ms. Ingrid Prem, Head of Project (Sector Project Rural Development & Project Sustainable Agriculture, SV LE), Ms. Dorothee Baum and Mr. Charlie Mosshamer from Sector Project Rural Development (SV LE). Ingrid shared brief updates on discussions with other development partners including SDC regarding tracking progress of agroecology and synergies, cooperation in the area of Peer-to-Peer project that was implemented by Biovision Foundation of Switzerland in collaboration with colleagues from the Millennium Institute and colleagues from IFOAM, the Food Policy Forum for Exchange, with support from FAO and financed by SDC and BMZ through GIZ conducted in Uganda, Madagascar, and Burkina Faso. Kenya has shown interest to be part of it.

The discussion touched on new programmes coming up to support scale up of agroecology in Africa. They expressed optimism for opportunities in supporting Multi-stakeholder Platform for EOA/Agroecology in Africa with a strong nexus with AU's CAADP collaboration. The discussion also touched on how the Ukraine-Russia war is pushing agroecology markets. The team expressed interest in the MSP concept BvAT is developing on behalf of the EOA Continental Steering Committee.



### 4.3 EOA POLICY DEVELOPMENT

#### The Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) TWG of the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative Presents Roadmap of the FMSS Cluster to the 3rd Steering Group Meeting of The African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP)



*Group photo of 3rd Steering Group meeting of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP), held in Kampala, Uganda, from 23-25 May 2022.*

The FMSS TWG of the AU Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) under the aegis of the Secretariat of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) participated in the 3rd Steering Group meeting of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP), held in Kampala, Uganda, from 23-25 May 2022.

During the meeting, a call to introduce the Seed Index into the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) process was unanimously endorsed by the members. Prior, the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held on 2-3 February 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and endorsed the decision for the establishment of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform and the accompanying Operational Guidelines for the coordination and implementation of the platform at the national, regional, and continental levels: the strategic framework for the development of the seed sector in Africa (Assembly/AU/Dec. 135(VIII)). The ASBP is coordinated by the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE) and supported by a Secretariat hosted by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

The 3rd Steering Group meeting was officially opened by Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, the Director of Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Development (AUC-DARBE) at the African Union Commission (AUC). In his opening remarks, Dr. Bahiigwa noted that seed sector development has been on the agenda of Heads of States and Government since 2005, emphasizing the need for farmers' access to quality seed in enhancing agricultural production and productivity. Hence, "the introduction of the Seed Index in the CAADP BR will allow us to report on progress made in seed sector development in Africa to the African Union Assembly", he added.

Dr. Bahiigwa further urged the workshop participants to expedite the implementation of the various instruments endorsed by the AU policy organs to advance seed sector

development. He underlined the need for timely submission of all the reports and action plans from the various Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to facilitate tracking of the implementation of the 10 years' Action Plan of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform.

Dr Simplicie Nouala, Head of Division of Agriculture and Food Security at the African Union Commission, informed the meeting that FARA will officially undertake the mandate of hosting the ASBPP Secretariat after signing of an MoU with African Union. The Secretariat will be expected to closely work with various TWGs to develop a ten-year Action Plan and ensure effective functioning of the Platform, promoting linkages among stakeholders and information sharing on seed system development initiatives in Africa. This entails providing administrative support to the Thematic Working Groups of the Platform including a) Seed Quality Assurance and Certification Systems, b) Animal Seed, c) Plant Genetic Resources Management, d) Research, Variety Development and Seed Production, e) Seed Policy and Regulations as well as the two clusters on the private sector and Farmer-Managed Seed Systems.

The ten-year action plan of the ASBP is hinged on ten (10) components, namely: (i) Enhance policy and regulatory framework for an efficient seed system; (ii) Improve strategies for the collection, conservation, utilization and exchange of plant and animal genetic resources, seed and planting materials; (iii) Develop better variety/breed improvement programmes and seed production technologies; (iv) Strengthen seed production systems; (v) Enhance development of quality assurance systems with improved stakeholder contributions; (vi) Improve seed storage, marketing and distribution channels; (vii) Develop improved disaster preparedness and response to seed insecurity; (viii) M&E, Knowledge management and communication; (ix) Enhance biotechnology uptake for an efficient seed system in Africa; (x) Cross cutting issues on environment, women and youth.

Dr. David Amudavi presented the FMSS action plan to the stakeholders during the meeting. He informed the meeting that the FMSS action plan has been aligned with the 'Guidelines on Harmonization of Seed Policies and Regulatory Frameworks and Use of Biotechnology in Food and Agriculture in Africa'. During the meeting, the FMSS action plan was approved by the ASBPP with recommendations given for its improvement.

The FMSS Cluster WG was represented by its Chairperson, Dr. Sarah Olembo, Dr. Daniel Maingi (A Seeds expert) and the EOA-I Continental Secretariat comprising of Dr. David Amudavi, Mr. Alex Mutungi and Ms. Venancia Wambua. FMSS entail a set of knowledge, practices and rules collectively developed by farmers, based on their customs and tradition, and applied to the selection, conservation, use, quality assurance and the circulation, in Smallholder networks, of seeds both plant and animal utilized by local communities. The EOA-I CSC recognizes the importance of FMSS in the implementation of the EOA decision (The EX.CL/Dec.621 XVII). **(Annex 3: FMSS Development Cluster - Approved Version)**

## Review of Kenya's National Seed Policy, Strategy, and Investment Plan to integrate Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS).



*Dr David Amudavi, BvAT Executive Director among the multi-sectoral team of experts who reviewed the National Seed Policy at Eserian Hotel in Naivasha on 3/10/2022.*

Dr. David Amudavi participated in a workshop of multi-sectoral team of twenty experts invited by the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives to review the National Seed Policy and develop seed sector strategy and investment plan for Kenya at Eserian Hotel in Naivasha from 3-6 October 2022. Dr. Amudavi was among the experts who made presentations on various aspects of the seed sector that stimulated discussion on the key gaps and priority interventions for consideration into the new policy for the seed sector.

He presented the African Union approved concept for the development and establishment of Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) within the African Seed & Biotechnology Programme (ASBP) informed by the AU commissioned consultancy report of the harmonization of seed regulatory frameworks across the continent. This would be an important milestone by the African Member States in mainstreaming farmer managed seed system into food systems. This is important given that millions of small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, most of whom are women, still supply 80-90%, apart from maize, wheat, and rice, of all the seeds planted in Africa.

Further, it will be a commitment to recognize farmers' rights to food sovereignty and security, agricultural biodiversity, and support measures to ensure adequate resourcing for their sustainability. Policy recommendations were made in how to integrate the FMSS into the National Seed Policy including development and/or review of the relevant Acts and Regulations to accommodate/respond to the emerging issues in the seed sub-sector. The review will consider all aspects related to FMSS including regulation and conservation issues to ensure proper management, safeguard against abuse and access to quality seed.

The Ministry of Agriculture facilitated the workshop in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the African Seed Access Index (TASAI). Kenya's example of integrating the FMSS into the seed systems will provide lessons for other African Member States. *(Annex 5: Kenya Seed Policy experts' draft\_28th April 2023 Ex DTI 26th -28th Draft fair draft sent to SWAG 1 PLS-1)*

## 5. COUNTRY PERFORMANCE

The 9 countries implementing the project continued to perform exemplary well in activity implementation and achieving the project set result targets at an overall rate of 71%. All the 9 countries have surpassed the 50% mark in achieving the set targets for this Phase that commenced in 2019.

As per the figure 1 below, Mali partners have taken the lead in achieving the set targets across the strategic areas of implementation at 97% level of implementation and closely followed by Benin at 85%, and Nigeria at 82%. This means that the top 3 countries will achieve the set project targets by end of 2023. Other countries that are also performing well are Senegal at 71%, Kenya at 70%, Uganda at 64% and Tanzania at 61%.

Rwanda (51%) and Ethiopia (58%) are below the targets and need good strategies to achieve the remaining targets in the short period remaining before end of Phase II. Rwanda started off activity implementation in 2020 a year later than other countries and this explains their performance being below expected process targets. ISD the CLO in Ethiopia during the reporting period experienced high staff turnover in key areas like finance and M&E and technical project staff. These staff changes reduced the rate of project implementation.

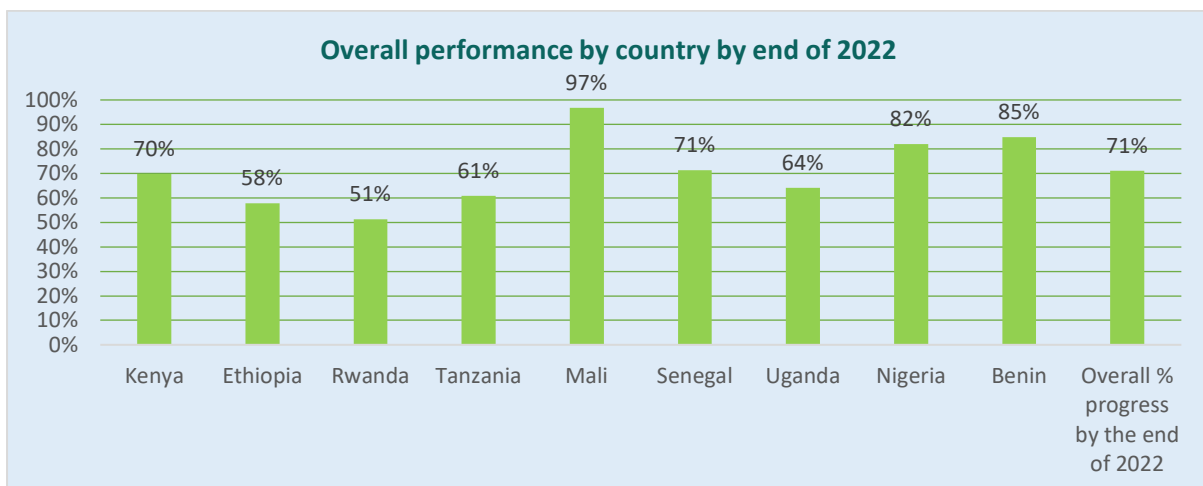


Figure 1: Overall performance of pillars by country by end of 2022



## 6. PILLAR PERFORMANCE IN THE PROJECT

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

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

The pillar performed as per table and graphical representation below:

Table 3: Pillar Performance

Pillars of the EOA Initiative	Level of Performance
Pillar 1- Research and applied knowledge	86%
Pillar 2- Information Communication & Extension	66%
Pillar 3- Value Chain and Market Development	70%
Pillar 4- Steering Coordination and Management	63%

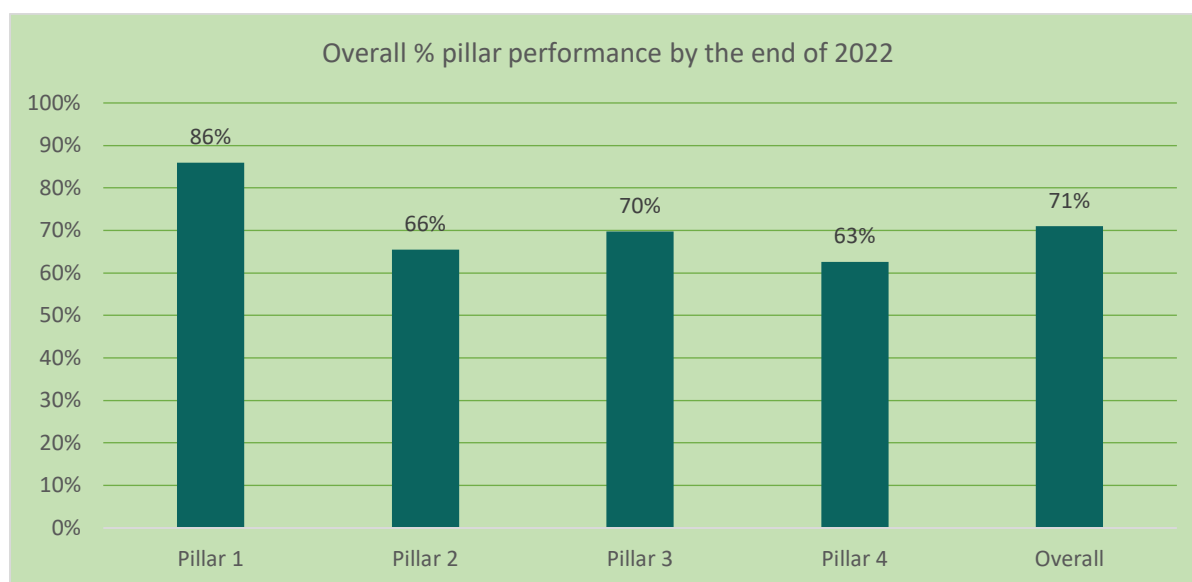


Figure 2: Overall, Pillar performance by the end of 2022

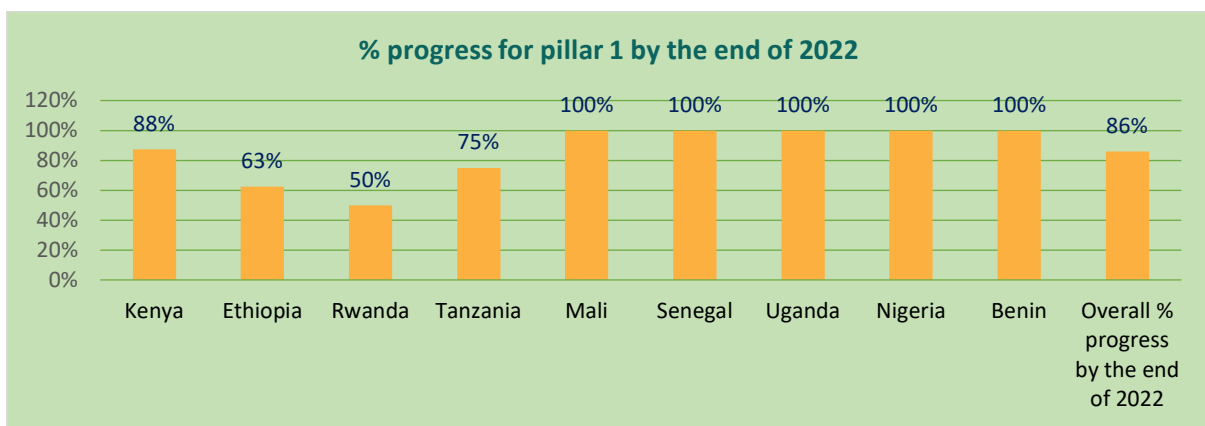
We are glad to report that these results as per figure 2 above show that partners continue to implement the technical pillars within the set guidelines and targets. Pillar 1 took the lead in terms of producing exemplary results at 86%, followed closely by Pillar 3 at 70% and Pillar 2 at 66%. There is need for Pillar 4 partners to strategize better on how to improve on their performance especially understating their targets and how to strategically achieve them. Pillar 4 however is a policy driven pillar whose results might take a while beyond the project period to be achieved.

## **Pillar 1 Country Performance**

Overall pillar performance at 86%

As per the graph below, pillar results performance across 5 out of 9 EOA countries was exemplary with Mali, Senegal, Uganda, Nigeria, and Benin achieving the set targets (100% respectively) and even surprising. Kenya (88%) and Tanzania (75%) performed moderately well. Ethiopia (63%) and Rwanda (50%) need to address the gaps and challenges that continue to drag them behind under Pillar 1. In Ethiopia, a new pillar partner named Wollo University was brought on board after Northern crisis locked out Mekelle University from implementation. This is one among many reasons why Ethiopia's targets are low. Rwanda started off implementation of the project in 2020 when other partners had started in 2019. This is one of the reasons the project is lagging behind in Rwanda in terms of achieving set targets.

Looking at overall performance, Pillar 1 performed exemplary well at 86%



*Figure 3: Overall pillar 1 performance*

## **Pillar 2 Country Performance**

Overall pillar performance to date is 66% to date.

As per the graph below, results of pillar 2 are yet to hit 100% in all the countries. The leading country was Mali in implementing towards the set targets at 96%. Benin followed this at 85%, Tanzania at 75%, and Ethiopia at 72%. Uganda (52%) and Kenya (40%) were the least performers. Kenya is yet to initiate the process of curriculum development and its implementation, and this therefore brings their targets down. New strategies through meetings with BvAT have ensured that they report better results by end of 2023.

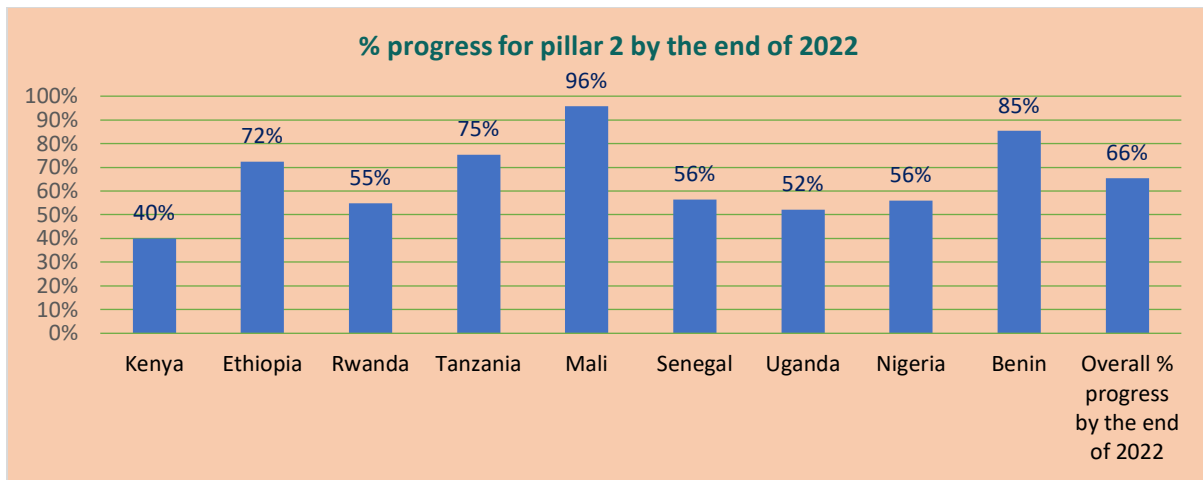


Figure 4: Overall pillar 2 performance

### **Pillar 3 Country Performance**

Overall pillar performance is 70% to date.

Figure 5 below shows the overall performance (target achievement) across the countries on pillar 3. Majority, 8 out of the 9 countries have surpassed the 50% target mark. Mali took lead with 95%, followed by Benin (83%), then followed closely by Kenya, Nigeria, and Senegal at 75% respectively. Tanzania performed below the threshold at 41%.

