

SOWING THE SEEDS

for Sustainable Food
Systems in Africa

Success Stories from the Ecological Organic
Agriculture Initiative, Phase I & II

March 2023

TANZANIA



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Introduction

In 2011, the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) took a decision to build an Africa-wide organic agriculture platform. The African Union Commission (AUC) accepted the mandate, launched the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) and established the Continental Steering Committee (CS) as the apex in the governance structure of EOA in Africa whose members serve to provide EOA in Africa and its membership with guidance, oversight and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA Initiative in Africa. , EOA-I has received alot of support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation (SDC) in the framework of the Global Program on Food Security (GPFS), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SIDA) and from Africa Union Commission - DARBE through funds from EU.

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) was established to transform and create sustainable food systems in Africa by promoting ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing, and policymaking, to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty, and guarantee food security.

The initiative entails a holistic system that aims to sustain the health of ecosystems by relying on functional natural cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of synthetic inputs, which have adverse effects on human, animal, plant, and environmental health. With agroecology as its cornerstone for achieving sustainable agriculture, the initiative placed emphasis on all facets of the food systems from production to processing, marketing and consumption with ecological, economic, and social aspects benefits. EOA-I promotes agricultural techniques tailored to local conditions and encouraged practices, technologies and innovations that enhance beneficial biological interactions between various plants and species to build long-term fertility and soil health.

Recognizing the value of conventional, traditional and indigenous

knowledge in creating sustainable agricultural systems, the initiative lays a heavy emphasis on community involvement and information sharing. The EOA-I aims to transform and create sustainable food systems by promoting ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing and policy-making, to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security.

From its inception, the initiative harbors an ambitious goal to mainstream EOA into national agricultural production systems by promoting agricultural practices that maintain the health and fertility of the soil, conserve water resources, and safeguard natural habitats and ecosystems with respect to the interconnectedness between plants, animals and the environment.

To achieve this goal EOA-I is organized around four objectives:

1. To increase documentation of information and knowledge on organic agricultural products along the complete value chain and support relevant actors to translate it into practices and wide application.
2. To systematically inform producers about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivate their uptake through strengthening access to advisory and support services.
3. To increase the share of quality organic products at the local, national, and regional markets; and
4. Strengthen inclusive stakeholder engagement in organic commodities value chain development by developing national, regional, and continental multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for changes in public policy, plans, and practices.

This booklet highlights some of the outstanding success stories from direct beneficiaries of the project in the nine countries at farmer, processor, and policy-actor levels and as a reflection of the effective implementation of the project action plan through strong partnerships and beneficiaries' needs-oriented interventions.

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS BY COUNTRY AND PILLAR	
ETHIOPIA	
Pillar 4	Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Wollo University
Pillar 2	PAN Ethiopia
Pillar 3	Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
KENYA	
Pillar 4	The Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Egerton University
Pillar 2	FarmKenya
Pillar 3	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
UGANDA	
Pillar 4	Pelum Uganda— County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Uganda Martyrs University (UMU)
Pillar 2	Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda
Pillar 3	Kulika Trust

RWANDA	
Pillar 4	Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Regional Research Centre for Integrated Development (RCID)
Pillar 2	Radio HUGUKA
Pillar 3	Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)
TANZANIA	
Pillar 4	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
Pillar 2	Pelum Tanzania
Pillar 3	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)
MALI	
Pillar 4	Fédération Nationale des Producteurs de l' Agriculture Biologique et Equitable du Mali (FENABE Mali) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Institute of Rural Economy (IER) Mali
Pillar 2	Association Malienne pour la Solidarité et le Développement (AMSD)
Pillar 3	Union des Producteurs de Sésame de Banamba (UPSB)

SENEGAL	
Pillar 4	National Council for Concertation and Cooperation of Rural People (CNCR) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Environnement Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs (EndaPronat)
Pillar 2	Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED)
Pillar 3	Agrecole Afrique
BENIN	
Pillar 4	Beninese Organization for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture (OBEPAB) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Research Laboratory on Innovation for Agricultural Development of the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Parakou (LRIDA/FA/UP)
Pillar 2	Platform of Civil Society Actors of Benin (PASCiB)
Pillar 3	Research and Technical Assistance Center for the Environment and Agricultural Development (CRATEDA ONG)
NIGERIA	
Pillar 4	Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) — County Lead Organization (CLO)
Pillar 1	Kwara State University
Pillar 2	Farmers Development Union
Pillar 3	Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society