Graph 5: Overall pillar 3 performance

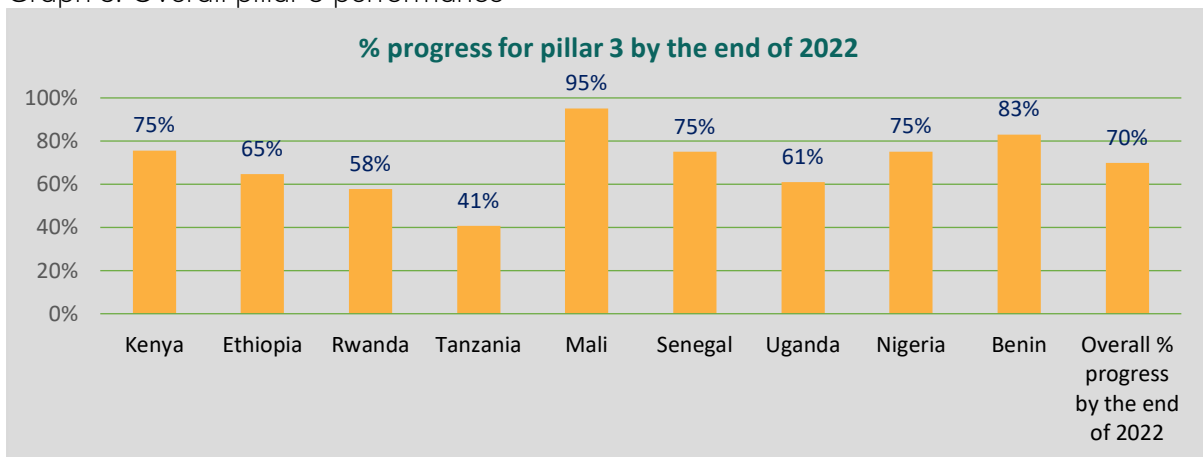


Figure 5: Percent progress for pillar 3

### **Pillar 4 Country Performance**

Overall pillar performance is 63% to date. Under this pillar, 6 countries out of the 9 implementing countries namely Nigeria (97%), Mali (96%), Kenya (76%), Benin (70%), Senegal (53%) and Tanzania (52%) surpassed the 50% mark which is the threshold. Countries below 50% (threshold) were Uganda (43%), Rwanda (42%) and Ethiopia (32%). Refer to figure 6 below.



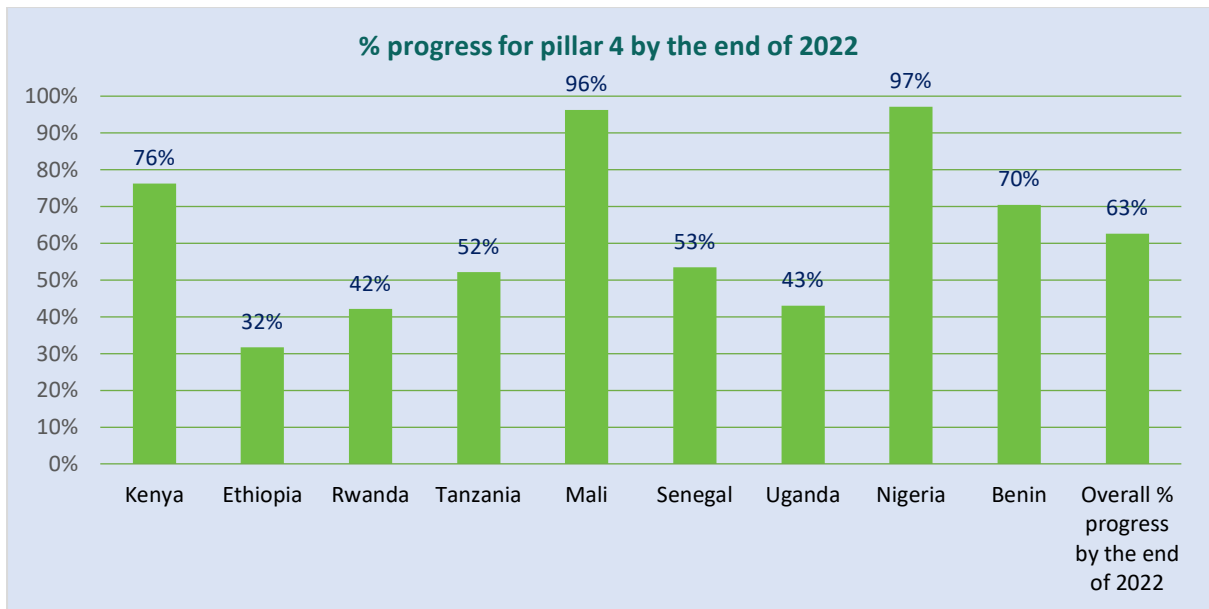


Figure 6: Overall pillar 4 performance

## 7. HIGH LEVEL OUTCOME RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE

During the reporting period of 2022, the EOA-I Executing agency coordinated the data collection exercise of outcome level results. This exercise was done for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since inception of Phase II in 2019. The data collection exercise undertaken through various methods including KIIs, Focused Group Discussions, Market surveys, and Household Surveys focused on data for the following result outcome levels: **(Annex 6: Updated EOA Log frame as at end of 2022)**

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

Country annual report details can be read from various annexes, namely: *Annex 7: Mali EOA-I report for 2022; Annex 8: Benin EOA-I annual report for 2022; Annex 9: Nigeria EOA-I annual report for 2022; Annex 10: Senegal EOA-I annual report for 2022; Annex 11: Tanzania EOA-I annual report for 2022; Annex 12: Uganda EOA-I annual report for 2022; Annex 13: Ethiopia EOA-I annual report for 2022; Annex 14: Rwanda EOA-I annual report for 2022;*

The following high-level results at Outcome level were reported by partners across the 9 countries:

### 7.1 EOA Technologies, Practices and Systems developed.

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

In this Phase, the project focuses on developing at least 25 EOA technologies and practices along the entire value chain. The project thus surpassed its target by producing 43 types. As per the Figure 7 below, in total we have 43 technologies and practices that have been produced.

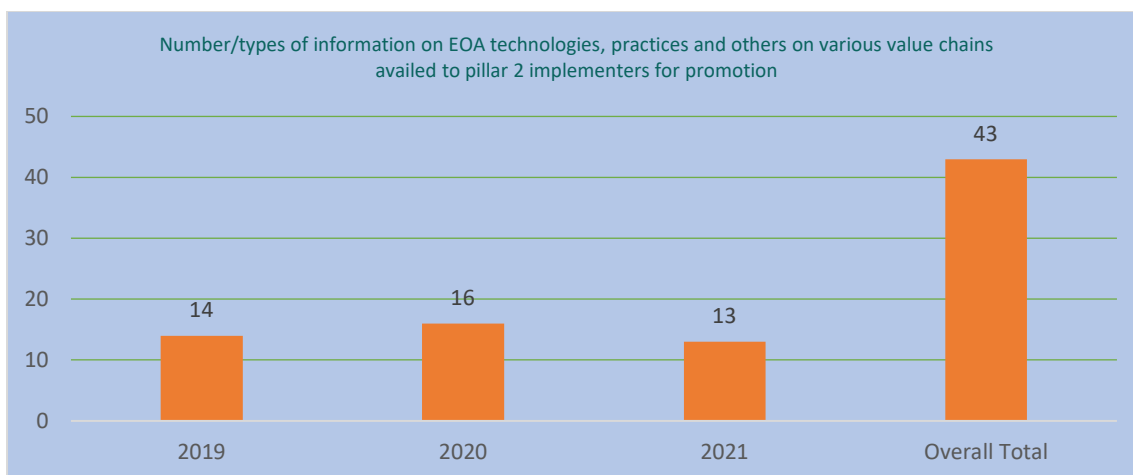


Figure 7: Number of EOA practices and technologies produced.

In terms of availing technologies and practices, the partners have performed as follows to date:

Table 4: Number of practices and technologies developed by implementing countries.

Country	2019	2020	2021	Overall Total
Benin	4	2	3	9
Kenya			4	4
Mali	2	2		4
Nigeria	3	3	2	8
Rwanda				0
Senegal		1		1
Tanzania	4	4		8
Uganda	1	4	4	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>43</b>

The practices and technologies developed include the following across the 9 countries:

Table 5: List of EOA technologies & practices (knowledge product) validated.

No	Country	Title of the EOA technology/practice (knowledge product) validated
1	Ethiopia	Rate of vermicompost fertilizer on yield and yield components of carrot ( <i>daucus carota</i> L.), at Gerado, South Wollo, Ethiopia
2	Ethiopia	Performance of carrot under different fertilizer types in Tehuledere district, South Wollo Zone, Ethiopia
3	Benin	Use of lanhouin (fermented salt-dried fish) and afitin (mustard made from <i>néré</i> seed) as an alternative to glutamate to enhance the taste of soy-based cheese
4	Benin	Use of biopesticides based on neem extracts or neem oil, ginger and garlic extracts mixed with local soap to control tomato pests
5	Benin	EOA practice of storage and conservation of organic soybean seeds
6	Benin	Best technique of multiplication of organic banana seeds by the meniset technique documented and validated by participatory experience with farmers
7	Benin	Legumes and vegetables intercropped with banana plantation as good EOA practice of crop management (pest control and soil fertility management)
8	Benin	Afforestation of honey production sites with melliferous (attractive property of bees) plants
9	Benin	Supply water to bees close to hives to avoid long journeys of bees to avoid contamination of honey by chemical pesticides
10	Benin	Best substrate (wood residues, coconut fibre and paddy rice processing residues).
11	Benin	Use repellents crops/trap plants of pests in vegetable production
12	Benin	Use of indigenous knowledge based on plant materials ( <i>Irvingia</i> , palm oil seed, <i>Cesalpinia</i> ) as alternatives to chemicals in the ripening and conservation of banana.
13	Kenya	Effects of selected organic fertilizer on sesame and chia seed yield
14	Kenya	Post harvest management of sesame and chia seed in Busia
15	Kenya	Effects of organic grafted tomato on resistance to pests and diseases in Kirinyaga County
16	Kenya	effects of commercial organic biopesticides and fungicides in the management of pests and diseases in organic tomato production in Kirinyaga County
17	Mali	Biopesticides sur la productivité du gombo en culture biologique
18	Mali	L'apport de la fumure organique en poquet en culture de sésame chez les agriculteurs à Balanfina
19	Mali	Biopesticides sur la productivité de la tomate biologique à Sikasso et Koulmikoro culture biologique
20	Mali	Technologie de récolte et de post récolte du fonio pour lutter contyre l'aflatoxine
21	Mali	Compostage en tas amélioré
22	Mali	Etude de référence sur la chaine de valeur Pomme de terre au Mali
23	Mali	Etude Diagnostique sur les chaines de valeur sésame et fonio au Mali
24	Nigeria	Biochar integration with Neem
25	Nigeria	Application rate of poultry manure
26	Nigeria	Constraints to the organic production of spices and vegetables
27	Nigeria	Effect of irrigation and biochar application on established plantain field
28	Nigeria	Comparative Effects of Poultry Manure and NPK Fertiliser on Growth and Yield of Onion ( <i>Allium Cepa</i> ) and some Soil Fertility Indices
29	Nigeria	Determinants of Organic Integrated Farming System Utilization among Smallholder Farmers in Southwestern, Nigeria
30	Nigeria	Assessment of Traditional Livestock Agricultural Practices for Compliance with Organic Standard in Nigeria

31	Nigeria	Properties and Growth Response of Hot Yellow Pepper ( <i>Capsicum chinense</i> N.) as Influenced by Different Organic Mulches
32	Rwanda	Homemade Organic Pesticides based on local plant materials for pest control for strawberry farming in Rwanda
33	Rwanda	Homemade Liquid Organic Fertilizers based on local plant raw materials, animals, and domestic wastes for pineapple farming in Rwanda
34	Senegal	Technique de conservation biologique des graines d'arachide, mil et niébé, destinés à la consommation
35	Senegal	Technique de conservation biologique des semences d'arachide, mil et niébé
36	Senegal	Technique de conservation des épis de mil ( <i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> ) dans un grenier
37	Senegal	Production d'oignon à partir d'une plantation de bulbille
38	Senegal	Utilisation de l'urine de vache pour lutter contre les termites dans les champs de mil ( <i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> )
39	Senegal	Conservation des oignons par déshydratation
40	Senegal	Technique de lutte contre les cantharides ( <i>Lytta vesicatoria</i> ) dans les champs de mil ( <i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> )
41	Senegal	FICHE TECHNIQUE SUR LA PRODUCTION BIOLOGIQUE DU POIVRON
42	Senegal	FICHE TECHNIQUE SUR LA PRODUCTION BIOLOGIQUE DU GOMBO
43	Tanzania	Seed treatment -use of botanical extract specifically Alovera+coffee
44	Tanzania	Soil fertility management using Minjingu nafaka fertilizer, poultry, and cattle manure.
45	Tanzania	Mulching using organic mulch (rice husk and dry grasses)
46	Uganda	Role of Military Termites ( <i>Pseudocanthotermes militaris</i> ) in Improving Soil Productivity in Tropical Agroecosystems
47	Uganda	Potential of termite mounds and its surrounding soils as soil amendments in smallholder farms in central Uganda
48	Uganda	Effect of linear view approach of weed management in Agro ecosystem: A review
49	Uganda	Effect of co-applied corncob biochar with farmyard manure and NPK fertilizer on tropical soil
50	Uganda	Impacts on access to factors of production among smallholder farmers in central Uganda during COVID-19 lockdown

## 7.2 Land Under Organic Farming

As per the set targets, the proportion of land apportioned to organic farming should increase by 10%. It is significant that 61% portion of land in the 9 countries has been converted to organic farming with progress being made from 2019 to 2021 during the reporting period as per the figure 8 below:

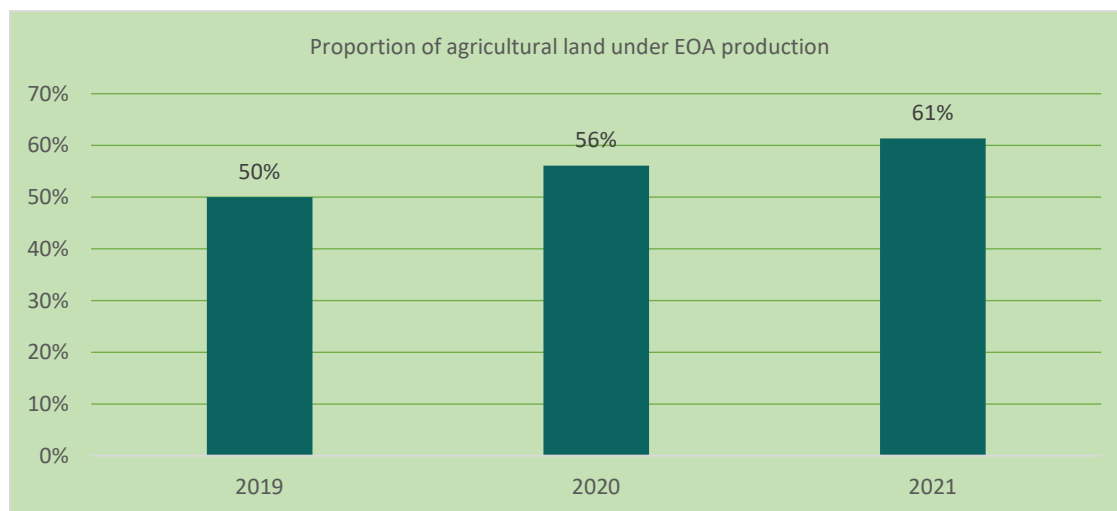


Figure 8: Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production

According to the EU definition, the 'total organic area' includes both the 'certified organic farming area' and the 'area under conversion to organic farming', with farms undergoing a 2–3-year conversion process before being certified as organic.

The countries have performed as per below table in increasing the proportion of land under organic cultivation:

Table 6: Percentage of portion of land under organic cultivation across EOA implementing countries.

Country	2019	2020	2021
Benin	51%	71%	92%
Ethiopia	20%	23%	24%
Kenya	31%	31%	34%
Mali	32%	34%	34%
Nigeria	67%	67%	68%
Rwanda		72%	94%
Senegal	65%	75%	70%
Tanzania	62%	64%	64%
Uganda	79%	80%	81%
<b>Average size of land</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>61%</b>

### 7.3 Number of Smallholder Farmers Adopting EOA-I Farming Practices

**Target: The targeted farmers are 24,300.**

According to EU definition, Organic farming refers to the food production method that aims to use natural substances and processes. It avoids or markedly reduces the use of synthetic chemicals, applies high standards of animal welfare, and excludes the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). This has benefits for biodiversity, soil health and water quality.

During the reporting period to date, the project has made great progress in ensuring that the adoption of EOA-I and Agroecological practices by farmers continues growing. Current results places adoption at 87% as per the figure below:

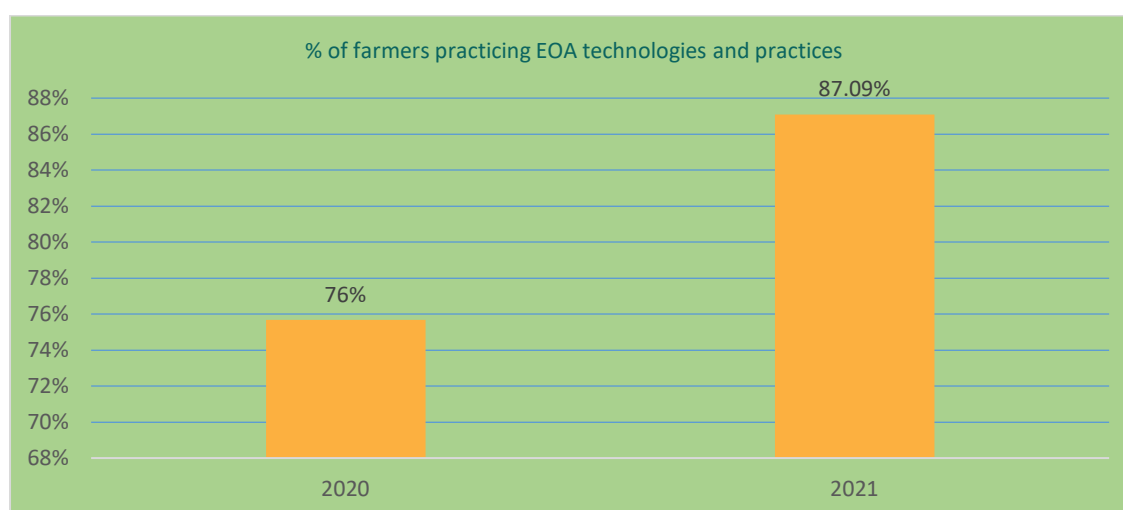


Figure 9: Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production

The increase in numbers of farmers adopting EOA is a key indicator that farmers have begun to embrace organic farming based on the support being given by partners through extension support, training, equipment support and dissemination of frequent farming information. The female farmers reported to have adopted were 6,435 (55%) and male farmers at (45%). This is against the project target of 60% and 40% respectively for female and male. Additionally, the project is promoting youth involvement in the agroecology farming practices and so far, has reported 22% of the numbers engaged being youth (below 35 years of age). These results for the youth in the project are encouraging at 22% against the set target of 10%.

Table 7: Number of farmers that have adopted EOA/AE practices and technologies.