EOA Initiative Coverage







Tanzania

MECHANIZATION OF BIOPESTICIDE EXTRACTION FOR RURAL FARMERS IN TANZANIA

The practice of ecological and organic agriculture in Tanzania is increasingly becoming popular among rural farmers. This is because of the easy access to naturally occurring implements and resources needed to run a viable organic farming enterprise. However, as with other crops and livestock keeping, farmers face a big challenge with pests and diseases.

Organizations such as Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), and the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association working in Tanzania under the auspices of the Ecological and Organic Agriculture initiative (EOA-I) support farmers in addressing some of the challenges faced when practising sustainable organic farming.

In the Mvomero district of the Morogoro region, farmers have for long used an extract from Neem leaves as a biopesticide in their farms to control a vast range of pests that destroy crops. However, getting the extract from the leaves is an arduous task for these farmers, relying on simple manual labour with crude tools.

According to reports recorded by EOA-I project partners, farmers mainly pound the leaves with a mortar and pestle to extract the biopesticide. Besides the extraction process being labour-intensive, farmers also reported regular skin irritation and chest infections, while the results of efforts only produced small volumes of the

extract. In 2021, the EOA-I partners, collaborated with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to fabricate two botanical extraction machines, one powered by electricity and one manually operated.

The machines were installed at the SAT Farmer Training Centre in Morogoro, where community members are continuously trained to use them and share in the extraction process. The mechanisation of the leaf pounding process has shortened the leaf pounding process and increased volumes of the extraction, much to the joy of the farmers.

Mercy Meena, a local farmer, used to spend an hour pounding at the mortar only to yield five kilograms of the extract. The manually operated machine can grind up to 50 kilograms of leaves per hour, while the electric machine goes through 500 kilograms of leaves within the same time frame.

"The machines will make our lives much easier. The cost of labour we incurred before and wasted time can now be focused on other profitable activities," says Meena.

Hundreds of farmers have been trained at the SAT Training Centre on mechanised extraction and the effective application of biopesticide on their farms. This is part of the EOA-I objectives to enhance the capacity of organic farmers through innovations that augment their production and productivity.





Tanzania

INFLUENCING CHANGE FOR AN EOA-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

The National Agriculture Policy 2013 in Tanzania, which is currently under review, expresses support for ecological organic agriculture (EOA) through statements such as “initiatives for regulation and certification of organic products shall be promoted” (section 3.21, pages 24-25). However, little has been done to put these statements into action, primarily due to inadequate public awareness and lack of policy instruments to enforce the regulations.

To address this policy silence, the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), in collaboration with other EOA stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, has undertaken several initiatives. These include organizing two National EOA Conferences, pre-conference meetings, sharing EOA progress reports, and exposing policymakers to EOA-related events, such as the Biofach Trade Fair event in Nuremberg, Germany, in July 2022, which was attended by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture.

Over 650 stakeholders, including farmers, agriculture experts, policymakers, civil society organizations, practitioners, private sector representatives, development partners, and media, attended the conferences from Tanzania, Zanzibar, East Africa, and other foreign countries.

As a result of these collective efforts, the government has increased its agricultural budget for the period 2022–2023 from about \$126 million to \$409 million. The National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NAEOAS) is also being formulated, with the first draft now in its completion stage.

The establishment and strengthening of partnerships and networking among stakeholders have contributed to the mobilization of a significant sum of \$230,728 to support the development of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NAEOAS). In addition, public awareness of the significance of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) has increased, exemplified by the training of eight extension staff members on EOA from Zanzibar. Furthermore, 29 middle-level agricultural training institutions have reviewed and implemented training curricula, awarding certificates and diplomas in recognition of the importance of EOA.

These collective efforts have demonstrated promising developments towards the advancement of organic agriculture in Tanzania, emphasizing the need for further interventions and follow-up to achieve the desired outcomes.



Get in Touch

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