Disaggregation by gender	2019 figures & percentages	2020 figures & percentages	2021 figures & percentages	2022 figures & percentages	Total cumulative results
<b>Male</b>	2,736 (53%)	3,223 (48%)	4,727 (45%)	5,259 (45%)	5,259 (45%)
<b>Female</b>	2,418 (47%)	3,446 (52%)	5,784 (55%)	6,435 (55%)	6,435 (55%)
<b>Youth</b>	1,178 (21%)	1,396 (21%)	2,271 (22%)	2,526 (22%)	2,526 (22%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,154 (88%)</b>	<b>6,669 (76%)</b>	<b>10,511 (87%)</b>	<b>11,694 (87%)</b>	<b>11,694 (87%)</b>



Some of the organic/ sustainable agriculture practices adopted included the following:

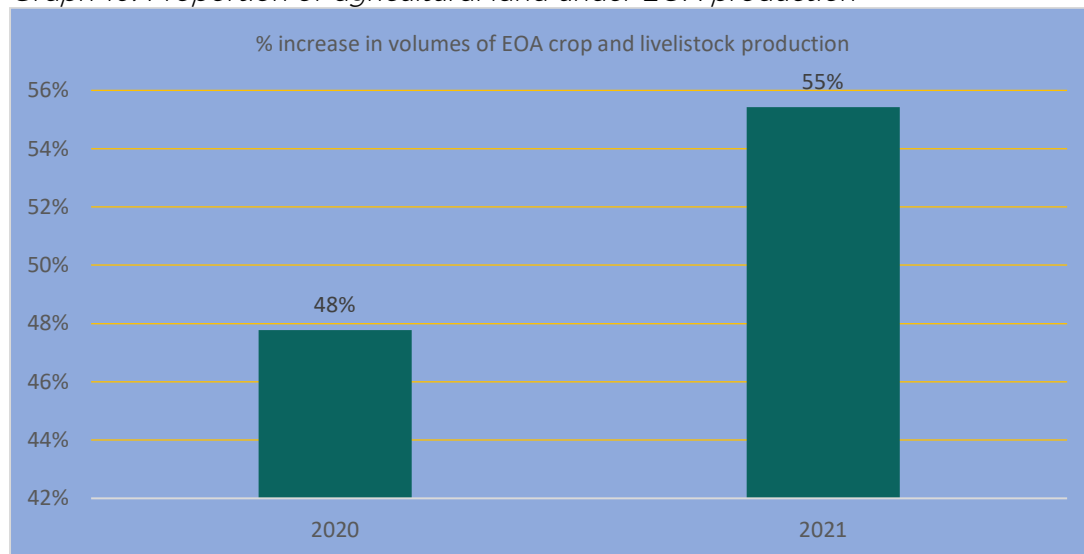
- ❖ Green manuring
- ❖ Making biochar
- ❖ Use of anthill mound soil
- ❖ Drip irrigation
- ❖ Testing of Biofertilizer potential and the allelopathic property (insect repellent effect) of banana weeds *Boerhavia diffusa* (Nyctaginaceae) + *Croton hirtus* (Euphorbiaceae) + *Chromolaena odorata* (Asteraceae)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

#### 7.4 Volumes of EOA Crop and Livestock Production.

**Target: 20% increase in volumes of EOA crop and livestock production.**

During the reporting period, EOA crop and livestock production in volumes continued to show an upward trajectory as shown in the figure below:

*Graph 10: Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production*



*Figure 10: Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production*

This shows that the EOA practices and promotion of value chains for the project is bearing fruits. The countries performed as shown in Table 8.

Table 8: List of volumes of EOA crop and livestock production across EOA implementing countries.

Country	2019 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	2020 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	2021 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product
Benin	2,487.58	2,487.23	2,610.13
Ethiopia	251.67	396.53	396.76
Kenya	107.75	95.40	420.54
Mali	1,123.62	1,231.79	1,358.43
Nigeria	2,503.89	3,038.97	3,466.93
Rwanda		2,638.33	2,620.37
Senegal	923.10	884.51	904.23
Tanzania	291.56	269.65	274.51
Uganda	260.37	589.22	510.49
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,132.64</b>	<b>1,673.77</b>	<b>1,760.32</b>

## 7.5 Consumption of Organic Products among EOA Households

### Target: 20% increase in consumption of organic products among EOA households disaggregated by HH gender and age

The consumption of organic products during the implementation period experienced an increase to 79% to the target of 20%. The results were analysed based on how much households spent on household items during the reporting period. EOA product is a product that comes from a farming system which avoids the use of man-made fertilizers, pesticides; growth regulators and excludes irradiation and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The results are displayed as per the figure 11 below:

Graph 11: Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production

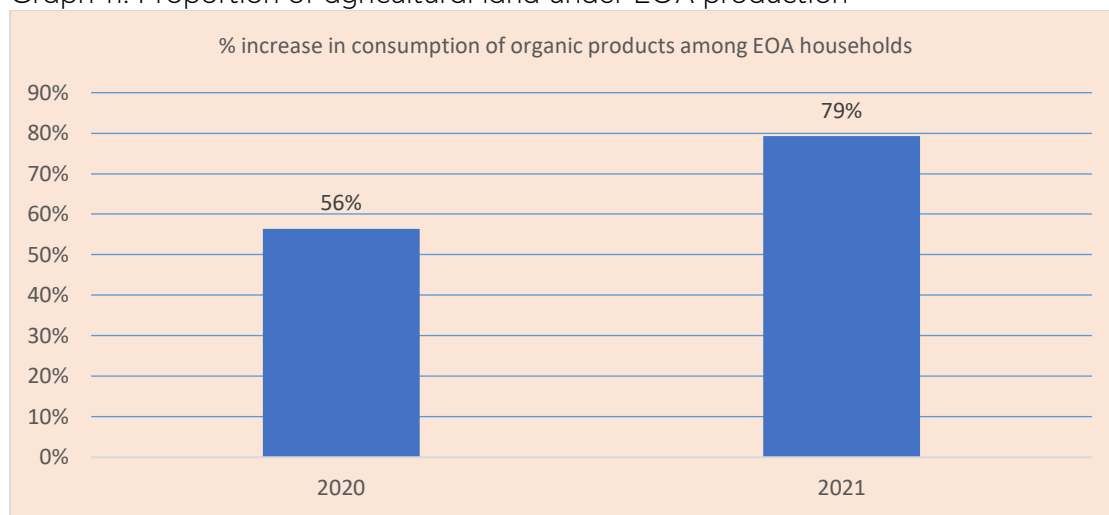


Figure 11: Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production

## 7.6 Number of PGS Groups Formed

According to IFOAM Organics International, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) is referred to as locally focused quality assurance systems that certify producers based on the active participation of stakeholders and they are built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange. PGS have the goal of providing a credible guarantee to consumers seeking organic produce that organic production standards are being met. The system operates using collective certification tools, standards/norms, mechanisms for compliance verification and documented management procedures.

The project targets the formation of PGS groups that are very important groups in organic sector to support the development of certified organic products in the EOA countries at the local level. PGS framework of rules and regulations are deemed as a cheap, alternative system of organic quality assurance. The PGS system works through farmer groups in a collective and participatory process (learning and exchanges, self-checking, and assessments) to ensure credibility and cut costs as opposed to third-party certification systems.

As per the reporting time, we had a total of 749 farmers reported as having joined the PGS groups. A total of 24 PGS groups have been formed with countries being represented as follows:

The countries through the PGS groups are promoting vegetable, fruits, spices, tomatoes, soja, soybean, bananas, and pineapples.

Countries	Number of Groups	Name of the PGS groups	Value chains
Nigeria	7 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ire Akari Organic farmers Group</li> <li>✓ Amaeti Imama Group</li> <li>✓ Ikot Ekpene Women Group</li> <li>✓ Ajibode organic PGS group</li> <li>✓ Elekuru organic PGS group</li> <li>✓ Sakoro organic PGS group</li> <li>✓ Ajero organic PGS group</li> <li>✓ Eko-farm group</li> <li>✓ Ifelodun Temidire Alafe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Vegetable, fruit, and spices</li> </ul>
Benin	5 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CP Soja Bio de Kandi</li> <li>✓ CP Soja Bio de Aklampa</li> <li>✓ CP Soja Bio de Djidja</li> <li>✓ CP Soja Bio de Aklampa</li> <li>✓ Organic plantain control group LINGBAHOUN of GAKPE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Soja</li> <li>✓ Soybean</li> <li>✓ Tomatoes</li> <li>✓ Bananas</li> </ul>
Mali	4 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ N'Djimbougou</li> <li>✓ Déni</li> <li>✓ Woro</li> <li>✓ Bougounina</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sesame</li> </ul>
Senegal	2 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NAT BI SESSENE</li> <li>✓ NAT BI THIES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ML</li> <li>✓ NIEBE</li> </ul>

Tanzania	2 groups	✓ Uwamabo ✓ Jumbo	✓ Fruits and vegetables
Uganda	2 groups	✓ Masaka Organic Farmers Association Bukunda PGS ✓ Suluma Food LTD	✓ Pineapple ✓ Tomatoes
Ethiopia	1 group	✓ Abdi Boru Organic production and Marketing cooperative	✓ Potatoes
Kenya	1 group	✓ Kabare Organic Farmers	✓ Tomatoes
Rwanda	No group	No group reported	

### 7.7 EOA Practices or Elements Implemented in the National Policy Framework

In line with the mainstreaming of EOA in National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa, the Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) coordinating pillar 4 made strides in the policy and advocacy development of EOA work in their countries. As per the graph below, 12 policy documents are under development.

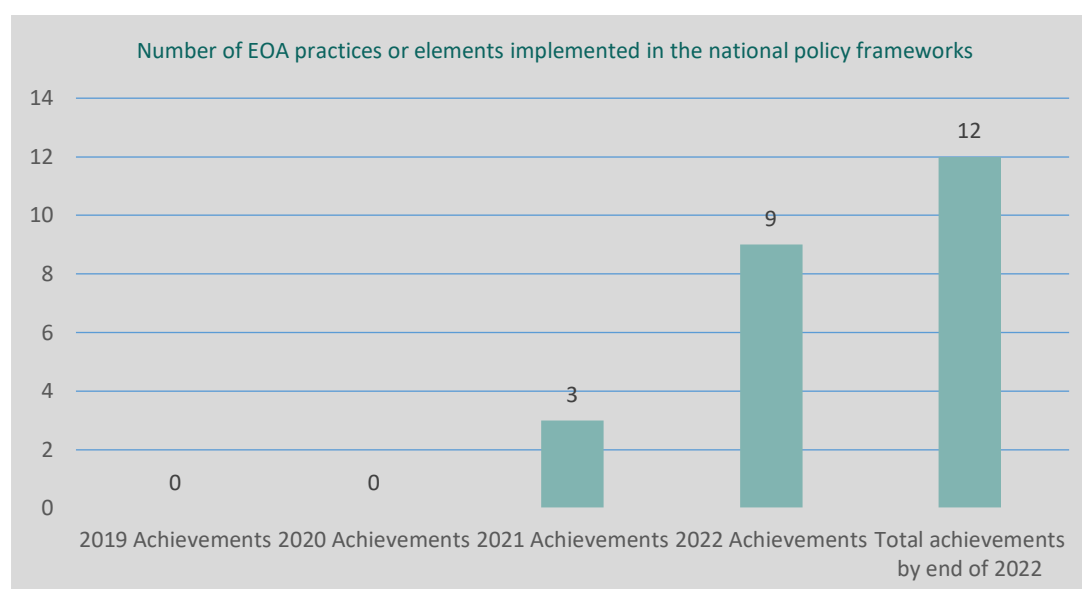


Figure 12: Number of EOA practices or elements implemented in the national policy frameworks.

The following were the policy documents reported to be under development from the 9 countries:

Table 9: List of Policy documents developed by implementing partners across the EOA countries.

Country	Policy/Plan/Strategy
---------	----------------------

Benin	Law NO 2022 – 14 of July 19, 2022, on Agricultural Orientation, Food and Nutritional Security in the Republic of Benin in its articles 26 & 27, grants a place for the promotion of ecological and organic agriculture (Loi NO 2022 – 14 du 19 Juillet 2022 portant orientation agricole, sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle en République du Bénin en ses articles 26 & 27, accorde une place pour la promotion de EOA)
Benin	Stratégie Nationale de Production Ecologique et Biologique du Bénin (National Strategy for Ecological and Organic Production of Benin)
Benin	Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agricultural Sector Orientation 2025 and National Agricultural Investment Plan 2017 – 2025 (Plan Stratégique pour le Développement du secteur Agricole Orientation 2025 et plan National d'Investissement Agricole 2017 – 2025)
Kenya	Muranga County Organic policy and Legislation
Mali	Plaidoyer lobbying pour la prise de l'arrêté d'application du décret N° 09-314 PRM du 19 juin 2009 ion des produits agricoles AE et AEB
Mali	Harmonsation des cahiers de charges SPG
Mali	Subvention des Intrants organiques
Nigeria	National Organic Agriculture Policy
Senegal	BOS_PS_Structuration PSE VERT_Support AOS _VF1
Tanzania	Climate smart agriculture
Tanzania	THIRD Draft NEOAS DEC 2022 (Mar) for Review 041123 2
Uganda	National-Organic-Agriculture-Policy

***NB: It was interesting to note with concern that there were no policy developments in Ethiopia and Rwanda.***

Catalyzing policy development was backed up by strong national platforms constituted at the country level. The platforms constitute of farmers and farmer organizations, consumer organizations, CSOs, NOAMS, research institutions, Universities, Private companies, Ministry of Agriculture, Certification bodies, women organizations, youth organizations and such.

Uganda has 11, Rwanda has 22 members, Tanzania 16 members, Nigeria has 115 members (the highest membership in numbers), Ethiopia has 41, Benin has reported 6 members, 31 for Mali, and Senegal 44 in number. **Refer to Annex 15: National EOA Platform members of EOA-I at country level.**

## 8. EOA SECRETARIATS 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### 8.1 AU EOA INITIATIVE Continental Steering Committee Secretariat

During the reporting period, the CSC held 2 meetings in June and December. The meetings were held South Africa and Kenya, respectively.



*The 17th Continental Steering Committee (CSC) meeting of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) was held in Sandton City, South Africa from 6 – 9 June 2022.*



*The 18th Continental Steering Committee (CSC) of the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) held at the Sarova White sands Beach Resort and Spa in Mombasa, Kenya*

**Annex 16: 17<sup>th</sup> CSC Minutes; Annex 17: 18<sup>th</sup> CSC Minutes**



## I. KEY DELIBERATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CSC MEETINGS IN 2022

### A. Governance of the CSC Meetings

The Sub-Committee noted that the current agenda included members of the Main Committee required to give technical updates from outside to the Sub-Committee hence creating duplication in roles for the Sub-Committee. This should be avoided.

### B. Aligning EOA Initiative to UNFSS Outcomes and other Global Declarations

The Sub-Committee observed that an earlier resolution to align EOA to United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) outcomes and other global goals should be revised since EOA is already aligned as per its Strategic Plan. Instead, partners should ensure that the EOA Initiative delivers on its expected outcomes.

### C. The Concept of AU led EOA Initiative vs SDC EOA Initiative

The Sub-Committee observed that during the SDC External Project Evaluation, confusion was noted with the EOA Initiative being referred to either as AU led or SDC led. It was underscored that the EOA Initiative emanates from an AU decision and should be referred to as AU EOA Initiative.

### D. Harmonizing EOA Partners' Calendar of Events

The Sub-Committee noted overlaps in continental events by various partner events and thereby reducing the possibility of creating synergies and opportunities for support. There should be better coordination in planning continental events by the various partners.

### E. Mainstreaming EOA into Malabo Compliant Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs) and National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs)

The Sub-Committee observed that to achieve this goal, the EOA Initiative should go beyond the current 9 participating countries. Engaging more with RECs and country partners within the CAADP framework would be a more effective way to achieve this objective.

### F. Linking NOARA to FARA

The Sub-Committee revisited this issue and noted that a letter from AUC to FARA is not about linkage but an introduction. A letter from the AUC is at political level and may take time and delay the process. It was further noted that the Executive Director of FARA, Dr. Yemi Akinbami, is already well versed with the EOA Initiative and could be approached at a technical level through a letter signed by the Chair of the CSC.

### G. FMSS TWG Road map

The Sub-Committee applauded the work being undertaken by the FMSS TWG and noted that its road map required substantial resources to implement.

### H. Establishment of a CSC TWG on certification

The Sub-Committee noted with concern that EOA certification and standards is an element with issues that should be addressed to make organic trade feasible for farmers.

### I. Coalition of International Development and Technical Partners supporting EOA in Africa

The Sub-Committee expressed concern that for the EOA to spread beyond the 9 countries and to minimize the risk of donors reducing funding at the end of funding cycles, there is urgent need to form and launch the coalition of international development and technical

partners supporting EOA as envisaged in the Decision on OA. The coalition should provide clear and tangible value proposition for new and old partners to support the EOA-I.

#### **J. Upcoming EOA Assessments/studies**

The Sub-Committee received updates on the:

- i. Assessment of the landscape of EOA initiatives in Africa
- ii. The role of youth in Agroecology in Africa

#### **K. Agroecology**

The CSC discussed the increasing call for EOA partners to embrace agroecology and the implications to issue of certification and standards. The African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) informed the meeting that it was possible to derive standards for the indicators aligned to the principles of agroecology.

#### **L. High level Policy platforms**

The Sub-Committee expressed concern that the EOA Initiative did not participate well in the COP27 and CAADP PP citing it as missed opportunities. However, it noted that some CSC members participated.

#### **M. Review of the EOA Initiative Strategic Plan (2015-2025)**

The Sub-Committee discussed and made recommendations on the road map leading to the review and development of a new Strategic Plan (2025-2035). Key documents including reports of the assessments and evaluations made will be availed to the recruited consultants.

#### **N. Launch of the EOAI Southern Africa Regional Platform:**

After the 18<sup>th</sup> CSC meeting, BvAT held a meeting with invited stakeholders from Southern Africa to discuss and develop a concept note for the establishment of a Southern Africa EOAI regional platform. The stakeholders sought to build on the gains achieved so far and strengthen the network of organisations and stakeholders practising and supporting ecological organic agriculture in the region, build and launch the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative platform for Southern Africa. The platform will bring together stakeholders in Southern Africa that include civil society, national organic movements, farmer organisations, farmer support networks, research organisations and academia, private sector, national government departments as well as regional economic commissions, among others.

This would be done by developing and strengthening national structures with clear roles and responsibilities that would drive the activities to further the aim of the platform. A regional structure would be put in place to oversee work of National platforms for coordinated approach to collaborative initiatives to further the objective.

## II. POLICY AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Several policy and advocacy activities were held among them:

### 1. **EOAI Multi-stakeholder Platform**

A concept note for the development and establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform of the EOA Initiative has been finalized with inputs of the CSC and is now being finalized for implementation. The MSP is built around five main clusters:

1. Enabling policy environment
2. Knowledge development and management
3. Markets and trade
4. Supply chains and inputs
5. Organizational development

BvAT is expected to take a lead role on the overall governance and coordination of the implementation of the MSP.

### 2. **The 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Organic Conference (AOC)**

A specialized meeting was held during the 18<sup>th</sup> CSC in Mombasa to discuss and give strategic way forward on the holding of the 5<sup>th</sup> AOC which is a key policy platform for the EOA Initiative. It was noted that the 5<sup>th</sup> AOC had been postponed several times and that AfrONet was not handling the platform efficiently. It was agreed that a Continental Planning Committee (CPC) led by the AUC, BvAT and AfrONet be constituted and plan for the conference in Kigali Rwanda in 2023 without fail.

### 3. **The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework:**

- CAADP has mainstreamed EOA into its framework by integrating two indicators within its technical guidelines for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> BR cycle.
- BvAT to commence drafting of the report on the Decision on Organic Agriculture guided by the EOA Indicators:
  - Share of agricultural land under EOA/Agroecology practices
  - Status of Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in national seed policy instruments and institutional arrangements.
- A Training of Trainers (TOT) of 5 EOA Experts from the five regions of Africa was undertaken. The objective of this training was for the experts to provide technical backstopping during data collections at regional and national levels.
- BvAT has been providing technical backstopping for Kenya for its Review of the Seed and Plant Varieties Act 2010 which is ongoing. The revised draft Act to undergo consultations on various levels has now included Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) and a budgetary allocation made to support it.

### Resource Mobilization

- Discussions are ongoing with Desira-Lift on EU funding.
- Discussions with AGRA on EOA/Agroecology funding

## 8.2 EOA REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

### 8.2.1.1 EASTERN AFRICA SECRETARIAT

#### Annex 18: 14<sup>th</sup> RSC Minutes; Annex 19: 15<sup>th</sup> RSC Minutes



*14th Eastern Africa Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting in Kigali Rwanda*

During the reporting period, the Eastern Africa Secretariat hosted by Pelum Kenya held 2 Regional Steering Committee meetings. The 14<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda, with 20 participants, while the 15<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya with 18 participants. For both meetings, participants were from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

The key decisions and action points passed from the two RSC meetings were as follows:

- ✓ The Regional Secretariat (RS) to spearhead in mobilizing resources and planning towards developing East African Organic Agriculture strategy.
- ✓ The EAC Representatives to guide RSC on how the issue of EOA-I support can be reintroduced to the Council of Ministers for maximum support.
- ✓ The NOAMs to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture in specific countries about the status of Organic Certification standards.
- ✓ Members resolved to increase efforts in marketing OA to consumers.
- ✓ Capacity building of RSC members on Organic Agriculture Standards, process, operations to for proper implementation.
- ✓ RS members to be updated on progress of planning of Agroecology conference for Eastern Africa, scheduled March 2023 led by BvAT.
- ✓ RSC members to plan participation in BIOFACH including having an Eastern Africa pavilion Recommended EOA-I to work on review and harmonizing standards for organic products in the region.
- ✓ The reports by Regional Secretariat to have an annex of all abbreviations for clear understanding by members.

- ✓ The Secretariat to ensure involvement of RSC leadership in all key tasks and plans undertaken by the Secretariat and share updates for representation at different levels.
- ✓ The Minutes for the RSC meetings to be done with clear conclusions and action points for ease of reference and circulated early enough for action.
- ✓ Organize for online seminar on organic standards and certification processes and procedures facilitated by the African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO) and other experts.
- ✓ Renewal of the organic products trademark - Kilimohai.
- ✓ Countries to finalize their respective Agroecology Strategies in support of EOAI.
- ✓ Authoritative data / statistics on organic production to support EOA work and inform planning and policy reforms in member states need to be well compiled.
- ✓ 5-member subcommittee nominated to work with the EAC as part of technical team on development of the Eastern Africa Agroecology Strategy.
- ✓ Sensitization of the RSC members on organic products certification processes & procedures
- ✓ The Re- submission of the EOAI Concept to EAC for adoption be done by the Kenya Government through the Agriculture Secretary and member states to lobby with respective Governments for support.
- ✓ RSC Members and agroecology partners from the region and beyond to participate in the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference to be held in Kenya, in March 2023.
- ✓ CLOs and their partners to be sensitized on CAADP EOA Indicators for the Biannual Review reports.
- ✓ BOAM to advise Burundi Government to send a representative during the RSC meetings and other key EOAI engagements in the region.
- ✓ RSC to write to the CSC concerning management and coordination issues facing AfrONet.

### **Eastern Africa EOA stakeholders continued to advocate for EAC to recognize and support EOA agenda.**

During the reporting period, 3 engagement meetings were held involving EOAI- RSC members and the ISFAA platform under the Kenya and Ministry of Agriculture. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, in Nairobi to discuss making follow up with EAC regarding adoption of EOA Initiative agenda. The key actions agreed on were as follows.

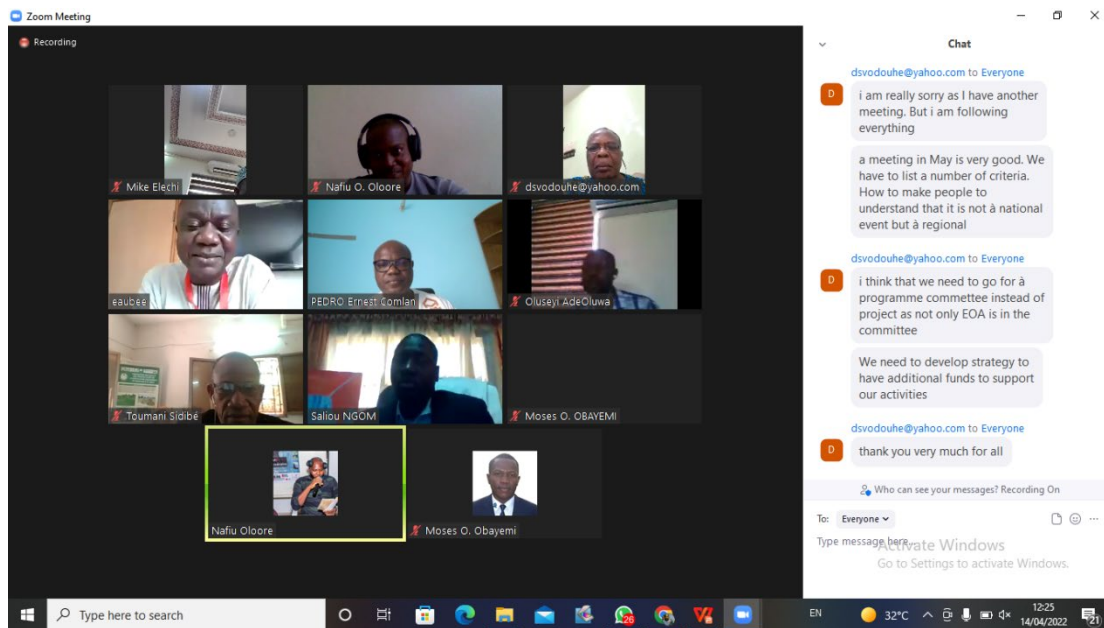
- Redraft the concept, note in preparation to presentation to the EAC Sectoral Council. The Ministry of Agriculture and PELUM Kenya to take lead.
- The Regional Secretariat to organize a meeting with the technical officers from the Ministry who attend the EAC meetings, and lobby to other countries for common stand.
- Hold a write shop meeting to undertake the drafting of the concept note. This to be led by the Ministry of Agriculture, and PELUM Kenya to host the meeting.
- The Continental Secretariat to organize regional meetings regarding concept submission in the month of September or October 2022. Continental Secretariat Coordinator to lead.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya, involved 4 participants to develop a roadmap on EAC follow up and organize for concept write shop meeting. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 involving RSC members in Kenya and Ministry of Agriculture representatives. A concept note about EOA was developed and prepared for submission to EAC by the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.



### 8.2.1.2 WEST AFRICA SECRETARIAT

#### Annex 20: 10<sup>th</sup> RSC Minutes; Annex 21: Biofach attendance report



*A Virtual 10th West Africa RSC meeting chaired by ECOWAS.*

During the reporting period, the most significant activity by the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) in West Africa is the holding of meetings to discuss EOA implementation in the region.

#### **ECOWAS continues to steer the regional agenda of EOA in west Africa by chairing the regional steering committee meetings.**

Mr Ernest Aubee of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) Commission organised the 10th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) hybrid meeting on Thursday, 14th April 2022 to review the activities of the EOA Initiative in West Africa and to evaluate the organisation of the Burkina Faso Conference. The hybrid meeting gave the Regional Steering Committee members had the opportunity to discuss critical issues related to the growth of Organic and Ecological Agriculture Initiative in the region such as update on the West Africa EOA Regional Secretariat' activities, update on the EOA project implementation from the implementing countries as well as updates of the 6th Burkina Faso West African Organic Conference (WAOC).

The Regional Secretariat also undertook a desktop study to look at the gaps of Ecological and Organic Agriculture among stakeholders in West Africa. The survey utilized e-questionnaire to collect data from 214 organic practitioners across West African countries. The participants were from nine countries namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and Togo. Twelve categories of stakeholders were identified including: Education/training, technical partners, Researchers, Media practitioners, Extension service providers, Farmers, Consumers, Civil society organization, Processors, Input Producers, Policy makers, and Marketers.



The operational capacity gaps identified are in the following order: Unavailability of organic inputs (76), lack of information (61) on organic agriculture, insufficient funds for organic agriculture (59), inaccessibility to organic market (50), improper pest and disease management (43), inadequate training (42) and advocacy of organic agriculture (42), poor Government policy (41), lack of modern equipment (41), unaffordability of organic input (27), high cost of certification (25), poor research on organic agriculture (23), inadequate organic agriculture technical personnel/extension agent (17), improper networking among organic organization body in West Africa (14), inadequate processing, storage and value addition chain (12) and improper soil management for organic farming (12).

Development of Organic and Ecological Agriculture in West Africa could be enhanced if adequate attention is paid to the revealed capacity gaps of the stakeholders.

The west Africa EOA stakeholders also attended Biofach 2022 virtually. To strengthen, support and create market development awareness in West Africa, the EOA-I Regional Secretariat under the able leadership of Mr Ernest Aubee of ECOWAS Commission supported Pillar 3 leaders from the implementing countries, top Regional Steering Committee members and Staff of the Regional Secretariat to virtually participate at the 2022 Biofach, Nuremberg. The event took place between 26th - 29th July 2022. BioFach trade fair is the world's largest trade fair for organic food and agriculture. It is a yearly programme which takes place in the month of February, in Nuremberg, Germany. As the biggest trade fair, it provides opportunity for showcasing organic agriculture produce, products and services from many parts of the world. It provides an opportunity for trading and networking among organic agriculture actors. In addition, many seminar presentations on organic agriculture issues are also made at different times during event.

**The following recommendations came from attending the BIOFACH event:**

- ❖ All member states in the region should be encouraged to participate in the BIOFACH yearly event in future.
- ❖ Registration for next BIOFACH commences immediately after each event on - <https://www.biofach.de/en>
- ❖ The ECOWAS Commission, as the leading economic bloc should assist in encouraging Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of the ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry and related parastatals to attend BIOFACH annual programme.
- ❖ The West African EOA Cluster in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission should assist in organizing a yearly side event at the BIOFACH in order to encourage participation of member countries.

Follow up with the project West African regional organic trade platform in order to bring together Ecological Organic Agriculture stakeholders in the region.

## 9. FINANCIAL REPORT

### FINANCIAL REPORT ANALYSIS FOR 2022

**Refer to Annex 22: Financial report for 2022, Annex 23: Audited reports!**

#### 1. Funding Received

The funding for the period ending on 31 December 2022 (USD 1,210,489) was received in one tranche on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. (See Table 10)

Table 10: Breakdown of funds balance

Less Donor Commitment	<b>(26,712.39)</b>
<b>Receivable Balances</b>	
Nigeria Organic Agriculture (NOAN)	<b>2,762.43</b>
Tanzania Organic Agriculture (TOAM)	<b>21,759.40</b>
INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEV.(ISD)	<b>14,433.30</b>
PELUM Uganda	<b>55,695.56</b>
OBEPAB	<b>15,651.33</b>
PELUM Kenya	<b>30,564.55</b>
KOAN	<b>91,229.64</b>
AFRONET	<b>3,192.85</b>
CNCR-Senegal	<b>18,396.01</b>
ROAM	<b>64,262.20</b>
FENABE	<b>18,267.08</b>
BvAT Balance	<b>159,997.98</b>
Bank-Fixed Deposit as of 31st December 2022	<b>104,033.41</b>
Bank Balance as of 31st December 2022	<b>443,991.02</b>
	<b>1,017,524.37</b>

#### 2. Interest Income

The project funds were invested temporarily in fixed deposit pending disbursement to implementing partners which earned the project extra income of USD 5,265 net of withholding taxes.

#### 3. Surplus Funds breakdown

The surplus funds of USD 1,017,524.37 relates to:

- ✓ Funds already disbursed to partners which had not been utilized as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 amounting to USD 336,214.35.
- ✓ Funds held by BvAT in the project Bank account amounting to USD 708,022.41.
- ✓ Expenses not paid as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 USD 26,712.39

### Fund utilization

#### 1. Personnel Costs

The budget line for personnel under the project management unit was not fully utilized since the cost-of-living adjustment per annum made was 9% compared to the budgeted 10%

## 2. Travels

The International travels were more in 2022 as the travel restrictions due to Covid19 were lifted and unfortunately travel costs shot up beyond the budget.

## 3. General Investment/Equipment's

During the reporting period no equipment was procured.

## 4. Partner utilization of project Funds

The updated partner utilization of fixed funds disbursed as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 is presented in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Fixed & Innovation Fund Utilization

FIXED FUND						
	EOA PARTNERS	Balance as at 31.12.2022	2023 disbursement	Returns Received 30.06.2023	Balance as at 30.06.2023	% Utilizatio n
Code	Particulars	Amount I USD			-	
111001	Nigeria Organic Agriculture	18,567.03	-		18,567.03	0%
111002	Tanzania organic Agriculture	21,759.40	39,836.00		61,595.40	0%
111003	Institute for Sustainable Deve	14,433.30	-		14,433.30	0%
111004	PELUM- Uganda	154.56	-	-	154.56	0%
111009	OBEPAB	12,951.33	-		12,951.33	0%
111011	PELUM- Kenya	30,564.55	-	(23,094.06)	7,470.49	76%
111013	KOAN	43,893.34	-		43,893.34	0%
111022	AFRONET	3,192.85	-		3,192.85	0%
111029	CNCR-Senegal	18,396.01	-		18,396.01	0%
111030	ROAM-EOAI	64,262.20	39,836.00		104,098.20	0%
111032	FENABE	18,267.08	39,836.00		58,103.08	0%
111033	NOARA	-	-		-	0%
		<b>246,441.65</b>	<b>119,508.00</b>	<b>(23,094.06)</b>	<b>342,855.59</b>	
INNOVATION FUND						
	EOA PARTNERS	Balance as at 31.12.2022	2023 disbursement	Returns Received 30.06.2023	Balance as at 30.06.2023	% Utilizatio n
Code	Particulars	Amount I USD			-	
111001	Nigeria Organic Agriculture	39,736.41	-		39,736.41	0%
111004	PELUM- Uganda	55,541.00	-	-	55,541.00	0%
111009	OBEPAB	2,700.00	-		2,700.00	0%
111013	KOAN	47,336.30	-		47,336.30	0%
		<b>145,313.71</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,313.71</b>	

- ❖ As per the reported utilization by end of June 2023, most partners had not received their disbursements for the year due to lack of sufficient funds in the EOA account. Partners will receive funds once SDC releases the approved funds for the cost extension period. The partners that we released funds for were TOAM, ROAM and FENABE Mali.
- ❖ During the year Innovation Fund was awarded to two partners in East and West Africa, PELUM UGANDA & NOAN respectively for total amount of USD 111,082.

- ❖ There was not much activity to report in terms of expenditure for NOAN and PELUM UGANDA as the funds were disbursed late in the year (December 2022) thus limiting the time to implement meaningful activities warranting reporting on. They are however on course in implementing activities as per their workplans and will be reflected in subsequent financial reporting.
- ❖ The initial awardees of the Innovation fund, KOAN and OBEPAB implemented substantial number of activities in the year 2022, at 49% and 99% respectively. The addendum for KOAN to utilize the remaining amount has been developed.

## 10. CHALLENGES

### INSTITUTIONAL

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

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

- ❖ Some partners had challenges in undertaking effective data management activities to ensure authentic data is collected. We experienced collection of data that was not clean and took a while to clean it.
- ❖ Limited resources were also allocated at the country level thus limiting the capacity of partners to collect data frequently.
- ❖ Delays in reporting continued to be experienced, especially from partners whose coordination capacity was low. Major delays in start off of the year and in implementation of project activities were experienced in Senegal, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.

### LIMITED CAPACITY OF SOME PARTNERS

There was limited capacity of some of the PIPs brought on board to implement some technical areas. Some of the PIPs with limited capacity was as follows:

- ✓ FarmKenya the organization in charge of Pillar 2 (information and communication). FarmKenya being a media driven company could not effectively start off the development of 'EOA Curriculum' in Kenya because this is not their area of specialty.
- ✓ We experienced the same challenge in Rwanda where a company implementing Pillar 3 could not successfully form farmer groups and they had to be replaced.
- ✓ The capacity of CNCR the CLO in Senegal continues to drag the project behind. Pillar Implementing partners could not implement until later in the year due to delays in renewing their contracts a process that was supposed to be initiated and coordinated by the CLO. This situation has adversely affected delivery of the project in Senegal.

## 11. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As we commence another SDC programme in 2024, we recommend the following:

- i. Bring on board partners with correct technical capacity to the technical areas of the new SDC programme so that we can enhance delivery of set project targets. Due diligence assessment to be made of the potential partners.
- ii. Allocate enough financial resources to ensure that the project has dedicated staff to run the programme.
- iii. Design a programme that puts M&E at the center of its implementation in terms of resources both human and financial resources as well as in data collection and reporting.
- iv. Work with partners committed to the EOA and Agroecology agenda.



## 12. ANNEXES

- ❖ Annex 1: EOA Indicators for CAADP Focal points-4th BR Cycle 2023 CAADP EXPERTS
- ❖ Annex 2: Seed Sector Performance Index
- ❖ Annex 3: FMSS Development Cluster - Approved Version
- ❖ Annex 5: Kenya Seed Policy experts' draft\_28th April 2023 Ex DTI 26th -28th Draft fair draft sent to SWAG 1 PLS-1
- ❖ Annex 6: Updated EOA Log frame as at end of 2022
- ❖ Annex 7: Mali EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 8: Benin EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 9: Nigeria EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 10: Senegal EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 11: Tanzania EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 12: Uganda EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 13: Ethiopia EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 14: Rwanda EOA-I SDC funded annual report for 2022.
- ❖ Annex 15: National EOA Platform members of EOA-I at country level.
- ❖ Annex 16: 17<sup>th</sup> CSC Minutes
- ❖ Annex 17: 18<sup>th</sup> CSC Minutes
- ❖ Annex 18: 14<sup>th</sup> RSC Minutes
- ❖ Annex 19: 15<sup>th</sup> RSC Minutes
- ❖ Annex 20: 10<sup>th</sup> RSC Minutes
- ❖ Annex 21: Biofach attendance report
- ❖ Annex 22: Financial report for 2022
- ❖ Annex 23: Audited reports



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

ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE  
P.O. Box 30772-00100 Nairobi, Kenya Dudu ville kasarani Opp Thika Road  
EMAIL: [Info@eoai-africa.org](mailto:Info@eoai-africa.org)  
OFFICE TEL: +254 20 8632000||+254 721 766628